

The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 100 No. 50

On the Internet: www.carmelpinecone.com

December 12-18, 2014

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Peninsula spared worst of major storm



When Thursday's big storm finally came, it wasn't as fierce as expected but still brought plenty of rain and strong winds, blocking Highway 68 about midway between Highway 1 and Pacific Grove with a large pine (above), shoving another large pine against the roof of home at Torres and First in Carmel (left) and sending heavy branches onto power lines on Pine Street in Pacific Grove (below left). Last Friday's tree lighting (below) was also disrupted by heavy rain.



PHOTOS/COURTESY CHRIS JOHNSON (TOP LEFT); KELLY NIX (ABOVE LEFT); MARY SCHLEY (TOP RIGHT); KERRY BELSER (ABOVE RIGHT)

■ Storm packs a wallop — just not as big a wallop as advertised

By MARY SCHLEY and CHRIS COUNTS

JUDGING BY the dire forecasts of the preceding days, the Monterey Peninsula was about to drown in torrents of rain and suffer the wrath of winds gusting up to 70 mph in what was supposed to be the strongest storm in a decade. Local hardware stores sold out of flashlights and emergency supplies as residents battened down the hatches in anticipation.

But as Thursday's storm stalled in Northern California, dumping more than 10 inches of rain in the western Sacramento Valley before reaching the Monterey Peninsula midday, it spared the Central Coast

from most of the predicted devastation.

Nonetheless, more heavy rain was forecast for Thursday evening and into Friday, and police and fire scanners were busy with reports of traffic accidents on Highway 1 and city streets, ruptured water mains, fallen tree branches, downed power lines and toppled trees — including pines that fell across Highway 68 and into a house at Torres and First in Carmel. Intermittent power outages plagued Carmel residents and others across the Monterey Peninsula, and the basement at city hall flooded, forcing employees to spend their afternoon moving boxes, according to city administrator Doug Schmitz. Several roads in town were closed for leaning trees and flooding.

The storm arrived a week after heavy rains interfered

See **STORM** page 27A

Cal Am cleared to drill test well

■ Marina water district fails to stop it

By KELLY NIX

SACRAMENTO — CONSTRUCTION CREWS this week began work on Cal Am's long sought desalination test well despite ardent legal efforts by a Marina water company to block it.

This week, a company hired by California American Water began drilling a series of monitoring wells and making preparations for the slant test well, which is expected to provide water quality and other data for Cal Am's proposed full scale desal plant, also to be located in Marina.

With its construction permit in hand from the California Coastal Commission and the state agency's full support, the company began the work Wednesday, even though Marina Coast Water District tried to stop it with a lawsuit arguing the test well would be environmentally damaging and violate water rights. But on Wednesday in Sacramento, a judge ordered the legal matter to be heard by a Monterey County judge, allowing Cal Am, at least for now, to do the work.

See **DRILL** page 20A

Median debate comes down to darkness vs. traditional lights

■ More modern ideas get no traction

By MARY SCHLEY

ALTHOUGH NOT having any lights was ruled out as an option during a September workshop on the best way to light the planters running down the middle of Ocean Avenue, the "no lights" idea was resurrected at a workshop Monday night. A group of residents and business owners toured the various lighting scenarios set up in the medians and then returned to city hall, where they each filled out comment sheets and used green stickers to identify their two favorite options among a list of 14.

While the "no lighting" option received 11 votes, the existing

See **LIGHTS** page 25A

First lawsuit filed against water co. for Pfeiffer Fire

By KELLY NIX

TWO ARTISTS whose home burned down in last year's Pfeiffer Fire have filed a lawsuit against their landlord, a contractor, and the water company that owned the faulty electrical wires blamed for causing the blaze that burned 34 homes and about 900 acres.

In a suit filed Dec. 8, Lee Ann Achterberg and David Stephen Lesty point to Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water Company, landlord James Robert Grossman, and Blaze Engineering for the destruction of the home they were leasing on Pfeiffer Ridge Road.

"Within moments of the ignition of the fire," according to the lawsuit, "wildfire conditions began which destroyed the home and all the furnishings, fixtures, equipment and other personal property."

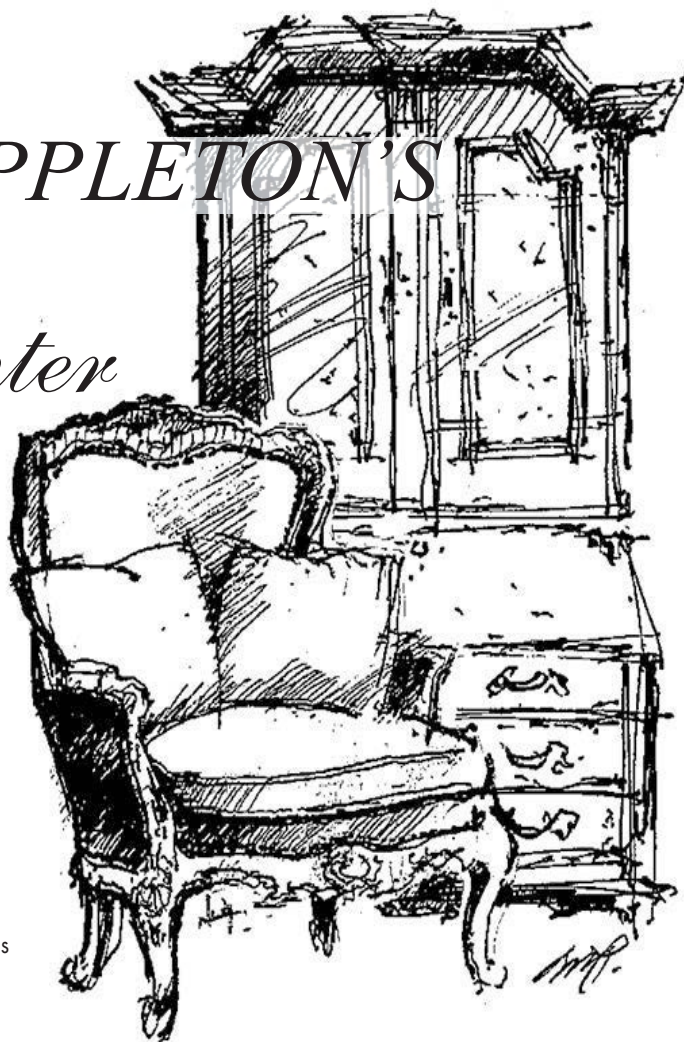
See **FIRE** page 30A

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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Queen of the Canine Community

MARISA SITS on her tuffet with all the regal bearing of someone used to receiving first class treatment. And why not? She's a Russian Wolfhound-Borzoi blend, with long limbs, graceful neck, narrow face, and black-and-white fur brushed until it falls in soft waves. For 11 years, her presence has graced the entrance to a downtown art gallery, allowing her not only to greet the guests as they come in, but also to indulge her sense of royal self.

Marisa's back story belongs in a romance novel. Born to a mother of Russian royalty and a father of Swedish nobility, her pedigree promised her a privileged life, but somehow she

became a waif of the world, ending up at Gentle Giants Rescue in Southern California. Founded by Burt Ward, who played "Robin, the Boy Wonder" in the Batman television series, the organization is dedicated to saving the lives of the world's largest breeds, helping these dogs lead longer, healthier, happier lives.

Marisa, then 18 months old, came with her name, which seemed to suit her refined countenance. Pressed into service the day she came home, she became the official greeter at the gallery. Beginning in the back room, bit by bit she came forward, until she reached a confidence level that enabled her to stake out her territory and sit near the front door.

"Marisa is very sweet and loving," says her person, "but she's not needy like a Retriever. She's sophisticated and subtle, gentle and graceful in the way she moves, always ladylike and lovely."

She doesn't ask for attention, but she allows it, sort of like a cat that keeps her own countenance yet is still engaging. Which is why she is likely the most photographed dog in Carmel, and has sat for many painted portraits, holding her head high like any diva willing to suffer for art.



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Kent Christian Wehde

Resident of Los Angeles, former resident of Carmel
Sept. 27, 1978 – Nov. 29, 2014



Kent Christian Wehde, 36, was born on the hottest day of 1978. Raised in Carmel and a diehard fan of the San Francisco Giants, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Vince Guaraldi, and Burning Man, Kent studied economics and finance at UC San Diego, where he was captain of the swim team and an NCAA All-American for four years. He married his beloved sweetheart of 12 years, Marcy Connelly, on October 7, 2012, on a beautiful Pebble Beach day. A self-taught musician with boundless energy and artistry, Kent took pride and joy in his work as a meticulous music producer and party-starting DJ. He recently launched a promising career as a Realtor with Keller Williams in Beverly Hills.

His memory is cherished by his loving wife, Marcy; his parents, Mari and Bill; his sisters, Katherine and Kersten; his grandparents, Ginny and Ray; his mother-in-law, Ginny Connelly; his adoring cat, Lionel; and many dear friends. Our hearts are at once broken and filled by the warmth and support we have received.

Kent's light touched everyone he met. He inspired us with his passion and drive, and encouraged us to follow our dreams. Kent's kindness, intelligence, humor, inimitable spirit, and talents will be remembered forever.



Police & Sheriff's Log

Fraudster brags police won't catch him

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A citizen reported that a male on Scenic

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Road hit two dogs with his hands. Police units responded and contacted the dog owner. The two dogs were checked for any injuries. Information was obtained, and education about city ordinances [prohibiting cruelty to animals] was given. The subject was also warned for no leash. Contact was also made with the dog owner's veterinarian regarding a recent surgery. Information forwarded to the animal control agency in the dog owner's jurisdiction.

Pacific Grove: Inn on Ocean View Boulevard reported theft of services; subject had paid his first night with a credit card and told the inn he would pay for the second night with cash. However, he had not returned to the inn.

Pacific Grove: Female was found deceased in her residence on Moreland. Unknown cause of death at this time. Body was released to the Monterey County Coroner.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle parked on Sixth Street with doors unlocked was ransacked. Nothing missing at initial report.

Pacific Grove: Semi with cargo struck light post while parking on Lighthouse Avenue. No injuries. P.G. Public Works arrived to clean up damage.

Pacific Grove: Ransford resident reported someone had set up a sleeping area on a patio on top of an apartment complex. Police officers located a suitcase and pillows near two lawn chairs. Contacted two subjects nearby who stated the items were theirs. They removed their items. Subjects were advised not to return, or they would face trespassing charges.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Two juveniles, both age 17, were contacted at 0039 hours in an illegally parked vehicle on Scenic Road. A search of the vehicle revealed a large amount of marijuana and a scale. One juvenile arrested and later released to his parent on a citation to appear.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Woman reported a black SUV driven by a female in her 60s, accompanied by a small "yappy" white dog, almost ran her over while she was in a crosswalk at 1828 hours. The driver stopped briefly to see if the woman was OK, then sped off without leaving any information. The SUV's tire left marks on woman's handbag and the back of her right ankle. Woman wanted the incident documented in hopes the driver would see it in The Pine Cone and pay more attention next time.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A business on San Carlos Street reported the theft of a storage container and consumable items.

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

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Ellen Maffit Buckley

Ellen Maffit Buckley's life ended peacefully on Monday, December 1st, in San Rafael, California. She was 81 years old. She was surrounded by her family and dear friends, many of whom are Dominican sisters of San Rafael.

Ellen Buckley was born in Carmel, California in 1933. She was the fourth child of Col. Harold Buckley and Isabelle Palms Buckley, of Los Angeles, and Isabelle Palms Buckley was the Founder of The Buckley School, in Sherman Oaks, California. As a young girl, she attended St. Victor's Catholic School in West Hollywood. As a young woman, Ellen attended Dominican Lower School and Upper School in San Rafael, California, graduating in 1950. She returned to Los Angeles for her freshman year at Marymount College. In 1951, she entered the Community and became a member of the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael and completed her college education. She earned a Master's Degree at Holy Names College in 1987.

Ellen then devoted her life to the education of young children. She taught for nearly 60 years at several Bay Area Dominican schools, as well as Junipero Serra School in Carmel, California. She was also the Co-Founder and Director of San Domenico Summer Adventure at San Domenico School. Ellen joined Junipero Serra School in 1990 and recently retired after more than two decades. She had a lifelong love affair with books and reading, which she shared with thousands and thousands of students and each of the children and grandchildren in her extended family.

Ellen was affiliated directly and indirectly with The Buckley School her entire life. Additionally, she served on the Board of Trustees from 1976-1990, concluding her tenure as Chairperson of the Board from 1988-1990. She truly believed in the guiding Buckley School principle that "college begins at two," and she wrote passionately about that issue.

Ellen led a life based on Christian principles. When she was not teaching or tutoring, she devoted herself to individuals, families, and communities who were less fortunate. Ellen had a deep, unwavering faith. She lived her life according to scripture and literally believed she should help to "... cloth those who were naked, care for those who were sick, and visit those who were in prison."

Ellen's death was preceded by the death of her sister, Mary Ann Buckley, and her sister, Isabelle Buckley Simqu, Ellen is survived by her brother, C. Peter Buckley of North Hollywood; six nieces and nephews and their spouses, Alix Simqu Merkley and Patrick Merkley, Pier Simqu McConnell and Brian McConnell, Blaise Simqu and Erin O'Connell Simqu, Kiril Simqu McKee and Greg McKee, Lisa Buckley Dowrello and David Dowrello, Isabelle Buckley and Charles Nasse, and Jodie Buckley O'Reardan and Finbarr O'Riordan; and 13 great nieces and nephews, with whom she shared stories, played games, and created lasting memories of friendship.

A memorial mass will be held at the Gathering Space at the Dominican Sisters Center, 1520 Grand Avenue, San Rafael, on Saturday, December 20th, at 11:00 AM. An additional memorial service will be planned for Carmel, California in January.

In lieu of flowers, donations should be made in the name of Ellen Buckley to the Sisters of St. Dominic Retirement Fund, 1520 Grand Avenue, San Rafael, 94901.

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Commission wants
business input
on butt receptacles

By MARY SCHLEY

BUSINESS OWNERS should weigh in on how best to deal with cigarette litter downtown — and perhaps install butt receptacles on their own properties — planning commissioners decided Wednesday afternoon. The city council last month made resolving the issue of cigarettes stubbed out on trash-can lids or dropped on the street a priority and allocated about \$4,000 in grant money from Waste Management Inc. to a pilot program, special projects manager Sharon Friedrichsen told the commission Dec. 10.

Volunteers often pick up stubbed-out cigarettes from sidewalks and the beach, and Friedrichsen said they found 750 butts in downtown Carmel on July 4, alone. Smokers often put out their cigarettes by smashing them against the lids of trash cans on the streets, which damages the lids and makes them unsightly, or they smudge them out with their feet and leave them on the ground. City officials have speculated the behavior is rife because people simply don't have anywhere to get rid of their smokes, which can also make their way to storm drains and affect water quality.

As a result, she presented four options for various types of receptacles, including a free-standing teak-covered can and a smaller tube that can be bolted to a wall or the side of a trash-can. They range in price from \$85 to \$495 apiece.

Friedrichsen suggested five different locations to try them out: Lincoln and Ocean in front of Sade's, San Carlos between Fifth and Seventh, Devendorf Park, one of eight potential spots on Ocean Avenue, and at Junipero and Ocean by the Carmel Plaza.

The butt receptacles should be placed at "transition points where someone enters a building or restaurant or a bus and needs to extinguish a cigarette," she explained. Keep America Beautiful reported cigarette butts account for 30 percent of the waste at such junctures.

Public outreach and education, and working with the busi-

See BUTTS page 30A

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CPD HIRES NEW SERGEANT, BIDS FAREWELL TO A VETERAN

By MARY SCHLEY

RON PFLEGER, who started his law-enforcement career as a Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy and later worked for California State University Monterey Bay and the City of Citrus Heights (Sacramento County), is the city's newest sergeant.

His arrival in October was a long time coming, and somewhat circular: He replaces Sgt. Brian Pon, who also worked at Citrus Heights before coming to Carmel and has since ended up back there.

Pfleger first fell in love with the Monterey Peninsula while working for the L.A. Sheriff's Department, where he served from 1988 to 1998, dealing with prostitution, arson, robbery and other crimes as a member of a special task force for part of his time there. His girlfriend at the time was attending CSUMB, so he made the trip north often.

"I had just been through the [Rodney

King] riots, the Malibu fires and the Northridge earthquake, so I thought I could use a change," he said.

He took a job as a cop at the university and ended up staying seven-and-a-half years.

"I went from a department of 8,000 patrol deputies, helicopters, K-9s, jails — any resources you wanted — to CSUMB, with no helicopter, 14 officers, one partner, and no street lights," he said.

