# **NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS**

Tuesday, December 31st | Historic Downtown Monterey

# MONTEREY 2025



## **★BUTTONS ON SALE** ★

Safeway Inc. - All Monterey County Stores Andronico's Market - Monterey Grove Market - Pacific Grove



**Special Family Package** available online only before December 28th

# 2 Finales to the New Year!

9 hours of creative and joyful music and art!

www.firstnightmonterey.org Visit for additional info.



Official First Night Monterey Program Guide
Published by Monterey County Weekly
Program guide is subject to change





YOUR NEW YEAR STARTS
HERE IN HISTORIC
DOWNTOWN MONTEREY!

Join us for 9 hours of creative, joyful, and amazing music and art! Come enjoy the bounty of entertainment First Night Monterey provides all the way into the New Year! From Jazz to Rock & Roll, World Music to Lion Dancers, and Fire Shows in the streets, we will transform your New Year's Eve into a creative celebration! Remember to Button Up, as those fees help cover the cost of our performers.

# "Wishing you a creative and happy 2025!"

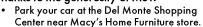
— First Night Monterey Board of Directors and Ellen Martin, Executive Director

# YOUR FIRST NIGHT MAKE THE MOST OF IT! PLAN AHEAD!

Make the most of your First Night Monterey experienceplan your evening using this program guide. Seating in each venue is first come first seated. An alphabetical listing of performers starts on page 6 and a grid of performers, times and locations is on pages 4 and 5. Search the listing by artist or the grid by time or by location. Give yourself time to get from one venue to another! Remember, some sites may have lines.

#### **GETTING TO FIRST NIGHT**

First Night Monterey buses are FREE thanks to the generosity of MST!



- FREE buses will pick you up at the bus stop in frontof Macy's every 15 minutes beginning at 3:15pm and take you downtown to the Bus Transit Center, Alvarado at Pearl.
- Catch the bus back to the Del Monte Center at the Transit Center until last bus at 12:28 am.

SAFETY FIRST Please leave your large purses, backpacks, and bags at home. First Night is staffed with MPD officers stationed throughout the event.

RESTROOMS Most indoor sites have public restrooms. Public restrooms are open until 10pm in the City Parking lots. Portable facilities will be available by Wells Fargo Bank on Franklin Street at Alvarado Street. Check our map!

SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES Handicap accessible parking is available at each of the parking lots and garages.

FOOD AND DRINK Visit the First Night Food Court on Alvarado Street between Franklin and Del Monte Streets. A variety of yummy food to take & go!

LOST & FOUND Command Center at the FNM Kiosk in the plaza near the Monterey Conference Center. First Night is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

**WEATHER** Rain or shine, First Night Monterey will joyfully proceed regardless of weather. 85% of First Night venues are indoors! Dress in layers and comfortable shoes.

OTHER Stroller space is limited; we will make every effort to accommodate your needs. Bicycles are not permitted inside the venues; please walk bikes inside the FNM footprint. Please leave your pets at home.

# THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

A big THANK YOU to our First Night Monterey volunteers who staff and help produce this New Year's Eve event. Without all these individuals, our arts celebration would never happen!

#### OPENING CEREMONY

Our celebration opens with a blessing by White Hawk Indian Council for Children. They'll honor Aztec traditions to start the celebration. Reflect and look ahead to the new as we come together for First Night Monterey 2025!

#### TWILIGHT PROCESSION

The procession starts at 5:30pm and proceeds down Alvarado Street from Franklin Street towards Pearl Street. Line up on the sidewalks and cheer on our community groups!

# FINALE TO THE NEW YEAR COUNTDOWN TO MIDNIGHT

There are two finales this year, both are indoors; PICK UP YOUR FINALE TICKET (free to button-holders) at the Portola Plaza ticket booth **after 8:00pm.** First come, first served, look for the signs! You will need your FNM 2025 button, and finale ticket for admission to our countdowns!

The grand finale! Live music from featured performers will bring us into the New Year with a countdown to midnight! Special surprise guests may be dropping in to join the band - you never know what might happen at a First Night finale! The Coffis Brothers will play at the Golden State Theater, and The Latin Jazz Collective will be in the Serra Ballroom at the Monterey Conference Center. You can guarantee a fun and exciting time into the New Year!

