

THE CAMPBELL PRESS

2023 Business of the Year

thecampbellpress.com



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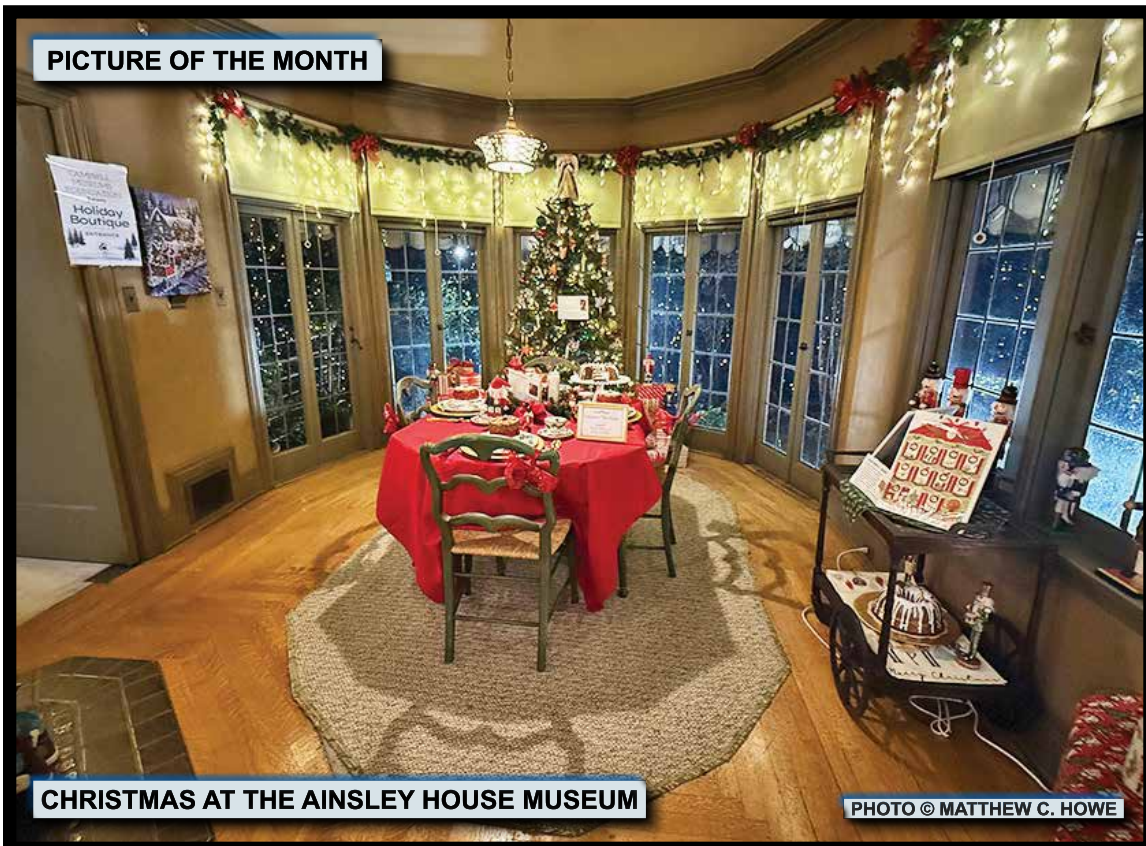
FREE



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



PICTURE OF THE MONTH



CHRISTMAS AT THE AINSLEY HOUSE MUSEUM

PHOTO © MATTHEW C. HOWE

Just a Little Bit of History

By Susan Blake, Campbell Historic Preservation Board

November's photo was taken of the three-story high hose drying tower seen through the large walnut tree at 51 N. Central Ave. It is located on the west side of the Campbell Historical Museum.

The building was constructed in 1951 by the City of Campbell, and used upon its incorporation in 1952 to house the fire department, police department city staff and council chambers, until another building was available for use in 1956. It was then used solely by the Fire Department though 1980, when construction of a new, and larger building was complete. The Fire House was registered as a California State Point of Historical Interest in April of 1976.

When the building was vacated, it faced demolition until a plan for its adaptive reuse allowed it to become a local historical museum. Califor-



nia Park Bond-Act monies were granted to the City for rehabilitating the structure. It was opened to the public April 15, 1984, as the Campbell Historical Museum.

Below is December's mystery photo. See if you can figure out what it is and where it is located. Happy Holidays.

WORD OF THE MONTH

"DEHYDROGENASE"

[De-hi-dro-gen-aze]

Noun/Verb/Adjective

Any of several enzymes that catalyze the removal of hydrogen from biological compounds.

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HAPPENINGS

MUSEUM MUSINGS Goodbye 2024

Another year has passed, and at the Campbell Museums, we cherish the passage of time—that's what we do best! As stewards of history, we celebrate the stories that connect us to our past, and we are so grateful for the ongoing support from our wonderful Campbell community.

As we step into the new year, we're thrilled to announce that 2025 marks the 100th anniversary of the Ainsley House. Stay tuned for exciting events and a new exhibit honoring the Ainsley family, their business, and their iconic home.

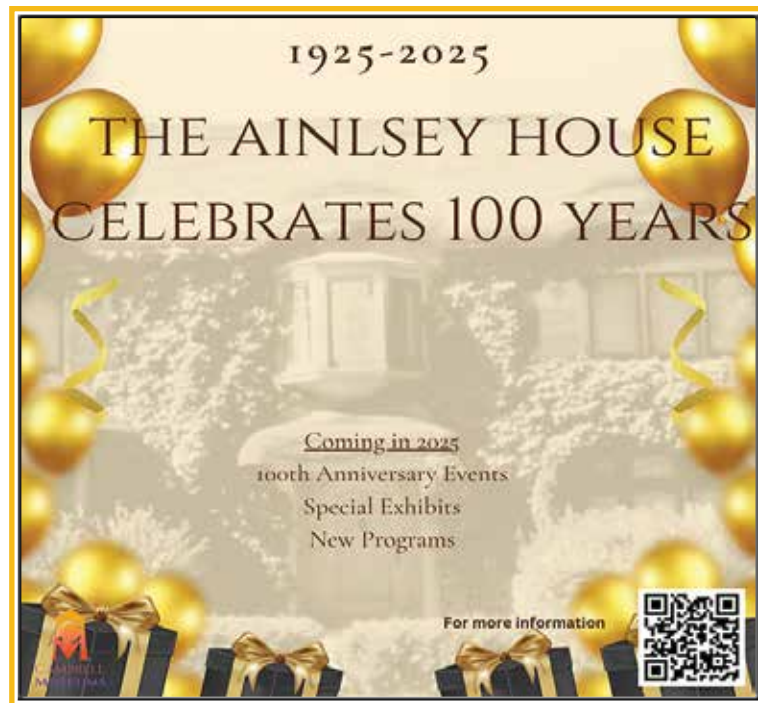
Please note: the Ainsley House will be closed for the winter season and will reopen on March 5th with a brand-new, free exhibit in the Carriage House: *Women Shaping Community*. This exhibit will highlight inspiring women in our commu-

nity—from artists to activists—who have made a lasting impact.

The Campbell Historical Museum remains committed to sharing local history, but we need your help! We're working to stay open Fridays through Sundays, and we're seeking passionate volunteers to join our team. As a volunteer, you'll greet visitors of all ages, introduce them to Campbell's rich history, and bring the past to life through engaging hands-on activities. If you're interested, please contact kerry@campbellca.gov to learn more.

We're looking forward to an exciting and active 2025, filled with events, programs, and new exhibits. Wishing everyone in our community a peaceful and joyful holiday season!

Thank you for keeping history alive with us.



HERE'S HOWE



Well, another year has passed us by, and 2024 is now in the books! What an interesting year it has been, too! As we grow older, the years just seem to zip by faster and faster. It's the time of year to be with family and friends and be thankful and grateful for all the things in our lives and reflect upon where we are at this point in time. I don't make resolutions anymore, especially since I don't start or complete half of them anyway! These days I try and be realistic and try not to set the bar too high, but there is always something I want to improve upon. Like saving money, spending more time with my children, writing and playing more music, and doing new and different things I've never done before, and crossing some more things off my bucket list. Everyone has a bucket list, right? For example, I still want to sky-dive, go ice-skating and visit some places I have never been to. (Though I have travelled a lot) But it's also a time to reflect and face the many issues we may have dealt with over the past year. Sometimes they involve our health, like getting in better shape. I think deep down, we are always wanting to do that. On that note, I sadly lost many friends this year. Mostly were a surprise too. It is a reality check in that sense alone that we won't live forever. Taking better care of yourself is always a good way to approach

the coming year.

On a local note, it gets harder and harder to cover events in these pages. Soon we will be expanding including adjudication and even more overall pages. But for now, let's at least start by welcoming our new Mayor Sergio Lopez into the fray. Our past Mayor Susan Landry has now passed the torch to Sergio, who has been a team player as a dedicated city council member, and has written many insightful articles for our paper. He will continue to write articles as our mayor. We look forward to his leadership for our great city. He will be an asset to help us move forward in the proper direction. Many businesses have come and gone, and the ebb and flow of our downtown continues to change and affect our city's landscape in many ways. I wish everyone the best holiday season they can possibly have, and at some point, I hope to see many of you in the coming year that should be bright, cheerful, and productive for all of us. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Here's to being alive in 2025!