Then he heard about the opportunity in Citrus Heights to help "start a new P.D. with a new city," he said. So he moved his wife — an artist he had met after he moved to the Peninsula — and 2-year-old son to the Sacramento area, and worked as a detective for about six years. During that time, he handled a lot of

homicide investigations, many of them gang related — including a suspect he pursued all the way to Mexico.

At Citrus Heights, Pfleger said he also worked on anti-terrorism efforts and pursued

motorcycle gangs.

And, after a brief stint at Vallejo P.D. that "didn't work out," he arrived in Carmel in October.

While many police officers report dreaming about being cops when they were kids, Pfleger said he thought he'd be a lawyer or a writer. "I decided I wanted to be a writer but realized I had nothing to write about," he said. "I had no life experience — zero." He decided to join the United States merchant marine, a la Joseph Conrad, but that required too much math.

"Then, I thought, 'As a policeman I'll be exposed to all these parts of the world,'" he said. "So then I joined the sheriff's office and saw a lot of interesting things — but I didn't have time to write."

His chance finally came after he left Vallejo P.D. and was undergoing the lengthy hiring process for Carmel. He wrote, "Girl's Got A Gun," available for Kindle. "It's clean, not a William Burroughs sort of thing," he

said.

Pfleger is enjoying getting to know the town and its merchants, residents and visitors. A world traveler who also enjoys photography, he's got something in common with many of them.

"This is one of my favorite cities in America," he said. "I travel a lot in Europe, and this reminds me of a European city. I understand tourists, parking and getting lost. I've been there, so I can relate to them."

Mukai retires, search on again

This month, the Carmel City Council honored longtime CPD veteran Mel Mukai, who is retiring as sergeant Dec. 31 after 30 years with the department, at the age of 52. Based on his base salary of \$106,176 for sergeant, and the city's 3 percent-at-50 retirement benefit for public-safety employees, Mukai will receive annual retirement pay of

See **POLICE** page 20A

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Don’t touch the mushrooms

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER THREE years of drought — and the shabby wild-mushroom seasons that accompanied them — recent rains have been a field day for fungus hunters, who head home after hours in the woods with armloads of porcinis, chanterelles and other delicacies.

But the rain has also spawned deadly species, including the famous death caps (*Amanita Phalloides*) that are the No. 1 cause of fatal mushroom poisonings worldwide, according to the Bay Area Mycological Society. The fungi have sprung up in town, and resident Marianne Agnew reported finding some in the area of Torres and Sixth.

“I confirmed with the Santa Cruz Fungus Fair people that these are indeed *Amanita Phalloides*, the death cap mushroom,” she said. “This is the second cluster that has popped up in a week.”

Native to Europe, death caps are now found all over the world, “but nowhere have they found a place more to their liking than in the oak-strewn State of California,” according to the experts at BAMS. They favor pines on the East Coast and tanoaks on the West Coast but are highly adaptable when it comes to their tree hosts. They are most abundant during the rainy season in the fall and early winter, but they can also appear through late spring, and even during the summer in areas saturated by fog or irrigation.

Although people who have eaten them — and survived — have reportedly described them as “deli-

cious,” death caps “produce the most serious types of mushroom poisonings, which can result in liver failure or even death,” according to the mycological group. They contain amatoxins, a highly stable protein that the body struggles to eliminate, and while modern medicine has dropped the death rate in such poisonings to about 15 percent, the experience is said to be excruciating. It can also cause permanent liver damage and ongoing health problems.

Agnew said she wanted to remind people to “never pick, handle or eat wild mushrooms without checking them with an expert.”

For some hands-on experience, consider the mushroom foraging classes being held Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Garland Ranch Regional Park in Carmel Valley. Led by Phil Carpenter, the class costs \$20. Visit www.mprpd.org.



PHOTO/MARIANNE AGNEW

Death caps, which account for more fatal mushroom poisonings than any other variety, recently sprung up at Torres and Sixth in Carmel.

YWCA TO BUILD KENNEL FOR PETS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

By KELLY NIX

MORE THAN 70 percent of women who seek shelter from domestic violence say their abusers, besides threatening or harming them, also threatened to injure or kill the family pet — a sad fact that often leads victims to stay with their partners to try to prevent harm from coming to their animals, according to YWCA Monterey County.

To keep pets away from abusive men, the YWCA announced last week plans to build a kennel to board dogs and cats at the same location of the Lawson Safehouse, the organization’s domestic violence shelter.

“We have a really big need for a kennel,” YWCA development coordinator Chelsea Ferraro told The Pine Cone Tuesday. “Tragically, pets are not immune to domestic violence, and a lot of abusers threaten or even kill their partner’s and children’s pets as a means of getting revenge.”

The YWCA is in the midst of a fundraising campaign for the kennel, the location of which — like the safe house — will be confidential. The shelter can accommodate four women and four children, who can stay there for eight weeks. Besides offering food and a house to live in, the YWCA provides women job assistance, case management help and other services.

Though the kennel will be able to house several animals, Ferraro said its size will be dependent on how much the YWCA raises through donations.

Pet kennels at the same site as domestic violence shelters are not common, Ferraro said.

“Only about 12 percent of emergency [domestic violence] shelters across the country can house animals,” she explained. “We really want to keep pet owners together in such tragic circumstances.”

The YWCA’s crisis hotline receives scores of calls every month from women who want to leave their abusive partners, but stay so their pets aren’t hurt, according to YWCA Monterey County executive director Cheryl M. McCormick. Children in particular are prone to experiencing emotional trauma when separated from their pets.

Abuse victims have been known to live in cars with their pets for months rather than leave them with their abusers or give them up to an animal shelter, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. While Ferraro credited the SPCA for Monterey County with helping board pets, it can only keep them for 14 days.

To donate to the YWCA’s Refuge for Pets program, go to www.ywcamc.org or call (831) 422-8602, ext. 252.



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LAW ENFORCEMENT HOSTS TOY DRIVES

By MARY SCHLEY

THE MONTEREY County Sheriff's Office is hosting its annual Teddy Bear drive, collecting donations so deputies can present fuzzy animals to kids at Christmastime and help comfort them in times of distress.

And the Crime Prevention Officers Association of Monterey County is holding a toy drive to gather gifts to distribute to kids in need.

The sheriff's Teddy Bear Program was established more than 20 years ago to provide bears to patrol deputies so they could give them to children in need while responding to calls.

Over the years, the program has expanded, with detectives offering the teddy bears to young victims they are interviewing in abuse cases, and coroners carrying them to death notifications where kids might be present. In addition, bailiffs give them to youngsters at adoption court to celebrate their unions with new families.

Finally, they are in great demand during the holidays, when the bears are given to kids who might not otherwise receive a gift.

People who want to donate a new teddy to the program can drop it off at the Coastal Station at 1200 Aguajito Road, Room 002, in Monterey, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Cash donations, by way of checks made out to the Sheriff's Advisory Council with "Teddy Bears" in the memo portion of the check, are welcome, too.

The CPOAMC, meanwhile, is collecting new toys to distribute to kids in need via churches and community-service groups. Last year, the drive provided more than 1,600 gifts to grateful children. The groups assist in wrapping and handing out the gifts.

People interested in donating can deliver gifts to Carmel P.D. at Junipero and Fourth, the sheriff's coastal station on Aguajito Road, Pacific Grove P.D. at 580 Pine Ave., Seaside P.D. at 400 Harcourt Ave., Monterey P.D. at 351 Madison St., and Walgreen's and CVS pharmacies throughout the Peninsula.

Mission restoration wins award

By MARY SCHLEY

THE \$5.5 million restoration of the 240-year-old Carmel Mission Basilica was named Project of the Year in the "religious/cultural category" by the construction industry, Carmel Mission Foundation President and CEO Vic Grabrian announced this week. The annual competition, which is conducted by the Engineering News Record and involves a panel of industry judges, scrutinized some 140 projects this year for their collaboration and teamwork, ability to overcome challenges, safety performance, and use of innovative design and construction solutions, among other criteria.

The nonprofit foundation raised the money for the project and oversaw its completion, including assembling the team to handle every aspect of the work, and Grabrian said the group was pleased to receive the award and was grateful for the chance to honor the donors who made it possible.

When Phase I, which included the seismic retrofit and restoration of the Basilica and its bell towers, including a new roof, reinforcement of the walls and other

improvements, was completed, the project finished \$1.5 million under budget and ahead of schedule. The team comprised architect Franks Brenkwitz and Associates, Blach Construction, Architectural Resources Group for historic preservation, and structural engineer Donald C. Urfer & Associates.

The same team is in charge of Phase II, a \$20 million effort that will address the other historic structures in the Mission's 22-acre complex, including five museums, California's first library, and the Orchard House, which some say is California's oldest residence. Conceptual plans have been completed and design drawings are now under way, with permits to come.

Depending on funding, construction could begin in 2016, and Grabrian said the foundation needs help reaching that goal.

"The Carmel Mission Foundation is now seeking a few generous donors, other foundations, or businesses that care about preserving this historic treasure and are willing to step forward to help or even sponsor a segment of the remaining Phase II preservation work, such as one of the historic structures, museums or courtyards," said Grabrian.

For more information, visit www.carmelmissionfoundation.org.

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The Carmel Mission Basilica was shrouded in scaffolding while it underwent restoration and seismic retrofitting. The \$5.5 million project, completed in 2013, received accolades from the construction industry.

PHOTO/COURTESY VIC GRABRIAN



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With little fanfare, but
one satisfied customer,
beach restrooms open

By CHRIS COUNTS

NATURE CALLED and Doyle Moses' timing was perfect. The owner of Carmel Valley's Holly Farm, Doyle now has the distinction of being the first person to use the new restroom facility at Santa Lucia and Scenic.

Accompanied by his redbone coonhound, Buster, Moses was visiting Carmel Beach Thursday morning when the opportunity to use the new restrooms presented itself.

“I went down to see the waves this morning and passed by the bathrooms,” Moses said. “I saw two city employees fine-tuning things and said, ‘When can we use these things?’ And they said, ‘Right now.’”

Accompanied by Buster, Moses visited the restrooms. Later, he told The Pine Cone he was surprised to see them open with such little fanfare. “Considering the cost of these things, I thought they’d have a ceremony with dignitaries,” he

See RESTROOMS page 31A



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PHOTO/COURTESY DOYLE MOSES

Doyle Moses of Carmel Valley (left) and Cleve Waters pose next to Carmel's new restroom facility.



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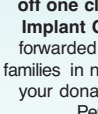
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Setting aside bat and glove, baseball fan uses brain to reach majors

By CHRIS COUNTS

LIKE COUNTLESS youngsters with an affection for America’s national pastime, Zack Rosenthal once traded bubble gum cards of baseball players. Now he trades the real thing.

After nearly a decade in the Colorado Rockies organization, Rosenthal — a 1997 graduate of Monterey High School — was recently named assistant general manager of the National League team.

This week was showtime for Rosenthal, who joined representatives from every major league team in San Diego for the annual Baseball Winter Meetings Dec. 7-11. The get-together functions as a veritable swap meet of baseball players, and this year’s affair hasn’t disappointed. Over the last couple days, stars like Jimmy Rollins, Matt Kemp and Yoenis

Santa returns to Village for 56th year

AS HE’S done this time of year for more than half a century, Santa Claus will descend from the sky Saturday, Dec. 13, at 10:30 a.m. His destination is the Carmel Valley Airfield.

Dressed in his familiar red and sporting his trademark white beard, jolly old Saint Nicholas will be traveling by helicopter. Accompanied by Mrs. Claus, Santa will greet children and lead a parade through the Village to the Carmel Valley Community Youth Center.

The youth center will be the site of a holiday celebration featuring photo ops with Santa, hot chocolate, holiday treats, a bounce house, live entertainment and more.

Not only will the 56th annual Santa’s Fly-In offer a bounty of holiday fun and cheer, but the event showcases the volunteer spirit of the Carmel Valley community.

“This event combines the efforts of so many volunteers,” explained Elizabeth Vitarisi Suro, the executive director of the Carmel Valley Chamber of Commerce, one of four local groups presenting the event. “They do it for their love of the holidays and to make children happy. It’s an inspiration to see everybody come together.”

The airfield is located at Ford Road and Lilac Lane. The youth center is located at 25 Ford Road.

Creativity and the holiday spirit

DISPLAYING THE creative talent of its members, the Pacific Coast Church in Pacific Grove hosts a Holiday Art Exhibit and Crafts Faire Saturday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Included in the show will be photography, jewelry, hand-painted scarves, painted boxes, glass hearts and much more. “The artists in this show truly live their spirituality closely and intimately through creative expressions of their art, bringing spirit into form,” explained Cynthia Johnson Bianchetto, a Big Sur painter, photographer and encaustic artist.

The church is located at 522 Central Ave. Call (831) 372-1942.

Cespedes have found new homes.

Understandably, Rosenthal once dreamed about wearing a major league uniform. “When I was a kid, I wanted to be a ballplayer,” he told The Pine Cone this week during a break between meetings.

But Rosenthal realized at an early age that he wasn’t going to make the major leagues with his bat or his glove. So he figured he might to it with his pen.

“I thought I would be a sportswriter,” he said. “I went to [the University of California at] Berkeley, where I wrote for the Daily Californian.”

Rosenthal soon realized, though, that journalism wasn’t for him. So he shifted gears and began studying law, the chosen profession of his father, Monterey attorney Bob Rosenthal.

The book, “Money Ball” — which champions the idea of using comparative statistical analysis to assemble a winning baseball team — had just come out, and it helped convince him to pursue a career as a baseball executive.

“I just love the game [of baseball],” he said. “I thought maybe I could work my way into the front office. I decided to go to law school to separate myself from other candidates.”

Rosenthal eventually landed an internship with the Boston Red Sox and he was on his way. But it would take more than a decade before he reached his current position.

“He’s very humble, but he’s also tenacious,” said his father. “He took jobs just to get his foot in the door.”

Living up to his advertised humility, Rosenthal played down his talents and hard work. Instead, he attributes much of his success to his father — and his family’s faith in him.

“I have such a great dad,” he said. “He was a big inspiration and source of support for me. I was lucky to have a lot of people pushing me.”

Now that Rosenthal has a seat at the table with baseball’s biggest horse traders, he seemingly is under fire to produce results — in his case, improving a Rockies team that lost 96 games despite having what was arguably baseball’s best offense.

“There’s actually not a lot of pressure internally,” countered Rosenthal, who works under Jeff Bridich, the Rockies’ new general manager. “The pressure to make moves is coming more from the outside. It’s a lot of fun meeting with other teams and player agents looking for ways to improve the team. It’s exciting, but we haven’t done anything yet.”

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Ad wrong about Point Pinos liquor permit

By KELLY NIX

THE STATE agency that doles out licenses to businesses to serve alcohol has issued a temporary permit to allow the restaurant at Pacific Grove’s golf course to serve liquor. Or not.

In a full-page advertisement on page 9 of the Monterey Herald Wednesday, the P.G. Chamber of Commerce said the state’s Alcoholic Beverage Control board had “issued a temporary permit to allow the consumption of hard liquor at the Point Pinos Grill.”

The problem is, the ABC never did such a thing.

“No, we have not issued a temporary permit to the Point Pinos Grill,” ABC licensing representative Marilyn Lefler wrote in a Wednesday email message to Lee Willoughby, a P.G. resident who, along with her husband Jim, staunchly opposes hard alcohol at the restaurant.

Though the Point Pinos Grill has applied for a license so it can serve liquor, there are more hurdles the restaurant has to go through before patrons there can start drinking gimlets or Manhattans.

Chamber President Moe Ammar said it was a simple mistake that occurred when a Point Pinos employee incorrectly informed a chamber worker that a temporary permit had been issued.

In the Herald ad — and in an email message sent to dozens of chamber members and others — the chamber also said it took a position in favor of alcoholic-beverage service at the grill. The P.G. City Council also approved the move, which would attract more customers to the restaurant.

The erroneous chamber notice comes after Willoughby and her husband launched a mini campaign to stop alcohol from being served at the grill, which already has a permit to serve beer and wine. They say it will cause noise, drunken driving and generally unruly behavior. They also got 79 signatures from residents opposed to liquor at the grill.

Lefler also said that she was at the restaurant Wednesday with her supervisor to gather more information necessary to complete a report on the liquor permit request.

“A temporary permit can be requested by Point Pinos Grill when our report is completed and the department recommends approval,” she said. “If that becomes the case, the department will notify all protesters that a temporary permit has been issued. However, that has not occurred at this time.”