#### FIRST NIGHT MONTEREY BUTTONS

Buy your buttons before New Year's Eve & save!

Buttons give you access to all indoor events and performances at First Night Monterey in Historic Downtown Monterey.



#### Adult Buttons (16+)

\$28 Advance Purchase Price (Dec. 15-30th)

\$31 Full Price (Day of Celebration, available at Event Kiosks)

#### Youth Buttons (Ages 6 to 15)

\$17 Advance Purchase Price (Dec. 15-30th)

\$20 Full Price (Day of Celebration, available at Event Kiosks)

Children 5 and under are admitted FREE!

Visit www.firstnightmonterey.org before 12/28 for special family packs, online purchases, and updates.

#### FIRST NIGHT MERCHANDISE

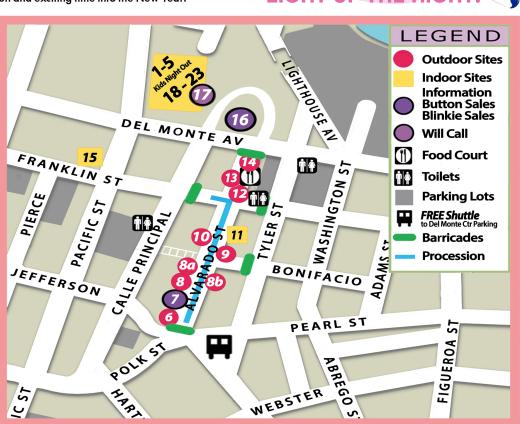


Don't be in the dark! Light up your night with fun glow-in-the-dark items! Check out our merchandise. This is a fundraiser for First Night; all proceeds will benefit our arts outreach programs.

 Site 7: Alvarado St. near Pearl
 4:00-9:00pm

 Site 16: Del Monte Plaza
 3:00-11:00pm

## GLOW IN THE DARK, LIGHT UP THE NIGHT!



#### **OUTDOOR VENUES**

8 Alvarado St. Galleria

- 8A Creative Art Station, Alvarado St. 8B Drum Circle, Alvarado St.
- 9 Bonifacio Stage, Alvarado St.
- 10 Just Sing & Dance Stage, Alvarado St.
- 12 Franklin St. Stage, Alvarado St.
- 14 Illumination Stage, Alvarado St.

#### **INDOOR VENUES**

- 1-5 Monterey Conference Center
- 11 Golden State Theater
- 15 Monterey Center for Spiritual Living (Carleton Hall)
- 18-23 Monterey Conference Center: Colton Room, Steinbeck Ballroom, Steinbeck 1, Serra Ballroom, Serra Lobby

#### **EVENT KIOSKS & FOOD**

- 7 FNM Buttons & Merch Kiosk
- 13 Food Vendors
- 16 FNM Buttons & Merch Kiosk
- 17 Will Call until 8pm, at 16 after 8

Historic Downtown Monterey Tuesday, DECEMBER 31st, 2024

3 P.M. - Midnight

# CELEBRATE!



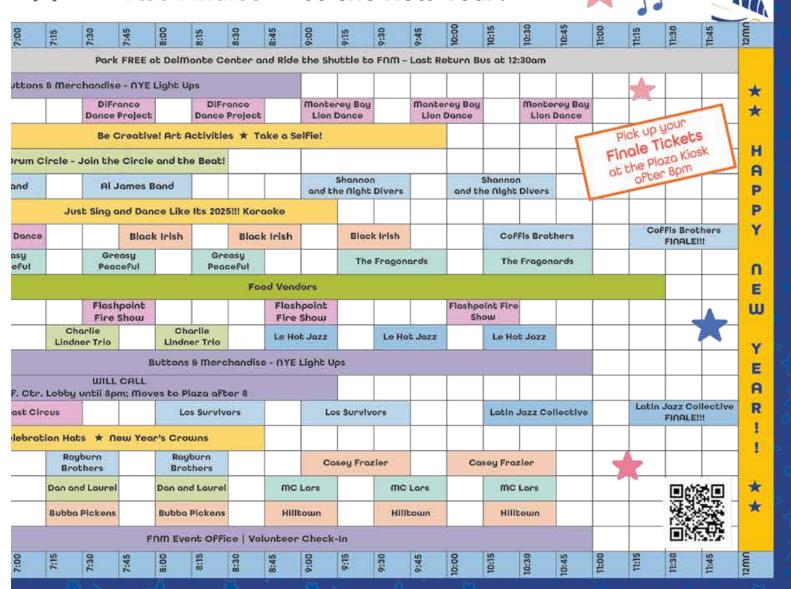
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3	Serra Ballroom			Bubble Stomp										Dar	nce/	World			
4	Art Station 1, S	r	Celebration Hats * New Year's Crowns									*	Acti	vities					
5	Art Station 2, S		Face Art									*							
6	Monterey Firefighters												ey Fire			T	6:15	6:30	6:45
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20	Steinbeck Ballroom, Conference Ctr						Official Program								*	Rayburn Brothers			
21	Steinbeck 1, Conference Center					inserted in										Dan and Laurel			
22	Calton Rooms, Conference Center					Dec. 26th MC Weekly									Bubba Pickens				
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Button Up! for a magical New Year's Eve celebration with 9 Hours of music, art and