THEN AND NOW



Photo: Campbell Express



Photo: © Matthew C. Howe

Taken back in 1935 during an Old Settlers Day parade, the large Drew Canning warehouse is seen in the background on Campbell Ave. J.C. Ainsley had retired in 1933 and sold his cannery to the Drew Canning company. The warehouse would have been located in the middle of the parking lot of what is now Blue Line Pizza, which is currently located inside the historic Curry building. You can see the buildings architecture has not changed much, and one of the giant oak trees still remain near the railroad tracks on Campbell.



“A clever, crowd-pleasing holiday comedy.” — THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN JOSE STAGE COMPANY

Holiday Comedy

A SHERLOCK CAROL

By Mark Shanahan

Directed by

Kenneth Kelleher

November 20 -

December 15, 2024

San Jose Stage Company (Randall King, Artistic Director, and Cathleen King, Executive Director) along with the full cast and creative team for The Stage's Holiday Comedy **A SHERLOCK CAROL** by Mark Shanahan. Directed by Kenneth Kelleher. **A SHERLOCK CAROL** ran from November 20 – December 15, 2024, at San Jose Stage Company

Moriarty is dead, to begin with. And Sherlock Holmes is a haunted man. But, when a grown-up Tiny Tim asks Holmes to investigate the death of Ebenezer Scrooge, the Great Detective must use his gifts to solve a Dickens of a Christmas mystery! Six actors take on the beloved characters of Arthur Conan Doyle and Charles Dickens in this heartwarming and highly theatrical holiday treat for all ages!

“As we set out on this season’s journey of exploration, revelation, and transformation, **A SHERLOCK CAROL** felt like the perfect story to share,” says Artistic Director Randall King. “Mark Shanahan’s writing immerses us in the familiar shadows and spirit of old Victorian London, magically blending mystery, melodrama, and classic music hall into a fresh, thrilling, and touching take on a beloved

holiday classic. The themes of forgiveness and redemption resonate deeply with our mission, offering a powerful reminder of the human capacity for change.”

Director Kenneth Kelleher reflects on what drew him to **A SHERLOCK CAROL**, describing it as “a rare blend of two iconic worlds colliding. It’s a meeting between two timeless literary figures: Sherlock Holmes, with his cynicism and razor-sharp mind, thrown into a tale of ghostly redemption guided by none other than Ebenezer Scrooge himself. Working with this particular cast on this particular show is especially thrilling—they bring an energy and depth that perfectly balance the mystery and warmth of this classic Christmas story of forgiveness, redemption, and friendship.”

The cast of **A SHERLOCK CAROL** will feature L. Peter Callender* as “Sherlock Holmes,” Julian López-Morillas* as “Ebenezer Scrooge,” Keith Pinto* as “Dr. Timothy Cratchit / Others,” Li-Leng Au as “Emma Wiggins / Others,” Michael Storm as “Dr. Watson / Others,” and Anjoli Aguilar as “The Countess / Others.”

In addition to Kenneth Kelleher, the creative team includes



Jonathan Williams (Scenic Design), Lauren Suiter (Costume Design), Maurice Vercoutre (Lighting Design), Steve Schoebeck (Sound Design), Jenn Trampenau (Props Coordinator), and Iliana Karbowski* (Stage Manager).

ABOUT SAN JOSE STAGE COMPANY

San Jose Stage Company is recognized as South Bay’s leading professional theatre company, having earned a reputation for artistic excellence through imaginative and edgy theatrical experiences that spark ideas and dialogue with the audience. The Stage is dedicated to the presentation and development of new works, with a concentration on American literature scripted by modern playwrights. With the farthest seat in the house no more than 15 feet from the three-quarter thrust stage, the connection between the actor and the audience is profoundly visceral.

The Stage is a multi-award-winning theatre company, including the 2018 Paine Knickerbocker Award for continued contributions to Bay Area theatre from the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle. The Stage has produced over 200 productions, including 20 world premieres and 50 new works, and is ranked as the 2nd largest professional theatre.

Single tickets and subscriptions to San Jose Stage Company’s 2024-2025 Season may be purchased online at www.thestage.org.

PUBLISHER NOTES

By Nancy O. Whitney

Sharing The Holiday Community Spirit!

The Campbell Press has portrayed wonderful snapshots of our downtown holiday event on the front page. They reflect our Campbell Community spirit as we celebrated the **Carol of Lights**. The **Campbell Chamber Toy Program** was incredibly successful and look on page 9 for photos of the toys collected and the volunteers doing the wrapping. TCP also attended our local dance studio presentation of the Scottish Nutcracker. What a delightful program, family fun, and for those of you who are of Scottish descent, or just someone who enjoys bagpipes, it’s a special treat. Two more great Christmas concerts happened in November by the **South Bay Choir**, and by the **South Bay Veterans Choir**, which helped to spread the Christmas spirit to everyone. The **San Jose Symphony** had a great **Christmas Spectacular** concert with the program’s **Music Director Elena Sharkova**. The **New Ballet** shares the program which elevates the art of ballet in San Jose founded in 2016 by **Delia Rawson**. The San Jose Symphony offers a full season in this new year of ballet performances we will have coverage in our upcoming issues. The **San Jose Nutcracker** starts December 14th through Monday the 23rd. Call for group discounts and tickets starting at \$25 call 408-286-2600. www.symphonysanjose.org.

The **Campbell Museum** will be celebrating its 100th anniversary with special events in 2025, look on page 2 for more details. Page 9 shows our **Campbell Police Department** with **Mayor Susan Landry** and **Vice Mayor Dan Furtado** joining in for the Christmas spirit. They assembled new bicycles and gave them away at Monroe Middle School. Thanks to the dedication of our police department, many children received a new bike for Christmas. The **Lions Club** and the **Campbell Country Women’s Club**

on our service page 4 shows just how busy they have been spreading good cheer. Also, in service to our community, the **Campbell Veterans Memorial Foundation** photos by Founder **Jim Free** participated with **Wreath Across America**, a non-profit organization in honorary tradition that gives a wreath in honor of every veteran at Christmas on page 4.

There are two of our professional writers for the newspaper that finished writing as the year comes to an end, and we are sad to see them leave us. On the local news page 7, we have a farewell letter from **County Supervisor Joe Simitian** as he has termed out of his County Supervisors position. He has given us decades of honorable and heartfelt public service. We sincerely thank you Joe for all you have done for this newspaper and our communities. The Campbell Press is very sad to announce that recently we lost one of the most treasured travel writers, **John MacCalman**. John was a one-of-a-kind world traveler, and he had many powerful insights and a great sense-of-humor that made his writing unique, informative, and so enjoyable.

In entertainment, the **Heritage Theater** has a **Linda Ronstadt tribute show** coming in January see page 8 for details. Going to the movies for the holidays? Check out the movie reviews from Sam Wilson for the best movies to see for your holiday entertainment. On another note, **Lira**, a new restaurant is coming to town, so see the back page for their amazing story.

Special recognition to our **loyal readership, subscribers, and advertisers** for your incredible support this year. **The Campbell Press wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year!**

DECEMBER

CAMPBELL REAL ESTATE

DECEMBER



Call Janie Kelly of Realty One Group Infinity today for additional information on properties listed. If you are considering listing your home, Janie will gladly prepare a no-obligation property value analysis on your property. 408-915-7755 CA DRE #01217039

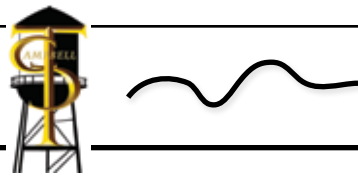
ADDRESS SALES PRICE B/B AGE LOT SIZE SQ. FT

SOLD/CLOSED ESCROW, SINGLE FAMILY HOMES

DeCarli Court	\$3,100,000	5/3	29	6534	2745
Springfield Drive	\$2,558,888	4/3	66	6600	1764
Shady Dale Avenue	\$2,475,000	3/2.5	71	11326	2347
Lemoyne Way	\$2,282,600	3/2	60	6098	1486
Virginia Avenue	\$2,200,000	4/2.5	75	9375	850
W. Rincon Avenue	\$2,150,000	4/2	60	6,098	1586
Xavier Court	\$2,020,000	3/2	62	7405	1271
Colleen Way	\$2,015,000	4/2	63	6098	1398
Ridgeley Drive	\$1,825,000	3/1	77	9583	1136
W. Rincon Avenue	\$1,795,000	3/2	62	5663	1486

SOLD/CLOSED ESCROW, CONDO/TOWNHOMES

Union Avenue	\$1,200,000	3/2.5	37	1058	1537
Duncanville Court	\$1,200,000	3/2.5	46		2005
Campisi Way	\$1,121,250	3/2	16		1717
Braxton Terrace	\$151,000	3/3.5	8		1955
Shelley Avenue	\$1,410,000	3/3	35	1860	1626
Campisi Way	\$1,105,000	3/2.5	16		1414
Heritage Place	\$950,000	2/1	20	1691	1128



West San Jose-Campbell Lions: Service, Fun and Scholarships



The holiday season has been busy for the West San Jose-Campbell Lions. In November we served a holiday lunch to clients of the Vista Center for the Blind and on December 7 we sponsored a booth at the Carol of Lights where children could color, play games, give Hula-Hoop a try or have their faces painted. Assisting us with these events were many wonderful volunteers from Gamma Delta sorority at SJSU. Their charitable focus is vision preservation, so they are natural partners with Lions.