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Youthful dancers bring ‘Nutcracker’ to Sunset

By CHRIS COUNTS

A PAIR of professional dancers join more than 100 local youngsters when Dance Kids of Monterey County presents its 21st annual performance of Tchaikovsky’s classic ballet, “The Nutcracker,” Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 12-14, at Sunset Center.

Perhaps the most popular of all ballets, “The Nutcracker” has become an American holiday institution. “It’s a great way to introduce young people to ballet,”

said Carol Richmond, who co-founded Dance Kids with her husband, Alan. “It’s very user friendly, the story line is magical, and we have great young talent. It’s a wonderful way to spend an afternoon or evening.”

Directed by Tia Brown, this year’s production stars professional dancers Isaiah Bindel and Gary Franco. Bindel plays the Cavalier, while Franco portrays one of the Arabian Dancers. The cast also includes Grace Lino as

See **DANCE** page 19A

More than 100 local youngsters will take the stage Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Sunset Center when Dance Kids of Monterey County presents three performances of the classic ballet, “The Nutcracker.” Sunset Center will also be the site of a fundraising gala Friday and a Sugar Plum Fairy party Sunday.

GREGORY WUTKE PHOTOGRAPHY



Photographers capture the will to survive

HONORING THE resiliency of the human spirit in the face of disaster, upheaval and tragedy, an exhibit of photographs by **Shannon Jensen** and **David Julian**, “Tragic Beauty,” is on display through Jan. 3, 2015, at the Center for Photographic Art.

The gallery hosts a reception Friday, Dec. 12, for the two photographers, who unveiled their exhibit last month.

Curated by Jane Howell, the show features Jensen’s pho-

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

tographs of political upheaval in Africa.

“Shannon photographed the grueling journey of the tens of thousands of Sudanese who were forced to flee the Blue Nile State and seek refuge in the South Sudan,” curator **Jane Howell** said. “Men, women and children of all ages walked for months under harsh conditions to reach safety. The beauty of these stand-alone images could not be any more effective in conveying the hardships the refugees had to endure.”

Julian’s images chronicle one of most destructive natural disasters in recent memory.

“David encapsulates the fragmented pieces of people’s lives that emerged from the cataclysm of Hurricane Katrina,” Howell explained. “Engaging the viewer with powerful and poignant imagery, the exhibition serves as a reminder of the frailty of life.”

The gallery is located inside Sunset Center at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 625-5181.

Back in Big Sur, globetrotting drummer launches ambitious recording project

AFTER SPENDING much of the past two years on a concert tour that took him to Europe, Africa and Asia, percussionist **Jayson Fann** has returned home to Big Sur. Accompanied by a pair of African singer-songwriters — **Nasambu Barasa** of Kenya and **Piwai** of Zimbabwe — he’ll perform Saturday, Dec. 13, at Fernwood Resort.

On his recent tour, Fann played drums and percussion for singer-songwriter **Iyeoka Okoawo**, whose 2011 single,

waterfall in Brazil.

Fann also plans to step out from behind his drums — not only will he play a variety of instruments on the album, but he will write some of its songs, sing and serve as producer. He hopes to provide more details about the ambitious recording when he launches a Kickstarter campaign to help fund it.

For now, though, he’s looking forward to seeing old friends in Big Sur. “This will be my first performance since I’ve been back,” he added. “It will be a homecoming.”

The music starts at 9 p.m. and there’s no cover. Fernwood is located on Highway 1 25 miles south of Carmel. Call (831) 667-2422.

■ The language of classical music

A classical and baroque concert soloist on cello, recorder

See **MUSIC** page 18A

On A High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

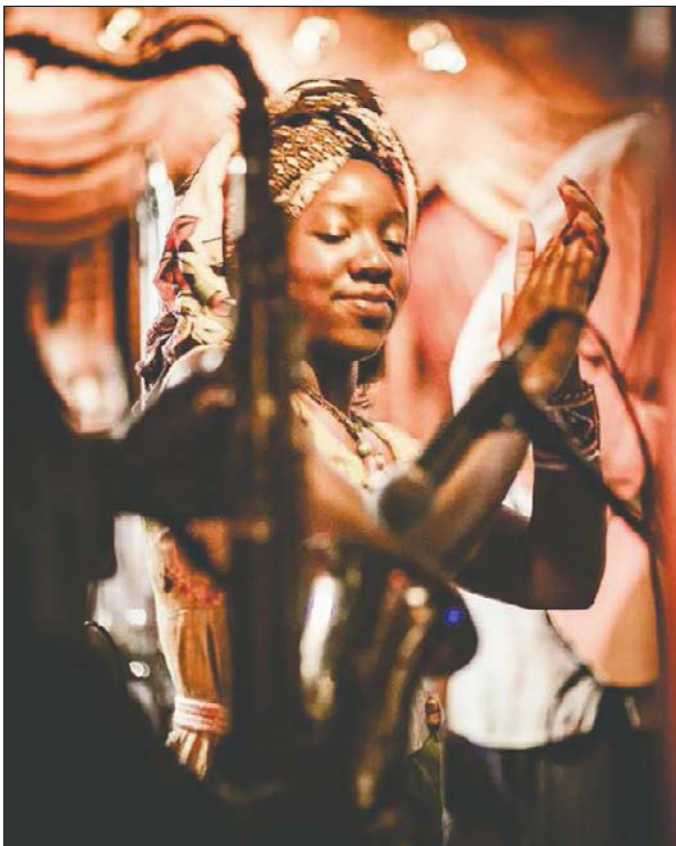
“Simply Falling,” turned her into a YouTube sensation — the video now has more than 23 million views.

Backing up Okoawo, Fann played at some of the biggest jazz and world music festivals in Europe, and also performed in locales as exotic as Tunisia and Thailand. “It’s been such an incredible education to focus on performing for two years,” said Fann, who was honored last year by the Arts Council for Monterey County as a “Champion of the Arts” for his contributions to the local arts scene as a performer, producer, educator and artist.

He’s happy to be back in Big Sur, where he’s ready to launch his next endeavor, his debut recording.

“I’d like to do a unique project with all the music I love,” Fann told The Pine Cone. That means bringing together jazz, world music, Brazilian, R&B, soul, Afro-Cuban and other genres, infused with poetry, spoken world and nature sounds. Undeterred by musical or geographical boundaries, he plans to record the album on a lightweight, mobile recording system he’s putting together. “You can produce an entire album on a laptop as long as you have high-quality microphones,” explained the multi-talented Fann, who owned the Big Sur Spirit Garden for eight years and has attracted national press for his “Spirit Nests,” which are functional sculptures made from tree branches.

The mobile recording system will allow Fann to visit several dozen musical collaborators scattered around the globe — and let him record in some of his favorite places. He plans to record one piece at Pfeiffer Beach in Big Sur — with the sound of the surf in the background — and another next to a



One of two African singer-songwriters performing Saturday at Fernwood Resort in Big Sur, Nasambu Barasa (above) will play with percussionist Jayson Fann (right). Honored locally last year as a “Champion of the Arts,” Fann has spent much of the last two years touring the world as a musician.



Coffee bar expands, Fifi's offers Pinots, and P.B. holds teddy bear tea

CARMEL COFFEE & Cocoa Bar in the Carmel Plaza received permission from the planning commission last month to expand into the storefront next door. The restaurant, which offers a full lineup of food, along with baked goods and coffee drinks, will expand from 784 square feet to 1,297 square feet, and will grow from 12 seats to 22. The exterior of the building will undergo a facelift along with the expansion, including the relocation of the front door and alcove.

But the basics of the place, including its salads, sandwiches, quiches and other items, will remain the same. The applicant, Mathew Porgess, also said the hours wouldn't change from their permitted 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays, with a focus on breakfast, lunch and snacks.

soup to nuts

By MARY SCHLEY

■ Fifi's Pinot Tasting

Fifi's Bistro Café on Forest Avenue in Pacific Grove will host a Pinot Noir tasting Friday, Dec. 12, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

The cost is \$15 per person, and no sharing is permitted, but the lineup will be impressive, so people might not want to split their tastings with someone else, anyway, no matter how much they like the person.

The slate for the afternoon includes 2011 Albatross Ridge Addison Rose from Carmel Valley, 2012 Balverne from Russian River Valley, 2013 Belle Glos Las Alturas from Santa Lucia Highlands, 2009 Domaine Serene from Oregon, 2011 Dutton Estate Karmen Isabella from Russian River Valley, 2011 MacRostie from Sonoma Coast, 2012 Navarro from Anderson Valley and 2012 Talbott Sleepy Hollow Vineyard from the Santa Lucia Highlands.

Reservations are not required. For more information, call (831) 372-5325. Fifi's is located at 1188 Forest Ave. in Pacific Grove. www.fifiscafe.com.

■ Galante Vineyards Holiday Open House

Galante Vineyards will open its tasting room on Dolores Street between Ocean and Seventh avenues for a Holiday Open House Saturday, Dec. 13, from 1 to 5 p.m. The afternoon will include light bites and holiday cheer, along with Secret Santa Specials "for those who dream of a Wine Christmas."

RSVP by calling Danielle at (831) 624-3800.

■ Holiday sing-along at Happy Girl

Sing along while shopping at Happy Girl Kitchen during a special event Monday, Dec. 15, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the store, café and kitchen at 173 Central Ave. in Pacific Grove.

The evening will include a warm winter meal and 10 percent off all Happy Girl products, including gift packages, along with a mini-concert by Lisa G and Rise Up Singing. A holiday sing-along with friends and neighbors will follow at 7:30 p.m.

■ Tackle soufflé

Aubergine restaurant's executive pastry chef, Ron Mendoza, will demonstrate how to perfect soufflé, the airy, lightly baked cake involving beaten egg whites folded into a base made with yolks and sweet or savory ingredients, from cheese, to chocolate. Soufflé is often considered difficult to make well and prone to failure, either falling or not rising properly. Mendoza will go over techniques for creating the tantalizingly light dish time after time.

Classes in the Aubergine kitchen at L'Auberge Carmel are intimate and hands-on, ensuring everyone who participates has the opportunity to fully learn the topic at hand. They begin with a round of Champagne, just to make sure everyone is in a jolly mood, and each class ends with students tasting the day's creations, and taking

home recipes and ideas.

The cost to attend is \$100, plus tax and service fee, and the session will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Aubergine is located in the hotel at Monte Verde and Seventh. For reservations, call (831) 624-8578.

■ PWN power lunch

The Professional Women's Network — the Monterey Peninsula's largest organization of professional women, with more than 150 members — will host a Power Networking & Lunch Thursday, Dec. 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Safari Room at the Bay Park Hotel at 1425 Munras Ave. The Crazy Horse Restaurant will cater the lunch, providing soup and salad.

The event is held on the third Thursday of every month, and the cost is \$15 per person, with members, prospective members and guests invited to attend. They should RSVP and pay online at www.pwnmonterey.org. Payment at the door is also OK, by cash or

check only.

For more info, contact Ileen Groves at igroves@bookkeepingexpress.com.

■ Breakfast with the Big Guy

The Mission Trail Lions of Carmel will hold the seventh annual Breakfast with Santa Saturday, Dec. 20, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Carmel Youth Center at Torres and Fourth.

The event gives children (and adults) a chance to meet Santa himself while enjoying pancakes, sausage and fruit, along with juice, hot chocolate, coffee and tea. Parents can also purchase tickets to enter drawings for toys, games, a scooter and a bike.

On the pragmatic side, the Carmel Police Department will host Operation Kid ID, a free service that involves fingerprinting and photographing kids — but only at their parents' request.

Continues next page



What's not to like about gingerbread houses? Absolutely nothing. Kids gathered at the Hofsas House for the annual decorating event, raising money for the Carmel Public Library Foundation while having fun with their edible masterpieces.

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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

Adult admission to Breakfast with Santa is \$7, and kids 12 and under are \$4 each. Purchasing tickets ahead of time is encouraged, and proceeds benefit the many local nonprofits supported by the Mission Trail Lions. To buy, call Bud and Jean Westcott at (831) 624-5783 or Pam and Clyde Klaumann at (831) 624-8759.

Cibo’s canned food drive

Cibo restaurant on Alvarado Street in downtown Monterey will hold an Italian Night Holiday Party and canned food drive benefitting the San Carlos Cathedral Parish Food Pantry Monday, Dec. 22.

The restaurant’s \$3 Happy Hour will be available in the Cibo bar from 4 to 7 p.m., with the regular dinner menu offered from 5 to 10 p.m.

And between 6 and 9 p.m., the Monterey Italian All Stars (Mike Marotta Jr. and Sr. on accordions, Dave Dally on violin, and singers Ree Brunnell, Oracio Aiello, Dave Marzetti, Anthony Lane, Rachel Marotta-Halim, Anna Bella Halim and Janice Perl) will perform holiday and traditional Italian songs.

Guests are encouraged to wear red and green to celebrate the Italian theme and the Christmas season, and are asked to bring canned goods to donate to the San Carlos Cathedral Parish Food Pantry.

Reservations are suggested. Visit www.cibo.com or call (831) 649-8151.

Holiday fun at C.V. Ranch

In celebration of the holidays, Carmel Valley Ranch is offering cooking classes, a Nutcracker Tea, and s’mores by the fire.

The fun begins with an Interactive Nutcracker Holiday Tea Saturday, Dec. 20, which has Dance Kids of Monterey performing “Nutcracker,” while kids learn how to perform a scene from the famous ballet.

The tea features sweet and savory snacks like the resort’s signature bacon and cheddar scones, holiday cookies and finger sandwiches — and wine and Champagne for grownups.

The tea begins at 2 p.m. in the Oak Room and costs \$50 for adults and \$35 for kids 12 and under.

A portion of proceeds goes to Dance Kids of Monterey County.

Classes on home-baked cookies will be held Dec. 21, Dec. 26 and Jan. 3, all at 2 p.m. Led by the ranch’s culinary team, the two-hour session will take place in the Adventure Kitchen just to the right of the hotel lobby and will feature various holiday classics and C.V. Ranch favorites. The classes cost \$55 for adults and \$35 for kids.

On Dec. 22 at 1 p.m. in the Oak Room, a two-hour session will focus on gingerbread-house construction. For \$65 per house — which can be created by the whole family — the ranch will provide the candies, frosting and gingerbread.

Winter Home-style Classics like sausages with gravy, chicken noodle soup, French onion soup and the basics of vegetarian dishes will be the topic of a Jan. 1, 2015, class in the Adventure Kitchen at 2 p.m. The cost is \$55 for adults and \$35 for children.

Beyond the kitchen and classroom, s’mores and hot cider are served around the fire pits at the lodge restaurant every night between Dec. 20 and Jan. 4, 2015, and a Santa Scavenger Hunt will take place across the resort on Dec. 23. The indoor/outdoor hunt will have elves helping kids and adults find the jolly man himself, and crafts, snacks and other treats will be found, too. Portraits will be available.

Contact the activities office for reservations at (831) 626-2549. Carmel Valley Ranch is located on Old Ranch Road just east of the Mid-Valley shopping center.

Teddy Bear Tea

The Lodge at Pebble Beach will present its inaugural Teddy Bear Tea on Sundays in December leading up to Christmas, as well as on Saturday, Dec. 20, when guests old and young can enjoy two hours of holiday treats, hot cocoa, teas and entertainment, including singer/storyteller MaryLee Sunseri. Children will also receive a cuddly teddy to take home.

The Teddy Bear Tea runs from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 14, 20 and 21. Children cost \$55, while adults are \$75, and a portion of the proceeds will support Monterey County youth literacy programs by way of the nonprofit Pebble Beach Company Foundation.

For more information or to make reservations, call (866) 826-4034. The lodge is located at 1700 17 Mile Drive in Del Monte Forest.

Will’s Fargo feasts

Recently acquired by Holman Ranch, with Hunter Lowder and Nick Ellis now in charge, the historic Will’s Fargo steakhouse and bar will serve special menus on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve this year.

See **FOOD** page 19A



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~ Traditional Christmas turkey dinner: Roast Tom Turkey, mashed
potatoes, chestnut stuffing, cranberry sauce, giblet gravy.

Christmas Hours
Christmas Eve Lunch 24th: 11:30am to 2:30pm
Christmas Eve Dinner 24th: 5:00pm to 8:00pm
Christmas Dinner 25th: 3:00pm to 8:00pm

Fandango New Year Holiday Menu 2014
Fandango offers our regular menu for New Year’s

New Year’s Hours
Lunch on December 31, 2014: 11:30am to 2:30pm
Dinner on December 31, 2014: 5:00pm to 10:00pm

Restaurant reservations are recommended during the holiday season

(831) 372-3456 • 223 17th Street • Pacific Grove
www.fandangorestaurant.com

FOOD

From page 17A

Chef Jerome Viel’s Christmas Eve dinner will be available from 4 to 8:30 p.m. and will include items the Peppermint Patty Martini, Dungeness crab cake with chipotle remoulade, Oysters Rockefeller, crab and corn bisque, chestnut and mushroom soup with white truffle oil, grilled buffalo rib eye, baked petrale sole, Bûche de Noël and Will’s eggnog custard.