\*\* Two Finales \*\* to the New Year!

Latin



# EVENING PERFORMING ARTS











AL JAMES BAND | RB **NEW TO FNM** 

Site 9: Bonafacio Stage, Alvarado St. 6:30-7:15 | 7:30-8:15

Singer, guitarist, and composer Al James from Seaside delivers a rootsy, soulful sound inspired by Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Wonder. Backed by a stellar band, his unique compositions and vibrant stage energy captivate every audience.

#### **BLACK IRISH BAND | AM** Site 11: Golden State Theater

7:45-8:15 | 8:30-9:00 | 9:15-9:45

Black Irish Band has been performing for 34 years and recorded 27 albums. As First Night Monterey's longest-running act, they draw happy crowds with their fun, spirited music that entertains and educates. Their repertoire includes original and traditional Celtic, Maritime sea shanties, and Americana



BUBBA PICKENS | AM **NEW TO FNM** 

Site 22: Conference Ctr., Colton Rooms 6:30-7:00 | 7:15-7:45 | 8:00-8:30

Bubba Pickens, a bluegrass, folk, and Americana group from Monterey Bay, features six local educators among its seven members. A multiple-"Best Local Band" nominee, they charm audiences with upbeat tunes, intricate harmonies, and their motto: "Have fun!"



CASEY FRAZIER | AM NEW TO FNM

Site 20: Conference Ctr., Steinbeck Ballroom 9:00-9:45 | 10:00-10:45

Rooted in the American West, Casey's songwriting captures the spirit of Americana. Having shared stages with icons like Kenny Rogers and Joan Armatrading, Casey now calls Carmel-By-The-Sea home, drawing inspiration from the Central Coast



CENTRAL COAST CIRCUS | DA **NEW TO FNM** 

Site 18: Serra Ballroom, Conference Ctr. 6:30-7:30

This group of Monterey Bay aerialists has 35 years of combined performance experience including dance, theater, and fire arts. Several members are aerial instructors at Sanctuary Climbing & Fitness in Seaside. They're known for their skillful, vibrant, and feminine energy!

## CHARLIE LINDNER TRIO | J

Site 15: Mry. Ctr. for Spiritual Living 6:30-7:00 | 7:15-7:45 | 8:00-8:30

This trio plays originals, jazz standards and reimagined pop tunes in the modern style. Featuring Charlie Lindner (piano), lead in the Pickle Mafia; Patrick Tregenzaon (drums), founder of Along Came Betty; and Tony Bianchini (bass), beloved Monterey Peninsula Jazz musician.



THE COFFIS BROTHERS | RB FINALE BAND

Site 11: Golden State Theater 10:15-10:45 | 11:15-12:00

Raised in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Jamie and Kellen Coffis play honest, heartfelt roots-rock (with an emphasis on the roots). "It's all-American music," says co-frontman, Kellen. "There's rock, blues, acoustic folk, and country in there." It will be a night of dancing and fun!

#### DAN AND LAUREL | WM

Site 21: Conference Ctr., Steinbeck I 6:30-7:00 | 7:15-7:45 | 8:00-8:30

Meeting in 2012 via a chance YouTube sighting, Canadian-American Roots-Folk duo Frechette and Laurel Thomsen are "prodigious players with songwriting that sets them apart." With soaring violin, diverse guitar, harmonica, humor, and unique vocal rapport, they deliver dynamic performances filled with storytelling.



