

C.V. landmark destroyed in early morning fire

By CHRIS COUNTS

A STRUCTURE that was a hub of activity in Carmel Valley more than a century ago burned down early Monday morning. Simply called The Barn or the Grange Hall by many, the small but evocative building was located at Carmel Valley and Robinson Canyon roads next to the Farm Center.

Firefighters arrived on scene just past midnight Feb. 24 and worked to keep the fire from spreading to vegetation



and nearby structures, but deputy fire marshal Rick Magno of Monterey County Regional Fire told The Pine Cone that the building is a total loss. Magno is investigating the blaze and said it's too early to say what caused it.

A spirited debate over the future of the landmark building was underway on social media even as news of the fire broke. Many of those commenting wondered if arson was to blame, and several suggested a homeless person was

See DESTROYED page 13A



One of Carmel Valley's most cherished historical buildings (left) burned down Monday. A painting by Paola Berthoin (above) shows it before the fire.

Putting housing plan into action means big changes

By MARY SCHLEY

THE EIGHT-YEAR housing plan that Carmel officials went to great effort to get certified by the state last year isn't just a document filled with big ideas. It's filled with numerous obligations that will change the way the city does business — including giving planning staff the authority to approve major housing projects that usually undergo significant scrutiny by various commissions. Changing such a significant part of the process removes what state officials say are barriers to creating more residences.

At a special planning commission meeting Tuesday night, principal planner Marnie Waffle, who has become the department's subject matter expert on housing, presented several amendments required to bring the municipal code into compliance with the housing plan, which envisions the addition of 349 units in the city through 2031.

The document contains numerous programs and policies meant to achieve five goals pertaining to the construction, protection and improvement of all types of homes, affordable and otherwise.

'Removing regulatory barriers'

Incentives, easier permits

At the Feb. 25 meeting, Waffle presented the first set of code changes that will "remove regulatory barriers to the construction of housing, define various housing types, and provide incentives to construct affordable housing," she explained. According to the plan's timeline, they were supposed to have been completed last year.

Waffle asked planning commissioners and the public for feedback on topics ranging from banning single-family residences in commercial districts and defining "employee housing," to eliminating "unnecessary" use permits for housing developments.

The code also has to include incentives for mixed-use development that include affordable units and reduce parking requirements for various types of housing, including in

See HOUSING page 16A

Supes put foot down on battery storage in county

By KELLY NIX

A BAN on new indoor battery storage facilities and a requirement that existing systems in Monterey County be upgraded to the "highest industry standards" are among the recommendations adopted this week by elected officials following the Jan. 16 fire at a Vistra Energy lithium battery plant in Moss Landing that forced about 1,500 people to evacuate and led to hundreds of health complaints.

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors Tuesday voted 4-0 to follow recommendations made by an ad hoc committee composed of District 2 Supervisor Glenn Church and District 5 Supervisor Kate Daniels. District 3 Supervisor Chris Lopez was absent from Tuesday's meeting.

Cease operations

Other recommendations adopted Feb. 25 include a request that Vistra cease operations until the cause of the blaze has been determined and appropriate safety remediation measures have occurred, that PG&E and Vistra halt expansion of their facilities until safety-minded state legislation has passed, and that the company work with county officials on recovery of its damaged facilities.

The supervisors followed Church's recommendation that the panel hold public meetings at least once a month to discuss issues surrounding the Vistra fire and

the company's operation. Battery storage collects power from the grid when it's plentiful and releases it when it's needed, usually during peak times or outages.

Church blamed the State of California for allowing the battery storage industry "to bypass local ordinances," and he referred to Assembly Bill AB205, a law signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom nearly three years ago that mandated an expedited process to permit battery storage businesses in just 270 days.

Monterey County's approval process for such a

See STORAGE page 15A

CHOMP says hospital prices aren't that easy

By KELLY NIX

A PRESIDENTIAL order that seeks to compel hospitals and health insurers to disclose actual prices — not merely estimates — could affect the bottom line of at least one local hospital.

President Donald Trump's order signed Tuesday directs the departments of the Treasury, Labor, and Health and Human Services "to rapidly implement and enforce" his healthcare price transparency regulations.

"Our goal was to give patients the knowledge they need about the real price of healthcare services," Trump said. "They'll be able to check them, compare them and go to different locations, so they can shop for the highest-quality care at the lowest cost."

'Don't fully account'

In his first presidential term, Trump mandated that hospitals and insurers make prices public but blamed the Biden administration for failing to "prioritize further implementation" and enforce the requirements.

A spokeswoman for Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula's parent company suggested this week that such federal requirements don't fully account for the complexities of market forces and local economic conditions and could stress the hospital financially.

"These regulations could potentially place financial strain on hospitals like ours, which are already balancing the delivery of high-quality care with the need to maintain

See PRICES page 22A

A month for stumps, a drop in DUIs and other revelations at State of the City talk

By MARY SCHLEY

AT THE Carmel Chamber of Commerce's State of the City breakfast Tuesday, Mayor Dale Byrne shared his ideas for getting things done, city administrator Chip Rerig said there will be a bigger push to require downtown property owners to maintain the sidewalks, and Police Chief Paul Tomasi explained what he looks for in prospective employees.

Those were among the tidbits and topics discussed during the Feb. 25 breakfast at the Carmel Woman's Club that featured chamber board member Cynthia Buhl interviewing the three public officials.

Byrne, who was elected mayor in November 2024 alongside new councilmen Hans Buder and Bob Delves, said he ran on a platform of public safety



Dale Byrne

See CITY page 14A



PHOTO/MIKE BUFFO, HOUSE OF 8 MEDIA

Just the smokestacks remain from the former oil-fired power plant in Moss Landing, while in the background are its modern counterparts, including Vistra Energy's burned storage facility and an undamaged one owned by PG&E.

Property owners to get water refunds

■ Agency spent \$300K fighting lawsuits

By KELLY NIX

A TAXPAYER advocacy group and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District are close to finalizing an agreement that will eventually mean a refund for most property owners within the district’s boundaries.

The Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association sued the MPWMD over its “water supply charge,” which it had added to local property tax bills since 2012.

In March 2023, Monterey Superior Court Judge Carrie Panetta ruled that the charge was invalid, and in September 2024, an appeals court affirmed Panetta’s decision.

At a meeting Monday, water district attorney Dave Laredo said refunds will be sent to customers to settle five separate pending legal claims filed by the taxpayers association over the water supply charge. The claims challenge various aspects of the agency’s collection of the charge.

“The settlement process is well underway,” Laredo said. “There has been a

concept of a refund process and payment of fees that will come out of that.”

Laredo said that a judge first must approve and finalize the agreement.

“I’m anticipating by the time of the next water district meeting, we will have the final words of the settlement” to be implemented, Laredo said.

A year’s worth

The district stopped collecting the water supply charge, about \$55 annually for the average bill, after the appellate court decision.

Taxpayers association president Rick Heuer told The Pine Cone that while the court decision isn’t final yet, the refund amount will “most likely” be a “minimum of one year’s worth of what they paid.”

The district said that the average charge was around \$55 per parcel per year.

Once finalized, Heuer said there will be a mailer offering details of the refund.

The court settlement will also require the water district to pay attorney’s fees incurred by the taxpayers association.

Water district general manager Dave Stoldt said this week that his agency has also spent about \$310,000 in legal bills fighting the group over the water charge.

Fake grass, camping on agendas

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE CARMEL City Council will tackle some meaty issues March 3 and 4.

On Monday, the council is set to receive a report on the Carmel Area Wastewater District’s pipeline project, vote on a couple of significant contracts, adopt a policy on social media (see story page 12A), and discuss how agendas are distributed.

The following afternoon, public hearings on the calendar include a request from a property owner at Santa Fe and First to retain planters and other structures built in

the public right of way, a policy banning artificial turf throughout the city, and a new ordinance addressing camping on public lands.

The council will also consider a homeowner’s request to overturn the planning commission’s denial of an application for a metal roof — a much-discussed issue as of late.

Both meetings will begin at 4:30 p.m. and will be held in city hall on Monte Verde and online via Zoom. For more information and complete agenda packets, visit ci.carmel.ca.us.

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4A The Carmel Pine Cone February 28, 2025



Police & Sheriff's Log

Honey, a deer ran into the car

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Carmel area: Report of alleged mental abuse involving a Flanders Drive resident.

Carmel Valley: A female on Robinson Canyon Road was defrauded money through false pretense.

Carmel area: Online report of trespassing on Via Cincindela.

Carmel area: Security guard reported theft of electricity from a light pole in a business parking lot on Carmel Center Place.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle at Second and Monterey was opened and items scattered.

tered. Reported at 0011 hours.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Traffic stop at Carpenter and Serra at 0948 hours. The 27-year-old male driver was on probation and his driving license was suspended. In-field promise to appear in court and released.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Gift card fraud at Seventh and Lincoln.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Theft from a vehicle at Monterey and First.

Pacific Grove: Officers responded to a welfare check at a residence on Pine Circle. Deceased person was discovered inside. Coroner responded.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Pacific Grove: Vehicles at Foret Hill Boulevard and Ransford Avenue marked for 72-hour parking.

See POLICE LOG page 4RE in the Real Estate Section



The gavel falls

Verdicts, pleas and sentencings announced by Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine Pacioni

Jan 28 — Following a three-week trial, a jury convicted Abel Perez, 26, of Salinas, and Ivan Barriga, 21, of Salinas, of murder, conspiracy to commit murder, attempted murder, assault with a semi-automatic firearm, assault with a machine gun, shooting at an occupied dwelling, and several firearm possession offenses. The jury also returned true findings on two special circumstances that alleged Perez and Barriga committed murder by means of lying in wait and in furtherance of a criminal street gang. Both defendants will be sentenced to mandatory life-without-parole sentences. Monterey County Superior Court Judge Rafael Vazquez presided over this trial.

In the morning hours of May 20, 2023, Christian Jimenez and John Doe were working on Jimenez' new car in the parking lot of his Garner Ave. apartment. At 9:55 a.m.,

both defendants, members of Salinas Acosta Plaza, a Salinas-based faction of the Norteño criminal street gang, drove past Jimenez and Doe. They then drove to Barriga's nearby apartment and, though neither Jimenez nor Doe maintained any gang affiliation, Perez and Barriga planned to shoot them. Barriga and Perez then drove past Jimenez' apartment two more times and parked around the corner. Then they walked on foot toward Jimenez' apartment complex where Jimenez and Doe were now seated in Jimenez' car. Defendants fired 33 total rounds in this shooting, 25 of which were fired from a machine gun used by Perez. Their gunfire killed Jimenez, struck Doe, and struck several occupied apartments. One errant round struck

See GAVEL page 21A

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SUSPECT IN FELONY SQUATTING CASE DIES ON DAY OF COURT HEARING

By MARY SCHLEY

THE MAN who was arrested in April 2022 for burglarizing and squatting in an upscale Carmel Highlands home, stealing and totaling the owner’s expensive sports car in a six-car crash, and carjacking a fire chief’s department SUV died the day he was set to appear in court in a preliminary hearing on the long-delayed case, according to the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office.

Kevin Peck, 45, was found dead in a hotel room in Salinas last Thursday morning shortly before 9:45 a.m., according to Sheriff’s Cmdr. Andy Rosas, and the coroner’s office is looking into it.

“I can add that the location was the 17000 block of El Rancho Way in Salinas,” he said. “This case is pending investigation, and no cause has been determined yet. This is pending the results of a toxicology test.”