We continued our longstanding tradition of participating in the Campbell Community Toy Program.

On December 12 a group of our members enjoyed the evening cocktail party and raffle at Darlene Fischer Mortuary where we presented our donation.

Looking forward to 2025, the West San Jose-Campbell Lions would like to invite local high school students to participate in our annual Student Speakers Contest. The only limitations are



that participants must live in California and be in grades 9-12. This year's theme is "Artificial Intelligence (AI): Friend or Foe?" Give us your thoughts on this controversial topic in a 5 to 10-minute speech.

The California Lions Student Speakers Contest is held each year to allow students throughout California to develop critical thinking and



presentation skills while competing for \$21,500 in scholarship money granted by the Lions Fourth District Student Speakers Foundation. The contest begins at the local

club level in mid-February and continues through Zone, Region, District and Area contests before the statewide competition on May 31, 2025.

For more information, use the QR code or contact Pam Berry at pamelawberry@gmail.com. We're looking forward to hearing your ideas!

As always, we welcome the community to join us at our club meetings, held at Denny's (1140 Hillsdale Ave.) each Thursday at 12:00 noon,



and at our service activities. A calendar of all our events can be found at wsjclions.org, and of course, WE SERVE.

Wreath Across America



Photo credit: Jim Free



The 17th Annual Wreath Across America held at Los Gatos Memorial Park is a non profit organization dedicated to keeping all veterans names alive. Their motto's Remember Honor and Teach. Thank you all for your Service and Sacrifices.

Campbell Veterans



Holiday Best Wishes

As we gather to celebrate Christmas and the New Year, the CVMF extends our heartfelt gratitude to our faithful supporters and generous donors. Your unwavering assistance has profoundly impacted veteran students' lives, enabling them to pursue their educational dreams and build brighter futures. On this Holiday Season, we reflect on the spirit of giving that defines our community. Your contributions have not only provided scholarships but also hope

and encouragement to those who have served our country.

Thanks for being a part of the CVMF family. See you in 2025.

In Case You Missed It

We are delighted to report that CVMF conducted a grand Saluting Our Veterans Gala at West Valley College on 11/16. Attended by a glittering cast of well-wishers, donors, and local dignitaries, we raised awareness about the need to support student veteran scholarships. We had superb culinary support provided by Taco 'Bout it, soothing yet fun

music presented by Ken Watson, and a lively, extraordinary auction experience by Dee Dee Keisow. In addition, we raised record amounts of scholarship funds for veteran students attending West Valley and Mission Colleges. Of course, the highlight of the evening was an inspiring speech delivered by Chancellor Bradley Davis.

From all of us to all of you, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

www.campbellveteransmemorial.com

AARP

By Margaret Schieck, President

Here we are with the Push to the Holidays starting. I hope everyone has a reflective Pearl Harbor Day, a bright Winter Solstice (even though it's dark), a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah and a meaningful Kwanza. That is a lot to ask of a cold, dark month.

In November, our Chapter speaker was from the Senior Safe Drivers' AARP program. There were lots of questions and interest in the upcoming classes as we all realized we had developed some bad habits. Our chapter also held our bi-annual elections on that day and the new Board Officers were elected. They will be installed and take the oath of office, administered by THE CAMPBELL PRESS editor, NANCY WHITNEY at our December 17th, 2024 meeting.

Please note that there will be NO JANUARY meeting. Following tradition, our Chapter will celebrate its 29th anniversary at a special luncheon.

Members of Chapter 5151 will be volunteering to sort toys for the Campbell Chamber of Commerce Toy Drive on December 13th at the Home Church.

Our Holiday meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 17th at the Campbell Community Center, 1 West Campbell Avenue, Room Q80, at which time we will enjoy music by musicians from Harpists' Hall. This is always a most enjoyable event.

Our meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, except for January, at the above mentioned location. The formal program begins at 10:00 a.m., with a coffee hour at 9:15 and browsing our treasure chest at 9:15. Guests are welcome. Come join us.



Christmas and Country Woman's Club of Campbell

By Lucille Maravilla

County Woman's Club of Campbell (CWCC) participates in many activities during Christmas. We supported the Campbell community by volunteering at tables for Carol of Lights on December 7, 2024. We helped Nancy Whitney, publisher of the Campbell Press, assist children in writing letters to Santa Claus. We passed out toys and glow sticks. The children could make their own necklaces and bracelets with the glow sticks. Cherri Fontana, our president, was lucky that her husband volunteered to make a game for the children to play. Thank you John! Cherri is volunteering at the Ainsley House Christmas teas. The club is proud of our Christmas decorations at the House.

Three new members were inducted into CWCC at our December 9th meeting. We welcome new ideas and more energy. Our membership has

begun the planning for our 27th annual scholarship fundraiser, Crab and Pasta. It requires the efforts of the entire club to create this event. Many Campbell businesses make donations. The dinner will be held on February 1, 2025 at the Orchard City Banquet Hall. Tickets are already available for sale. More information will be provided in next month's newspaper article.

We are always open to new members and to those interested in the Campbell community. If you would



Carol of Lights Game

like to attend one of our meetings or get more information, please contact Lucille Maravilla at 408 205-4621 or Cherri Fontana at 408 209-1310.



CWCC members at Carol of Lights

Uncharted Waters to Extraordinary Living: A Tale of Reinvented Retirement

With the beginning of a New Year just round the corner, many families are wondering if moving into a senior living retirement community is the right choice for them. Three seniors shared their story, with the hope of helping others make this decision.

Richard, Eleanor, and Adele couldn't imagine what living in a retirement community could be like.

her declining cognitive test scores improved so significantly that she returned to the normal range. "I didn't just find good care; I found a community that's given me a new lease on life," Adele says.

Richard and Eleanor quickly became the heart and soul of their new home, earning the title of "Ambassadors of Extraordinary Living" together with Adele. They orga-

nized social events like the lively "Who Did What?" game, where residents guessed each other's careers, sparking laughter and connection. Adele, a retired English teacher, rediscovered her love of learning, starting a book club that inspired the creation of a community library, built from books donated by incoming residents.



Mr. Richard and Mrs. Eleanor

For Richard (88) and Eleanor (84), married for 67 years, the idea of leaving their longtime home felt like stepping into uncharted waters. Skeptical but curious, they committed to a 30-day trial at Watermark at Almaden, likening it to a "cruise" where every need was taken care of.

Adele (78), on the other hand, was grappling with a recent diagnosis of memory issues. Her family encouraged her to make the move for support, but she feared losing her independence and the familiarity of her home.

Leaving behind decades of memories in their homes was daunting, and the uncertainty of starting over loomed large. "At first, it felt like I was giving up a part of myself," Adele admits. "It felt like I was starting over, and I wasn't sure how it would turn out."

Even Richard, a self-described outgoing personality, was hesitant about leaving behind 40 years of memories in their old home.

While they expected adjusting to a new environment and building connections would take a little time, what they didn't expect was how quickly they'd go beyond just settling in, and instead actually start thriving.

Adele's active lifestyle and community engagement led to an extraordinary outcome—

"Most people think they have to part with their beloved books when they move, but we could turn them into a treasure trove for everyone," Adele says with a smile. Richard and Eleanor say the friendships they've built and the vibrant social life they now lead



Mrs Adele host of the book club.

have reignited their sense of purpose. "This isn't just a place to live," says Richard. "It's a place to truly enjoy life."

What began as one of the hardest decisions they'd ever faced, he said, turned into an extraordinary adventure.

The Watermark at Almaden is a senior retirement community with senior living, assisted living and memory care. For further information, you can visit www.watermarkcommunities.com, or call 669-270-0242.

Season's Greetings

A CAMPBELL CHRISTMAS

S	T	E	C	P	A	C	E	R	U	D	O	L	P	H
U	N	N	O	R	T	H	P	O	L	E	L	A	M	B
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A	G	S	T	A	R	K	D	O	N	N	E	R	N	E
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MISTLETOE PRESENTS ELVES CANDYCANES SNOWMAN EGGNOG
 FRUITCAKE REINDEER TURKEY CAROL NORTH POLE GRINCH
 SNOWBALL SANTA TOYS NEW YEARS EVE STOCKINGS RUDOLPH
 PEPPERMINT GIFT NOEL FIREPLACE TREE COOKIES SCROOGE
 COMET KRISTA HANUKKAH PASKO DONNER CHRIST

Words can be diagonal and backwards too! How many words can you find?



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CITY NEWS *By Sergio Lopez*

This column is written by Vice Mayor Sergio Lopez in an individual capacity and does not necessarily represent the views of the entire City Council, city staff, or the City of Campbell.

While the City Council undertook hundreds of individual actions over the course of the year, some initiatives enacted in 2024 rise to the top for their present and future impact on the Campbell community.

Action on homelessness

Recently, the Campbell City Council voted to use a portion of remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA, the Covid response measure passed by the federal government) funds to begin a voucher program to support homeless residents on our streets. I first suggested this earlier in the year after learning of a similar Los Gatos program created by Councilmember Rob Moore. Campbell staff, with the Council's eventual unanimous support, expanded the program, including allowing it to be used by victims of domestic violence, creating a new safety net for Campbell residents through this outside grant funding. Campbell also approved capping rent increases for existing homes in the city's affordable housing program to shield some of our most vulnerable residents.

