

GRAND OPENING FOR CONFERENCE CENTER



VERN FISHER — MONTEREY HERALD

+ **More online:** To view a photo gallery and watch a video of Wednesday's festivities visit montereyherald.com.

Monterey mayor Clyde Roberson cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of the new Monterey Conference Center on Wednesday. The \$60-million renovation is the largest capital improvement project in Monterey history. The renovation project was funded by Monterey hotels and motels through Conference Center Facilities District bonds.

AT&T PEBBLE BEACH PRO-AM

Bill Murray scheduled to tee it up

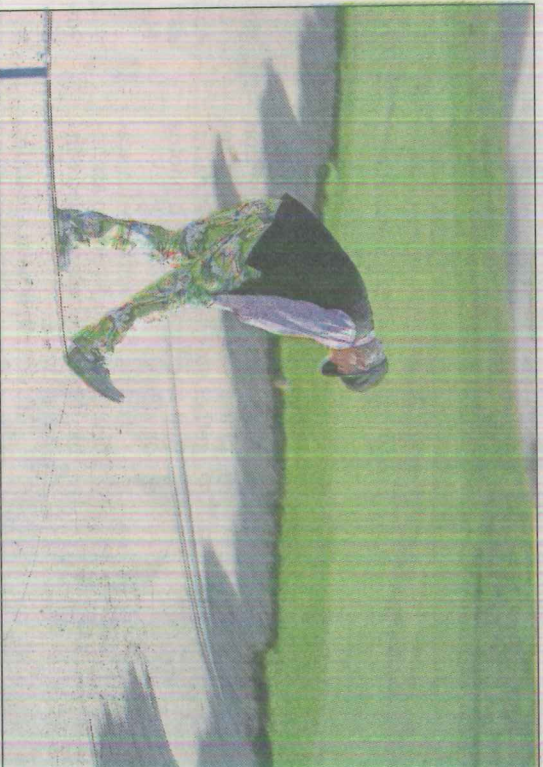
Tournament starts next week

By Nicoletta Lanese
newsroom@montereyherald.com

PEBBLE BEACH » Comedian Bill Murray has kept PGA fans on their toes, but all indications are he will be playing in this year's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

"He's a bit of wild card and likes to keep us guessing," said Lesley Varney of the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, which stages the event each year. "But he is scheduled to appear."

This will be Murray's 23rd trip to Monterey Peninsula for the tournament. He first played the Pro-Am in 1992, and has only missed four years since then. He's kept a tradition



VERN FISHER — MONTEREY HERALD FILE

Fan favorite Bill Murray is scheduled to return to this year's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

of not confirming his participation until the last second. Practice rounds begins Monday.

Murray is among a laundry-list of fellow celebrities,

including past participants Chris O'Donnell, Carson Daly and Toby Keith. Chris Harrison of "The Bachelor" and Pat Monahan of Train

will tee up at the tournament for the first time this year.

The pro lineup includes two-time champion Dustin Johnson and defending champion **MURRAY » PAGES**

IMMIGRATION

No deal near as Trump address, offer are panned

Reaction to Trump's high-profile overture suggested both parties were settling into a protracted tug-of-war. **PAGE A6**



GOVERNMENT

Planning commission denies oil exploration

Trio Petroleum had made bid for four oil and gas exploration wells in southern Monterey County. **PAGE A2**

BUSINESS

↗	Dow Jones	26,149.39 (+72.5)
↗	S&P 500	2823.81 (+1.38)
↘	Nasdaq	7411.48 (+9)

fine
finna
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Annual five-day
nine years du
industry, with

By Carly Mayberry
cmayberry@montereyherald.com
[@CarlyMayberry on Twitter](mailto:CarlyMayberry@montereyherald.com)

CARMEL » It's a wrap on Carmel Film Festival.

On Wednesday, Director Valarie L. Sber Sharon Crino co-

the annual event has the five-day festi-

tober, featured independent photography, fine art parlaying parties and with the work that

Schad attributed dramatic changes occur the changes in the "Over the past

WASHINGTON

FBI class
Trump,
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on Russ

By Chad Day, Jon and Eric Tucker
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » In willis with the WH Wednesday it has "curacy of a classification investigation wants released.