Peck had appeared with his attorney, Steve Smith, in the Salinas courthouse Feb. 18 for the scheduling of the preliminary hearing, at which the prosecution would lay out the case against him and the judge would determine whether there is sufficient evidence against him to proceed, Monterey County deputy district attorney Elizabeth Johnson confirmed this week.

But when it came time for that hearing to take place Feb. 20, Smith told the DA’s office he had died earlier that day.

Crash, carjacking

Peck spent nearly two years in jail following his arrest on April 9, 2022, at Douglas Bergeron’s vacation home at

Otter Cove. He had broken in, caused a lot of damage and was squatting there when he took Bergeron’s 2007 Aston Martin on a joyride. He ditched the car after totaling it in a crash on Highway 156 and pulled Marina Fire Chief Doug McCoun out of his SUV when the chief, who was off duty, stopped to see if he could help, authorities said at the time.

Peck then returned to the house and hid the SUV on the property, where he was discovered the next morning by Bergeron’s daughter, son-in-law and housekeeper, who called the sheriff’s department.



Kevin Peck

Insanity pleas

A month after he was charged with felony burglary, carjacking and vehicle theft, and misdemeanor hit-and-run, the court began the process of considering whether criminal proceedings should be temporarily or permanently suspended based on Peck’s mental

condition, whether the illness drove his criminal behavior, and whether he would be receptive to treatment.

Ultimately, at a February 2024 hearing, the “defense advised the court that they could not find a program for the defendant that mirrored what the doctor felt was a suitable program,” Kristin Peterson, a victim assistance advocate with the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office, told Bergeron in an email at the time. As a result, he entered pleaded “not guilty by reason of insanity” to the four counts.

See **SQUATTER** page 30A



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Rocky Creek viaduct marks milestone with overnight closure

By CHRIS COUNTS

MOVING ONE step closer to fixing Highway 1 at Rocky Creek — but creating complications for anyone who’s planning a late night drive along the coast — Caltrans announced that the highway will be closed overnight March 6-7, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The overnight closure will give the contractor, Gordon N. Ball Inc. of Walnut Creek, the time and room its workers need to switch vehicle travel along the highway from the northbound lane to the southbound lane. The effort is dependent on good weather, which isn’t certain — some rain has been forecast for next week. “Updates will be provided to confirm or announce any changes to this schedule,” the report continued.

In the hours before the closure, delays at the site will become longer. “Flaggers will begin intermittent traffic control with delays of up to 10 minutes at 8 p.m. before the full closure goes into effect,” Caltrans said.

\$25 million price tag

The work became necessary after a slip-out seriously undermined the southbound lane at Rocky Creek nearly a year ago. The

job is expected to cost taxpayers about \$25 million to complete.

“This switch signals the completion of construction of the southbound viaduct structure and marks an important milestone in repairs at Rocky Creek,” the state roads agency reported. “In upcoming months, crews will continue with repair work focused on construction of the northbound viaduct structure.”

The work at Rocky Creek is anticipated to be completed sometime this summer.

Aside from the upcoming overnight closure, motorists can drive from the Monterey Peninsula to Esalen Institute, and visit most of Big Sur’s many resorts, inns, galleries and parks.

“Travelers are reminded that over 100 miles of Highway 1 on the Big Sur coast remain open and accessible,” Caltrans added. But getting all the way to Cambria has been impossible for more than two years.

One slide to go

Motorists from the south can only reach about two miles north of Lucia, due to the Regent Slide. One of two slides in Big Sur that storms triggered in early February, it was expected be cleared months ago,



For nearly a year, motorists have been traveling exclusively in the north lane at the site where the Rocky Creek viaduct is being built. Now they will drive in the south lane.

PHOTO/CALTRANS

but cracks in the pavement were discovered in August and work was temporarily stopped “due to continuing slide activity in and around the repair site.” It’s uncertain when the road at the Regent Slide will be safe for travel again. Kevin Drabinski of Caltrans told The Pine Cone that the slide is continuing to move at a rate of about

a foot per day, and he noted that recent rains have “accelerated” that movement. Drabinski said excavation continues at the site, but it’s been slowed by the continued movement. He added that Caltrans officials plan to reassess the situation once the rainy season passes. But it’s still too early to say when the slide will be cleared.

NEW RUSTIC CAMPING RULES EXPLORED

By CHRIS COUNTS

LOCALS HAVE long sounded the alarm over the risks posed by visitors camping on public land along dirt roads on Big Sur’s South Coast — where they often create their own campsites on steep land with dense and dry vegetation.

The Ventana Wilderness Alliance — whose volunteers work hard to keep Big Sur’s hiking trails open and safe — has proposed a pilot program that would study the feasibility of creating designated campsites in areas where people have been allowed to camp anywhere they wanted to. While such a pilot program has been tried

elsewhere, it’s never been done along the Big Sur coast.

The United States Forest Service will take the lead on the project, which will be done along 4 miles of Plaskett Ridge Road, a steep route that ascends from Plaskett Creek Campground, which is located on Highway 1 about 60 miles south of Carmel.

Beyond carrying capacity?

Of all the places where people engage in legal dispersed camping — which involves camping on public land outside of a designated campground, and typically with no

See CAMP page 30A



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P.G. park improvement plan questioned

By KELLY NIX

A PLAN by a Pacific Grove non-profit residents' group to beautify two of the city's green spaces was halted by the P.G. City Council last week over questions about the amount of staff time that might be spent on the projects.

Pacific Grove Cares, headed by Peggy Gibbs, proposes to enhance a small triangular parcel at the edge of Caledonia Park on Central Avenue and redo Chase Park West at Lovers Point using money the organization has raised. The idea behind the group, Gibbs explained, is to beautify green spaces that the city cannot because of limited staffing and funds.

"We want to bring people together, cultivate relationships and make beautiful spaces," Gibbs said. "We raise the funds to pay for and do the landscaping, and we use volunteers to maintain the landscaping once it's finished."

A local landscaping company the group has in mind would remove weeds, install drip irrigation systems, plant native California plants and flowers and perform a host of other work. Memorial benches are also planned for both spots.

'More info needed'

The group's proposal has the blessing of P.G. Public Works director Daniel Gho and city manager Matt Mogensen, and it received unanimous approval from the city's beautification and natural resources commission in January. Gibbs said Gho and Mogensen have offered "encouragement, support and guidance" for the idea.

At the Feb. 19 council meeting, though, councilwoman Cynthia Garfield requested the item be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion. While Garfield said she was in favor of the idea, she wanted more detail

on how much staff time might be spent on the projects.

"We've not had a full report on all the things that staff will be doing," Garfield said.

The councilwoman also pointed to unresolved "procedural things," challenged the type of weed barrier proposed and questioned other aspects of the proposal.

In response, Gibbs said her group is not taking any city funds nor having city employees do any hands-on landscape work.

"The only thing the city staff has to do is just approve and oversee that we are doing the right thing," she told the council.

Former P.G. Councilwoman Debby Beck said she didn't see a reason to postpone approval of the work.

"It's unfortunate," Beck said. "We have volunteers who want to beautify their community, and we are moving this down the road."

Several group supporters and members also urged the council to promptly approve the landscaping proposals.

Councilman Chaps Poduri said the "council needs to be made aware of like how much time staff is exactly" being used.

In the end, council members voted unanimously to delay discussion of the group's plan until they had more information.

'Take it on'

On Tuesday morning, Gibbs met with a Pine Cone reporter to show the areas Pacific Grove Cares wants to revitalize.

"This site was on the city's list of to-dos but was something they couldn't get to," Gibbs said, referring to the Caledonia Park space. "So, I said, 'let me take it on.'" It

See **PARK** page 22A

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E-motorcycle chase leads to guns

By MARY SCHLEY

A TEENAGER who used his electric motorcycle to ditch Monterey Police last month ended up leading officers to the Casanova Avenue home of a convicted felon who was arrested Feb. 12 for possessing drugs and more than a dozen illegal guns, according to Lt. Ethan Andrews. Jeffrey Vandervort, 44, was booked into Monterey County Jail but has since been released on bail.

‘Ongoing complaints’

Monterey P.D. has been fielding ongoing complaints about riders of electric motorcycles breaking numerous traffic laws, including riding on sidewalks and the recreation trail, according to Andrews. While e-bikes can be ridden anywhere pedal bikes are allowed and have no licensing requirements, electric motorcycles are larger, faster and can cover greater distances. Just like gas-powered motorcycles, electric versions must be registered with the DMV and insured, and a rider must have a driver’s license with an M1 endorsement.

So when an officer saw a person riding one on the sidewalk in the area of Alvarado Street and Munras Avenue shortly before 4 p.m. Jan. 23, attempts were made to pull

the rider over.

Instead of stopping, however, the motorcyclist fled, riding against traffic on Del Monte Avenue and again on East Franklin Street to get away, according to Andrews. “At one point, the subject nearly struck a pedestrian and drove through the Custom House Plaza, an area known for heavy pedestrian and bicycle traffic,” he said. “The subject passed by multiple officers who had activated their emergency lights and siren and/or yelled for him to stop, but he refused.”

They didn’t catch the rider but later identified him as a 15-year-old male who lives on Casanova. After obtaining a search warrant, officers went to the residence, where they found the teen’s e-motorcycle, on Feb. 12 at around 8 a.m. They seized the bike as evidence and received a court order to impound it for 30 days, since it had been used in a police chase. The teen could be charged with felony evasion, according to Andrews.

Felon in residence

Their visit also led to the discovery of more than a dozen guns, which were not locked up, as required by law. When detectives determined one of the residents

See CHASE page 21A

CAL FIRE, STATE PARKS PLAN BURNS

By MARY SCHLEY

PRESCRIBED BURNS will send up smoke plumes in areas where they are rarely seen and could cause alarm — especially with the recent deadly wildfires in Southern California — so Cal Fire and California State Parks are announcing them well in advance.

Assuming the weather cooperates, the two state agencies will conduct burns in Hatton Canyon, formally known as Ishxenta State Park, over multiple days in March and April, according to Brice Muenzer with Cal Fire.

The fires will be used to remove excess dead vegetation near Highway 1 and Carpenter Street in High Meadows, and the first is set for March 5.

Muenzer explained that the prescribed burns are planned “as part of broader strategic efforts to protect the local community and nearby natural resources,” and are done in collaboration with community and local stakeholders and agencies.

The Hatton burn project is part of the agencies’ work throughout California to reduce fire fuels as required by the state

fire plan and the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan.

“Each operation follows a specialized plan, which considers temperature, humidity, wind, moisture of the vegetation, and conditions for dispersal of smoke,” he explained. “All this information is used to decide when and where to burn.”

Smoke warnings

Muenzer warned that smoke from the burns will be visible and may continue for several days, depending on the size and conditions. It tends to be less intense and lighter than wildfire smoke. If the weather doesn’t cooperate, the burn will be rescheduled.

“Cal Fire is in close consultation with the National Weather Service’s Monterey office and Monterey Bay Air Resources District to ensure that burning takes place in appropriate weather conditions,” he said.

Anyone who wants to be added to the prescribed fire notification list can email BEU.ResourceManagement@fire.ca.gov. More information can be found at readyforwildfire.org.