Pro-housing designation

At one of the final City Council meetings of the year, Campbell moved forward with an application to the state of California's pro-housing designation. If successful, this program will not only grant

Campbell statewide recognition for its status as a housing leader, but will allow our community to become eligible to receive state funds and grants to allow us to further build out our programs. Final word on whether the city is successful should come in Spring of 2025, but is highly likely.

Climate action and sustainability

In 2024, the Campbell City Council began work on its Climate Action and Adaptation plan. Other work which supports the city's climate and sustainability goals in the past year has included using grant funding to hire additional staff to support the city's efforts, as well as an innovative move at phasing out gas appliances, which can cause health and safety issues in addition to their climate impacts, for construction of new housing in Campbell. Throughout the year, the city also received various reports on climate and sustainability detailing some of the ways in which climate could impact future residents.

Fiscal stability

Recently, cities around the broader Bay Area have faced budget deficits. Oakland and San Francisco, for example, have faced shortfalls of \$129 million and \$876 million, respectively. Campbell, by comparison, had a small budget deficit of roughly \$1.5 million. Budget corrections, including savings from unfilled positions and using a portion of pension reserves to cover increases in pension costs imposed by the state, filled the gap.

Continued on page 15

COUNTY NEWS



THANK YOU: A PRIVILEGE AND A PLEASURE TO REPRESENT YOU

By County Supervisor, Joe Simitian

In this, the holiday season, my message to you is simple: thank you.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in public office for more than forty years at five different levels: as a local school board member, city county member and mayor, county supervisor, state assemblymember, and state senator.

At the end of this month, by virtue of term limits, I will complete my final term as a county supervisor.

I know our region, state, and nation face daunting challenges, but I am confident we can meet and master these challenges if our community is caring, committed, attentive, and engaged. I know it because the folks I have been privileged to represent throughout the years (you!) have proven it again and again.

The successes we've achieved have only been possible because you care, deeply; not just

about your own family or neighborhood, but about the larger community as well.

Throughout the nine cities and towns I represent, and beyond, you care. You care enough to help the less fortunate among us, and to create opportunity for those in a position to realize success when given the opportunity.

Our District Five residents in northern and western Santa Clara County have been committed to doing the work necessary to get real results.

You are attentive to the work of government at every level, supporting your elected officials when they're worthy, and demanding more and better when the occasion demands it

You're engaged. You show up. You speak out. You volunteer. You make a difference. So let me say it one more time: thank you.

Thank you for your efforts to make our region a

better place, and for the opportunity to represent you.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian represents the Fifth District which includes Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Saratoga, Stanford, portions of San Jose and unincorporated communities in the Santa Cruz Mountains. He was elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in 2012 and re-elected in 2016 and 2020. Joe's previous public service includes election to the California State Senate and the California State Assembly, Mayor of Palo Alto, President of the Palo Alto School Board, and an earlier term on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. He served as an election observer/supervisor in El Salvador and Bosnia and participated in refugee relief and resettlement efforts in Albania and Kosovo.



City Council & Planning Commission News



By Adam Buchbinder

It's the end of the year, and it's a time for gratitude. I'm incredibly fortunate to have my wife Carin and my daughter Robin, to have my friends and my neighbors. And beyond that, thank you for reading my columns, for taking an interest in the details of land use law and development, in how our wonderful city decides what it is and what it will be.

I'm grateful to the Campbell Press for carrying my column, to Nancy Whitney for

editing these and fitting them onto the page every month. I appreciate the farmer's market where we bring our daughter on Sundays, to pick up fresh produce and a copy of the paper when it's printed.

I'm grateful to our city's staff, dedicated civil servants each and every one of them. I'm thankful for my fellow planning commissioners, who give up a pair of late Tuesday nights each month and give every item

the attention and consideration it deserves.

I'm grateful for the roof over our heads, the developers who arranged for it to be built back in the seventies, to the workers who actually built it, to the architects and engineers who figured out how to do that, and to the planners and officials who designed the neighborhood we get to live in.

I'm grateful that I can put my daughter on my bike and take her on most of my

errands. I'm thankful for the bike network we have, and I'm looking forward to how it will grow and improve with the upcoming multimodal plan. I love that I can take her to the grocery store, or the library, or the park, as she happily points out "red car! white dog!" along the way.

We have a lot of challenges facing us, and I'm grateful to the people working on them. To the legislators working to draft rules to

make California a more livable and accepting place, to the staffers doing the work of outreach and negotiation, to the advocates showing up and making the case for their vision of the future.

Adam Buchbinder is a member of the Campbell Planning Commission. Opinions expressed here are his alone, not those of the Commission or the City. Contact the Campbell Planning Department at planning@campbellca.gov.



Money Empowerment *by Jill*



END-OF-YEAR FINANCIAL CHECKLIST: START 2025 ON THE RIGHT FOOT

Introduction

Time flies—it's hard to believe 2024 is almost over! While this season is packed with holiday festivities and year-end deadlines, it's also the perfect opportunity to clean up your financial books and set the stage for a successful 2025. Here are a few practical steps to help you close the year strong and hit the ground running in the new year.

1. Review Your Budget and Spending Habits

Take a close look at your 2024 budget. Did you stick to it, or were there unexpected expenses that threw you off course?

- Identify areas where you overspent and brainstorm strategies to prevent it next year.
- Celebrate where you saved or stayed on track

2. Check Your Credit Report

A healthy credit score opens the door to financial opportunities.

- Request your free credit report from AnnualCreditReport.com.
- Look for any errors or signs of fraud and address them immediately.

3. Organize Tax Documents

Tax season will be here before you know it. Save yourself stress by starting now:

- Collect receipts for deductible expenses, investment statements, and any income documents.
- Review potential deductions, such as charitable donations or home office expenses.

4. Max Out Retirement Contributions

If you haven't hit your 401(k)

or IRA contribution limits, now is the time to catch up.

- Maxing out contributions helps you save on taxes and builds your retirement nest egg.
- Check if your employer offers a match and contribute enough to take full advantage.

5. Plan for Debt Repayment

Start the new year with a clear debt repayment plan:

- Prioritize high-interest debt and explore strategies for debt reduction

6. Set Financial Goals for 2025

Set financial goals that challenge you without overwhelming you. Examples include:

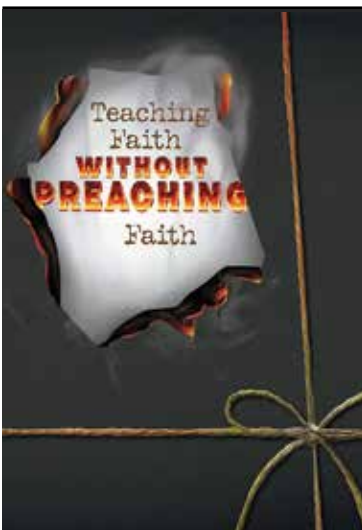
- Building an emergency fund with three to six months of expenses.
- Increasing savings by a specific percentage.
- Investing in personal or professional growth opportunities.

Conclusion

Preparing for a new year can feel overwhelming, but breaking it into manageable steps makes it achievable—and even exciting! By tackling these tasks now, you'll start 2025 feeling confident and in control of your financial future.

If you are struggling, or would like to strategize with someone, a financial coach is a good resource. Please feel free to reach out to me to see how I can support you in 2025.

All the best,
Jill Scarnecchia
livinbalanced52@gmail.com



Inside this book, you will find the following information:

How to live a spiritually driven life with no preaching.

No mindless chatter about sexuality or politics.

Advice that appeals to any age group, but especially young adults.

Content that is clean, informative, and easy-to-read.

Covers only topics that relate to today's current events and interests.

Written for believers, drifters, seekers, skeptics, and atheists.

Dedicated to my awesome, 94-year-old mom, Patricia Sue Lobrovich.

Steve Lobrovich



DECEMBER MOVIES



By Sam Wilson

Gladiator II – B-

Spectacle and entertainment are present in spades but heart and gravitas are missing. Lucius (Paul Mescal, "Aftersun") is forced to enter the Colosseum after Rome's tyrannical emperors (Fred Hechinger, "Thelma", and Joseph Quinn, "A Quiet Place: Day One") conquer his home. Ridley Scott (Napoleon, Prometheus) returns 24 years later assembling an impressive mix of current stars, up-and-coming stars, and stars of yesterday. Whereas the first was a powerful Academy Award Best Picture winning drama with great action, the sequel is more an empty extravagant action blockbuster. Denzel Washington (The Equalizer), Pedro Pascal (Wonder Woman 1984), and Connie Nielsen (Wonder Woman) round out the cast.

Red One – C

Dwayne Johnson (Black Adam) head-scratchingly uses his A-list clout to produce and star in a run-of-the-mill Christmas-themed romp

resembling a discarded "The Santa Clause" sequel idea with a bloated budget (\$250 million). The North Pole's Head of Security teams with a bounty hunter (Chris Evans, "Avengers: Endgame") to save Christmas after Santa Claus (J.K. Simmons, "Whiplash") is kidnapped. The action-adventure misfire has the air of a Disney Channel Original Movie with its kid-friendly themes and garden variety villain. Somehow PG13 despite feeling like it's made for ages 10 and under. From comedy director Jake Kasdan (Bad Teacher, Jumanji: The Next Level) with Lucy Liu (Charlie's Angels), Bonnie Hunt (Jerry Maguire), and Kristofer Hivju (HBO's "Game of Thrones").