DIFRANCO DANCE PROJECT | DA

Site 8: Alvarado Street Galleria 7:30-8:00 | 8:15-8:45 | 8:30-9:00

The DiFranco Dance Project presents an energetic program inspired by American Jazz, African, Latin, Caribbean, and Celtic styles. Featuring youth and young adult dancers from Dianne Lyle's Afro-Latin Jazz classes at the Pacific Grove Recreation Department.

## FLASHPOINT FIRE SHOW | DA

Site 14: Alvarado St. Illumination Art 7:30-8:00 | 8:45-9:15 | 10:00-10:30

The Flashpoint Fire Show is a cutting-edge, must-see spectacle! Watch talented fire dancers perform elegant maneuvers to exciting music, bringing light and magic to First Night Monterey with an unforgettable performance.



#### THE FRAGONARDS | IND NEW TO FNM

Site 12: Franklin St. Stage, Alvarado St. 9:15-10:00 | 10:15-11:00

This Fragonards are an alt-rock band from Monterey, fronted by Gin Fragonard with Zach McDaniel, Jason Thompson, and Alex Bezdjian. Gin's vulnerable songs and eccentric vocals, combined with the band's chemistry, create an unforgettable experience.



#### **GREASY PEACEFUL | IND NEW TO FNM**

Site 12: Franklin St. Stage, Alvarado St. 6:45-7:15 | 7:30-8:00 | 8:15-8:45

Greasy Peaceful is an up-and-coming three-piece band with a passion for authentic music. Made up of Joseph Scardina, Kevin Call, and Steven Belleci, they blend rock, folk, and indie into a unique sound. With heartfelt writing, raw energy, and a growing local fanbase, Greasy Peaceful is ready to make their mark, one song at a time!



## **GUITARS NOT GUNS | R**

Site 12: Franklin St. Stage, Alvarado St. 5:00-5:30 | 6:15-6:30

The Guitars Not Guns Marina Band features Monterey County youth, alumni, and volunteers gathering weekly at the Marina Teen Center for free guitar lessons. Led by Amy Warren, they play American classics and contemporary hits with groovy rhythms, standout vocals, and solos.



HILLTOWN | AM NEW TO FNM

Site 22: Conference Ctr., Colton Rooms 8:45-9:15 | 9:30-10:00 | 10:15-10:45

Hilltown blends traditional Bluegrass with old-time mountain music, blues, gospel, and jazz. With Chuck Hurd (banjo), Rachel Bennett (mandolin/ vocals), Rebecca Stone (fiddle/vocals), Gene Mason (guitar/vocals), and Bob Mannix (bass). Hear their lively music and join the fun!

#### JUST SING & DANCE | DA

Site 10: Alvarado St. Karaoke Stage 7:00-9:15

Join us at the FNM Dance/Karaoke Lounge where the stage is yours and the vibes are electric! Sing your heart out, dance like no one is watching, and create unforgettable memories.



#### LATIN JAZZ COLLECTIVE WITH JOHN NAVA

\*FINALE BAND\*

Site 18: Conference Ctr., Serra Ballroom 10:15-11:00 | 11:15-12:00

The Latin Jazz Collective, high-energy 11-piece ensemble, earned a standing ovation at the 2017 Monterey Jazz Festival. Led by John Nava, Stu Reynolds, and Martin Binder, they blend original compositions with Jazz standards and Latin rhythms. Members have performed with legends Carlos Santana and Pete Escovedo and are active musicians and educators in the Central Coast and Bay Area.



LE JAZZ HOT QUARTET |

**NEW TO FNM** 

Site 15: Mry Ctr. for Spiritual Living 8:45-9:15 | 9:30-10:00 | 10:15-10:45

Members of the Hot Club of San Francisco play locally in the Bay Area as Le Jazz Hot. The Hot Club of San Francisco has been experimenting with the musical tradition of Django Reinhardt for over 35 years. They are celebrated in the USA and abroad for their fusion blend of American jazz and European based Gypsy folk songs.

#### **JAYSON FANN RHYTHM** | WM

Site 8B: Drum Circle, Alvarado St. 6:30-8:30

Jayson Fann's drum circles are all about unity, rhythm, and creativity. Feel the pulse of the group, catch the beat, and let your hands flow with the drum's vibration. Whether you're a seasoned drummer or new to the rhythm, everyone's contribution matters.