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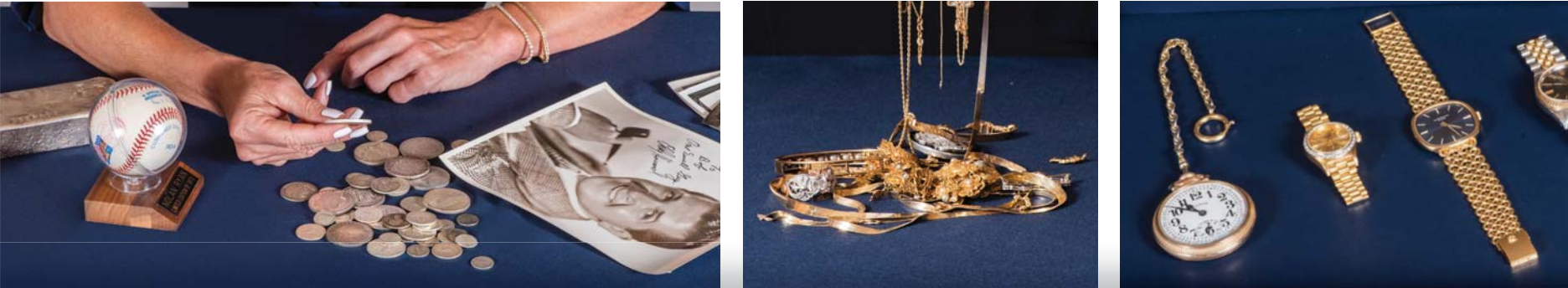
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‘Did you see what the city posted?’

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By MARY SCHLEY

IN A world where billions of people get information from social media platforms, and where everyone, from the president to cat ladies to sports teams, has a presence on them, the City of Carmel is an outlier. It has no Facebook or Instagram accounts, nor does it appear on X.

But, better decades late than never, that might be about to change.

At its special meeting set for March 3, the Carmel City Council will be asked to consider a new policy “establishing guidelines and procedures for the city’s participation in social media and authorizing the city administrator to administer the city’s social media program.”

Administrative analyst Emily Garay researched how other local governments manage their social media accounts, including how they control what information is posted and where, and developed a policy for the city to do the same.

‘Build trust’

“As social media continues to grow in reach and influence, local governments are increasingly using these platforms to deliver services more efficiently, reaching diverse demographic groups and meeting operational goals faster than traditional communication methods may allow,” she says in her report. “By utilizing social media sites such as Facebook, X and Instagram, local governments can engage in meaningful dialogue with the public, share important information, and provide access to essential services by redirecting or linking to official city resources.”

But officials must also protect the integrity of information posted online and be able to control what’s said on their behalf.

“Social media offers a unique opportunity for local governments to improve communication, build trust, promote their work and engage with people who are directly impacted by decisions,” she says. “This policy sets the framework for effective and responsible social media use to strengthen the city’s connection with the community.”

But Insta and X won’t become its primary means of communication, according to Garay. The city’s website will continue to be the go-to place for in-depth information, while social media will be used to “enhance traditional methods of communication to engage with the community and convey

accurate information and updates, where appropriate.”

Dos and don’ts

Not surprisingly, the nine-page policy contains numerous rules on content and what public officials, department heads and city employees are allowed to do online.

In order to comply with the Brown Act, for instance, members of the city council, commissions and boards cannot respond to, react to, share, repost or “otherwise participate in any published postings, or use the site or any form of electronic communication to respond to, blog, or engage in serial meetings, or otherwise discuss, deliberate, or express opinions on any issue within the subject matter jurisdiction of the body.”

The rule includes “posts on personal social media pages that address city business,” and the policy says the city’s official accounts will be subject to the California Public Records Act, the Freedom of

See **SOCIAL** page 18A

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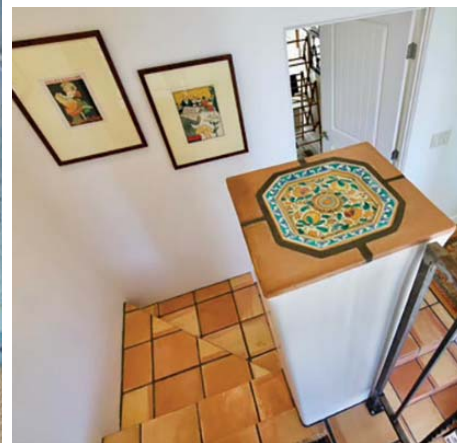
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DESTROYED

From page 1A

living there.

Constructed in 1895, the building once hosted “town hall style meetings, holiday celebrations, birthday parties, dances and grange meetings,” according to Carmel Valley historian Elizabeth Barratt. An early 20th century photo shows it surrounded by nothing but agricultural fields and trees.

Was in poor shape

Unused for many years, the building had fallen into disrepair, and an architect hired by Monterey County described the integrity of the structure as poor.

The building had been in the news because the Carmel Unified School District, which owns it, announced that it wanted to sell it. But the county, which created a task force to study how the building could be preserved, later turned down an offer to buy it.

There was also talk about moving it to another site, but some residents objected, including 5th District Supervisor Kate Daniels, who called it “a wonderful part of Carmel Valley’s history” and suggested it be kept in place.

Sharon Ofek, superintendent for the Carmel Unified School District, said the district is “working closely” with fire officials to determine the cause of the fire.

“Although I am deeply saddened by the loss of the Robinson Canyon Barn, I am thankful that there were no injuries, or loss of life, as a result of this tragedy,” Ofek said. “As fire officials continue their investigation, I am committed to providing updates as new information becomes available or is released.”

‘It’s a very sad day’

As debate continued about what could be done with the historic but decrepit structure, more than 500 people had signed a petition calling for the building to be saved, including resident and task force member Paola Berthoin.

“It’s a very sad day,” Berthoin told The Pine Cone after the fire.

Jeff Ohlson of the Carmel Valley Historical Society said the building “should have been moved, restored and made accessible to the public.” He called its loss “shocking.”

“It was the go-to place at mid-valley and one of the few places where people could get together,” Ohlson said.

The president of the Carmel Valley Association, Mariane Gawain, expressed her sadness over the loss of the building.

“Over the past year-and-a-half, the Carmel Valley

Association had been working to keep the building in place as a reminder of the valley’s rural heritage,” Gawain said. “Now, as we pass a bare triangular plot near the Farm Center, valley residents will mark the old building’s absence with heavy hearts.”

For many locals, including Anna Williams, the building had deep family ties.

“I recently found a card showing that my

great-great-grandparents danced there at the 1896 Washington’s birthday celebration. Miss Anna Hatton’s name was written on Will Martin’s dance card,” Williams said. “Three generations of my family attended events at the club, and my great-grandfather helped build it.”

Williams said the building connected several generations of Carmel Valley residents. “For a little old building, it’s a huge loss,” she added.



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COMPASS

CITY

From page 1A

— including making sidewalks safer by filling the empty tree wells that are frequent tripping hazards and repairing broken areas.

“It’s important that people who come here don’t get injured,” he said, but they do.

To help resolve that, as well as to cure some of the city’s other aesthetic ills and give staff tangible goals, Byrne said he developed a “30/60/90 program.” His plan challenges the department and its tree contractors to get rid of some 600-plus stumps in 30 days, fill all the tree wells — or at least “take a good stab at making them all safe” — within 60 days and, every 90 days, fix three hazardous sections of sidewalk.

That last task, he admitted, can be expensive, at around \$70 per square foot, but the financial pain would be shared. In addition to relying on volunteers, a common refrain of Byrne’s, commercial property owners will be counted on to improve sidewalks downtown.

A municipal code section that’s been on the books for years but is rarely enforced states, “The owner of the adjacent property is responsible for and shall be required to maintain the sidewalk area, including the repair or correction of any hazards or defects, except when the repair is due to damage from tree roots.”

‘Inform and educate’

That’s about to change, Byrne said, with the city notifying property owners of their responsibilities, giving them 90 days to address them, and, if that doesn’t happen, having public works crews or contractors do the work and then making the owners pay for it.

“When I was here on my first offense,” Rerig said, referring to his prior role in the planning department in the late 1990s and 2000s before he went to work for the City of Monterey, building owners always blamed their sidewalk troubles on tree roots, and there hasn’t been much of an appetite for enforcing it.

With more of an appetite now, apparently, the city will revisit the issue, but Rerig said it will be done with a gentle touch. “It’s going to be ‘inform and educate’ before we do anything,” he explained.

Rerig recalled the city’s co-sponsorship with some downtown businesspeople several years ago in which taxpayers and property owners jointly funded sidewalk repairs. “That kind of collaborative effort was really successful,” he said. “That’s a lot more Carmel-like than ‘You do the work or we’re going to bill you.’”

Speaking of downtown, Rerig revealed he agrees with former art gallery owner Richard Kreitman’s argument that too many storefronts in the business district are occupied by real estate firms, which don’t add much to the retail mix.

“I think it takes a little away from the character of the village to have too many,” he said. “We don’t see a lot of people walking down the street and saying, ‘Oh my gosh, I forgot to buy a house today.’”

Rerig expressed interest in seeing if there’s a way to shift real estate offices to the fringe areas of the business district, where a mix of commercial and residential uses buffers the transition to adjacent neighborhoods.

Hard to hire

He also wondered if, at 60-plus, there are too many restaurants in the 1-square-mile town. Officials have reported Carmel has more per capita than any other city in the United States, and some restaurateurs have complained the number is unsustainable.

Rerig and Tomasi mentioned the difficulty of hiring people to work for a place that’s particular in its needs and located in an expensive area of the state.

“There’s not a lot of bench depth,” Rerig said. “We are all working managers,” and finding staff is challenging, especially at the executive level, because Carmel is competing with cities that pay much higher salaries. It took nearly a year to find a replacement for former planning director Brandon Swanson, who was promoted to assistant city administrator, for instance, and the police department is constantly struggling to maintain full staffing.

“We were down six or seven positions to start the year,”

See **HIRING** next page



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STORAGE

From page 1A

business, including CEQA review, he said, “would take years.”

A proposal by PG&E — which has its own battery-storage business near Vistra’s — to expand its operations is still in the preliminary phase, and Vistra has suspended its application to augment its own facility in Moss Landing. But the supervisor said it’s “really important” to make sure “that we keep the discussion local and here, and that the companies don’t utilize AB205 and bypass us completely.”

The supervisors also cited Assemblywoman Dawn Addis’ newly proposed bill, dubbed the Battery Energy Safety & Accountability Act, which would restore local oversight of such energy storage facilities. Church suggested that the county’s recommendations are dependent on its passage.

“The fate of that bill, nobody really knows,” he said. “In 90 days, we are going to have a better idea of what that fate will

be. At that point, we are going to be able to understand exactly what we can do. The last thing I want to do is give direction to staff that in 90 days we find out they can’t fulfill.”

‘Current industry standards’

Daniels said the supervisors are still in the “information-gathering stage” regarding local battery storage operations and the January fire at the Vistra facility, which is adjacent to Highway 1.

“But we do know what we’ve learned so far, that the idea of putting 100,000 modules of batteries inside a building is not a good idea,” Daniels said, adding that her hope is that new and existing battery facilities in California be brought up to “current industry standards.”

She went on to say that there needs to be a way to extinguish battery fires instead of letting them burn themselves out.

“Letting them burn out is not acceptable — that can’t be our solution,” Daniels said. “What fire suppression technology is out there that we can implement in Monterey County to ensure we never have a situation like this again?”