New Year’s Eve, meanwhile, will have the

DANCE

From page 15A

Clara, Stella Crall as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Howard Burnham as Herr Drosselmeyer.

Friday’s performance will be preceded by a gala in Sunset Center’s Studio 105 at 5 p.m. The event will feature wine, hors d’oeuvres and fundraising live and silent auctions. Sunday’s show will be preceded by a Sugar Plum Fairy Party at 11:30 a.m.

Friday and Saturday shows start at 7 p.m., while Sunday’s matinee begins at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$32 for general admission; \$30 for seniors, students and active military; and



Peninsula Ballet Theatre presents “The Nutcracker” this week-end at the Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

kitchen open from 4:30 to 10 p.m., with the bar open until 1 a.m.

That evening, guests can tuck in to a Pear & Ginger Martini, smoked salmon with crème fraiche and capers, Blue Point oysters, lobster bisque, roasted root vegetable soup, grilled bone-in rib eye, baked Monterey Bay black cod, braised lamb shank, and Black Forest with brandied cherries, whipped cream and chocolate mousse.

Will’s Fargo is located at 16 W. Carmel Valley Road in the Village.

For reservations, call (831) 659-2774. <http://wffrestaurant.com>

\$26 for children under 12. Gala tickets are available separately — \$65 for adults and \$35 for children — or with tickets to Friday’s performance — \$90 for adults and \$45 for children. Sugar Plum Fairy Party tickets are available are \$95 and include a ticket to Sunday’s matinee.

Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 620-2048.

■ New theater owners also welcome ‘Nutcracker’

Also bringing Tchaikovsky’s famous ballet to a local stage is Peninsula Ballet Theatre of San Mateo, which presents the “The Nutcracker” Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 13-14, at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

The performance will be Peninsula Ballet Theatre’s first at the Golden State Theatre, which was purchased by Eric and Lori Lochtefeld in September. The ballet company has previously performed at Fox Theatre in Redwood City, which the Lochtefelds own as well.

“The moment we heard that Eric and Lori were adding the Golden State to their venues, we knew we wanted to be part of this great creative adventure,” said Christine Leslie of Peninsula Ballet Theatre. “We love the charm and the atmosphere of these historic theaters, as do our audiences.”

David Fonnegra serves as artistic director of “The Nutcracker,” while Carlos Carvajal provides the choreography. The cast of 125 includes professional dancers and students.

Saturday’s performance starts at 7 p.m., while Sunday’s matinee begins at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 to \$40. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070.

■ Supes honor Margaret D’Arrigo-Martin

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors last week praised Margaret D’Arrigo-Martin of Taylor Farms for her hard work and commitment to bringing fresh produce and healthier meals to students at local schools. As president of the Grower-Shipper Association Foundation, she has been instrumental in placing salad bars in some 50 schools throughout the county via the More Produce in Schools program. Her efforts are helping to fight the childhood-obesity epidemic and improve kids’ nutrition.

■ Bernardus’ Pinot Club

The Bernardus Winery in Carmel Valley recently launched a wine club just for Pinot Noir lovers. Considering it produces eight different Pinots, including six that are vineyard designated — with fruit from highly

regarded properties like Garys’ Vineyard, Rosella’s Vineyard, Soberanes Vineyard, Sierra Mar and others — wine club manager Christina Gray and the team at Bernardus decided it makes perfect sense to introduce a special club dedicated to the varietal.

Members receive a mixed case of Pinot Noir twice a year, with four of the eight offered in the first shipment, and the other four featured in the second. Generally, they’ll all be the same vintage.

The wines are priced at a 25 percent discount, and those living outside the area don’t have to pay for shipping on their biannual club deliveries. Members get the same discount on all other purchases, can taste Bernardus wines for free at the tasting room in the Village, and will be invited to attend the annual Pig & Pinot on the Patio event for free.

For more information or to sign up, call (800) 223-2533. The tasting room is located at 5 W. Carmel Valley Road and is open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. www.bernardus.com

UP COMING SHOWS

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DRILL

From page 1A

“The court agreed with us that MCWD improperly filed this lawsuit in Sacramento, rather than relying on local courts,” Cal Am spokeswoman Catherine Stedman said Thursday afternoon. “The continued efforts of Marina Coast to delay this project have been unsuccessful. We are moving forward with construction and look forward to the results this test well will produce.”

Though crews halted work Thursday because of strong winds and rain, they will resume when the weather is better. The test well equipment is en route from eastern Canada. When it arrives, a crew with Utah-based Boart Longyear will install it.

The drill equipment “actually started its journey in early November,” Stedman said. “It went to Salt Lake City for modifications for slant well drilling. There aren’t very many rigs like this in North America, which is why we had to make arrangements for it early.”

Including drillers, biologists, engineers, geo-hydrologists and other workers, there are about 15 to 20 workers on site of the project in North Marina. They will work to complete the well before the end of February, when the snowy plover begins its nesting season.

The monitoring wells, which consist of four well “clusters,” each with three wells for a total of 12, are being drilled by a company called Cascade.

Cal Am engineering manager Ian Crooks said it could take many months to determine the true water quality results from the well since drilling, by nature, is disruptive to the geology and will skew the results, including how much salt is in the water. The well will need to “stabilize” in order to produce accurate data.

“We don’t know how long that stabilization will take,” Crooks said.

The project will operate for up to two years.

Marina’s efforts to block the test well began Friday in the courtroom of Sacramento County Superior Court judge Michael Kenny, who was told by a lawyer representing the Marina water district that the district “doesn’t feel it can get a fair hearing in Monterey County” and that Kenny should issue a restraining order preventing work on the test well, pending a trial whether the well should be drilled at all.

But Christopher Garrett, an attorney for Cal Am, asked Kenny to move the entire matter to Monterey County, and told the judge that the impending snowy plover nesting season made it imperative for work on the well to begin right away.

Joel Jacobs of the California Attorney General’s Office, representing the coastal

commission, was even more emphatic.

“This project needs to move forward as quickly as possible, or else there could be real environmental damage to the Carmel River and the people of that region,” Jacobs said.

The judge then put off further argument on the change of venue requested by Cal Am until Wednesday, and said he wouldn’t consider the blocking construction of the well until the change of venue was settled.

Then, at the outset of Wednesday’s hearing, Kenny said he was inclined to rule in

favor of CalAm’s motion to change the venue, but gave Marina Coast attorney Howard Wilkins a chance to explain why he thinks the case should remain in Sacramento.

However, Jacobs and Garrett disagreed, and Kenny agreed.

“This matter should be transferred back to Monterey County,” the judge said.

Marina Coast can now try to get a Monterey County judge to block the well, but with work under way, that will be more difficult. No court date has been set in Monterey.

POLICE

From page 7A

\$95,558.40, with adjustments for inflation.

Recruitment is under way to find someone to fill his shoes, after an initial effort came up short, with two final candidates not testing well enough to occupy the supervisor position, according to Cmdr. Paul Tomasi.

At the Dec. 2 council meeting, CPD Chief Mike Calhoun became teary as he praised Mukai, who was hired by Carmel at the same time he was. Mukai is one of the few in the department’s 100-year history to spend his whole career here.

“It was July 2 in 1984. He was among 35 candidates. I know, because I was one of them,” Calhoun said.

The field of applicants was so large that they had to test at Carmel Middle School, rather than in town. Mukai finished first and Calhoun finished second.

“He’s always been No. 1 in my heart,” said Calhoun, who called Mukai his “partner, mentor and friend.”

Mukai started as a reserve officer in Morgan Hill in 1983, before applying “anywhere and everywhere” — and landing the

job with Carmel in 1984.

“We all go in with the notion of joining law enforcement and public safety in general as being altruistic, giving back to the community and helping those who can’t help themselves — making a difference in the community,” he said. “It sounds cliché, but I think it’s true. When I was younger, it was a field that offered challenges and opportunity.”

Over his three decades, he’s seen a lot of change, including going from hand-written reports to computerized ones, forging friendships with people who have since died, and witnessing societal shifts in how the public views law enforcement.

He also recalled working patrol during Pope John Paul II’s visit in 1987 — “I never felt so alone on that day, because the whole town was quiet,” he said. “It was very well contained at the Mission.” — and Mayor Clint Eastwood’s term was “an interesting time,” due to all the extra media coverage and meeting attendance by outsiders.

Mukai, who lives in Gilroy, said he’ll miss his coworkers and other city staff, but he’ll be back to do things like enjoy Concours on the Avenue as a spectator, rather than as a police officer.

“It’s not, ‘Goodbye,’” he said. “It’s, ‘I’ll see you guys later.’”

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At last week’s city council meeting,, CPD Chief Mike Calhoun (right) called Sgt. Mel Mukai, who is retiring at the end of the month after 30 years, a friend, mentor and brother.

PHOTO/KERRY BELSER



Anne Evans Sutherland

December 19, 1932 – November 3, 2014



SAN JOSE - Anne died peacefully after a long battle with Parkinson’s disease. Anne was born in Hanford, California and spent most of her youth living at Westhaven, a commercial cotton ranch where her father was the CFO. During the war she attended boarding school in Los Gatos at The Children’s Country School (now Hillbrook). After graduating from Coalinga High School in 1950, she attended Stanford, graduating in 1954 with a degree in Physical Therapy. Her first job after college was in San Diego working for a children’s hospital. While in San Diego, she met the love of her life, William A. Sutherland, through mutual Stanford friends.

Anne spent most of her career working in Physical Therapy for the Visiting Nurses Association. After receiving her Masters degree in Health Administration from San Jose State, she was the Director of Rehabilitation Services for the VNA. She retired from the VNA in 1998 and moved to her dream home in Pacific Grove. There she was a docent for the Monterey Bay Aquarium and active with the parish of St. Mary’s by the Sea.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Bill. She is survived by her four children, Catherine McCaffrey (Jim), Will Sutherland (Merrill), Margaret Schaefer (John), and Elizabeth Loar (Matt), her eight grandchildren, her sister, Jane Goldsmith (Glenn) and her brother, Kent Evans (Lyn).

Services will be held at St Mark’s Episcopal Church in Santa Clara December 20, 2014 at 1:00.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Parkinson’s Foundation.

Nancy Kaytag Love

1924-2014

Pebble Beach, California- A mere 22 days after losing beloved husband John Love of 51 years, Nancy passed away on Dec. 8, 2014.



Educated in California- Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy, Chadwick Seaside School and Westlake School for Girls. Nancy was an incredible woman whose passions included golf (St. Andrews Links, Turnberry Golf Course and Muirfield Golf Course, in England,) Royal Dornoch Golf Facility and Royal County Down Golf Club in Ireland) among many other other courses. She was a very talented interior designer working in Beverly Hills, California, Madison, Wisconsin, Columbus, Ohio and finally on the Monterey peninsula. Nancy absolutely loved to entertain her friends always with great style and flair.

She and John traveled all over the world, including Australia, New Zealand, Scotland and of course England and Ireland. She was also president of The Arizona Zoological Society which she founded in 1962. Always keeping up with the ever changing world Nancy loved her computer and enthusiastically kept learning new things. The loss of her favorite “rescue dog” Nicholas Nickleby was especially hard for Nancy as she was in declining health.

Survived by loving sons Scott Love and Pete (Jeanne) Horner; grandchildren Tracy (Mikelina) Horner, Sam (Teresa) Horner and Kristy Klobberdanz; great-grandchildren Brooke and Riley Brennan, Lauren and Jacob Klobberdanz, Sammy and Amanda Horner and Cheyenne Horner.

Per Nancy’s wishes there will be no service.

Please visit www.ThePaulMortuary.com for condolences.

The house may not be historic, but it has plenty of history

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

IF YOU looked at the house from the street, you wouldn't think it was anything special. And you'd be right ... but also wrong.

After a local historian called it a poor example of Spanish architecture, it didn't make Carmel's historic register. Now, the family that's owned it for 70 years is planning to tear it down. With it will go a lot of memories.

In 1928, when house was built, no one was creating Carmel cottages with the intention of making history, and the pink cottage on Mission Street near Eighth Avenue was no exception.

The family believes it was designed and built by English architect Frederick Bigland. But students of his work say it appears so decidedly different from his other designs, and they contend he had his

workers make the most of excess materials and call it a house. Yet the stucco siding, and use of Carmel Stone and basket-weave brick in the garden are decidedly Bigland. No one knows who owned it in the beginning.

During the 1940s, sea captain David S. Goddard purchased the property for his parents, William and Ella Goddard, who had farmed for many years in Escalon, planting and harvesting Thompson seedless grapes, almonds, figs, gladiolas and other quality crops. For reasons that have been lost to history, they lost the farm.

The cottage provided a soft landing for Ella and William, and also was a gathering place for their children, David and his wife Faye, and Ernest and Ruth Goddard Bixler, who enjoyed summering with their parents for up to six months a year in the cottage by

See **HISTORY** next page

This nondescript cottage on Mission has an extraordinary history behind it – but only for the family that's owned it for more than 70 years.



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HISTORY

From previous page

the sea.

Surely it was close quarters for the family, as they gathered in the two-bedroom, one-bath cottage, where just 1,000 square feet also housed a modest kitchen and living room. Down below the house, the property’s steep elevation provided for the eventual construction of a single-car garage. The lot offered additional outdoor living space on a patio intruding on the largely natural garden; although with much of it consumed by meandering oaks, the cottage looked like a tree house from the street below. It still does.

The next generation

In 1962, following the deaths of her parents, Ruth Goddard Bixler moved from her own Carmel house into Goddard cottage full time. The palm reader and astrologer, celebrated for her contributions to the culture of Carmel in the 1952 issue of the legendary Game and Gossip magazine, lived out her life in the little pink cottage until her passing in 1987.

For the next decade, family continued to visit Goddard

Cottage each summer. Yet in 1997, Catherine Goddard Bell, the only family member living in California, inherited it. Her husband, Jim, was researching a book, and Carmel, with its literary heritage, seemed like an ideal place to write.

But Goddard Cottage is elderly. Unlike many local cottages, which have been updated on the inside to reflect a contemporary lifestyle, and preserved on the outside to honor the heritage of the village, the little pink palace has changed very little over the years, except through the time and tempest of aging. Until now.

“Plans are drawn and decisions are being made to update and improve the property,” says Catherine Bell. “But the more we look into it, layer by layer, we are finding more that needs to be removed and replaced.”

Like her forebears, it seems Bell is more attached to the town than to the cottage. It simply has been the vessel that brought three and even four generations here, and housed them as they’ve come and gone for the past seven decades.

So the family can continue to come to Carmel-by-the-Sea, within the next six months the cottage will be torn down so it can be reincarnated into something appropriate, but contemporary.

Because it never made the historic register, the transformation is possible.



Calendar

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Dec. 12-14 – Dance Kids of Monterey County presents the 21st Annual Production of Nutcracker, December 12 & 13, 7p.m. December 14, 2 p.m. Gala Benefit Reception, December 12, 5-6:30 p.m. Sugar Plum Fairy Party, December 14, 11:30-1:30 p.m. Call for advanced reserved seating Sunset Center Box Office: (831) 620-2048 or www.sunsetcenter.org.

Dec. 12-23 - Great upcoming sales at Joining Hands Benefit Shops. 50% off holiday items, Dec. 12-23. Buy gift certificates 50% off face value from Dec. 19-23. 26358 Carmel Rancho Ln. (831)622-9005, www.joininghandsbenefitshops.org

Dec. 15 – Reverse Mortgage Workshop “Re-Inventing Retirement.” With the cooperation of MOCO ASSN. of REALTORS, Pacific Home Reverse Mortgage Center will present a Reverse Mortgage workshop on Monday, December 15 from 1 to 2 p.m. This workshop will focus on recent improvements to the HECM Mortgage programs and how these programs could work to your advantage in your future retirement plans. Space is limited. (831) 648-8080. Loans made or arranged pursuant to Real Estate Corporation License Endorsement #01254837, California Bureau of Real Estate (877-373-4542). NMLS # 330131.