LOS SURVIVORS | RB **NEW TO FNM** 

Site 18: Conference Ctr., Serra Ballroom 8:00-8:45 | 9:00-9:45

An 8-piece band bringing Rock, Soul, and Funk to life, Steve Vasquez has assembled a talented group of local musicians. They celebrate the timeless era of R&B and blues greats with a soulful style that radiates joy, inspiration, and pure "good ol' groove."

#### MC LARS | IND

Site 21: Conference Ctr., Steinbeck 1 8:45-9:15 | 9:30-10:00 | 10:15-10:45

Longtime First Night Monterey favorite! MC Lars, creator of post-punk lit-hop, blends rap, punk, rock, ska, and pop with powerful lyrics. His concerts feature energetic raps on topics ranging from Edgar Allan Poe to Game of Thrones, The Simpsons, and cyberbullying, all delivered with wit, humor, and perspective.



#### **MONTEREY BAY LION DANCE TEAM | DA** Site 8: Alvarado Street Galleria 9:00-9:30 | 9:45-10:15 | 10:30-11:00

Celebrate the New Year with traditional Chinese lion dancing, featuring martial postures and rhythmic drums, cymbals, and gongs. The Lucky Lion and Happy Buddha symbolize life, humanity, and good fortune, bringing prosperity for the year ahead. Monterey Bay Healing Tao Tai Chi members also perform Tai Chi hand and weapons forms for self-defense, health, and wellness.

## **EVENING PERFORMING ARTS**

(CONTINUED)



#### RAYBURN BROTHERS BAND | RB \*NEW TO FNM

Site 20: Conference Ctr., Steinbeck Ballroom 6:30-7:00 | 7:15-7:45 | 8:00-8:30

Singer-songwriters Craig and Keith Rayburn harmonize with the grace only brothers can, delivering heartfelt melodies, vocals, and skilled instrumentation. Blending rock, folk, country, reggae, and jazzy blues, their songs are full of surprise and soul. The Rayburn Brothers connect with audiences, offering music that inspires and gets you dancing!

#### SHANNON & THE NIGHT DIVERS | RB Site 9: Bonifacio Stage, Alvarado St. 9:00-9:45 | 10:00-10:45

Shannon and the Night Divers are a Montereybased band performing energetic Pop, Funk, and R&B hits, including songs by Al Green, Chic, Jamiroquai, and Diana Ross, along with originals. Lead vocalist Shannon Casapia is joined by Amber Guzman, Manuel Aguilera, Glenn Béll, Thomas Fidler, Robb Naimark, and Jorge Casapia for unforgettable performances.

#### SHINSHO-MUGEN DAIKO | WM

Site 18: Conference Ctr., Serra Ballroom 3:15-3:45 | 4:00-4:30

Experience the power and precision of Shinsho-Mugen Daiko, a Taiko drumming group founded in 1999. Combining traditional Japanese drumming with martial arts elements, Taiko meaning "big drum"—has long been featured in festivals, religious rituals, and orchestras of the Imperial Palace. Led by Ikuyo Conant, the group focuses on cultivating energy, self-awareness, and harmony in their performances.



TRIQUI DANCERS | DA Site 11: Golden State Theater 6:30-7:15

Indigenous Triqui women from Greenfield will perform a traditional dance to Oaxacan music, wearing the symbolic, hand-made Triqui huipil. The huipil represents rebirth, with symbols like the sun (collar), rainbow (back ribbons), caterpillar's path (red strips), and the figures depict the butterfly's flight. The Triquis, originally from southern Mexico, migrated to California to work as agricultural laborers.



#### WHITE HAWK INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN | DA

\*NEW TO FNM\*

Site 18: Conference Ctr., Serra Ballroom 3:00-3:15 | 3:45-4:00 | 4:45-5:00 Site 8: Alvarado Street Galleria 6:15-6:45

White Hawk aims to provide safe environments where youth can build trust, improve the quality of life within their families and community, and develop spiritual awareness through participation in traditional ceremonies and cultural arts. As they dance, ankle bands of seed pods and hand-held gourd rattles keep time with their steps, while their feathered headdresses and fans shake vibrantly with each movement!