Prunedale resident Ed Mitchell said he supports the ad hoc committee’s demand that any cleanup or future operation must have Vistra demonstrate that those actions can be safely conducted. Mitchell urged

the board to require the energy company to test fire ash samples before the cleanup process and that it complete an environmental impact report before rebuilding the facility.

HIRING

From previous page

said Tomasi, who returned to oversee the department in late 2023 after retiring in 2021 to run security for the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

While competing with higher-paying areas for recruits, Tomasi said he’d much rather employ people who know and care about Carmel than those who are seeking the most money.

“I’m not looking for that — I’m not looking for people who want to get rich or make a lot of money,” he said. “I want

people who want to serve here,” and who understand what that means.

Tomasi said he recently hired three dispatchers and has two officers joining the force. In addition, new Cmdr. Todd Trayer was sworn in a month ago.

Other observations Tomasi shared with the audience included the steep decline in DUI arrests compared with a decade ago, thanks to the emergence of Uber and Lyft, and that new state laws calling for harsher penalties for retail theft are helping the police department to protect downtown.

And all three men said fixing the police station — a project that has been discussed, debated and argued about for eight years — is their top priority.

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HOUSING

From page 1A

the commercial areas.

Among the greater challenges is rewriting the approval process for higher-density residential complexes, according to Waffle. Use permits, which are typically required for developments and other enterprises that a local government deems worthy of additional scrutiny and review — cosmetic stores, restaurants and underground parking in downtown Carmel being some examples — get in the way of building housing complexes, according to the State of California.

“The state has identified that unnecessary use permits create uncertainty for developers and create delays for housing projects,” she said. “So we’ve taken a look at the municipal code where use permits are required and are looking to eliminate that.”

Use permits require additional applications and fees, along with more review and approval findings.

“All of this takes time, and in the world of construction, time is money,” Waffle said. The way to fix that is to get rid of use permits and create objective standards that would “transfer the review and approval authority back to staff.” In other words, planners, not the commission, would approve permits for housing complexes if they satisfy stated requirements.

“That’s certainly the direction the state is heading,” she

said.

While the findings for approval of developments with densities of 33 to 44 units per acre in the multifamily residential district are already clear cut, Waffle noted, projects with the same or higher densities in the commercial zones require more subjective findings, like protection of community character, views, trees, adjacent properties and “neighborhood context.” That will have to change.

Architect Brian Congleton, who opened his public comments with the observation that “this is an exciting time and an exciting subject,” supported that idea not just with regard to housing projects, but in general.

There is a lot of red tape that needs “to be eliminated — the more this can be streamlined, the happier we will all be,” he said. “In general, the increase in permits and paperwork has just been phenomenal in the last five years in this town.”

Carrots, not sticks

The plan requires that incentives be offered to developers of mixed-use projects, such as increasing limits on floor area when they include affordable housing. State law also allows builders to request other concessions, like reduced parking requirements, if they can demonstrate they are necessary to make a project financially feasible.

Architect Adam Jeselnick described the incentives as “a good start.”

“I don’t think they go far enough,” he said. “On a 4,000-square-foot lot, if you get a 5 percent boost in your floor area, that’s 200 square feet,” which is hardly enough



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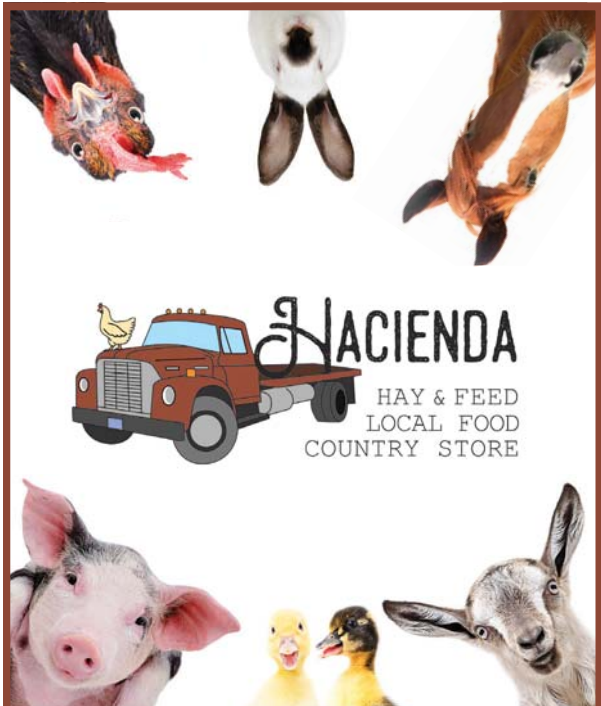
Before it was built in 2009, the Trevett Court 14-unit senior housing complex underwent extensive planning review and numerous hearings. Under new housing laws, it might have been approved over the counter.

to make it work.

Waffle said the code will also need to set a minimum density in the commercial and multifamily districts. Minimum density is zero, but she said it should be set at 33 units per acre in those areas. And while single-family homes are already illegal downtown, they should be banned in the other commercial zones, too.

Continues next page





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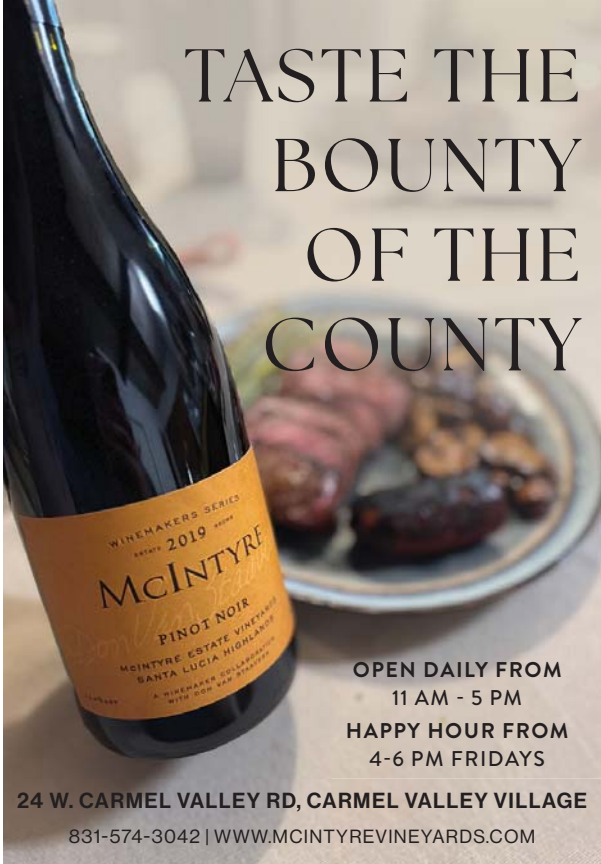
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From previous page

On the hot-button issue of parking, Waffle said, the number of spaces required in housing complexes must be reduced to make construction less expensive.

“When it comes to parking, the programs that speak to it are trying to facilitate more market-rate multifamily housing,” she said. “The housing element isn’t just about affordable housing, it’s about all types of housing.”

‘Up in arms’

And on the other hot-button issue of trees, “the state identified the findings that the forest and beach commission must make when approving the removal of a significant tree as a constraint to the development of multifamily housing,” she said, so the code would be changed to allow a developer to take out a significant tree if it’s necessary to build apartments or condos.

Resident Melanie Billig complained about the sparse attendance at the meeting, and the process and the changes overall, saying they will compromise the city’s character and culture.

“Think about how this community has evolved and if it will really exist as a community after all of this stuff that you are going to accept, and what that’s also going to do to everyone’s property values,” she said. “Once you have done all of this, there are plenty of people who will rise up in arms.”

She also complained at length about parking, including the difficulty of finding spaces downtown.

Some of the commissioners’ comments were more existential, too. Stefan Karapetkov suggested planning for types of affordable housing that will attract younger families.

“From that, we can figure out what policies to put in place to create housing for that particular type of a persona,” he said, such as units that are large enough for couples with kids, as opposed to smaller

apartments for seniors.

Commissioner Erin Allen also wanted to focus on the broader end game.

“I love the concept that we need a vibrant community, obviously, and we need to stay exciting and high energy, and the way to do that is to bring in young people,” she said. “I just don’t know if we have the infrastructure for that, and we’re not talking about that.”

She said that should be part of the conversation.

Allen recommended a conservative route when it comes to increasing densities and reducing parking, and she wanted assurance the changes won’t exceed what the state requires. She also requested more meetings, conversations and housing data.

Chair Michael LePage said that, controversy aside, the housing element has already determined what kind of units the city is committed to enabling, and it’s entirely based on income level, not the type of person.

In summary

He summarized the feedback from commissioners and the public, including whether the definition of employee housing can be expanded beyond the restriction to agricultural workers, that incentives don’t go far enough, the desire for more clarity on density bonuses and concessions and parity with the state’s rules, and more explanations of income requirements for various types of housing. In addition, there should be more debate about getting rid of use permits.

“It will be an ongoing conversation,” Waffle promised, since the plan contains a lot of deadlines and action items.

“All communities are constantly changing, but I think what Carmel does and which is helpful is that we are very actively involved in directing that change, and a lot of communities aren’t,” LePage concluded. “I think Carmel is very actively involved in trying to direct change that protects our architectural and community heritage but also meets the challenges that we currently have to deal with.”

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SUSAN CAROL BAXTER

July 4, 1948 ♦ Jan. 10, 2025
Native of Lodi, California

A private committal was held in Soquel, California, for Susan Baxter, who passed to be with her Lord. Susan attended Oak View Elementary and graduated from Galt High School and had a passion for horses. She began a career as an interior designer that spanned more than 40 years.



Susan will be remembered as a true renaissance woman, who loved outdoors, horseback riding, good wine and designing. She started her career at Newfield’s in Lodi and then moved to the Bay Area where she worked with several design companies including Ralph Lauren, Flegel’s and One Work Place. She also worked at the San Jose Business Journal.

Susan resided in Carmel Valley for several years. She retired to Aiken, South Carolina which is a horse lover’s haven. Susan recently moved back to California to be near her family when she was diagnosed with Spindle Cell Sarcoma.

Spindle Cell Sarcoma is a rare cancer that she took on full force with bravery and grace.

She is survived by her mother, Goldie Baxter Hulsey; and her husband, Jim; her sisters, Janet Haggett, Shari Williams (Rolly), Katherine Adams and Karen Martell; brother-in-law, Greg Martell; and her brothers, Joe Baxter and Rod Neves (Liz). She also leaves many beloved nieces, nephews, extended family and countless friends and colleagues that she felt blessed to have in her life.

Susan was preceded in death by her father, Joe Baxter, and her brother “Sonny” Baxter.

A Memorial service will begin at 11 a.m.
Saturday, March 8, 2025:
St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church
28005 Robinson Canyon Road
Carmel, CA 93923

“Sharing lots of happy times,
and sometimes sharing tears,
But always leaning on each other,
together through the years.”

In lieu of flowers please consider donating
in Susan’s name to

Hope, Horses & Kids
710 Old Stage Road
Salinas, CA 93908

Hospice of Santa Cruz County
940 Disc Drive
Scotts Valley, CA 95066

Walnut Avenue Family & Women’s Center
303 Walnut Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SOCIAL

From page 12A

Information Act, subpoenas and court orders.

Posts can’t contain personal information, including photos and memes, information that could compromise safety or security, “comments or content that are off-subject or out of context, comments or content not related to

RICHARD W. HILLBUN III

Born March 2, 1955 • Died Jan. 14, 2025
Age 69

Richard was born in Monterey and graduated from Monterey High. He resided in Carmel for the last 45 years. After high school, Richard enlisted in the U.S. Air Force where he spent the next four years. Upon return he served six years in the California Army National Guard.