December 17 – “CHANUKAH Candle Lighting and Potluck” with music and folk dancing, 5:30 to 8:30 at Pacific Coast Church, 522 Central Ave., Pacific Grove, co-sponsored with Kavanat HaLev, the Jewish Renewal Community of the Monterey Peninsula. Bring your Menorah and candles. Contribute to the Potluck or love offering requested. Everyone is Welcome. For more information, contact Coleen Gsell, (831) 372-1942 or www.pacificcoastchurchpg.org.

Dec. 20 - Attention Carmel High School Class of 2004!! Please join us for drinks, hors d'oeuvres and an epic Ten Year Reunion at the Joyce Vineyards Tasting Room on Saturday, December 20, from 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite (<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/chs-class-of-04-ten-year-reunion-tickets-14426828031>) or contact Kenly Walker directly at (831) 277-7235.

Dec. 24 – Celebrate Christmas Eve with us at Carmel Presbyterian Church! Three candlelight services: 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. First two celebrate with Kids’ Choir & CPC Band. Latter extols with Traditional Chancel Choir, Instrumental Ensemble, Piano & Organ. Childcare provided for children under 4. SE corner Ocean & Junipero. (831) 624-3878, www.carmel-pres.org.

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Seated: **Sandy and John Bonifas**, Owners

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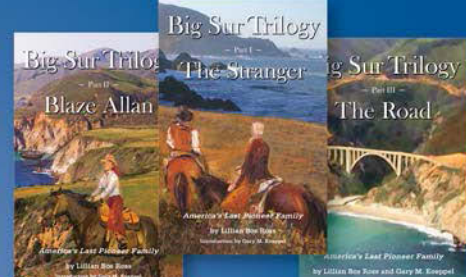
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Joan Fontaine’s Oscar pulled from auction as Academy threatens lawsuit

THE OSCAR that the late Joan Fontaine won for her of Lina McLaidlaw in the 1941 Alfred Hitchcock movie, “Suspicion,” was abruptly pulled from an auction block Thursday after the academy that makes the awards threatened to file suit over the sale.

The Oscar statuette, which was expected to raise as much as \$300,000 for the SPCA for Monterey County, as called for in Fontaine’s will, was removed from the Christie’s auction in New York Thursday after the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said it would file suit if the auction proceeded, Sotheby’s International Realty agent Noel Beutel told The Pine Cone.

The Academy prohibits Oscar winners from selling their

Oscars statues.

“Even though the Oscar was awarded to Miss Fontaine before the now-required legal agreement not to sell an Oscar,” Beutel said, “we feel that to fight this promised legal suit against the estate (and SPCA), everyone except the lawyers would lose.”

She said the trustees are “sadden at this development” and that Fontaine wanted to support the SPCA.

The Oscar was one of dozens of items Fontaine, who lived in the Carmel Highlands, wanted sold to benefit the SPCA for Monterey County.

This week’s auction was the third of four Christie’s auctions featuring Fontaine’s personal items.

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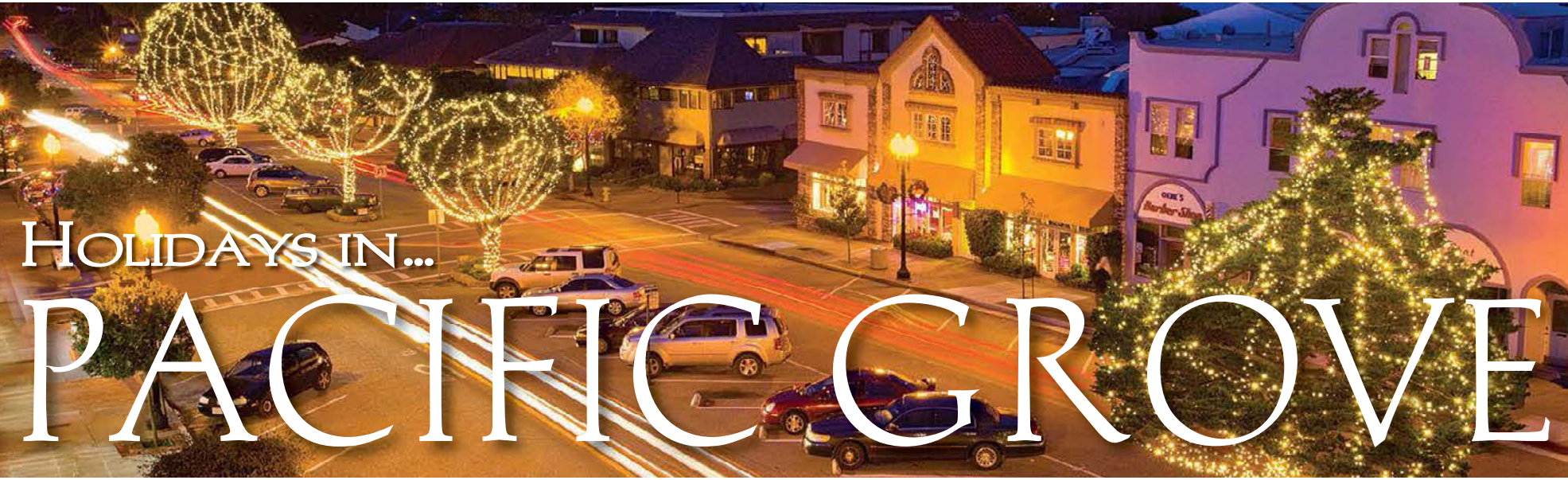
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Photo: Carol Marshall



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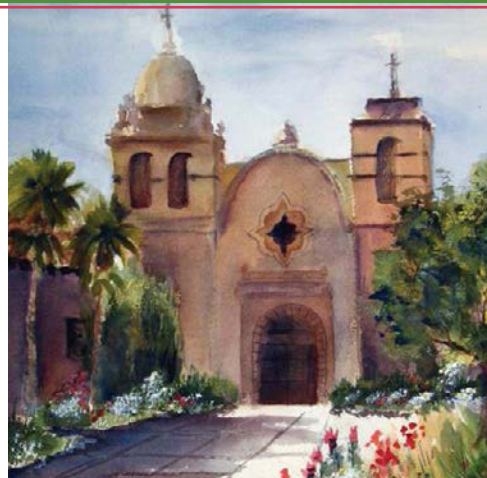
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Christmas Carols 9:30 PM
Solemn Vigil Mass at 10:00 PM
Basilica

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LIGHTS

From page 1A

setup — strings of mini lights wrapped around many of the trees in the five planters between Junipero and Monte Verde streets — got the most, with 18. Second, with 13 votes, was a variation of that setup, with “champagne” LED mini lights (cool white, warm white and amber bulbs) wrapped around the upper trunk and branches of the trees.

Flood lights used for up-lighting trees received a tepid response, with a spotlight on the World War I memorial arch receiving several votes, and little capped path lights at the ends of each planter getting a favorable response, as well.

But higher-tech options, like projectors that shoot pinpointsof light onto the trees in red or blue, and another shining constantly changing colors onto the foliage, received no votes. Neither did the two LED-based “gas-lamps” installed on tall posts.

The discussion of the median lighting has been going on for years but most recently took front burner again in April, when outgoing councilman Steve Hillyard asked for the matter to be raised before his term ended. He

missed the first workshop in September but returned in time for the Dec. 8 meeting.

“I started all this, I apologize,” he said, before suggesting the planning commission subcommittee established to review the lighting options, commissioners Jan Reimers and Michael LePage, decide what the priorities should be.

“What would you want to see as you go down Ocean Avenue?” he asked. “I think it might be appropriate to put down those higher-level goals and objectives that you might want to see.”

Hillyard said he wants to be able to see across the planters from one side of the street to the other, so he favored either no lighting at all, or flood lights shining up the trunks of “significant trees” to highlight their branches.

“The sides of the street are the focus, not the trees,” he said. Holiday lights could include the ‘dinosaur fairy lights,’ on the trees, such as they have now, or perhaps green laser-pointed lights from projectors mounted on nearby buildings.

“I like the dinosaur fairy lights,” countered gallery owner Richard Kreitman. The mini lights are low intensity, he said, “and they work.”

Whatever the solution, Kreitman said, safety for pedestrians should be a primary

consideration, since the darkness downtown can make it very difficult for drivers to see people in crosswalks.

Carmel Residents Association President Barbara Livingston favored “soft down-lighting” and said up-lighting violates the general plan because it interferes with the ability to enjoy the night sky. Fairy lights should be reserved for the holiday period from mid-November to early January.

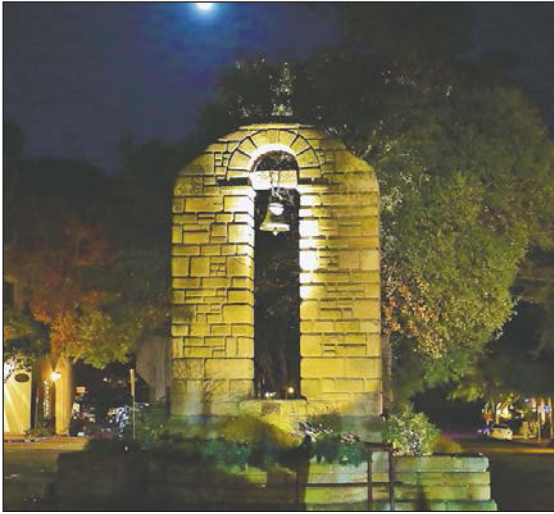
“Those little end-of-the-median lights are very good if people are concerned about safety,” she added. “That probably could go forward immediately.”

Skip Lloyd said he wants the planters to be dark.

“Every single shop is brightly lit,” he said. “Illumination in the medians not going to assist with that at all.”

CRA member Roberta Miller said the mini lights wrapped around trees risk making Carmel “look like every other city you can see up and down the coast,” and too much light pollutes the night sky.

“I like seeing the moon and the stars and the ambiance of the stores at night,” echoed Richard Warren of the Carmel Woods homeowners association.



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

The projector shining ever changing colored light onto an oak tree didn’t win any fans during a meeting Monday, but the spotlight highlighting the World War I arch did.

21, at 4:30 p.m., according to planning and building director Rob Mullane, and members will prepare recommendations for the city council in the spring. He also said information would be posted on the city’s website, and the various examples will remain in the medians a little longer, in order to give people more opportunity to examine them.

“Aren’t we lucky we live in Carmel, and we’re talking about lighting?” Reimers mused, compared with the strife and plague that could be dominating the conversation.



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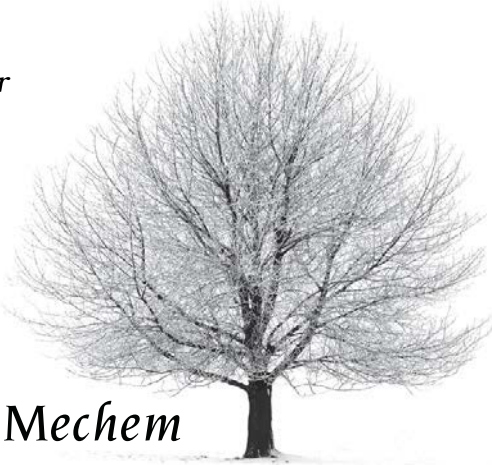
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Chamber names best businesses of 2014

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL Chamber of Commerce revealed its Awards of Excellence winners at a gala dinner at Rancho Cañada this week. Chamber members, visitors, employees, residents and others nominated the businesses they believed should be honored, and then the organization's 500-plus businesses received ballots so they could pick the best from among the top three vote-getters in each category.

The Business of the Year, meanwhile, was selected from last year's winners.

The winner announced at the Dec. 10 event was The Carmel Foundation, a non-profit that provides services, low-cost housing and meals, classes, medical-equipment loans, transportation and other resources for members age 55 and older.

Category winners revealed Wednesday night during the party in the Wedgewood Event Center were:

Accommodations — **Carmel Valley Ranch**; Apparel & Jewelry — **The Treadmill**; Art Galleries — **Carmel Art Association**; Cultural Organizations — **Carmel Bach Festival**; Dining — **Vesuvio**; Legal & Financial — **Union Bank**; Media & Marketing — **Carmel Magazine**; Nonprofit Organization — **Big Sur International Marathon**; Personal Services — **The Holly Farm**; Real Estate Services — **Carmel Realty Co.**; Retail — **The Crossroads shopping center**; Services to Residents & Visitors — **The UPS Store**; Services to Visitors — **Concours on the Avenue**; and Specialty Food & Wine — **Bruno's Market & Delicatessen**.



PHOTO/MICHAEL TROUTMAN, DMT IMAGING

Beth Bates, Kimberly Willison, Jill Sheffield and Nettie Porter (left to right) of The Carmel Foundation flanked John Lloyd, general manager of the Pine Inn and outgoing chamber board co-chair, when they celebrated receiving the Business of the Year Award Wednesday.

The Carmel Pine Cone was first published on February 3, 1915

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STORM

From page 1A

with the City of Carmel’s annual tree lighting, which had school choirs, Santa Claus and crowds of kids and adults at Devendorf Park for the annual event. But as it poured, city officials decided to light the tree before its scheduled time, so those who were fleeing the rain would have a chance to see it.

But that meant people arriving at the proper time to witness the tree lighting at 5:45 p.m. were disappointed to find it already ablaze. Overhearing their complaints, councilman Steve Dallas did something about it.

“I would like to send thanks to city council member Steve Dallas for his merry and bright attitude during the Carmel tree lighting ceremony last Friday. Understandably, the tree was lit earlier than the officially announced time when the storm roared though Carmel at the same time and the crowd was dispersing. I arrived to discover a beautiful but unexpected site — a lit tree,” said Cindy Dodd. “Mr. Dallas heard the compliments and cheery complaints of the small, disappointed group, and a decision was made to relight the tree at 5:45 p.m., and the group applauded his actions.” Dodd thanked Dallas and the Carmel Fire Department “for providing a memorable start to the holiday season — my first as a resident of Carmel.”

Public works prepares to breach sandbar

To relieve pressure from a Carmel River Lagoon swollen by recent rains — and to reduce the threat of flooding to nearby homes — Monterey County Public Works could breach the lagoon’s sandbar as early as Friday, county spokeswoman Maia Carroll reported.

As of Thursday at 2:30 p.m., the water level in the lagoon was 5.5 feet above sea level, Carroll said. But with the Carmel River flowing briskly, “we’re expecting that number to climb by tomorrow,” she said.

Carroll said it’s too early to say precisely where bulldozers will cut a channel in the sandbar. “Everything is very fluid right now,” she explained. “They’re pulling the crews together today.”

County workers were busy Thursday addressing flooding issues in Castroville and in the North County, Carroll added.

Big Sur residents brace for mud

Those who live in Big Sur’s Sycamore Canyon were planning for the worst when a much-hyped storm arrived Thursday. By late afternoon, their fears were realized as the creek that parallels Sycamore Canyon Road was overflowing and a wall of mud “as high as a truck and about 100 yards long” covered the pavement.

“It’s really bad right now,” Big Sur resident Natalie Van Allen told The Pine Cone.

Mudslides pose a serious threat to canyon residents, whose homes are located downhill from Pfeiffer Ridge, where a fire last December scorched 900 acres and destroyed 34 homes. The blaze left hillsides dangerously devoid of erosion-controlling vegetation.

To combat the threat of mudslides, K-rail and “gabion baskets” have been placed at “four or five” hot spots along Sycamore Canyon, explained Butch Kronlund, president of the Coast Property Owners Association.

K-rail is a concrete traffic barrier, while a gabion basket is essentially a cage filled with rocks. Both are used to control erosion and redirect debris flows.

Kronlund said debris flows along Surprise Creek and Bear Kills Two Calves Creek in particular — two tributaries

of Sycamore Creek — are putting homes at risk. About a half dozen homes are located along Sycamore Creek.

In addition to providing access to the homes, the road offers the public a way to get to Pfeiffer Beach. Both the road and the beach are owned by the United States Forest Service, which is keeping a close eye on the weather and the soggy hillsides above the canyon.

“We’re monitoring the situation closely,” forest service spokesman Andrew Madsen said earlier in the week.

The forest service has a contract with Blaze Engineering,

a Big Sur company that is often called upon to clear roads after mudslides.

“If something does happen, Blaze will move in very quickly,” Madsen explained.

The forest service is encouraging locals and visitors who use the road to proceed with caution.

“We realize the importance of the road to people who live there,” he added. “But we encourage people to stay off the road when it’s raining. We don’t want folks to get caught out there.”



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Editorial

Great news about the water shortage

WE’VE HAD plenty of rain this fall and are well ahead of average — and after Thursday’s deluge, reservoirs all over Northern California were filling up and even the Carmel River was flowing mightily.

National Weather Service records show that some weather stations in Sonoma and Napa counties and in the Sierra Nevada got almost 10 inches of rain in the last 24 hours. Even here on the parched Monterey Peninsula, rainfall totals topped 3 inches on Thursday. That’s a lot of water.