Wicked – B-

The popular stage musical gets the feature treatment which the target demographic will eat up while others may be in for a tough watch. Prequel to "The Wizard of Oz" following polar opposites turned unlikely

Continued on page 9

Spreading holiday cheer to local children since 1984

Learn about events, drop off locations and ways to support at CAMPBELLTOYPROGRAM.COM

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!



MOVIE REVIEWS

Continued from page 8

friends before embarking on a journey toward their destinies as The Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good. Part one of two yet still 161 minutes long (the entire play clocks 150 minutes) meaning the material is thinly stretched. Jon M. Chu directs pop star Ariana Grande, Cynthia Erivo (2022's "Pinocchio"), Michelle Yeoh (Everything Everywhere All at Once), Jeff Goldblum (Thor: Ragnarok), and Jonathan Bailey (Netflix's "Bridgerton").

Heretic – B-

Hugh Grant (Wonka) is devilishly devious in the latest horror thriller released by A24. Two missionaries (Chloe East, "The Fablemans", and Sophie Thatcher, "The Boogeyman") enter into a deadly game of cat and mouse while going door to door. Impressive on the surface but beneath the hood is less so. Writer-director duo Bryan Woods and Scott Beck (65) create a promising mystery that fails to deliver on that promise, devolving the story into nonsense by the third act after an interesting start that includes pointed religious-themed conversations.

Moana 2 – C+

Disney's safe animated sequel receives a passing grade while failing to excel or do anything extraordinary like the titular heroine. Set three years later, Moana journeys alongside demigod Maui (Dwayne Johnson) and a new crew in order to find an island and break its curse. Solid family flick that's a bit rinse and repeat with less memorable songs. Bears semblance to Disney's shallow late '90s straight-to-DVD sequels to animated classics.

Small Things Like These – B

Cillian Murphy (Oppenheimer) plays a man of few words in his first role post winning the Best Actor Academy Award. In 1985 Ireland, a coal merchant discovers a Magdalene laundry kept hidden by the local convent overseen by Sister Mary (Emily Watson, "Punch-Drunk Love") and searches for the courage to get involved. Adapted from a book of the same name that's based on true history of the Magdalene laundries or asylums where young women were institutionalized, used as laborers and abused. Slower drama boasting a compelling message about saying something when seeing wrongdoing.



Wednesday, December 18
6:00pm **Aaron Madsen's Magic Honey Band**

Thursday, December 19
6:00pm
Pro Blues Jam

Friday, December 20
7:30pm
Seven Shades of Grey

Saturday, December 21
7:30pm **Ho Ho Ho with Engine Room**

Thursday, December 26
6:00pm
Pro Blues Jam

Friday, December 27
7:30pm
Kaye Bohler

Saturday, December 28
7:30pm **Vicki and the Magic Men**

Wednesday, December 31
7:30pm **New Years with Sound Decision**

Thursday, January 2, 2025
6:00pm
Pro Blues Jam

Saturday, January 4
7:30pm
Identity Problem

Wednesday, January 8
7:00pm
First Call

Thursday, January 9
6:00pm
Pro Blues Jam

Friday, January 10
7:30pm
AC Myles

Saturday, January 11
7:30pm
Blues Rockers

Wednesday, January 15
6:00pm **Aaron Madsen's Magic Honey Band**

Thursday, January 16
6:00pm
Pro Blues Jam

Friday, January 17
7:30pm
The Jukebox Botz

Saturday, January 18
7:30pm
Jokers

Wednesday, January 22
6:00pm
Acoustic Showcase

Thursday, January 23
6:00pm
Pro Blues Jam

Friday, January 24
7:30pm
Pearl Alley

Saturday, January 25
7:30pm
Iconics

Wednesday, January 29
6:00pm
Kurt and Johnny Band

Thursday, January 30
6:00pm
Pro Blues Jam

Friday, January 31
7:30pm **Stregs Outlaw Country Band**



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December 28, Saturday
6:30 PM to 9:30 PM
Buddies Pub, San Jose

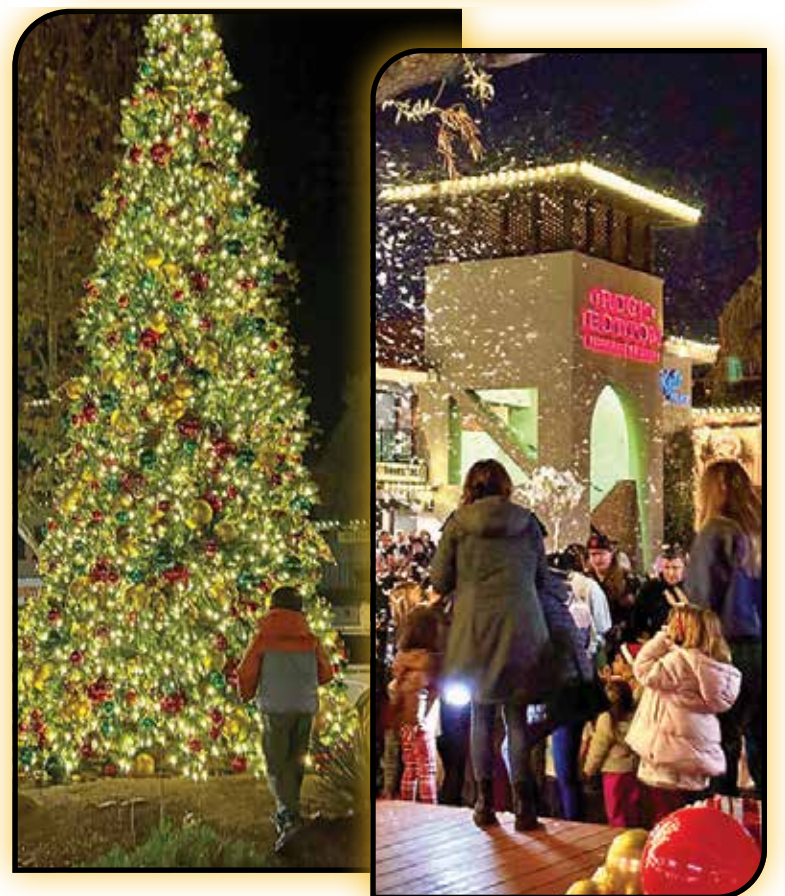
December 31, New Year's
Eve Bash, Private event,
Morgan Hill

January 4, Saturday
5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Kelley Brewing Company,
Morgan Hill,
"The Marks Duo"

January 10, Friday
Los Gatos-Saratoga Parks
& Recreation Seniors
Los Gatos Adult Rec
Center, 208 E. Main
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

January 20, Monday
Sunnyview Retirement
2 PM-3 PM, Private event

PRUNEYARD TREE LIGHTING



Santa is welcomed by the crowds who were eagerly waiting for their own visit with Santa at the Pruneyard.



The Campbell Police Department lines up to meet the families and help the children pick out their own bike.

The City's Mayor Susan Landry and Vice Mayor Dan Furtado are in the welcome line to greet the children and share their excitement about getting their new bikes.



Children are happy to meet their local policemen and helpers in picking out bikes for their Christmas presents built by the Campbell Police Department.





Campbell Chamber of Commerce Toy Program: Brings Joy for 40 Years

By Kristen Frank

For four decades, the **Campbell Community Toy Program** has embodied these values, brightening the holiday season for families in Campbell. Established in 1984 by then-Mayor Jane Kennedy, this program has grown into a community tradition, making it possible for children up through age 14 from families facing financial hardship to receive new toys, games, books, and other gifts each December.

Since its inception, the Toy Program has brought holiday cheer to tens of thousands of children, distributing an estimated \$1 million worth of toys and gifts. Local businesses, residents, and community groups have been instrumental in helping the Toy Program thrive, donating countless items to spread seasonal cheer.

One of the standout events is **Santa Claus is Coming to Town**—a festive, mobile celebration that has become a beloved tradition in Campbell. Santa, accompanied by local police and fire departments, tours Campbell neighborhoods on his makeshift sleigh, collecting donations and spreading joy along the way. This initiative continues to be a fun and effective way to gather donations and bring the holiday spirit to residents.

Making Spirits Bright: A Festive Fundraising Tradition

Since 2018, **Making Spirits Bright**, an annual fundraising mixer, has been held at **Darling Fischer Memorial Chapel** in Downtown Campbell. This event is much more than just a fundraiser; it's a joyful celebration of community and charity that would not be complete without a special appearance by Mr. and Mrs. Claus, bringing an extra touch of holiday magic.

A Community Effort: The Toy Program's Elves

The Toy Program relies on a dedicated group of volunteer "elves," who donate their time to sort, bag, and prepare thousands of toys for distribution. **The Home Church** serves as the hub of this bustling holiday activity, where volunteers organize and distribute donations to families in need. This culminates on **Distribution Day**, a heartwarming event where families pick up the holiday gifts that volunteers have carefully assembled for them.