On the civilian side Richard worked at his mother’s business, the Tuck Box Restaurant in Carmel-by-the-Sea, while attending paramedic school. After graduating he worked as a paramedic for years with AMR.

Richard is preceded in death by his father, Harvey J. Hillbun; mother, Aleen V. Hillbun (Bisbo); and, sister, Gail A. Hillbun.

His memorial service will begin promptly
at 2 p.m. on May 9, 2025,
at the California Central Coast
Veterans Cemetery.

the business of the city, including random or unintelligible comments,” not to mention political opinions, profanity, sexual content, discrimination, solicitation of commerce, promotion of illegal activities, or copyrighted material.

City attorney Brian Pierik reviewed the policy and approved it, according to Garay, who is recommending that the council do the same. The meeting will be held in city hall on Monte Verde south of Ocean at 4:30 p.m. It can also be viewed online. For a full agenda and information on how to participate, visit ci.carmel.ca.us.

RODNEY FRANCIS O’NEILL

Formerly of Carmel Valley
Ranch.

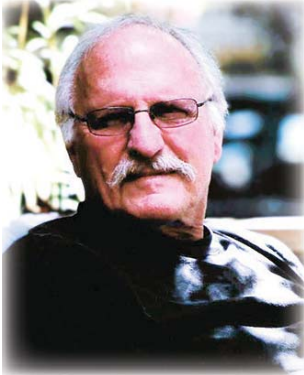
Passed away peacefully on
February 20th, 2025,
aged 81 years.

Much-loved husband of
Gwenda-Gaye, loving father
of Nicole and Danielle.
Father-in-law to Stuart and
Paul. Grandfather (Pies) to
Sol and Tian.

It was Rod’s wish
for a private cremation.

SALVATORE PETER MAIORANA

Monterey, CA – Salvatore Peter Maiorana, 85, peacefully passed away on February 7, 2025, in Monterey, CA. Born on September 18, 1939, to Salvatore and Leonora (Onorato) Maiorana, he was a lifelong resident of the area.



Salvatore attended Monterey High School, where he excelled as an athlete in football, basketball and track and field. Growing up in a fishing family, he spent much of his youth on the ocean, fishing with his father and relatives. He later became a general building contractor, specializing in custom homes across the Monterey Peninsula.

In his later years, Salvatore continued to enjoy sport fishing on Monterey Bay, always in pursuit of “the big one.” He also cherished family trips, including camping, skiing, and vacations to Europe and Hawaii.

Salvatore is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Patricia; three daughters, Cathy (David) Wada of Stateline, NV, Joyce (Jack) Karavelas of Saugus, Massachusetts, and Sally (Mark) Maiorana of New Boston, New Hampshire; and two sons, Salvatore Maiorana Jr. of Camarillo,

CA, and Vince (Vanessa) Maiorana of Carmel, CA. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Paul and Marc Wada, William and James Maiorana, William Petto; and great-granddaughters, Jaime and Emma Wada as well as his sister, Joanne Parent of Monterey, plus numerous relatives and dear friends.

Salvatore was preceded in death by his parents, siblings Anita Ferrante, Teresa Davis, Phyllis Genovese, and his twin brother, Michael.

In accordance with his wishes, no services will be held.

ROBERT CHARLES PALMER

Sept. 7, 1939 ♦ Feb. 11, 2025

Robert Charles Palmer, born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to Robert Guy Palmer and Alverna Miller, passed away peacefully on Feb. 11, 2025, surrounded by dear friends. From an early age, his insatiable curiosity and love for the arts shone brightly during long hours at a small-town cinema with his father. A proud US Navy veteran (1962-1964), his service sparked a passion for foreign travel and diverse cultures.

After years of exploring the world, Robert made California his home. In downtown Carmel, he met his beloved partner, Rita Nelson, in a quaint card shop, beginning a 30-year union marked by shared adventures and compassion, including nurturing a tradition of feeding and sheltering stray cats – a legacy that endured beyond Rita’s passing in 2010.

Robert delighted in the simple pleasures of life – a satisfying sandwich or burger, wholesome meals from his favorite local spots, peaceful walks, and long afternoons spent with his circle of friends – far too numerous to list – at PG Bookworks and the coffee shop, where he enjoyed sunny days, shared stories, and even handed out candies.

He is survived by cousin John “Jack” Palmer, nephew Warren Algood and cousin David Palmer.

A memorial service will begin at 3 p.m. March 9, 2025, at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula or the Pacific Grove Library.



Marian Lorraine Perkins Pina

1929-2025

Marian was the third child of Thomas Vermont Perkins and Mabel Josephine Carey. She was born April 8, 1929, in Mishawaka, IN and left her earthly world Jan. 18, 2025, at her home at Josselyn Canyon Road, Monterey, CA.



The family moved to the Monterey Peninsula in 1930. Marian was a graduate of Monterey High School (Class of 1948). She married her late husband, George Pina, Sept. 3, 1949, in Hollister, CA. They had five boys, Gary Allen (1952) and Robin (1958), who preceded her in death as infants. She is survived by her three sons, Roy (Barbara) of Monterey, CA, John (Michele) of Sparks, NV and Mark (Cathy) of Poway, CA. Along with the passing of her husband, George (2018) and her two boys, Marian was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Thomas and Roy Perkins; a sister, Dorothy; a half-brother, Edward Perkins; and a half-sister, Maxine Chamberlain. She is survived by her brother, John Perkins; and half-sister, Carole Brummet and half-brother, Danny Perkins. Also surviving are nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews and everyone who adopted her as their Grandma.

Her memorial service will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 7, 2025, at Shoreline Church, 2500 Garden Road, Monterey, CA 93940.

To place an obituary for your loved one, contact anne@carmelpinecone.com or (831) 274-8654

THOMAS CAMERON BRANT

March 9, 1980 – Feb. 3, 2025

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Thomas Cameron Brant on February 3, 2025, in Austin, Texas.

Tommy was born in Stamford, Connecticut, on March 9, 1980, the middle child of Gary and Ingrid Brant. His early years were spent in Stamford and Chicago, where his father worked for Owens-Illinois, Inc. In 1985, the family moved to the Monterey Peninsula. After settling in Carmel Valley, Tommy, his older brother, Christopher, and younger brother, Alexander, all attended Stevenson School.



Tommy was a gifted athlete and excelled in all sports, particularly football. He was a quarterback in high school and then went on to become quarterback at Monterey Peninsula College and later at Cal Lutheran University. Golf, too, was a favorite sport, and he later moved to Phoenix, where he attended The Golf Academy of America and earned a degree in Golf Operations and Management. Many of his happiest days were spent on the golf course, either coaching or simply enjoying the game with friends.

Everyone who knew Tommy loved him. He had a zest for life, a huge smile, and an incredible sense of humor — both his timing and repartee were unrivaled among family and friends. He was kind to all, especially those who needed help. Tommy adored children, particularly his youngest niece, Lily. He also loved dogs; in fact, several rescue dogs ended up in the Brant home over the years, the last of whom, Nellie, is still cosseted by them.

There were many family trips as he and his brothers grew up. Yearly ski adventures to places like Lake Tahoe, Mt. Bachelor and Whistler. Visits with cousins in Santa Rosa — always rambunctious and fun — and a special one with their father, a private pilot, who flew the boys to the three different cities across the country where each was born, so as to not forget them.

Tommy was also happy to hold dual Australian citizenship through his mother, Ingrid, who was born and raised there. Over the years, he took numerous trips to visit his grandparents and other Barton relatives, where he learned more about his family history and embraced true Aussie culture.

Family and friends were the center of Tommy's world — his most cherished treasures. He valued these relationships above all else, and nothing compared to the joy he found in spending time with his brothers. Whether they were cheering on the 49ers or engaging in playful mischief, every moment together was a precious memory.

Tommy is survived by his loving parents, Gary and Ingrid Brant; his brothers, Christopher (wife Meredith) and Alexander (wife Ala); his nieces, Alisa and Lilian; his aunts, Karen White and Irene Macmorran; and his cousins, John Hanahan, Rafe Hanahan, Elizabeth Luskey and Paul Macmorran, along with their families. He also leaves behind his best friend, Jennifer Gomez of Dallas, whose loyalty and generosity can never be measured.

"A beautiful soul who left this world too soon."

A Celebration of Life will begin at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 16, 2025, at Mission Ranch, Carmel.



HARRIET MITTELDORF

Harriet Mitteldorf died in her sleep early Tuesday morning, Feb. 18. From her home and business in New Jersey, she retired to Pebble Beach in 1984, and has lived as a prominent and active member of our community for the remainder of her long life. She was 102.

Harriet was a feminist before her time, the first woman in her family to attend college and pursue a professional career. She had a physics degree and identified as a scientist. Though she was born Jewish, Nature was her religion in adult life; she found wonder in the stars and in the redwood groves. She is known locally as a philanthropist and persistent activist for conservation, for the environment, for access to contraception and for limits to growth.

She shared her business acumen as a SCORE counselor, and she was a board member at Planned Parenthood, Zero Population Growth and the Sierra Club Population Committee. She was a founding sponsor of the Monterey Bay Aquarium in 1984. Harriet had a long association with Pacific Repertory Theater in Carmel, and they awarded her a Golden Ticket when she retired from their board.

Physically fit and active, she would hike regularly with the Sierra Club and swim at Spanish Bay until a stroke set her back in her 96th year. For many years, she could be found each afternoon with her dog, Tillie, walking on the beach or in Del Monte Forest.

Harriet grew up in Bronx, New York to a first-generation American family. Independent from an early age, she earned pocket money in high school working as a retail clerk in Manhattan. She continued to work, supporting her tuition and expenses at Hunter College, and graduated in 1943. After college, her physics degree was a valuable asset for the war effort, and she worked on radar systems at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. Her work was compartmentalized and secret under the broad umbrella of the Manhattan Project.

After the war, she met her lifelong partner, Arthur Jacob Mitteldorf of Brooklyn. Arthur had a disability from polio, and Harriet's father opposed the marriage. Free thinkers Arthur and Harriet eloped and were married in 1947.

For several years, Arthur was a traveling salesman for scientific products, and his travel schedule was hard on the young couple. Harriet stayed home with two small boys. Then, in 1955, the couple founded Spex Industries, selling chemical supplies to government and university labs.

Supported by the expansion of science in the era of Sputnik, the business grew steadily under Arthur and Harriet's leadership. From the perspective of today's hyper-competitive business environment, it is heartening to recall a time when honest businesses could grow organically, based on a generous relationship with loyal employees and a commitment to listen to individual customers and respond to their needs. Arthur and Harriet built their business in this old-fashioned way, without leverage or venture capital or IPOs. Sales and personnel expanded steadily for 28 years. By 1983, Spex had more than 200 employees and a cutting edge manufacturing facility, making precision optical spectrometers, hand-adjusted in the final steps, of the highest quality in the world.

Spex sold their analytic tools internationally to the most demanding university laboratories. When scientists in São Paulo and Beijing and Budapest sought the precision of Spex instrumentation, the couple was pleased to have travel opportunities, year after year. They forged lasting friendships with scientists in Russia, Europe, Japan, China and South America.

In 1983, the computer age met the scientific world head-on. Harriet and Arthur realized that a new kind of expertise was needed for a new generation of computerized optical equipment. Rather than retool the company themselves, they sold their business, drove across the country, and settled in Pebble Beach.