Of course, even the heavy rain this week and the numerous downpours we’ve had since Oct. 1 haven’t stoped journalists all over state from warning that “the drought isn’t over.” But the truth is that all this rain is wonderful news for California.

Thursday also brought great news about ending the 30-year water shortage on the Peninsula. But not because of the rain.

You see, our water is in short supply no matter how much it rains, and the drought that’s been hitting California has nothing to do with the Peninsula.

Our water is in short supply because state water officials decided almost 20 years ago that we were no longer allowed to take our H₂O from the Carmel River — no matter how much it rained. Even if the whole of Carmel Valley were under 10 feet of water, those state officials would still look at us and say, “None for you.” The water in the Carmel River now belongs to the fish and the plants, they decreed.

And that’s how we ended up on the ridiculously long quest for a new supply that everybody’s familiar with, and which has produced very little results all these years. Meanwhile, vacant lots can’t be built, business can’t be expanded, and homeowners can’t add so much as a bar sink.

When this week’s monster storm headed for California, lending hope to the rest of the state for the beginning of the end of the drought, and causing even Noah himself to check his emergency supplies, it had no significance for our water shortage.

But something that happened in a Sacramento courtroom on Wednesday did. The Marina Coast Water District has been petulantly and obstreperously fighting against even the tiniest step toward getting our water supply problem solved if it’s taken in their backyard. The district’s motivations are unclear, but their strategy isn’t: Use every courthouse trick to stop Cal Am from preparing the ground for a desal plant on the Cemex sand plant, which happens to be in Marina, even though it’s the perfect spot for the development of slant-well desal technology that could be important for the entire state’s water future.

But a judge wasn’t buying it, and he ordered the lawsuit brought by Marina Coast moved to Monterey County, where it obviously belongs, even as he refused to halt work on the desal test well, as Marina demanded.

So this billions of gallons of water that poured from the sky meant nothing for our water shortage, but a few words spoken by a judge truly did.

BEST of BATES



“What’s the weather like on your patio?”

Letters to the Editor

The Pine Cone encourages submission of letters which address issues of public importance. Letters cannot exceed 350 words, and must include the author’s name, telephone number and street address. Please do not send us letters which have been submitted to other newspapers. We reserve the right to determine which letters are suitable for publication and to edit for length and clarity.

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

‘A human failing’

Dear Editor,

Although I, too, am disappointed in the problems at city hall, I view the delayed action of our mayor and council differently than some of the recent letters to The Pine Cone. Remember, these leaders volunteered to be in their positions. We voted them in. Human beings are not perfect, nor are they omniscient. I am acquainted with them all. They are thoughtful, considerate and intelligent, and have a keen concern and love for the community and people they serve. I admire their willingness and the positive things they have done for this community — things that get little credit.

In retrospect, it appears that their trust in the administrator and the personnel director was violated. Critical questions may not have been asked. They hired a city administrator who was experienced and appeared to have good judgment. In addition, an experienced

HR professional was hired who supposedly knew what constituted lawful hiring and firing practices. Unfortunately, their trust was broken. Those who have been name calling and demanding resignations should ask themselves if they have ever put their trust in someone and then been disappointed when that trust was violated. It is a human failing, but not a fatal one.

Karol Gleason,
Carmel

Distracted by holiday?

Dear Editor,

When Monterey planners notified the public, just this month, that they were beginning preparations for the EIR required for the proposed Carmel Canine Sports Center to be plopped down in the middle of the Quail Lodge resort and golf course, petitioner Martha Diehl said she had “no clue” why the notice had not gone out until this holiday season. Well, let me help her out. Perhaps her professional associates on the planning board thought those of us who oppose this proposal would be distracted by the holiday festivities and family obligations.

Yes, but not entirely. We have continued to observe the obvious use of the facility by people and dogs on equipment in plain sight and mutter about the lack of observance of rules well-known to Diehl. This tactic is well known as a snow job.

But it doesn’t snow in these woods, nor will this proposal for 100 people to come daily and as many as 70 RVs to park overnight during three-day events, be the best use of this acreage adjacent to quiet residential areas. We continue to object.

Mary Boyken,
Carmel Valley

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The Carmel Pine Cone
www.carmelpinecone.com

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY
Vol. 100 No. 50 • December 12, 2014

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

Forget the partridge — this popular Carmel Valley spot has an emu

JUST A few miles out Carmel Valley Road, Hacienda Hay and Feed sits just where it's been for 40 years. For the last 15 of those, it's been owned and operated by Christopher and JoAnn Olow.

The Olows met in kindergarten. Chris was a self-described "Army brat," and JoAnn was a local girl whose father was a rancher. They later became sweethearts at Carmel High, where both graduated in 1974.

Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

They've been married for 38 years and are the proud parents of two daughters, Angela, 34, and Christy, 32. They're also the doting grandparents of four grandchildren, ranging in age from 1 to 10 years old. "There's nothing better in this world than grandkids," said Chris Olow, with a smile.

No doubt the Olows' grandchildren enjoy visiting them at Hacienda. In addition to being a feed store, it's home to a rather unusual petting zoo. Rabbits, ducks and chickens are all kid friendly, as are the donkey, Eeyore, and even Sydney, the resident emu.

In case you're wondering, Sydney came to Hacienda in a trade for a baby tortoise.

"I have Sydney lie down so the kids can pet him," said Olow.

Somewhat less cuddly, a 14-year-old tortoise, Donna, lumbers about in his own enclosure nearby.

"We raised him from a hatchling," said Olow, adding that Donna now weighs 110 pounds.

Donna's name was the unfortunate result of the breeder's habit of putting a dot of pink nail polish on the shells of the tortoises that were old enough to sell. Olow saw pink and thought, "girl."

Several years later, the breeder came by and asked why Olow had named a male tortoise "Donna."

Olow joked, "You've heard of 'A boy named Sue?' Well, this is a boy named Donna."

The name just stuck.

Olow also said that in the early 2000s they had a white bantam rooster named George that was quite a celebrity — an encounter with Clint Eastwood made its way into a 2003 story in The New Yorker.

The Olows regularly host schoolchildren on field trips. Many of them have never seen a farm animal outside of a picture book. Quite the opposite is true of the Olows, who are also caretakers on a ranch in Carmel Valley.

Olow said that while they're both animal lovers, JoAnn is especially nurturing.

"She loves taking care of calves that need to be bottle fed for various reasons," he said. "Her cows are like huge

puppy dogs and would come into the house if she would let them."

In addition to the field trips, the Olows invite Easter Seals to bring a group of autistic children for an exclusive day at the petting zoo one Sunday each October, in honor of their nephew, who is also autistic. October heralds the arrival of the annual pumpkin patch, with its maze of tunnels built of hay bales as well.

The Olows have always been community minded. In addition to running the feed store and petting zoo, they were very active in Carmel Youth Baseball as coaches and board members for many years when their daughters

played softball.

Why the involvement? Chris and JoAnn love and believe in their community. Chris illustrated why by saying that sometimes, a customer will call and need to pick up feed after hours. They'll leave a bale of hay or sack of feed by the front door and the customer will either slip the money under the door or come by and pay the next day.

"In 15 years, I can only think of one time when I didn't get paid," he said. "The best thing about this business is the customers — the friendships and good associations we've made."

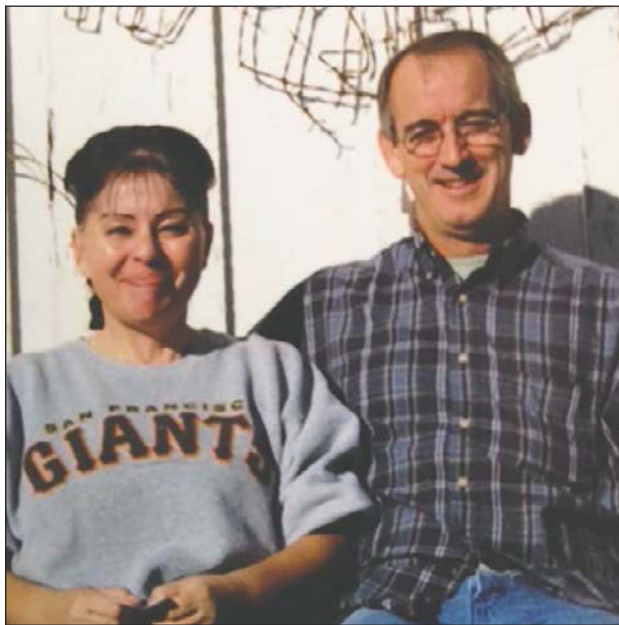
They also love the joy on children's faces when they see the animals.

It's people like the Olows who make the communities they live in special. It's funny how they almost always see it the other way around, though.

"We love our wonderful life in Carmel Valley," Chris said, "and I think working together here is one of the things that's made our marriage so great."

This year when you're doing a certain musical countdown of birds, remember that Sydney the emu would love to brighten your holidays in a very special Carmel Valley way — if you'll just stop by and let him.

To suggest someone for this column, email emgiuliano@gmail.com.



PHOTO/COURTESY HACIENDA HAY & FEED

You might not notice them for all the wonderful animals at their Carmel Valley business. But JoAnn and Christopher Olow are the loving couple behind Hacienda Hay & Feed.

All I want for Christmas is ...

... A HOLD on all Door Buster Specials, at least until Dec. 26. And please make sure that all those advertised rock-bottom discounts are not the same low prices offered last July, August, September, President's Day, Easter, Back-to-School and Columbus Day. Not to mention Mother's Day, Father's Day and Administrative Professional's Day.

... Instead of Door Busters, please bring me some Drought Busters. In California, rain is worth more than all the gifts, gadgets and electronic gizmos under all our trees put together.

... And while you're at it, could we please have a day off from all those electronic gizmos?

... I could also do without any more news stories about the bargain hunters camped out in Walmart parking lots. First of all it's not news anymore. And anyway, I suspect their brains might have frostbite (and I know the feeling).

... And, please, no more in-store sound systems playing "Jingle Bell Rock." That song hasn't had a break since Halloween, and neither have my ears.

... And enough with the reports on Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday. Let's hear about Shopaholic Sunday, Take-It-Back Tuesday, What-Was-I-Thinking Wednesday and Tired and Broke Thursday.

... And more rain, please, Santa. As much as your sleigh can carry. You might have to make several trips.

... While I'm asking, no more Christmas trees shedding pine needles on the carpet. We have pine needles embedded in one rug since 1975.

... No more strings of tree lights that are harder to untangle than a wad of packing tape.

... No more wads of packing tape.

... No more fully decorated trees toppling over in tree stands guaranteed not to topple over.

... No more plastic holiday decorations from places that don't have Christmas (I'm looking at you, China).

... No more toys for kids that glorify war. What's so child friendly about bombs and bullets? When I was a kid, we had fun all day playing with an empty cardboard box. We were so poor, instead of a sled, I had to slide down hills on my cousin.

... More Joy To The World. Real joy that lasts. Not the throw-away kind mentioned in mass greeting cards, or the momentary mood enhancer of spending ourselves into oblivion.

... And while you're at it, Santa, another round of rain.

... No fake holiday scents, please. I'm old school. I like the smell of fresh pine boughs, and cinnamon rolls right out of the oven.

... No more goofy holiday apparel. Ixnay on the snowman socks, Santa ties and jingle

bell underwear that lights up. Or any other garment with a sell-by date of Dec. 25.

... No more inedible mail-order food gifts. Not until I figure out what to do with last year's Cranberry-Chipotle-Salted Caramel Marmalade, Reindeer Mincemeat (made with real reindeer), Peppermint Fudge Pretzel Munch and Petrified Fruitcake.

... No more Whoopee Cushions that too-tle "Here Comes Santa Claus." I prefer the one that plays "Little Drummer Boy."

... No more Holiday Recipe Toilet Paper, for obvious reasons.

... Did I mention rain? I'd like a little extra in case I need a shower next year.

... And could I have a thingy that would eliminate the word "thingy?"

... And an app for curbing ridiculous apps.

... On the other hand, I'd like an app to make holiday bills disappear. And one to eliminate cholesterol in chocolate chunk ice cream. And one to make Comcast equipment work at least 50 percent of the time.

... No more wrist watches that track vital signs. If I want to know if I'm dead, I'll

Wilde Times

By LARRY WILDE

check the obituaries.

... No more 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzles with 997 pieces in the box. By the time you find out three are missing, your life is half over.

... And no more gifts that need dusting, assembling, programming, connecting to other electronic stuff, or that will take the rest of my life to learn how to put together and operate.

... One amendment to my rain request: I'd like just enough water to keep us going, but not enough to encourage more development. If I get an urge for San Jose, I'll drive up there to see it.

... No more 24/7 Hallmark Channel holiday movies. Two months of sappy Yuletide flicks is one-and-a-half months too many.

... And if it's not too much trouble, Santa, I'd like a little Peace on Earth. If that's asking too much, I'll settle for one Silent Night. It's a start.

... And could you please throw in some goodwill to men, and include women and children, too?

... And, Santa, here's what I'd like most of all: for Pine Cone readers to enjoy a season full of life and love and laughter. Let's share the joy and pass it on.

Carmel resident Larry Wilde is a former standup comedian and the author of 53 published books of humor.

With sales over 12 million copies The New York Times has called him "America's Best-Selling Humorist."

E-mail him at larry@larrywilde.com.

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BUTTS

From page 6A

ness community to monitor the collection efforts, would be part of the pilot program, as well.

But commission chair Jan Reimers suggested going to business owners first.

"I would like us to consider going to the business community before we even start the pilot program," she said; specifically, whether shop and restaurant operators would install their own receptacles on private property.

Carmel Residents Association President Barbara Livingston described cigarette butts as "a huge problem" and said state law prohibits smoking within 25 feet of any building entrance — which would pretty much outlaw smoking downtown — but the rule isn't enforced.

Commissioner Don Goodhue worried the receptacles would add clutter to town if they are free standing, and commissioner Keith Paterson doubted people would use them, anyway.

"I'm highly skeptical of the effectiveness of any of these containers," he said, especially when only a few are going to be installed.

Commissioner Ian Martin said he would like a custom design incorporated with the city's distinctive, wood-paneled trashcans, and he also worried about the effectiveness and clutter.

"Is a litterbug going to continue to be a litterbug if given the opportunity to not be a litterbug?" he asked.

After observing the commissioners didn't seem satisfied with any of the options Friedrichsen presented, planning and building director Rob Mullane said, "The suggestion to reach out to the business community, perhaps with the assistance of the chamber, is a good one."

The commission decided to postpone the pilot program, in favor of more discussion and collaboration.

"This is an extensive cleanup to take on, so we should coordinate with businesses," Reimers reiterated. "I don't question the need.

FIRE

From page 1A

Last week, investigators announced that the wildfire began when electrical wires belonging to the water company ignited leaves and redwood nettles. Blaze Engineering — founded by the late Helmuth Morgenrath and his wife, Marty — contracts with Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water Company for services.

The Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water Company and Blaze, according to the lawsuit, were negligent because they carelessly maintained the power lines "such that the electricity in the power lines escaped the power lines and ignited nearby fuel, causing the fire."

The lawsuit, filed in Monterey County Superior Court, seeks general, compensatory and punitive damages.

A message left Tuesday for a manager with Blaze Engineering was not returned. A representative for Pfeiffer Ridge also couldn't be reached.

Achterberg and Lesty blame their landlord, Grossman, for "failure to provide defensible space" and say he breached their lease because he refused demands to clear living and dead debris within 100 feet of the house to protect it in case of a fire. They had rented the house from Grossman for 11 years, the suit says.

"The home was entirely consumed by fire almost simultaneously with the start of the fire," according to the lawsuit, filed for Achterberg and Lesty by their San Luis Obispo attorney, K. Christopher Branch. This happened, in part, "because the landlord failed to effectively manage the fuels surrounding the home," he said.

The fire not only destroyed all of their personal items, it killed their cats, according to the lawsuit. The artists also suffered smoke inhalation, other undisclosed bodily injury and emotional distress, according to their claim. Grossman could not be reached for comment.

Achterberg and Lesty said they didn't have their personal possessions insured because they agreed — per an "oral term" of the lease — not to obtain renters' insurance in an effort "to protect" Grossman. Their lease with the landlord, the lawsuit says, was "partially oral and partially in writing."

Grossman's alleged refusal to clear the brush around the house, the suit says, also violated California Public Resources Code 4291, which requires homeowners with houses in forested areas to "maintain defensible space of 100 feet from each side and from the front and rear of the structure, but not beyond the property line." The law also says those who lease buildings must maintain the defensible space.