Families interested in the program receive applications via the **Campbell School District** each November, allowing them to specify the



number and ages of children in their household. The Toy Program also supports children within the local **American Cancer Society** chapter, further extending its reach to those who need holiday cheer the most.

The Role of the Campbell Chamber Community Foundation

The **Campbell Chamber Community Foundation**, a

Before the Song: "Do They Know It's Christmas?" by Band Aid

By Chris Jackson
"Mayor of Silicon Valley"

For many people, *Bruce Springsteen's* version of "Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town" is the song that best captures the excitement of this time of year. I wrote about it last December: Springsteen's version was released in the early '80s, but few people know he actually began playing it in concert in December 1975, and the recording we all know from the radio was recorded on December 12, 1975 at a concert in New York.

Here's something else few know about a holiday song: "Do They Know It's Christmas," from the 80's, not only has a variety of music stars singing on it, but it has...Phil Collins on drums! The song was first recorded using a drum machine, but once all the celebrity singers who showed up—Sting, Bono and Phil Collins among them—were done recording their vocal parts and left the studio,

Phil Collins brought out his entire acoustic drum kit!

Phil proceeded to play along with the drum machine that was already recorded. To me, this really elevated the song and gave it amazing energy and personality that would ultimately help deliver the message in the lyrics. The song—written and released to raise money for famine victims in Ethiopia—was recorded in a just a 24-hour period (short, considering how many celebrities had to learn and perform their parts).

Phil Collins is a multi-talented musician, for sure, but often describes himself *first* as drummer, and *secondly* as a singer, songwriter, piano player, etc. A close listen to "Do They Know It's Christmas?" tells us why. ☺

Chris Jackson can be heard on 98.5 KFOX The South Bay's Classic Rock, weekdays 9am-2pm

501(c)(3) organization, plays a vital role in supporting the Toy Program and other charitable initiatives. The Foundation's events, including Making Spirits Bright, raise funds to keep the Toy Program's mission going strong each year.

The Campbell Community Toy Program continues to thrive thanks to the generosity of Campbell residents and the hard work of its volunteers. For more information, visit **CampbellToyProgram.com**.

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2024 YULET DE YUCKFEST

HYMIE'S LAST LAUGH*

RACHAEL BERMAN | **JEFF APPLEBAUM**

PATRICK McDERMOTT | **MUSIC BY CHUBBY'S ALL-STARS**

SPECIAL GUEST: CHRIS JACKSON FROM KFOX | **KATHY GUEST**

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DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM WITH FOOD, COCKTAILS & RAFFLE - MUSIC AT 6:00 PM, FOLLOWED BY OUTSTANDING COMEDY - MORE MUSIC & DANCING UNTIL CLOSING

OR MAYBE THIS WON'T BE HYMIE'S LAST LAUGH | COME ON OUT AND HAVE A GREAT TIME!



DIG IT...



with SAM

By Sharon McCray, UCCE Master Gardener

Baby it's cold outside and damp! I really would rather stay inside and look over seed catalogues but alas, there is lots to do outside.

This is the time of year when all the rain brings an abundance of winter weeds. Stay on top of them. Pull when you see them to keep them from setting seed. I am always amazed when I see people spraying weed killer this time of year or fertilizing lawns and flowers.

It is important to read the label to learn exactly when and what to use this time of year, if anything.

Spraying weeds with just about any herbicide will kill the plant but not the seeds the plant has worked so hard to produce. All those thousands of seeds are just

waiting to germinate whether it be again this season or next year. The only true fire way to eliminate those pesky weeds is to break the cycle – pull them out and put them in green waste or if you have a hot compost pile, toss them there. Either way, you want to seeds to perish.

Most fertilizers need a minimum constant temperature above 55 degrees to be effective. Spending money on fertilizers this time of year is fruitless. Most of the product will wash away, usually down the drain and into our bay.

Another bug-a-boo is rototilling. Soil should not be worked when it is wet. If you can squeeze a handful of soil and it stays intact, it

is too wet to work. Besides, rototilling destroys the composition of your soil. Long time orchardists and farmers did not rototill their soil but used a round disc to cut into the land and create grooves that allowed air and nutrients to naturally fill in the space.

If you have a large area and you wish to incorporate a large amount of organic material, rototilling is surely easier than double digging, just bear in mind that it will also bring to the surface long dormant seeds that are eager to sprout once they receive some sunlight.

It is also time to prune fruit trees. Remember that apricot trees should never be pruned when there is moisture in the air. Typically, it is

best to make sure that there will be at least four dry days after a cut. This is because apricots are more susceptible to fungal disease like Eutypa dieback during wet times.

This is also a good time to apply dormant spray, including copper and sulfur to help manage peach leaf curl and other fungal diseases. I used to believe that peach leaf curl would not damage the fruit but this past season, I learned otherwise. The contaminated leaves can be removed in spring to help manage the condition. Remember, the fungus lives on the plant as well as in the soil, so it is wise to spray the ground as well as the plant or apply mulch to act as a barrier.

Visit <https://ipm.ucanr.edu> the website and link to "Pest Notes" for practical information for spraying and maintaining fruit trees. Be sure to bookmark this site as a valuable resource of all gardeners.

Finally, there has been a lot of news lately about the Prusch Farm Park Foundation, of which I am president. I want to assure you that we will continue our commitment to agriculture through advocating for better preservation of our resources along with supporting local programs like 4H and FFA as well as county fairs and through scholarships to those studying agriculture and related fields.

Thanks for a great year. Now go get your hands dirty.

WEST COAST CHEF

'DISTRITO FEDERAL' IS ROCKIN' DOWNTOWN CAMPBELL!!



By Bill Peil

Restaurateur Isaac Barrera is a non-conformist. A true patriot of the Latin, Hispanic culture, he knows there is more to designing a restaurant than sombreros, pinatas, parrots, and serapes. While vacationing in Guadalajara and Mexico City, he noticed the vibes in the finest dining and drinking establishments was more hip and chic, and actually not unlike a bistro and brasserie in Europe.

The design of one of Campbell's newest hot-spots is hip, chic, comfortable, and whimsical, still exuding traditional Hispanic nuances. The cuisine, cocktail program, and service are all top notch, with more than 50 Tequilas to choose from. Barrera, and chef Geo Lopez, are the first to bring the craze of Quesabirria to our area. Quesabirria originated in Tijuana, Mexico, and is a fusion of the traditional birria stew and quesadilla. The dish is made by wrapping birria-style meat and melted cheese in a corn tortilla and frying until the

tortilla crisps and the cheese melts. It is served with a richly seasoned beef consommé for dipping. Don't miss this one. Served with rice, beans pickled escabeche, tomatillo and habanero salsas (\$19.00). Also not to be missed is the Crispy fish, short rib, pork belly, and arrachera steak alambre tacos, to name a few.



Chef Lopez is extremely adept and proud of his role. Made with 3 toasted and dried chiles, some warm spices like toasted cumin, coriander, star anise, and cinnamon, it is a richly warm and fuzzy winter dish. Available as mole enchiladas (\$24.00), or

chefs favorite short rib mole (\$29.00) served with crema, pickled onion, with cilantro rice and black beans. Street tacos are available in 5 flavors (\$18.00) asada, pollo asada, al pastor, grilled veggie, and shrimp. For an appetizer, don't miss the Ahi tuna tostadas, the ceviche, or the queso fundido, for good, melted fun (\$14.00). I am also a fan of their aguachile, lime cured shrimp, red onion, cucumber, cilantro, radish, avocado, with mango habanero salsa and chips (\$18.00). Also not to be missed are the Mexican Street hot dogs (\$18.00). The favorite is the El Jefe,

all beef wagyu hot dog double wrapped in bacon, grilled steak, cheesy sauce, jalapeños, and pickled onions. Coming soon is a molcajete with grilled steak, chicken, grilled shrimp, Lobster tail, and a Chile' relleño, with nopalitos, green onions, and red Chile' sauce. Yum!!

The craft cocktail program is on par with the food and service. Try the Margarita fresca, which is habanero infused tequila, watermelon juice, with lime and agave. There is the 24-carat reposado tequila, with carrot and



orange juice, with lime and habanero honey (\$15.00). Violet you're turning violet...Hendricks butterfly tea infused gin, bitter truth violet liqueur, lemon, cane, and egg (\$15.00). I also love how they serve a great quality tequila or Mezcal with fresh orange and cinnamon. This is a great place to unwind for a happy hour.

Located at 370 E. Campbell Ave, downtown Campbell. Closed Monday's. Open until midnight on Friday and Saturday. They open at 11 a.m. on Sunday. On other days at 4 p.m. There is outdoor seating available with heaters. Cheers, Billy....





Coach's Corner

By Jay Harnden

REFLECTION

Here we are again, at the end of another year. Some people will be glad that this one is over and are eagerly anticipating 2025... TWENTY TWENTY FIVE!! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?!

The new year is a good time to do a little reflecting on the past year and think about the good and not so good. Hopefully, we can keep the 'good' fresh in our minds, and let the 'not so good' take its rightful place in the column titled "that's life, what did I learn?"

One of the highlights from the past year for me was the birth of my granddaughter, my son and his wife's first child. Born on Super Bowl Sunday, it was a joyous occasion. She's a happy girl and we are truly blessed. The only bummer is that she lives about four hundred miles away, so we don't get to see her as often as we'd like to. Fortunately, we face-time with her often, which is a real treat! Remember back in the day when we'd send our

relatives the school picture once a year? I'm so glad things have changed! I'm not complaining, as my other three grandkids live just four miles from us, so we get to see them any time we want.