A permanent tribute to Arthur and Harriet's generosity is the Mitteldorf Preserve in Carmel Valley. A square mile of forest and hillside includes a major redwood grove with the largest redwood in Monterey County. It was purchased by the Big Sur Land Trust with funds provided by the Mitteldorfs, who were recent arrivals in 1985.

Harriet was also generous with her family, and believed in the value of higher education. She contributed college tuition for two sons, four granddaughters and five nieces and nephews. In later years, Harriet pulled the wider family together for warm family gatherings in Pacific Grove.

During her final years, she was bed-bound, but able to stay in her home through loving, round-the-clock care provided by Maria Chiquito and Carmen Cardenas. Harriet is survived by her two sons, Josh Mitteldorf of Philadelphia, PA and Bruce Mitteldorf of Forestville, CA. She has four granddaughters, Sarah May Mitteldorf, Madeline Lee Ballard, Shona Okamoto Mitteldorf and Liana Okamoto Mitteldorf; and one great-grandson, Bodin Arthur Randall-Mitteldorf.

A memorial service will be held in April — date to be announced.

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250203
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **SEASIDE CHEVROLET, 1735 Auto Center Parkway, Seaside, CA 93955.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: GAF MONTEREY INC., P.O. Box 1431, Visalia, CA 93279.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Ana Lilia Duran Okumura
Date signed: Feb. 18, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 18, 2025.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2025 (PC 237)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250342
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MOBILE AUTO CARE, 200 Fred Kane Dr., Suite 106, Monterey, CA 93940.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s): GAVIN D. BROWN, 1811 Prune St., Hollister, CA 95023.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 18, 2025.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Gavin D. Brown
Date signed: Feb. 18, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 18, 2025.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Feb. 21, 28, March 7, 14, 2025. (PC 234)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250285
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **Routed.Growing.Resilient.®, 2814 Raccoon Trail, Del Monte Forest, CA 93953.**
Registered Owner(s): JEAN CHENG GORMAN, 680 Light-house Avenue #52055, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Aug. 1, 2024.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Jean Cheng Gorman
Date signed: Feb. 7, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 7, 2025.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Feb. 21, 28, March 7, 14, 2025 (PC 235)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250341
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **1. SCOOP SQUAD MONTEREY 2. VERIFIED IDENTITY PRINTS 486 Sloat Ave., Monterey, CA 93940.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s): RHOMMEL DELA CRUZ LOPEZ
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Rhommel Lopez
Date signed: Feb. 18, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 18, 2025.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2025 (PC 236)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250337
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **LILI'S, 1473 E. Alisal St., Salinas, CA 93905.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s): ANA LILIA DURAN OKUMURA
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or

names listed above on N/A.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Ana Lilia Duran Okumura
Date signed: Feb. 18, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 18, 2025.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2025 (PC 237)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250342
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MOBILE AUTO CARE, 200 Fred Kane Dr., Suite 106, Monterey, CA 93940.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s): GAVIN D. BROWN, 1811 Prune St., Hollister, CA 95023.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 18, 2025.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Gavin D. Brown
Date signed: Feb. 18, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 18, 2025.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2025 (PC 238)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250332
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CASTROVILLE PHARMACY, 10685 MERRITT ST, CASTROVILLE, CA 95012** County of MONTEREY
Registrant(s): CASTROVILLE HEALTHCARE INC, 15859 CALISTOGA AVE, BAKERS-FIELD, CA 93314
This business is conducted by a Corporation
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
CASTROVILLE HEALTHCARE INC
S/ RAJESH KHOSLA, CEO
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 02/14/2025.
2/28, 3/7 3/14, 3/21/25
CNS-3898200#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2025. (PC 239)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250327
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MEDRANOS, 1147 Raven Ct., Salinas, CA 93905.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s): ESTHER MEDRANO.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Esther Medrano
Date signed: Feb. 14, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 14, 2025.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2025 (PC 240)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250360
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **FABI'S DAYCARE, 613 Roos-evelt St., Salinas, CA 93905.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s): FABIOLA RAMIREZ MARTINEZ.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 20, 2025.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Fabiola Ramirez Martinez
Date signed: Feb. 20, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 20, 2025.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2025 (PC 241)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250275
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **WAVES OF CHANGE COUN-SELING SERVICES BY KILSIS, 116 Mervine Street, Monterey, CA 93940.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s): KILSIS JULIA TUGORES, 565 Hartnell St., Monterey 1093, Monterey, CA 93940.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 6, 2025.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Kilsis Julia Tugores
Date signed: Feb. 6, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 6, 2025.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2025 (PC 242)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250230
Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CANDY JP DISTRIBUTIONS, 12081 Rogge Village Loop, Apt. E.37, Salinas, CA 93906.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: J & L 090507 DISTRIBUTION LLC.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 15, 2015.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor or punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).
S/Jamil Piedra Salomon, Manager
Date: Jan. 10, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 10, 2025.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2025. (PC 243)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250361
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **DAYDREAM PASTRY CRE-ATIONS, 515 Front St. (Back Space), Soledad, CA 93960.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: DAYDREAM PASTRY CREATIONS, LLC, 17 Walker Lane, Greenfield, CA 93927.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).
S/Cinthia K. Duarte, Member
Date: Feb. 20, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 20, 2025.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2025. (PC 244)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 25CV001008
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, SUSAN ANITA LEWIS, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
A. Present name: SUSAN ANITA LEWIS
Proposed name: SUSAN LITTLE SPARROW
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name change described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
DATE: April 15, 2025
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
DEPT: 14
The address of the court is 1200 Agua-jito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: *The Carmel Pine Cone.*
(s) Thomas W. Wills
Judge of the Superior Court
Date filed: Feb. 20, 2025
Publication Dates: Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2025. (PC 245)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250371
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MOSES DISTRO, 804 Garner Ave, Salinas, CA 93905.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s): MUTZ SALIH, 271 E. Workman St., Ste 106, Covina, CA 91723.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 15, 2025.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Mutz Salih
Date signed: Feb. 4, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 0, 2025.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2025 (PC 246)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250381
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **EL PATRON AUTO DETAILING, 3109 Seacrest Ave, Apt. 04, Marina, CA 93933.**
Registered Owner(s): CHRIS ECHEVERRIA VALDEZ.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact busi-

ness under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Nov. 19, 2019.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Chris Echeverria Valdez
Date signed: Feb. 21, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 21, 2025.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2025 (PC 248)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250383
Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CAMELLIA APARTMENTS, 145 Camellia Way, Modesto, CA 95354.**
County of Principal Place of Business: STANISLAUS.
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: THE BYERLY FAMILY TRUST, 3101 Hacienda Drive, Pebble Beach, CA 93953.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a trust.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 30, 2025.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).
S/Susan Alene Byerly
Date: Feb. 24, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 24, 2025.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2025. (PC 249)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250279
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **ANGUIANO PILAR CLEANING SERVICES, 11120 Haight St., Castroville, CA 95012.**
Registered Owner(s): PILAR ANGUIANO FARIAS.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 7, 2025.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Pilar Anguiano Farias
Date signed: Feb. 7, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 7, 2025.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2025 (PC 250)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250388
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **HKC PROTECTIVE SERVICES, 1263 Elm Ave., Seaside, CA 93955.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: HKC ENTERPRISES INC.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 24, 2025.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).
S/Hector Francisco Cardenas
Date: Jan. 24, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Jan. 24, 2025.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2025. (PC 251)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 25CV001063
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, THEODORE ANSEL THOENY aka ANSEL THEODORE THOENY, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
A. Present name: THEODORE ANSEL THOENY aka ANSEL THEODORE THOENY
Proposed name: ANSEL THEODORE THOENY
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name change described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
DATE: April 22, 2025
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
DEPT: 14
The address of the court is 1200 Agua-jito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: *The Carmel Pine Cone.*
(s) Thomas W. Wills
Judge of the Superior Court
Date filed: Feb. 25, 2025
Publication Dates: Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2025. (PC 252)

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From page 10A

The arrest alarmed some nearby

As of this week, according to Monterey County Superior Court records, the case against Vandervort had not yet been filed. Andrews and Monterey County Chief Assistant District Attorney Berkley Brannon speculated that's because he made bail, which extended the timeframe.

The Monterey County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting numerous SAP members for offenses uncovered during Operation Dead End.

From page 4A

Detective Pedro Gomez led Salinas Police Department's investigation into this shooting. Detectives Byron Gansen, Robert Miller, Ermelinda Reyes and Austin Scaggs assisted the investigation. Salinas Police

**Pacific
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PRICES

From page 1A

sustainability, especially in the face of rising operational costs and reduced government reimbursement,” Mindy Maschmeyer, director of marketing and communications for Montage Health, told The Pine Cone Thursday.

Maschmeyer said that Montage “deeply cares about the affordability and transparency of the care” it offers and is fully compliant with federal guidelines.

Compare prices

While Montage offers resources for patients to estimate the cost of healthcare services, it notes that “pricing estimates may change, and the amount you or your insurance provider pays may be higher or lower than the estimate.”

Specific costs for some healthcare services and procedures are listed under the section “Standard Hospital Charges” on the montagehealth.org website, Maschmeyer said.

The Trump administration said the order also seeks to “take action to make prices comparable across hospitals and insurers, including prescription drug prices.”

“The departments will update their enforcement policies to ensure hospitals and insurers are in compliance with requirements to make prices transparent,” according to the president’s order.

When healthcare prices are hidden, Trump contends that corporate entities like hospitals and insurance companies “benefit at the expense of American patients.”

Transparency in pricing, he said, will lower healthcare costs and “help patients and employers get the best deal on healthcare.” Meanwhile, prices for healthcare and health insurance continue to rise steeply.

To demonstrate how pricing varies widely from hospital to hospital in the same area, the president pointed to a Wisconsin patient who saved \$1,095 by shopping for two tests at two hospitals located within 30 minutes of one another.

Broader impact

An economic analysis, Trump said, found that his original price transparency rules, if fully implemented, could have saved \$80 billion for consumers, employers and insurers by 2025.

Maschmeyer said while Montage supports efforts to make healthcare “affordable for all,” it believes that federal policies should “consider the broader impact on non-profit hospitals and the services they provide.”

“We remain committed to working collaboratively with policymakers and stakeholders to ensure that our community continues to receive the best care possible without compromising the financial health of the hospitals that serve them,” she said.

PARK

From page 9A

was the same with Chase Park West.”

Pacific Grove Cares — of which Carmel Mayor Dale Byrne, the cofounder of Carmel Cares, is a board member — has raised about \$27,500 since its inception in September 2024 and is seeking about \$50,000 for both projects in case of unexpected costs, inflation, etc.

Pacific Grove resident and philanthropist Richard Stillwell had asked the city to revitalize the area at the edge of Caledonia Park, which includes a memorial sign bearing his late son Tommy’s name, but the city at the time did not have the funds or staffing to do it.

“Dan Gho told me about it and suggested we do that space,” Gibbs said.

City approved

At Chase Park West, Gibbs said they hope to restore an original stone pathway, plant flowers and perform other work. Across the street from the small park is Chase Park East, which was revitalized in 2020 by a different community group which also raised funds for the effort.

As for the type of weed barrier Garfield took issue with, Gibbs said it’s the same as what the city uses in its landscaping projects.

For information Pacific Grove Cares or to donate, go to pacificgrovecares.org.