Three days after the fire, Achterberg set up an account on gofundme.com seeking donations so she and Lesty could replace some of their items lost in the fire. As of Tuesday, 42 people had donated \$2,015 toward her \$10,000 goal.

Lesty — who also goes by the name Dai Lesty — has a Facebook page showing his drawings, paintings and sculptures. In November, Achterberg posted on Facebook samples of her intricate latch hook tapestry art that was lost in the fire, including a 36-inch-by-54-inch piece.

"I'm considering recreating them ... just so I can know they were never lost," she wrote in the post. "It might be just cathartic, or a possible a healing journey. There really is beauty in the past."

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Not Many Here

Men or women who pay their debts and taxes may be a blessing or a curse to the community. It depends on what else they do.

In making this statement it is to be understood that by the word “debt” is meant the ordinary cash obligation which is incurred in the transaction of business. There are those who believe that so long as they are not indebted to their neighbors for goods purchases, or the municipality or the state for the last tax levy, they have discharged their whole duty, and nothing more can be asked of them.

But in reality, duty to a neighbor is limited only by the ability to do the neighbor good, and duty to the community by the ability to be of service to it.

The community in which the prevailing statement is, “What do I get out of it?” is one which does not and can not prosper.

Fortunately, there are only a very limited number of the “what-do-I-get-out-of-it” kind in Carmel, and, fortunately again, some of these, since incorporation are threatening to leave town.

A Love Affair Minus a Scandal

Reproduction in the Literary Digest of the works of poets, embryo and those who have arrived, is considered in the nature of a recognition of merit. J. Robinson Jeffers, who, with his wife, has spent much time in Carmel, recently published a volume of his verse, and the journal above-named prints the following selection: “He Has Fallen in Love With the Mountains.”

“He has fallen in love with the mountains, how should he not be blest? Him the high canyon-fountains feed with coolness and rest; Him the gray mists with pleasure about the day’s release; The sleepy long noons with leisure; And the eerie dawns with peace. Remote, steel-gray, and scornful—the peaks; above them glides down, and purples the mournful pines on the canyon sides; Day, and the ferny fountains are full and crystal dim; And he who has loved the mountains, how should they not love him?”

■ 75 Years Ago — Dec. 8-15, 1939

Keep Pianos Out of Bistros

The establishment of a piano in one taproom and the start on installation of another in a second taproom in Carmel brought forth discussion before the city council Wednesday evening of this new trend. W. K. Bassett precipitated the discussion by stating the danger of this trend for Carmel in cheapening the environment and providing another attraction for an element not desired in this community.

He suggested that if this “invasion” of pianos could be stopped immediately that taproom owners and community alike would benefit. Mr. Bassett’s suggestion was backed by the council and it was indicated that an ordinance would be drawn up to bar musical entertainment from bars.

Miss Clara Kellogg suggested that the pianos be ousted for “aesthetic considerations.” Said Everett Smith: “Carmel doesn’t want pianos in taprooms any more than it wants neon lights on the streets.”

Said City Attorney William Luis Hudson: “I’ll draw up an ordinance prohibiting any entertainment in taprooms — except drinking.”

“Who ever would have thought a piano such a dangerous instrument!” commented Miss Kellogg.

Concrete Replaces Wood at Forest Theater

None of the charm of the old wooden Forest Theater has been lost in the reconstruction of the Forest Theater in permanent, reinforced concrete, observers of the new Forest Theater that will be opened sometime in early summer declared this week.

Under the direction of the Carmel parks and playgrounds commission, Hugh Comstock, Mayor Herbert Heron, City Street Superintendent William Askew and WPA officials, a fine, new Forest Theater has risen on the foundations of the

old. “I’m thrilled with the work that’s been done on the Forest Theater!” declared Miss Clara Kellogg, council member, after viewing the old theater in the pines this week with members of the park commission.

Permanent seats — on concrete foundations — of sturdy pine and redwood have been placed, in addition to a stout wooden stage on concrete foundations that permit a huge space below for dressing rooms, makeup rooms, and storage of sets and properties and bathrooms.

Keep Police Personnel, Increase Budget

Mayor Herbert Heron asked for the long-delayed report on the police department by Acting Chief Robert Walton and got a complete and well prepared statement from Walton at Wednesday’s council meeting. Here is what Walton recommended: 1.) Maintaining a year-round four-man police force (instead of dropping a man now and adding a man during the summer); 2.) Twenty-four hour police radio service to be maintained (a) with a radio extension operated with the cooperation of the Fire Department, or (b) with an extension in the chief’s home for relief operation; 3.) Retaining present trained personnel; 4.) The council should outline a complete policy for the police department’s guidance.

Walton’s report came as a stunning blow to the suggestion that the police staff be cut to three men. It also developed that cooperation with the Fire Department was “out,” presumably because members of the voluntary force could not see eye to eye with the police on this matter.

■ 50 Years Ago — Dec. 10-17, 1964

Council Advised to Exclude Point

Last night, the city council adopted a report of its ad hoc committee on annexation which recommended that the council should not authorize circulation of an annexation petition on Carmel Point at this time.

The report did recommend, however, that the council authorize the circulation of annexation petitions in Mission Fields, the Walker Tract and certain lots on the edge of Hatton Fields Mesa; also the Mission Tract.

The council, in addition, decided that the resolution authorizing circulation of petitions in those areas should include the provision that property owners be equally obligated with taxpayers within the city for the payment of general obligation bonds. At present, the only such obligation is the \$575,000 purchase of the Sunset School site for a municipal cultural and community center.

The ad hoc committee report showed that the addition of the two areas would not be a financial boon to the city. Estimated property tax revenue should annexation take place, was set at \$19,600. Expenses of providing fire and police protection and road maintenance in this area would cost the city \$26,284 per year, City Clerk-Comptroller Hugh Bayless estimated.

Planners Approve New Theatre

Plans for a new theatre and store development at the corner of Dolores and Seventh were approved yesterday afternoon by the Carmel Planning Commission, which also authorized issuance of a building permit for the project. The permit for the theatre was requested by Arthur Strasburger and Jack Martin. The development will be located on the present Nielsen parking lot.

Kip Stewart has designed the development, which will have off-street parking for employees.

Also approved yesterday was a new store planned as an addition to present development on the Dudley Nix land at the corner of Mission and Seventh; also remodeling of the second floor of the Millard Building at Dolores and Sixth and the front of Womble’s Pharmacy at Ocean and San Carlos. Referred to the commission’s land use committee for study and report on January 20 was a variance requested by Harold

Nielsen for the store portion of the theatre development mentioned above. He wants to be allowed to have a street frontage of 88 feet instead of the 80 feet maximum allowed. The request of Gladys H. Silva to establish two building sites after demolition of a nonconforming studio on one portion of the property to be divided at Carmelo and San Antonio was allowed. W.E. Candy was permitted to reduce a front setback for a building at Scenic and Eighth. Lawrence Kinneard was allowed a building site with certain nonconformities on Lopez between Second and Fourth.

RESTROOMS

From page 12A

said.

Nevertheless, he was impressed with the new facilities, which he described as “keeping with the taste” in Carmel.

“They’re the nicest public bathrooms I’ve seen,” he added.

Designed by architect Rob Carver, the new bathrooms replace portable toilets. The project to build them has been in the works for years. Located on a bluff overlooking Carmel Beach, the facility features Carmel stone, a wood finish on its concrete walls, mahogany doors and a roof planted with native plants and succulents.

Sharon Friedrichsen, director of public services for the city, said the new restrooms complement their surroundings.

“What I like about the restrooms is not only the beauty of the design, but that the design showcases the natural beauty of the location as well,” she said. “The restroom will enhance the public’s experience when enjoying Carmel’s shoreline without diminishing coastal views or disturbing the trees and natural beauty of the site.”

The facility cost \$745,000 to build, the city said, including \$100,000 for planning and design. The California Coastal Conservancy chipped in \$150,000 of taxpayers’ money, with Carmel taxpayers covering the balance of \$595,000.

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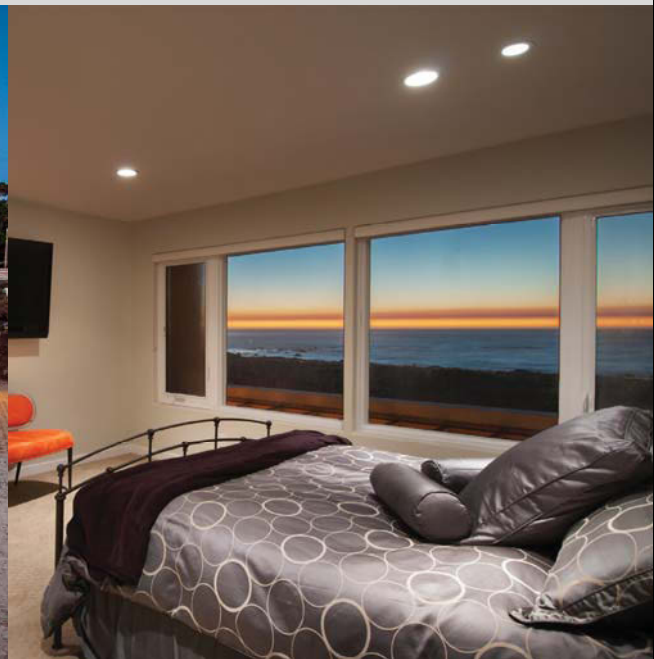


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Holiday GUIDE

Thinking big to outsmart the diehard foodie on your gift list

By ELAINE HESSER

SHOPPING FOR holiday gifts should be fun, but if there's a foodie on your list, it can be a challenge to stay ahead of them. First, let's define "foodie": It's someone who finds competitive cooking shows more compelling than most professional sports, someone who orders the strangest thing on the menu "just to try it," and someone who reads cookbooks like they're adventure novels.

You ask a foodie, "Have you tried (fill in restaurant name) yet?" when the restaurant's been open for about five days and they answer, "Yep. The bread's house-baked and they're locally sourcing their chickens. They said my coq au vin came from a bird named Gertie."

And therein lies the rub — so to speak. It's like trying to surprise a fashionista with a new Hermes silk scarf, only to find she already owns it — in four different colors. Here are some strategies we recommend:

Go big. Foodies think in terms of "the perfect bite," so something big is bound to catch them off-guard. Salumeria Luca has some imported panettones — the Italians' answer to fruitcake — in impressive red boxes. And for the chocoholic, Lula's got solid chocolate nut-

crackers and Santas, and a snowman that weighs in at a whopping six pounds. They also have terrific real marshmallows. Try them and you'll never go back to those Styrofoam-like cubes in the plastic bags.

Another approach is to hit the foodie's home turf — like the Cheese Shop in Carmel Plaza — but focus on something other than the main event. Most shoppers enter the Cheese Shop and immediately hone in on the samples being handed across the counter. In doing so, they turn their backs on dozens of jams, jellies, crackers, honeys and chocolates. There's even white truffle honey, which is delicious when drizzled over some goat cheese.

A couple blocks away at Trio Carmel, you can put together a six-pack of small bottles of oils and balsamic vinegars and delight your loved ones with your understanding of their favorite flavors. Throw out the phrase, "flavor profile" for extra credit. The knowledgeable staff can help you choose from nearly 50 options. Mediterranean food lovers' choices might include a robust Coratina olive oil from Italy, basil infused olive oil, and roasted almond oil accompanied by fig dark balsamic vinegar, espresso dark balsamic and Sicilian lemon

See **FOODIES** page 11 HG



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Some of the best presents come from gift shops that give

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

THERE ARE all kinds of ways to give, particularly in a season dedicated to the gesture. We can purchase something precious, tied up in a blue box, or score a shiny red bike to prop under the tree. We can give of our time, our talent, our food or our friendship, our castoffs or our cash. We also can up the ante and buy gifts from gift shops that give.

Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula calls its gift shop Comforts. From garden markers to gourmet hot chocolate, to pillows and plaques, crosses, candy and Curious George, jammies and jewelry, and toys and trinkets, gift shop buyer Harlan Schenbaum and his two assistants seem to understand that comfort comes in many forms.

Comforts is actually staffed by Community Hospital Auxiliary members, who volunteer their time on the sales floor. And the auxiliary gets the proceeds. Established in 1955, the mission of the auxiliary is to enhance the quality of hospital service by attending to the comfort, care, and well being of patients and their families, visitors, hospital staff and the community.

In addition to volunteering their time throughout the hospital, the auxiliary also funds medical equipment and annual scholarships to students attending CSU Monterey Bay or the Maurine Church Coburn School of Nursing at Monterey Peninsula College, and donates to various hospital programs, such as the Diabetes Initiative education program and NICHE, which stands for Nurses Improving Care of Healthsystem Elders.

"It's really nice to have the profits you make go into good causes," says Schenbaum. "It's really rewarding.

Plus, the hospital's 2,000 employees are 40-50 percent of our business, so I listen to them when I buy for the shop. One of our best sellers is our logoed sweat-shirts. I think people are proud of their hospital."

A new opportunity to give and get, Givingtree Benefit Shop, just opened at Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula on Carmel Valley Road, just one mile from Highway 1. Dedicated to "charitable repurposing," the shop accepts new and gently used clothing, jewelry, art and a wide range of home and garden items to be sold to the community Wednesdays through Saturdays. A project of the Women's Association of the church, its proceeds are donated to charitable organizations throughout the Monterey

Peninsula, among them Animal Friends Rescue Project, Food Bank for Monterey County, Community Human Services, Interim, Central Coast HIV/AIDS Services and the YWCA of Monterey County's battered women program.

"Our mission," says incoming Women's Association President Pam Klaumann, "is to invest our proceeds back into the community. In naming the shop we wanted something that had 'giving' in it, and its doors open to a beautiful tree out front. We thought of Shel Silverstein's book, 'The Giving Tree,' and the idea that you give and give until you have

See GIVE page 5 HG

Not only does the gift shop at CHOMP play an important role in the lives of patients and visitors at the hospital, it's a great place to do some of your holiday shopping.



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

First Night: Entertainment, education and the environment

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

DOWNTOWN MONTEREY is throwing the biggest party of the year, and you're invited. Whether you're looking to stay safe and sane or simply want to be entertained this New Year's Eve, First Night Monterey, a family-oriented festival of art and entertainment, is designed with you in mind. And you don't even have to stay up until midnight to get in on the fun!

First Night began in Boston back in 1976, when citizens introduced an alcohol-free street fair on New Year's Eve to celebrate community and family through visual and performing arts. The event came to Monterey via Paulette Lynch, now executive director of the Arts Council for Monterey County, when she moved from Boston to the Monterey Peninsula in 1992.

Local artists and community members looking for a creative alternative to traditional New Year's Eve revelry worked with Lynch to launch one of the more creative events among more than 200 First Night festivals now celebrated across the country.

“In December 1993, when I was thinking about starting First Night Monterey, I felt it was such a huge opportunity for the community because it pulls from the whole region, but it takes place in one location,” Lynch said.

Erling Lagerholm, 90, who has championed First Night Monterey for 22 years, also moved to Carmel from Boston, where he attended the inaugural First Night in 1976.

“That first New Year’s Eve celebration in Boston was a special occasion,” says Lagerholm, “in a city where citizens replaced the wrong kind of revelry with a wonderful gathering of visual and performing arts,

without the alcohol. I believe Monterey had the same concerns. In an area with such a strong foundation in the arts, it was a natural thing to do and with a very positive outcome. Walking down Alvarado Street at 10 or 11 at night and seeing families strolling along, feeling good and safe and happy, makes me feel good, too."

Each year, the New Year's Eve celebration is developed around a theme, reflected in art installations and other activities. This year, the 23rd First Night Monterey presents "Sea Changes, the Seaquel," an expansion of last year's theme, which champions the majesty of the ocean, and focuses on its challenges, such as pollution, climate change, and over fishing, charging event participants to "sea changes" that are possible if everyone works together.

See **FIRST NIGHT** *next page*

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FIRST NIGHT

From previous page

The signature presentation of the evening is the Sea Changes Installation, which includes a music video produced by musician Erik Scott, projected onto the outside of the Monterey Conference Center, and a virtual undersea experience inside. As guests walk into the room, they'll sense they're are on some kind of sub-marine excursion, as fish and jellyfish, an octopus and perhaps a porpoise or two swim by.

"It's all about seeing the changes we can make that will impact our environment in a positive way," says Executive Director Ellen Martin. "Through the arts we can bring ideas and efforts to the forefront. Often it is the kids who bring home ideas from school on how

to protect the environment, which is wonderful and essential. They have to get it because they will be the stewards going forward."