The FBI's short on the issue, laid conflict that had hind closed doors tice Department a

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Join us for an evening of Exploration, Entertainment, Enjoyment!
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help it th... the president changed his mind.”

Rocha wrote Trump this week that the civil rights group would support his plan for a wall and immigration restrictions in exchange for protecting young immigrants brought to the country illegally.

“The four pillars which you have outlined, (Border Security, DACA Legalization, Protect the Nuclear Family and Elimination of the Lottery and Repurpose Visas) are items that LULIAC can support if they remain within the current framework you have proposed,” Rocha wrote in a letter dated Jan. 28. “I encourage you to stay engaged on what you have proposed in order to pre-

vent other variations from being introduced by Congress.”

The group’s endorsement of the border wall and new restrictions on legal immigration drew strong reactions from members and activists across the country who say such policies would hurt Hispanics.

“Like everyone else, I’d like Congress to find a permanent solution for DACA students,” said LULIAC member Ralph Arellanes of Albuquerque, referring to the Obama administration’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. “But the wall ... that’s not the message you want to send.”

On social media, group

members and Latino activists attacked Rocha for the letter and criticized him for supporting a plan many called racist.

Washington state LULIAC Director Diana Perez said Rocha’s letter was not approved nor seen by the national board before it was released.

“We are working together to address this unfortunate situation and remain united as a civil rights organization with clear purpose and direction,” Perez said in a statement.

Some members were circulating petitions calling on Rocha to resign.

Rocha, of Laredo, Texas, called the reaction “nor-

Festival

FROM PAGE 1

International Film Festival has been an integral part of the fabric of our community ... We are grateful to everyone who has been a part,” said Schad in a prepared statement, noting the films, entertainment, producers and directors that have had a wonderful following by festival patrons, film goers and volunteers. “We have also had great support from our community and businesses which has contributed to our success. After much thought and deliberation, the Board of Directors has agreed that we will not continue with it.”

Said Crino, “With some very critical staff members moving away from the area and some of the technical advancements happening in the film industry, it was really like a perfect storm for us ... it was just a good business decision for us and best to move on rather than risk having a year that we couldn’t sustain it.”

The festival, which was founded in 2008 by Tom

Burns and KSBW news anchor Erin Clark, was intended to extend Carmel’s tradition of honoring creative endeavors while incorporating in it the town’s traditional easy-going style.

Crino noted that over the past nine years, the festival has hosted 1,500 producers and directors, had over 100 parties and had 15 of its films nominated for Academy Awards.

Among those speaking at the event in the past have been James Franco and Matthew Modine.

“It was a phenomenal experience with the community and our partners,” she said, also noting that it brought a tremendous amount of traffic and business for area restaurants and hotels.

“The Festival not only brought visitors to our beautiful city, but it highlighted the history of our creative founders and the artistic nature of our village,” said Jenny MacMurdo, president and CEO of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce.

MacMurdo noted her sadness for its disbanding and her hope that the door remains open for its potential return in the future.

“We appreciated how it

he struggled through statement during his tencing hearing in tions federal court and said he has private every day for the people who were impacted the outbreak. He said understands that many of the victims will not forgive him, but said they will continue to pray they will “find some of peace.”

Victims of the outbreak and their family members on Wednesday described the pain and suffering they experienced cause of the contaminated drugs at a sentencing Wednesday for a vicid pharmacist. Prosecutors want 35-year-sentence for C

Russia

FROM PAGE 1

“As expressed during our initial review, we have grave concerns about material omissions of fact that fundamentally impact the memo’s accuracy,” the FBI said.

Further complicating the memo’s release, the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee said late Wednesday that his committee’s vote to release the memo was now invalid because it was “seriously altered” by Republicans who wrote it. California Rep. Adam Schiff said in a letter to House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes that committee Democrats had discovered changes that were made after the panel voted Monday to send it to Trump for review.