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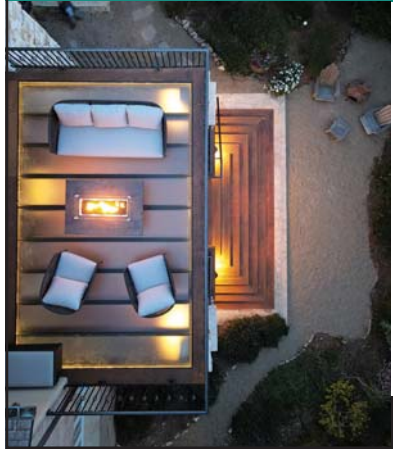
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Padres advance to semifinals, Pirates reach the end of the road

CARMEL LAUNCHED its pursuit of a second consecutive Central Coast Section Division 4 boys basketball crown Tuesday night, winning a home court thriller over Soquel 47-42 in the playoffs’ quarterfinal round.

The second-seeded Padres advanced in the 16-team bracket to play No. 3 Half Moon Bay (a 66-59 quarterfi-

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

nal winner over Pacific Grove) in Thursday’s semifinals at Carmel High.

The CCS Division 4 championship game will be played Saturday at Mission College or Santa Clara High (time and venue to be announced). Access the “Playoffs” tab at cifccs.org for details.

The Padres (19-5 after Tuesday’s victory) held a 1-point lead with 30 seconds remaining when Marcus Togneri hit two clutch free throws, then secured the triumph when Ty Arnold stole a pass with eight seconds left and scored on a layup.

All of the aforementioned players are seniors.

Carmel was led by Hudson Rutherford, who scored 15 points, and Warren Blut, who contributed 14. The Padres



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Marcus Togneri, right, hit two high-pressure foul shots with 30 seconds remaining to extend Carmel’s 1-point lead, then Ty Arnold stole a pass and scored a layup with eight seconds left to preserve the win.

won the Pacific Coast Athletic League’s Gabilan Division championship this season with a 12-2 record. They are 14-1 overall since Jan. 9.

Pirates disappointed twice

Two playoff teams at Stevenson School reached the end of an otherwise magical road in the cruelest of ways on Saturday, losing in overtime.

Stevenson’s girls basketball team improbably achieved a 20-6 record (including Friday’s first-round CCS Division 4 victory over Marina) with a roster overstocked with freshmen and sophomores.

Their run ended Saturday night with a 54-50 overtime loss at Pacific Grove, the 15th victory in the last 16 games for the Breakers.

Earlier that same day, the Pirates’ girls soccer team endured a similar heartbreak on their home field, losing 2-1 in two overtimes to Rancho San Juan — a major disappointment for nine Stevenson seniors.

Winless vs. P.G., North County

“We lost six times this year, and we were 0-5 against two teams. Pacific Grove beat us three times, and North Monterey County beat us twice,” lamented Stevenson basketball coach Justin Clymo, whose Pirates placed third, behind those two opponents, in the Pacific Coast Athletic League’s Mission Division standings.

“We were down 12 points at one point on Saturday, went on a 14-0 run, took the lead briefly in the fourth quarter, then it was neck-and-neck from there into the last minute of the overtime. We just scrapped it out,” said the coach.

“I can’t even tell you the actual sequence of events at the end of the game,” he said. “I haven’t looked at the box score or the stats or the film.”

Stevenson’s top two scorers against Pacific Grove were Kobie Crutcher, a freshman, who tallied 16 points, and Peyton Sanchez, a sophomore, who scored 10.

In fact, the 10-player rotation of players who see the most action for the Pirates includes freshmen Crutcher (16.1 points, 4.7 rebounds, 3.7 assists, 3.0 steals per game), Maria Hall and



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Hudson Rutherford, with the ball, and Warren Blut, No. 3, combined for 29 points in Tuesday’s thrilling playoff victory over Soquel. Rutherford led CHS scorers with 15 points.

Caroline Bufkin, sophomores Sanchez (8.2 points, 5.2 rebounds, 1.1 steals, 1.0 blocked shots), Ashley Dalhamer (4.9 points, 5.3 rebounds, 1.9 steals) and Audrina Malate, and juniors Jesse Chen (10.2 points, 4.7 points, 1.9 assists, 1.8 steals) and Molly McAfee.

The secret sauce, said Clymo, has been the senior leadership of playmaker and defensive pit bull Grace Ishii (2.6 assists, 2.7 steals) and Sabrina Hardin (3.8 points, 5.0 rebounds, 1.3 steals).

“Those two planted a bunch of seeds that led to a lot of the growth we saw this year from the younger players,” he said.

The 20-win season is a source of pride but could have been much better.

“Those five losses against P.G. and North County speak to the importance of players who are older, more seasoned, and more physical,” Clymo said. “Their seniors were going against our freshmen and sophomores, and experiential things came into play.”

Pirates fall in overtimes

Stevenson and Rancho San Juan fought to a 1-1 tie through 80 minutes of regulation time Saturday, then

See **SPORTS** next page

Carmel Beach Coastal Hazards

Across California, coastal communities are facing rising sea levels and increasingly severe winter storms. At Carmel Beach, coastal hazards include cliff and dune erosion, beach narrowing (primarily during winter months), and degradation of existing seawalls— challenges that will likely grow over time. To address these growing risks, the City is updating the Coastal Hazards section of its Local Coastal Program (LCP). This land use planning document guides development, resource protection and adaptation strategies within Carmel-by-the-Sea. By incorporating new policies and regulations, the City aims to strengthen coastal resilience, protect critical infrastructure, and maintain a wide sandy beach to the highest degree possible given rising sea levels and increasing coastal hazards.

Learn More and Get Involved

Are you interested in learning more about specific adaptation strategies for Carmel Beach?
Join us at these upcoming meetings to hear from the City’s consultant coastal geomorphologist:

- **Planning Commission Meeting**
MARCH 12, 2025 AT 4:00 PM
- **Forest and Beach Commission Meeting**
MARCH 13, 2025 AT 2:30 PM



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www.Californiacoastline.org

We Need Your Input! Community voices are essential in this process.

Take the Carmel Beach Sea Level Rise Survey – it only takes 6-8 minutes and your responses will help inform key City policies.

- Scan the QR code on the left to access the survey or go to the City website <https://ci.carmel.ca.us/post/coastal-adaptation-project-sea-level-rise-update>
- Paper copies are available at the Post Office, City Hall, Public Works, and City libraries and can be returned to Public Works.

Contact Public Works @
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SPORTS

From previous page

battled for 19 additional minutes in the CCS Division 5 girls soccer quarterfinals. But the Trailblazers broke the deadlock with a minute left in the second overtime period, scoring the goal that ended the Pirates’ season, 2-1, in Pebble Beach. “It was a hot day. The girls really ran hard and gave everything,” said Phillip Koshi. “Rancho San Juan finally got the ball into the box. It kind of jumbled around a little bit, landed at the girl’s feet, and she was able to put it into the goal about a minute before we would’ve gone to penalty kicks.” The game-winner was the second goal of the game for Rancho senior Karina Vargas, who gave the Trailblazers a 1-0 lead in the first half.

‘Competitive’
Stevenson’s Ava Edwards dramatically tied the score with just 10 minutes left on an assist from fellow senior Macey Torres, then goalkeeper Georgia Bonifas teamed with the Pirates’ back-line defenders to force the overtime. “I haven’t looked at our stats, but Georgia had at least 15 saves in the game — probably closer to 20,” Koshi said. “Georgia and our defense played really hard to keep us competitive against a team that played two leagues above us this year in the PCAL.” The roster lists nine seniors who played their final soccer game for Stevenson, a team that won this year’s Cypress Division crown with an 8-1 record and five ties. The Pirates went 10-3-6 overall.

Five juniors, five sophomores, and two freshmen are eligible to return for the Pirates next season.

■ Pirates 2nd at state regatta

Four Stevenson sailors earned second place Saturday and Sunday in the Silver Division of the annual Golden Bear Regatta at the Encinal Yacht Club on Alameda Island. Marc Cheung, a freshman, and sophomore Patrick O’Hara competed in five A Fleet races, alternating with junior Claire Lee, Tommy O’Hara, an eighth grader, in



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Senior Ava Edwards scored the game-tying goal with 10 minutes left Saturday to send Stevenson’s CCS playoff game into overtime against Rancho San Juan. The Pirates lost 2-1 with a minute remaining in double overtime.

five B Fleet races. The A Fleet Pirates won three races, while their B Fleet counterparts had one second-place score. Thirty-one teams (including nine from Southern California) raced under sunny skies, with moderate winds. *Dennis Taylor is a professional freelance writer in Monterey County. Contact him at scribelaureate@gmail.com.*

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Editorial

Housing shortage isn’t just about not having enough housing

MILLIONS OF Californians can’t find an affordable place to live, thanks to the state’s infamously strict regulations that strangled development for more than 50 years.

Even the people who enacted all those rules agree — which is why the governor and Legislature have thrown out the “EIR for everything” regimen they used to love and replaced it with the “permits for the asking” scheme that is the subject of our lead story (see page 1A).

The housing shortage is terrible in California, but it’s hammering people in many parts of the country and is worst in high-productivity, highly regulated cities like New York and San Francisco, where jobs have been plentiful but places for people to call home have not.

“The San Francisco area ought to house more like 25 million, but restrictive regulations have capped its population at a third of that,” says housing analyst James Pethokoukis of the American Enterprise Institute.

But the impact of the housing shortage goes far beyond just depriving people of a place to rest their heads. It’s also stifled their incomes.

Urban wage and GDP growth have been halved over 50 years because of the housing shortage, he says.

“Reform housing rules in just three cities — New York, San Jose and San Francisco — to average American levels, and GDP would rise by 4 percent, and the average worker would pocket an extra \$4,000,” according to Pethokoukis.

The lack of housing is also thwarting efforts to reduce economic inequality, because high housing costs hit low-income workers the hardest.

“While lawyers can still profit from moving to New York City, a janitor moving to the Big Apple might be worse off as high housing costs gobble up higher wages,” the analyst observes. “But when less-educated workers can afford to live in high-wage cities and regions, they gain access not just to better-paying jobs but also the chance at superior schools and opportunities that, at present, remain cordoned off behind a wall of baroque building regulations.”

The housing shortage is also discouraging people from having children — an obvious point, perhaps, but one that’s borne out by data from the Baby Boom, when not only were millions of soldiers returning from World War II battlefields eager to start families, federal programs, including VA loans, were making mortgages readily available and putting home ownership within reach for young, middle- and working-class families.

“For every 1,000 new mortgages, 309 additional babies arrived the following year,” according to a study by Lisa Dettling of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and Melissa Kearney of University of Maryland that analyzed housing, mortgage and family data from 1910 to 2020.

Carmel may not be a place that offers a lot of high-paying jobs, but it could be Exhibit A for what happens to housing prices when people who’ve made a lot of money elsewhere decide they want to live somewhere that offers a pristine lifestyle. While 75 years ago, middle-income families could afford to live in the Carmel area and even parts of Pebble Beach, buying a home there has become impossible except for the 1 percent.

Which highlights another unnoticed effect of the Golden State’s absurdly restrictive development rules. Between 1975 and 2020, the California Coastal Commission, perhaps the chief villain in the state’s housing shortage, blocked most of the development that would have happened along the state’s glorious shoreline if the coastal commission hadn’t been there — a fact that environmentalists naturally celebrate. But another group that has reason to cheer includes everybody who already had a coastal home when the coastal commission showed up, along with everyone who could afford to buy an oceanfront home while the commission was making sure only a handful of new ones could be built. Those people have seen tremendous appreciation in the value of their houses, and they have California’s no-growth rules to thank.