The undersea installation is a response to Sea Changes: Act, a collaboration of Monterey County and San Diego artists and scientists convened by artist Kira Corser to foster curiosity, concern and innovation regarding fish shortages, pollution, acidification, and climate change. Corser, who lived many years on the Monterey Peninsula before moving to San Diego, is the art director for First Night Monterey's Sea Changes Installation.

Of course, not all of First Night Monterey is under water. Festivities begin with an opening ceremony at 3 p.m., with two hours of drumming, dance, puppetry and art activities at Colton Hall on Pacific Street. By the time the 5:30 p.m. Twilight Procession of artists,

stilt walkers, dancers giant puppets and marching moms moves down Alvarado Street, the evening of art and alcohol-free revelry will be well underway with dozens of performances to entertain a wide range of tastes and expectations.

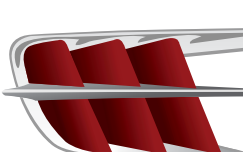
This year, I Cantori di Carmel, which has performed choral music on the Monterey Peninsula for more than 30 years, will present songs from classical, to jazz, to Broadway and pop, at Carleton Hall at Pacific and Franklin streets, which is an acoustically beautiful place to hear music. Also at Carleton Hall, the Monterey Peninsula College String Ensemble will perform "The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires," composed by Astor Piazzolla. Carmel's David Dally will both conduct, and perform solo violin. Bluegrass duo

See NEW YEAR'S next page



Among the performers at First Night Monterey on New Year's Eve are the choral group, I Cantori di Carmel (left), which is one of the Monterey Peninsula's most enduring classical music ensembles, and the bluegrass duo, the Sibleys (right).





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

GIVE

From page 2 HG

nothing left to give, but it's always enough."

A few miles farther down Carmel Valley Road, at the Carmel Valley Manor senior community, staff, residents and guests are invited to donate to and shop at The Rose, which stands for "Residents' Own Shopping Emporium." The shop is run by resident May Waldroup, who owned the Thunderbird Bookstore, and whose family built the Barnyard Shopping Village.

"We receive donations from residents and staff," says Waldroup, "and the proceeds from sales go to our resident council. But what pleases me most is that we

donate anything we can't use to the community."

Like Givingtree, The Rose gives excess goods to The Salvation Army, Goodwill, and Yellow Brick Road Benefit Shop in Carmel.

Yellow Brick Road is the realized vision of Shirin Snyder, wife of Reverend John Snyder, then-pastor of Carmel Presbyterian Church. More than 25 years ago, she sought a way for the church to have a wider outreach. Her plan was to create a benefit shop that would give some people a chance to give, others a chance to buy bargains, and those in need a chance to receive.

Not everyone believed a benefit shop would thrive in an upscale community. But Snyder saw the affluence

as an asset, a resource for quality castoffs. With help from friends, within a year she had established Yellow Brick Road to sell donated household goods and apparel, whose proceeds would benefit local nonprofit charities and projects.

Forty percent of Yellow Brick Road grants are made to satisfy the physical necessities of food, clothing and shelter. Some 20 percent support quality of life, which includes health issues among senior citizens and scholarships for graduating high school seniors. The balance funds academic needs in public schools, as well as the arts. All told, proceeds go to some 325 local beneficiaries. There is no place like home to start giving.

NEW YEAR'S

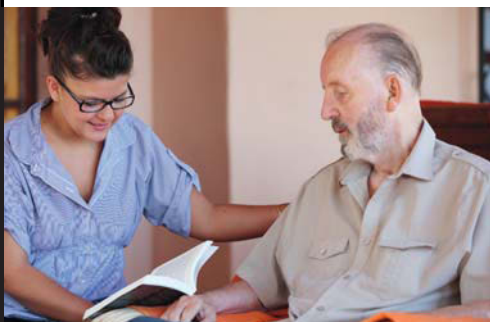
From previous page

Anne and Pete Sibley, whose harmonies and heartfelt lyrics hit home with their audiences, will bring their banjo, guitar and seasoned voices to the Ferrante Room at the Monterey Conference Center. The Carmel Academy of Performing Arts will send Team CAPA, a group of high-energy dancers to the Serra Conference Room at the Conference Center for an afternoon of jazz, hip-hop and contemporary dance.

And that's just a glimpse of the 70 performances in 20 venues, plus eight art stations available to those who purchase a First Night button, which serves as an "all-access pass" throughout the evening. For those who can make it to midnight, the grand finale features two "countdown-to-midnight" performances. Event buttons, which cost \$24 for adults and \$15 for youth, can be purchased at all Safeway stores, and certain Nob Hill Foods stores, Walgreens, Rabobank, 7-Eleven stores, and the Monterey Sports Center. For more information, visit www.firstnightmonterey.org.

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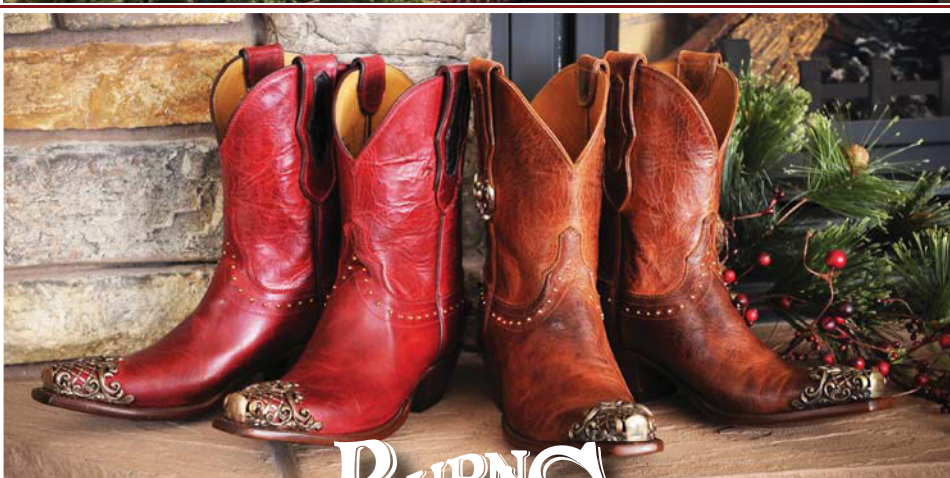
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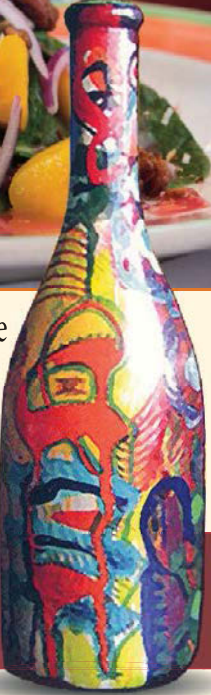
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HOLIDAY GUIDE

Calendar

December 12-14th

Dance Kids of Monterey County presents the 21st Annual Production of Nutcracker, December 12 & 13, 7p.m. December 14, 2 p.m. Gala Benefit Reception, December 12, 5-6:30 p.m. Sugar Plum Fairy Party, December 14, 11:30-1:30 p.m. Call for advanced reserved seating Sunset Center Box Office: (831) 620-2048 or www.sunsetcenter.org.

December 13th



The newest “charitable repurposing” store on the Monterey Peninsula will hold its Grand Opening on Saturday, December 13, from 12 to 4 p.m. The store will be open each week thereafter from Wednesday through Saturday, 12 to 4 p.m. (closed Christmas Day). A project of the Women's Association of the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, the shop is located to the rear of the church property at 4590 Carmel Valley Road. Proceeds will support a wide range of charitable programs, including Animal Friends Rescue Project, Central Coast VNA, Community Human Services, Food Bank of Monterey County, Central Coast HIV/AIDS Services, Monterey County Rape Crisis Center, Nancy's Project (migrant ministry), YWCA of Monterey County (for battered women), and others.

December 13th



Annual Christmas with Gospel Flava Concert (sponsored by Monterey Peninsula Gospel Community Choir) December 13 - 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula 4590 Carmel Valley Rd. (Invited guest singers: Alfreda Lyons Campbell, Lena Byrd Myles, and Robin Hodge Williams.) For upcoming events or tax-deductible donations www.mpgospelcc.org.

December 24th

Celebrate Christmas Eve with us at Carmel Presbyterian Church! Three candle-light services: 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m. First two celebrate with Kids' Choir & CPC Band. Latter extols with Traditional Chancel Choir, Instrumental Ensemble, Piano & Organ. Childcare provided for children under 4. SE corner Ocean & Junipero. (831) 624-3878

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Soup takes off winter chill

WHAT BETTER way to ward off the storms and chilly temperatures of wintertime than with a bowl of homemade soup?

The season's tastiest winter squash combines with the nutty sweetness of Frangelico — often a Christmastime treat in itself — and toasty brown butter in this smooth bisque created by Chad Minton, executive chef at the Hyatt Carmel Highlands.

Enjoy the soup with a chunk of crusty warm bread, and it's hard to find a more satisfying and simple dinner.

Or make a batch for friends and family, and serve it as a satisfying first course in a holiday feast.

Either way, you won't be disappointed!



Chad Minton

■ Butternut Squash, Frangelico & Brown Butter Bisque

Ingredients:

2 butternut squash
1 white onion
5 whole garlic cloves
1 cup Arborio rice

4 tbslp hole butter
2 cups Frangelico
Kosher salt to taste
1 gallon of water
apple cider vinegar

Begin by splitting the 2 butternut squashes from the top to the bottom. Rest assured this will be the most difficult task you do all day. Use a big, sharp knife and take your time. Scoop-out the seeds.

Rub a little cooking oil of your preference on a baking sheet, season the squashes with salt and place cut-side down on the sheet pan and place in a pre-heated 375 degree oven and bake until soft, approximately ½ hour.

Once the squash are cooked remove the “meat” by scooping it from the skins with a spoon and reserve.

Here's a trick that will keep your fingers and cutting board from smelling like garlic; put the peeled garlic cloves in a zip-lock baggie and smash them with the bottom of a pan) and reserve.

Peel & cut your onion into a small dice. In a large heavy bottom pot heat your cooking oil (2 tablespoons) and 2 tablespoons of your whole butter to medium-high. Put your squash “meat” in and the onions, garlic and Arborio rice and sauté.

At this point pour the 1 gallon of water into the pot and bring to a simmer. Allow this to simmer over medium low heat, stirring as needed, until the water has reduced by approximately ½.

Pour the contents of the pot (in small batches) into a variable speed blender and blend until very smooth. The Arborio rice will provide a silken viscosity to the bisque. At this point the soup is not going to taste like much. Taste the soup. If it doesn't taste like much you've done everything correctly so relax.

In a small sauce pot pour the remaining 2 cups of Frangelico and reduce over medium heat by ¼, cooking the alcohol off in the process and reserve. Heat a small sauté pan to medium high and add your remaining whole butter 1 table spoon at a time and allow it to brown. Reserve.

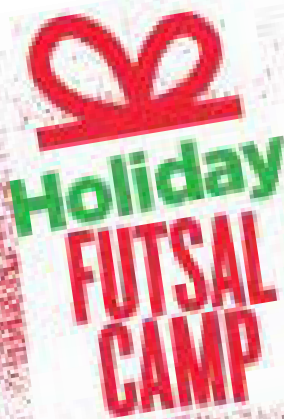
Using a whisk, whip the brown butter and then the Frangelico into the soup. Taste it. It's fabulous now but probably needs a pinch or two of salt & a splash of the apple cider vinegar.

Serve and enjoy next to a crackling fire!

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Celebrating 45 Years in Carmel

HOLIDAY GUIDE

A village
all aglow

Now that the Carmel Christmas Tree (right) has been lit, the town is in its full holiday dress, including wonderfully festive businesses, such as Carmel Plaza shopping center (below).



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Service Directory continues on next page

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

FOODIES

From page 1HG

white balsamic. Watch your foodie turn into a mad scientist, mixing and matching to his heart's content.

There are a few places you might not have thought of for food gifts. Do-Re-Mi Music, for example, carries Mari Lynn's Country Store preserves, including her apricot-jalapeno jam, which, we're told, is excellent with pork chops. They also offer a selection of local olive oils and a wide variety of ethnic music to set the stage for special dinners. Co-owner Nancy Costanza suggested a

series called "Music Cooks" by Sharon O'Connor. These clever boxed sets include laminated recipe cards and a CD with music selected to go with the recipes. Themes include "Paris Cafe," "A Villa in Tuscany," and of course, "Christmas Cookies." If Costanza doesn't have what you want in stock, she's delighted to order it for you. Across the road, BevMo has a small surprise tucked away near the sparkling wines — a selection of about a dozen or so types of caviar. They also sell jarred hibiscus flowers that "bloom" when placed in the bottom of a glass of bubbly. They're guaranteed to earn the host some ooh's and ah's, and their delightful sweet-and-

sour flavor complements the bubbles. And since kale's shown up everywhere else this year, why not on your tree? Earthbound Farm's Farmstand has kale leaves that were dipped into metal in festive shades of silver, gold and copper.

Cookbooks abound this season, and are on shelves at River House Books. I'm recommending two standout recent releases — first, Tyler Florence's "Inside the Test Kitchen" offers 120 new or updated recipes. The outside-the-box techniques are fun and functional. If you've ever stirred a pot of risotto for 30-40 minutes, you're going to love his no-stir recipe. Also, why wait for yeast to make dough rise when you

can just foam it up with carbon dioxide? Finally, Marcus Samuelsson, the Ethiopian-born, Swedish-raised New York chef just released "Marcus Off Duty," a collection of recipes he cooks at home. Given his melting pot upbringing, it's unsurprising to find the recipes bridge broad international divides. Yes, there's a recipe for chicken and gravy, but you'll also find coconut-lime curried chicken and a pasta frittata. Pair it with his inspirational autobiography, "Yes, Chef!" for a doubly tasty read. This list is far from exhaustive, but I hope I've given you some ideas to give your foodie friends something truly unexpected this holiday season.



Who needs yeast when you have CO₂? Chef Tyler Florence demonstrates the technique as he prepares a hamburger bun (above). In addition to olive oils and wine, Trio Carmel carries a nice assortment of kitchen accessories (right).



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continues on page 12HG

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Bell ringers needed

THE SALVATION Army is short on bell ringers to solicit donations for its signature red kettles, according to Lloyd Lee Graff, and is asking people to step up and commit a couple of hours to ringing a bell. The money helps The Salvation Army meet its mission of caring for the homeless, the hungry, addicts, the elderly and others in need.

“The Salvation Army Monterey Peninsula Corps is looking for a few

more volunteer bell ringers to finish out the season between now and Christmas Eve,” according to Graff. “Make it a fun outing with a friend. The qualifications are few. A nice smile and a simple ‘Happy holidays,’ ‘Merry Christmas,’ or ‘God bless you’ is all you need.”

Volunteers can select locations near their work or home and work as little as a two-hour shift. To sign up, call (831) 899-4911.

Christmas Carol Sing-Along

MAYFLOWER CHURCH in Pacific Grove will be hosting a Christmas carol sing-along, Sunday afternoon, December 21, at 2 p.m. Familiar holiday hymns will be led by organist Tom DeLay on the historic pipe organ, the oldest in Monterey County.

Neighborhood residents, visitors and families are invited to attend this festive gathering. A dessert reception will follow in Mayflower’s Fellowship

Hall.

The event is free to the public and all are welcome. Additionally, church services will be held on Christmas Eve, including a children’s pageant at 6 p.m. and a candlelight service at 11 p.m.

Mayflower Church is located in Pacific Grove on the corner of Central and 14th Ave.

For more information, call (831) 373-4705.

S E R V I C E D I R E C T O R Y



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Deadline: Tuesday, 4:00 PM • vanessa@carmelpinecone.com

Service Directory from page 11HG

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Interior/Exterior, quality, efficiency, dependability, competitive rates, free estimates, excellent references. Lic. #609568 insured. (831) 394-0632.

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Full range of services. Fully insured, member BBB, EPA certified firm. Lic. #436767.
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Owner Joe Quaglia 831-915-0631

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"POLICE LOG" APRIL 4

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

WELFARE REQUEST ON SUBJECT AT MISSION AND 3RD WHOSE EMAIL HAD CUT OFF.

CONTACT WAS MADE. HE HAD A MODERN PROBLEM.

CARMEL AREA

LOCAL SHOPPING CENTER EMPLOYER REPORTED SEEING "FARMER PHIL" WALKING TOWARDS THE RIVER AREA.

UNABLE TO CONFIRM ANY RESTRICTIONS STILL IN EFFECT FOR PHIL BEING IN THE AREA.

DOMENICONI