“The White House has therefore been reviewing a document since Monday night that the committee never approved for public release,” Schiff said in the letter.

Schiff did not detail the changes, and a spokesman for Nunes did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Trump has five days from the vote to review the document, and if he doesn’t object then Congress can release it.

Schiff called for Nunes to withdraw the memo from the White House and for the committee to hold a new vote next Monday.

The memo is part of an effort to reveal what Republicans say are surveillance abuses by the FBI and the Justice Department in the early stages of the investigation into potential ties between Russia and the 2016 Trump presidential campaign.

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President Donald Trump Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph first State of the Union a the U.S. Capitol to a joint

The FBI’s stance on memo escalates the dispute and means Trump would openly defying his hatpicked FBI director by tinning to push for its closure. It also suggested clear willingness by Director Christopher W who in the early stretch his tenure has been not low-key to challenge a pident who just months fired his predecessor, James Comey.

The FBI statement the day after Trump overheard telling a gressman that he “100 cent” supported release the four-page memo.

Senate Democrat Leader Chuck Schumer Wednesday night placed blame on House Speaker Paul Ryan, saying that Ryan “cares about the integrity of the House on rule of law, he will put end to this charade and for all.”

Democrats have called the memo a “cherry-picked list of GOP talking points that attempts to distort from the committee’s investigation into the sian meddling in the tion that sent Trump to White House.

The drama comes as special counsel Robert N

Murray

FROM PAGE 1

champion Jordan Spieth, as well as Rory McIlroy, who will be playing the event for the first time this year.

The 2018 tournament purse sits at \$7.4 million. After working his way through the Pebble Beach Golf Links, Spyglass Hill Golf Course, and Monterey Peninsula Country Club’s Shore Course, the

winner will walk away with over \$1.3 million.

Since Bing Crosby started the tournament in 1937, Traditionally the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am has given a boost to local nonprofits in the Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties.

The Monterey Peninsula Foundation disburses the event’s proceeds, as well as those from the PURE Insurance Championship, Champions’ Tour event they organize annually. Over the 2016/2017 fis-

Carly Magberry can be reached at 831-726-4363.

cal year, the Foundation donated \$12.8 million to organizations in the tri-county area.

A familiar face at the Pro-Am, Murray has become a fan favorite at one of the PGA’s leading charitable events, said Vanney.

“He’s been a part of the event for so many years,” she said. “He’s really a key part.”

Golf fans (and Murray fans) can find tickets at <http://www.atpbpgolf.com/tickets/>.

DIAMOND CERTIFIED EXPERT

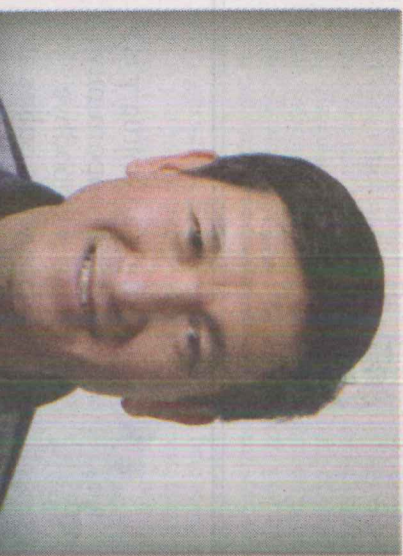
Helpful Expertise from Owners of Local Top Rated

Thuan Le: Automotive Autonomy

By JAMES FLORENCE, Diamond Certified Resource Reporter

Like many auto repair professionals, Thuan Le regards his chosen trade as a lifelong passion. “I’ve been working on cars since I was a teenager,” he says. “Everyone in my family works on cars, so it’s something I’ve always been around and naturally grew to love.”

Thuan founded T & T Auto Repair in 2008, and he says that while being a business owner has its challenges, the professional



Thuan's Expert

Tire Maintenance

Tire pressure vehicle safety economy an your tire pressure recommend in the vehicle