So how did 2024 treat you? As you reflect on the year, remember that you can't change what's already happened. It's in the books, and what we need to do is accept it, and learn from the things we didn't like, and make the necessary steps to make this year better.

One way to make this happen is to be honest with yourself and make a list of things that didn't go so well for you. Aside from people that have passed away, most challenges in life that happened can be changed. Look at your list, and figure out what you could have done to make the outcome different. Do not be afraid to ask for help or advice. Life will always throw curveballs at us, but we often

have the power to dictate a more positive result.

Something I have failed miserably at, is keeping my emails under control. Currently I have over 12,388 emails stored in my account. Whatever you might think about that, it probably doesn't compare to my sister's response when I told her about it. Unfortunately, I can't repeat what she said, but it was not complimentary. But by telling her, I know she will keep me accountable. So, if there's something in your life you'd like to turn from a negative into a positive, don't hold it in... TELL SOMEONE! Ask them to hold you accountable. Choose someone who won't necessarily judge you but will encourage you and help make the change happen.

As we reflect on the past, remember not to dwell on it. Embrace it and understand that life is a series of ups and downs. We celebrate the good things, and hopefully learn and grow from everything else. Make 2025 a year to remember!



ON THE FLY PREDICTIONS FOR 2025

JANUARY

A new airline called Go Easy based at Brigadoon International Airport pays all its passengers to fly with them.

FEBRUARY

A planning application for Heathrow's Terminal 6 is lodged. It will be located in Brussels.

MARCH

To assist in funding Air Traffic Control, toll barriers are set up at the end of runways.

APRIL

Several airlines offer free flights to passengers before they realize the date is April 1st.

MAY

In the interests of European harmonization, the EU decides that all flight delays must be shared equally among all EU member airports. Airlines which fail to meet minimum delay criteria must compensate airport operators for lost revenue - money which would have been spent at airport shops while waiting for their delayed flights.

JUNE

The Internet hosts a new Virtual Low-cost airline. It has virtually no costs, no planes, and no noise. Passengers log on to their website and imagine they are travelling.

JULY

As a marketing initiative to promote tourism to Hong Kong, China hands back the territory to Britain for one week.

AUGUST

In order to reduce commissions to travel agents, airlines decide that all costs should be treated as tax and therefore non-commissionable.

SEPTEMBER

Sleeper seats are no longer the privilege of premium class travel when scientists at NASA develop a scheme to palletize

passengers which involves putting them to sleep before they "board" the aircraft. The passengers are then loaded on to specially constructed pallets and into a 747 freighter. Low-cost airlines give the scheme a lukewarm reception as they would be unable to sell their passengers anything during the flight.

OCTOBER

To improve legroom on long haul flights and avoid DVT related illness, airlines announce plans to remove all seats.

NOVEMBER

Industrial relations at one North American airline return to an all-time low when pilots threaten strike action unless they can take their planes home with them at night.

DECEMBER

Christmas is cancelled when the FAA impound Santa's "Aircraft" for failing to come up to navigation standards. Neither using a single star as the main guidance system, or an animal's red nose as an anti-collision warning light are regarded as reliable and safe forms of transport.

UNFORTUNATELY... my dear friend John MacCalman missed one very particular prediction. The fact he would not be here to see it.

I will miss you Johnny Mac more than you will ever know. You wrote this column for my mother Sally for years, then my sister and I, and you continued on with the previous owners too with all your worldly travel wisdom you gladly shared with our local Campbell newspaper readers until you unexpectedly left us on November 14th, 2024. I was so blessed to be your friend. Your legend will live on forever. You were loved by all. Next year I will share some experiences I had with John. RIP.

The Wrapping Party for the Toy Program



Wednesday December 18th Chamber Elves were busy working with Home Church reparation's staff as they collected the toys from distribution downtown centers.

The toys are sorted for each family and bagged up for pickup on Saturday 20th by families to bring home and put under their tree.

The South Bay Military Veterans Chorus is looking for additional enthusiastic singers in all sections – sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. The Vets Chorus rehearses for two hours on Sunday evenings in the Social Hall at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 12770 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, at 7:00pm. For more information on the Chorus, potential members can look us up at <https://www.southbaymilvetschorus.com/>. No audition is required, all are welcome.

Orchard City Community Chorus (OCCC) is also looking for singers in all sections. OCCC rehearses for two hours on Monday evenings in the Choir Room at Campbell United Methodist Church, 1675 Winchester Blvd., Campbell, CA. For more information about OCCC go to <https://www.orchardcitychorus.org>. No audition is required, all are welcome.





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Campbell Crime Report



By Carol W. Gerwitz

300 blk. Union Ave. Unknown (S) stole dash camera from (V)'s unlocked vehicle. Report.

700 blk. Virginia Ave. Unknown (S) walked in the back slider door while (V) was in the house. (S) saw (V) and fled the house with no take. Report.

1700 blk. S. Bascom Ave. (S1) and an unidentified (S2) shoplifted a variety of beauty products. (S1) was stopped and found to be in possession of some of the merchandise; (S2) fled prior to CPD arrival. (S1) Cited and released.

600 blk. E. Campbell Ave. (S) violated a domestic violence order and prevented (V) from calling 911 during an argument. Booked.

Hamilton Ave. @ Hwy 17(V) reported (S) brandished a black handgun at him. (S) was last seen in an older gold sedan heading westbound on Hamilton Ave. Report.

300 blk. Bedal Lane Unknown (S) stole two rugs from the rear of the residence. Report.

200 blk. El Caminito Ave. Unknown (S) wire transferred \$40K from (V)'s account after she received a phone call from an unknown person. To Special Enforcement Division.

1500 blk. S. Winchester Blvd. Unknown (S) forced entry to a locked storage shed and stole \$2,000 worth of power tools. Report.

800 blk. Wellington Place (V)s returned to their residence and discovered the glass door had been shattered. As they entered, (V)s observed an unknown (S) flee their backyard. Report.

1500 blk. Sheffield Ave. (S) became intoxicated and slapped his wife during an argument. Booked.

100 blk. Jane Ann Way (S) was seen entering the backyard of the residence. (S) fled on a bicycle as officers arrived in the area but was stopped a short distance away. Screens to multiple windows had been removed in an attempt to gain entry; graffiti was spray-painted on an exterior wall of the re-

sidence. (S) was in possession of a red spray paint can and a large cement block. Booked.

200 blk. E. Campbell Ave. During an argument (S) took (V)'s cell phone and threw it off the fourth story of the parking garage, destroying it. (V) ran to an adjacent business to call for help. (S) fled prior to CPD arrival. To DA.

100 blk. Curtner Ave. Officers were dispatched to the business after suspicious sounds were heard. (S) was found concealing himself on the roof. (S) fled from officers. (S), who had an outstanding warrant, was located and was placed under arrest. It was discovered (S) had a variety of power tools and was attempting to gain access. Booked.

900 blk. W. Hamilton Ave. (S) was reported passed out in a vehicle in the parking lot. (S) was in possession of a methamphetamine pipe and stolen merchandise. Cited.

1700 blk. S. Bascom Ave. (S) stole \$1,400 worth of merchandise and was later identified.

(S) has outstanding warrants for same and is on probation out of Alameda County for theft. To DA.

1800 blk. S. Bascom Ave. (S) was causing a disturbance and challenging security. (S) was determined to be too intoxicated to care for himself and had multiple outstanding warrants. Booked.

2000 blk. S Bascom Ave. (S) forced entry into store through glass window. After realizing the cash drawer was empty, (S) left. \$2k in window damages. Report.

2300 blk. Winchester Blvd. (S) purchased a violin with a stolen credit card. To DA.

S. Winchester Blvd./Camden Ave. (S) was determined to be driving under the influence of cannabis. Booked.

4300 blk. Vanderbilt Dr. Unknown (S) broke into residence and ransacked the residence. Report.

1600 blk. W. Campbell Ave. (S) was reported for throwing

bricks and river rocks, vandalizing several vehicles in the parking lot. During arrest (S) spat at officers. Booked.

1800 blk. S Bascom Ave. Unknown (S) stole (V)'s credit cards and cell phone while shopping. (S) later made several fraudulent charges on (V)'s credit cards. Report.

3600 blk. S Bascom Ave. (V) was convinced into sending private videos and photos of himself and is now being extorted for money. Report.

600 blk. E. Campbell Ave. (S) was detained after a guest observed him breaking into a vehicle. (S) lied about his name to conceal a felony warrant for burglary. He was also on probation out of Alameda County. The bicycle he was riding was discovered to have been reported stolen out of Foster City. (S) was found to be under the influence of a stimulant and was in possession of burglary tools, a glass smoking pipe and various debit/credit cards belonging to other people. Booked.

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Books Inc.



By Drew Howard and Christine Cargnoni

Happy winter, readers! We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving if you celebrate, and a lovely start to December. Thank you to all who came to our many special events in November, and we hope you'll stop by to join us for our books clubs and events this month. On December 5th at 7pm, we welcome translator and author Ilze Duarte to talk about her translation of Marilia Arnaud's *Book of Affects*. She will be in conversation with local author Kathleen Wheaton. Both authors have completed many short stories, and we are so excited to have them here with us! Additionally, we hope you will join us for one of our many book clubs or our weekly Storytime!