#### KID'S NIGHT OUT

#### **CELEBRATION HATS / NEW** YEAR'S EVE CROWNS

Site 4: Conference Ctr. Serra Lobby 3:30-5:00 (Free Activity)

Site 19: Conference Ctr., Serra Lobby 6:30-8:45 (Button Venue)

"Be creative and have fun!" is our motto, and nothing says fun like crafting your own celebration hat! Transform a paper grocery bag into a dazzling New Year's top hat with fun for all ages and a must for First Night flair.

#### FIRST NIGHT FACE ART

Site 5: Conference Ctr., Serra Lobby 3:30-4:45 (Free Activity)

First Night artists are ready to create, festive, face paintings! Note, this a popular activity and lines are formed; lines may close early so artists can finish on time.

#### **COLOR IN YOUR NEW** YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Site 8A: Creative Art Station, Alvarado St. 6:30-8:45 (Button Venue)

A collaborative public art project where First Night'ers can paint their resolutions, aspirations, or encouraging words for the New Year.

#### **BUBBLE STOMP**

Site 3: Conference Ctr., Serra Ballroom 3:30-5:00 (Free Activity)

Who can resist squishing and twisting bubble wrap? Jump, hop, stomp, do the electric slide or break dance your way to popping every single bubble!

#### I HOPE, I FEEL, MY RESOLUTION

Site 19: Conference Ctr., Serra Lobby 6:30-8:45 (Button Venue)

An interactive art installation with three boards, inviting First Night-ers to reflect and express themselves and make a resolution for the New Year.

#### IT'S GOING TO BE...

Site 19: Conference Ctr., Serra Lobby 6:30-8:45 (Button Venue)

An art project that has three wheels where spinning them, you can create unique sentences.
We invite you to spin the wheels and create how you feel your New Year is going to be!

IN MEMORIAM - First Night treasures those that helped create, sustain, and improve our programs. We lost three volunteers who dreamed big and made so many projects come to life: Susan Britton and Jackie Lynch, past board members, and River Gurtin, faithful First Night volunteer. We miss you and thank you for your many years of service.



## IANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!





ARTS COUNCIL for Monterey County













#### **VENUE HOSTS**

City of Monterey, Del Monte Center, Golden State Theatre, Monterey Center for Spiritual Living - Church of Religious Science Carleton Hall, Monterey Conference Center

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR OUTREACH FUNDERS

Hearden Foundation, Monterey Peninsula Foundation, The Arts Council for Monterey County, Yellow Brick Road, The City of Greenfield, Pebble Beach Foundation

#### THANKS TO YOU WHO BOUGHT A BUTTON!

Your purchase directly contributes to the performing and visual arts fees for the activities you enjoyed at this year's celebration. And the local retailers who sell them- Monterey County Safeway stores, Andronico's, and Grove Market.

#### FIRST NIGHT DONORS

Kevin Arango, Yavuz Atila, Stephanie Booth, Sharen Carey, Michael Clark, Catherine Crockett, Erik & Kristin Cushman, Diane Dahms, Peggy Dickson, Michael Dunn, Mary Gale, Priscilla Gilbertson, Bette Grace, Suzanne Grimes, Susan Hayward, Michael Houston, Kip Hudson, Karen Judkins, Lawrence V. Levine, Cynthia Lorence, Ellen Martin, Dorothy Micheletti, Steven Moore, Robert Nielsen, Bruce Orinstein, Sue Parris, Nina Parris, Kenneth Peterson, Mary Pommerich, Thomas Rebold, Donald Rentfrow, Neil Richman, Lee Rosen, Maria Ruvalcaba, Fran Spector Atkins, Joseph Sweeney, Cath Tendler, Joel Weinstein, Bill Wojtkowski, Starbucks, Safeway, Inc, Costco, Reds Donuts, Cardinale Moving, Grocery Outlet, Carmel Sunset Rotary Club

## A landmark hospital. And so much more.



Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula is the beating heart of Montage Health. Today, we're much more than a hospital. We're urgent care centers, wellness centers, primary care doctors, health insurance plans, and a groundbreaking mental health program for youth.

Through it all, we remain an independent, nonprofit healthcare organization. Locally owned. And accountable only to the communities we serve.



montagehealth.org

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025!