With Christmas and Hanukkah just around the corner, we have so many great books for you who celebrate, no matter what age you are! Even if you don't partake in the month's festivities, winter is such a magical time, and we have some lovely books showcasing its beauty.

We have some extra special festive picture books for our young readers!

It's Navidad, El Cucuy! by Donna Barba Higuera features a little boy named Ramón teaching the monster from his room all about his family's Navidad traditions. The heartwarming picture book illustrates strangers coming together as a family to celebrate the holiday.

It's Winter! By Renee Kurilla features adorable illustrations and sweet rhymes celebrating all things snow and winter! With many cameos of cats, dogs, and mice decked out in winter attire, Kurilla takes young readers through the many amazing aspects of winter — snow, cozy evenings, friendship,

family, and several holidays, including Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. It's perfect for anyone who wants to smile and read about the beauty of the season.

For our teens, we have great holiday rom coms to enjoy on a rainy day!

Only for the Holidays by Abiola Bello follows city girl Tia Solanké and country boy Quincy Parker as they devise a plan to benefit both of them during the Winter Ball. However, a snowstorm forces them to confront their feelings and consider what they mean to each other.

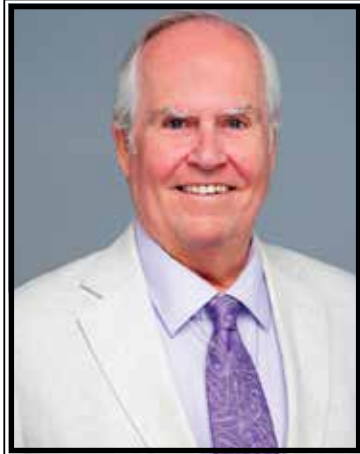
Our adult readers can enjoy seasonal titles like the noir collection *Eight Very Bad Nights*, edited by Tod Goldberg. The Hanukkah short stories all answer the question: what would you do if you had to see your family eight days in a row?

For those of you who celebrate Christmas and enjoy cozying up watch those fun Christmas romance movies, *Make the Season Bright* by Ashley Herring Blake could be a perfect fit. Full of Christmas cheer, found family, a second-chance romance, this novel follows exes Charlotte and Brighton who are unexpectedly forced to spend time with one another during the holidays. What could possibly happen?

Once again, thank you all for your support throughout this past year, and check our website for any events and all our book clubs! Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and happy holidays! Here at Books Inc., we hope you have a great December filled with joy.

NOW IS THE TIME

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The sun is bright outside as I sit down to write this. Our Election results are mostly in with only a few local elections remaining to be decided. As November rolls along we see Thanksgiving coming followed by Christmas and the beginning of the New Year, 2025. So what plans should we consider moving forward?

In Real Estate, this is the time to begin preparing for moves in the coming year. There are many indications that mortgage interest rates will go lower in 2025 than they are today. The FED just decided to reduce their FEDs Fund rate again and the changes are high that will

continue. The FED moves when the mortgage market gives them room, thus mortgage rates often go lower before the FED makes their announcements.

Should those placing bets on those rate going lower be right, we're likely to see an increase in buying activity despite inventories remaining at historically low levels. If that happens, home sellers will be a very strong position yet again. So, to take advantage of that, if you're considering a move, now is the time to begin preparing. Whether you're planning on selling or buying, now's the time to get ready.

For those thinking of selling, it's time to begin thinning out your personal belongings through storage or disposal. Time to begin thinking about where you want to move to and what sort of lifestyle you want to begin in the next chapter of your life. Time to begin getting advice from Realtors who know and understand the local market and who will put your interests first.

For those hoping to buy, it's time to begin reducing your debt load, ensuring your credit is in good standing, solidifying your own payment, look into assistance programs that you are open to you, find a lender you can rely on and a Realtor you can trust to help you achieve your goals.

With the FED committed to a retreat from high interest rates and as people's attention shifts from the election, the holidays and we come out of the winter darkness, the traditional home buying and selling season of the spring and summer is looking set to become another good year in Real Estate. You'll want to be ready for it and, if you want to get a head start, now's a good time to reach out.

By reaching out to me for your Real Estate needs you'll find no one more dedicated to your goals. With experience, skill and clarity I can and will provide the service you're looking for to accomplish your dreams. Call me at (408) 887-4731 or email to geneshomes@earthlink.net. Let's talk.

CITY NEWS

Continued from page 7

Campbell voters also passed Measure K, a revenue measure which is projected to bring in approximately \$7 million in sales and hotel taxes each year and will help support improved public services such as police, parks, and roads, among other uses.

Public safety

The Police Department continued its mission to keep Campbell residents safe, including through winning Federal Aviation Administration approval for a new drone program. This approval will allow Campbell to be the first city in the nation allowed to use unmanned police drones to get to the scene of a crime before police officers,

creating an information environment that keeps police officers, as well as the residents they serve, safer.

Finally, the Council's last meeting will bring important transitions. Mayor Susan Landry, who has served for eight years on the Campbell City Council, will be termed out, while we will welcome Terry Hines, who won election to represent Campbell's District 1. As I also won reelection this past November, I will be sworn in by Campbell's new State Senator, Josh Becker. All residents are welcome to join for the transition ceremony, as well as the election of the new mayor, in the Council Chambers in City Hall at 7 pm, December 17th.



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Coming to Town: Lira with Chef Tucker Ricchio

When Faisal Gowani and Zak Smith watched a program called 'Next Level Chef' with Gordon Ramsay, Chef Tucker Ricchio was on the show. They were extremely impressed with her culinary and people skills as she won over Chef Gordon Ramsay. Faisal and Zak had become friends when they were attending San Jose State University and discovered they both had a passion for watching cooking shows. Both of their favorites were Gordon Ramsay's show and noticed "He was only nice to some contestants, and you have



Larceny Bourbon, grape reduction, apple cider vinegar, rhubarb bitters, lemon, sugar, egg white

to pay attention to that." said Faisal. Ricchio was one of those competitors that Ramsay was always "nice" to. She served the best dishes and was clearly on top of her game. She was also a tremendous support to others who were having emotional breakdowns during the competition since Gordon often yelled at most

of the chefs, leaving their feelings on the kitchen floor. But Tucker was constantly saying to her competitors and teammates, "Let's just get through this." Tucker was a stand-out and inevitably won.

Meanwhile, Zak and Faisal had decided they wanted to start a new restaurant. Chef Tucker was previously invited to audition for a few food shows on Instagram. But one of them asked specifically for her to put her hat in the ring to audition for 'Next Level Chef.' With much excitement, she decided to try out for Gordon Ramsay's show. She had been in the industry for a few years and had been through a few changes. Especially during the pandemic, and switched to a job teaching culinary classes online for a Shark Tank company called 'Truffle Shuffle.' After watching Chef Ricchio on several episodes, Faisal said, "This is who I would want to work with because if something goes wrong, you know Tucker was not one to say, "Thanks for my paycheck, see you later." Zak wholeheartedly agreed.

Creating a new business together seemed like a promising idea, especially because

they are all San Jose natives. Faisal and Zak wanted a locally owned establishment, and Campbell was their



Left to right: Faisal Gowani, Tucker Ricchio, Zak Smith standing in front of the new restaurant location.

first-choice location to create a modern fine-dining farm-to-table style New American restaurant. Faisal had been raised with great food that his mother cooked and still gets excited about good meals with great choices. He wanted a restaurant that served these very principles he had grown up with and he wanted to have it in a restaurant. Tucker also grew up with her Italian grandmother "Nonnie," whom she said was a great cook, and states her parents are both great cooks as well. Tucker was on track in her earlier educational pursuits aspiring to

be a nurse, with a double major earning her master's degree. One day she saw Dominique Krenn on Chef's Table, the first American woman to get a Michelin Star rating, and noticed she had started her restaurant 'Atelier Crenn' in San Francisco. Atelier Crenn has a special style of artistry at its forefront, cuisine as a craft, and the community as an inspiration.

Tucker saw that impressive goal and said to herself, "I want to do that too." She changed her career path, dropped out of nursing school at Chico State, and enrolled in the well-known culinary school 'Cordon Bleu' in Sacramento. She learned

it well and gained experience in her artistry and food crafting. After graduation, she eagerly took on the challenge to become a 'Michelin Star Kitchen Chef,' as there are not many women who are at this top-ranking level. Ricchio worked extremely hard and worked under Michelin Chef Susette Gresham, the owner of 'Acquerello' in San Francisco which brought her this opportunity and

met Faisal and Zak. Business partner Zak Smith earned his success in his family's accounting firm starting as a young boy by helping his father with errands and chores and working his way to the top. He has kept the family business going to this day and a few other successful companies he has built from his interests. Faisal started young as well in his family's liquor store business, helping it become more successful over the years, utilizing his background in business economics and entrepreneurship. This strong trio is a great fit for Campbell and will add a unique dining experience downtown. We eagerly await their grand opening soon! Check back here and with The Campbell Press for more information in the next issue!



Bone marrow, shallot gel, black olive, pickled mustard seed, crispy shallots, grilled Manresa bread



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