BEST of BATES



Letters to the Editor

The Pine Cone encourages submission of letters which address issues of public importance. The Pine Cone only accepts letters to the editor by email. Please submit your letters to mail@carmelpinecone.com

Fire danger is real Dear Editor,

Listening to public comments during the beautification and natural resources meeting regarding George Washington Park felt like a “Saturday Night Live” skit — until it became downright frustrating, infuriating and deeply concerning.

It was clear that many of those speaking, including some committee members, prioritize environmental concerns, endangered species, and fallen, rotting trees over the safety of nearby homes and residents. While environmental protection is important, common sense and fire mitigation efforts must take precedence when public safety is at risk.

Unfortunately, leadership continues to cave to extreme environmentalists instead of taking decisive action to clean up the park. Imagine living near George Washington Park and hearing someone argue that clearing hazardous material is “decimating the park,” or that because Pacific Grove doesn’t experience Santa Ana winds, there’s no real fire danger. Others suggested that the marine layer and cooler

climate make fire risk negligible. Some even opposed the use of large machinery for cleanup. And, unbelievably, one caller cited seeing a banana slug as a reason to conduct yet another study before taking action.

What exactly is the expectation here? Should we bring in the Amish with mule teams and horse-drawn buggies to clear out the dead, rotting trees? Meanwhile, fire fuel continues to build up, and bureaucratic inefficiency — passing the buck from one committee to another — prevents necessary cleanup and fire-prevention efforts. This is happening despite the fire prevention presentation and the input from a fire department commander at a recent council meeting.

The argument that “there’s never been a fire there before” is a reckless excuse for inaction. Waiting for a crisis is not a plan.

Weak leadership cannot please everyone, and it must not allow extreme environmental views to override basic public safety. There must be a balanced approach — one that prioritizes wildfire mitigation while considering environmental concerns in a reasonable way. The time for endless reports and delays is over. Action is needed now, before this preventable hazard turns into a disaster.

Christie Italiano-Thomas, Pacific Grove

Does the mayor understand? Dear Editor,

It doesn’t sound like Mayor Dale Byrne understands the issue of Public Water Now

See LETTERS page 28A

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Touring with a rhinestone cowboy, writing songs for a rooster

OVER A five-decade career that started in 1961, Glen Campbell released 64 albums, sold more than 45 million records and garnered multiple Grammys and Country Music Association Awards, along with a host of other honors. And Marina resident TJ Kuenster was along for a large part of the ride.

In 1977, Campbell was looking for a keyboard player and music director, and Kuenster got the job, working with the singer for most of the next 35 years.

He was one of five kids born to his mom, a caterer, and his dad, a real estate broker in Chicago. While he was growing up, they moved from a three-bedroom apartment on the South Side to an 18-acre farm, where they raised chickens, cows and sheep, and Dad took the train to his job in the city.

Kuenster said the kids — all of whom played instruments — sometimes “dressed

the odds-on favorites, a pair of Smothers Brothers imitators.

In 1974, 19-year-old TJ moved to Los



PHOTO/ELAINE HESSER

TJ Kuenster (right) has credits on some of the albums seen at daughter Michaela's (left) music venue, Pop & Hiss, in P.G.

Angeles to pursue a music career, possibly as a concert pianist or “the next Stephen Sondheim,” he said with a chuckle. He had taken piano lessons since he was in first grade and studied at the Chicago Music Conservatory while still in high school.

In L.A., he was in a trio with bass player Bill McCubbin, who had played for Bobby Darrin and Roger Miller. But Kuenster got married, and, he said, realized he wasn't ready to make a go of music in the big city. He returned to Illinois in 1976 and got involved with

See **LIVES** page 29A

Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

up like the von Trapps from ‘The Sound of Music’ and played together.” Once, his younger brother, Dan, competed in the McHenry County Fair talent show, performing “Tiptoe Through the Tulips” a la Tiny Tim and winning the prize over

From the mayor’s desk — A ‘common cents’ approach

IN MY first three months as mayor, I’ve learned that strong leadership is key to effective city government. Carmel faces challenges, but through efficiency, accountability and practical solutions, we can address them head-on. A “common cents” approach means maximizing taxpayer dollars, cutting red tape and ensuring city services function effectively.

We have a great city staff. If this were my company, I’d hire all of them. They love this community, and, working together, we will find the right balance of hard work and leadership to get things done. Here are some of my ideas, which I’m excited to review with the city council.

■ Police station needs

For nearly a decade, we’ve studied the condition of our police station, yet our officers still lack a safe, functional workspace. Since our recent public meeting, we’ve identified underutilized space, and we hope to approve and implement cost-effective safety improvements and address other maintenance needs.

At the same time, we must assess our longer-term, practical policing needs and develop a phased approach to ensure we meet future requirements without unnecessary costs or delays. Our officers deserve a facility that supports their mission of

keeping Carmel safe.

■ 30/60/90 sidewalk plan

As a tourist destination and home to older residents, Carmel’s sidewalks should be safe, but tree roots and long-term wear have created hazards. While property owners are responsible for maintenance per state law and city ordinance, enforcement has been inconsistent. It’s time to act with a structured plan:

Inventory & planning: Document sidewalk hazards, including tree stumps.

Dedicated contractor program: Retain three contractors managed by public works.

30/60/90 plan: Remove all tree stumps in 30 days. Fix tree wells in 60 days. Repair three major sidewalk areas every 90 days until all are safe.

Updated ordinance & enforcement: Modernize our ordinance to require property owners to partner with the city for long-term maintenance, similar to Monterey’s recently adopted model.

■ Customer service

City hall handles a huge volume and wide range of customer service requests, and some slow responses are caused by

See **MAYOR** page 31A

After years in Hollywood, he came here to shoot the coast

AT 75, Wayne Marien reminisces enthusiastically about every camera and every piece of photography equipment he’s ever touched — how it worked and how he tried to make it work better — all the way back to the Kodak Instamatic he used to

I felt like those scenes in ‘Aliens’ really hung together, so I said something about that to James Cameron.

“I was trying to pay him a compliment, of course, but he said, Oh, really? Well, it doesn’t hold together for me!” I still don’t know exactly what he meant, and didn’t ask. I just said, ‘Oh ... OK.’”

Another memorable experience was helping on “No One Here Gets Out Alive,” a 1976 documentary that told the story of the legendary 1960s rock group, The Doors.

Part of his role in that production involved helping interview the surviving band members — keyboardist Ray Manzarek, guitarist Robby Krieger and drummer John Densmore — about the group’s wild history and legendary lead singer, Jim Morrison, who died in July 1971.

Marien also recorded video for Mick Fleetwood, founder and drummer of Fleetwood Mac.

Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

chronicle “family stuff” as a boy in Southern California’s San Fernando Valley.

The Del Rey Oaks resident and fine-art photographer reflected with reverence on the 35 mm Zeiss Icon camera his grandfather gave him when he graduated from high school.

“That was a top-of-the-line SLR (single-lens reflex) in its day,” he said of the camera probably launched a decades-long journey that defined most of his adult life.

A Tinseltown career

From the early 1970s to the early 1990s, Marien worked for Hollywood and Hollywood-adjacent companies as a postproduction editor, cameraman, sound man, darkroom tech, still photographer, and in other capacities.

His silver screen contributions include d“Aliens” and the “Die Hard” movies. He worked on television series like “Twin Peaks,” “Charlie’s Angels,” “The Fall Guy” and “Daniel Boone,” among others. An ill-fated attempt to cozy up to writer/director James Cameron during the making of “Aliens” is an enduring memory.

“During postproduction, you watch the same stuff over and over and over again, which can get a bit tedious,” he said. “But

Miles of film

But his Hollywood jobs also could be far less glamorous.

“I was often sitting in a darkroom all day long, working a lot of swing shifts — like 3 p.m. to 11 or midnight,” Marien said. “Not everything was super-interesting.”

He worked on a Richard Gere film called “Bee Season,” about spelling bees, where the director shot 250,000 feet of film, most of which wound up in Marien’s editing lab. “A feature-length film, when finished, usually is about 9,000 feet,” he said. “Oh, my God, that was crazy — the film just kept coming in!” However, the union job paid well, and Marien loved being part of the creative process.

But his foray into the film industry wasn’t part of Marien’s original blueprint.

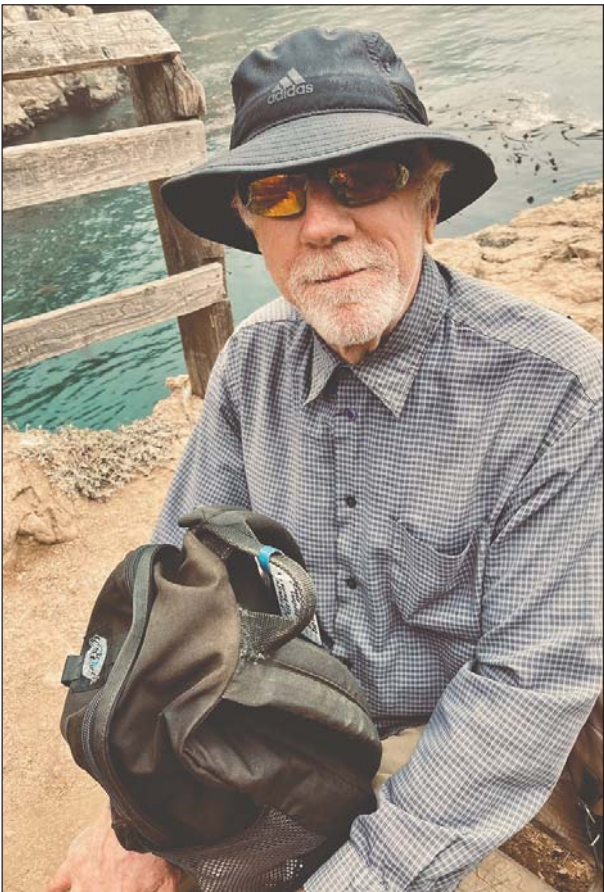
He was 24 years old in 1973, when he abruptly dropped out of Cal State Northridge without finishing his American literature degree because he wanted to work with a buddy who co-founded a startup that created videos for educational and industrial TV. That company, Videosphere (later Vid-West Studios) began producing holograms used in rock videos for Styx, the Carpenters, and Ringo Starr, among others. Marien did the photography with a Mitchell 35 mm motion-picture camera.

Flowing color

After all of that, he became a film colorist, training that occupied most of his final seven years in the industry.

“The colorist makes sure the film has a consistent ‘look,’ — the color must flow from shot to shot,

See **ARTIST** page 30A




PHOTO/COURTESY OF WAYNE MARIEN

After a multifaceted Hollywood career, Wayne Marien is creating fine-art images of landscapes, seascapes and nature.



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LETTERS

From page 26A

clearly or that his vote has increased the cost for every Cal Am ratepayer on the Peninsula? Since the Cal Am situation is a critical issue for the Peninsula, it is hard to believe that it was never discussed at any campaign events or city council meetings.

Mayor Byrne's vote along with Del Rey Oaks Mayor Scott Donaldson will delay the decision on the Cal Am buyout and will cost all Cal Am ratepayers much more in rising water costs and legal fees. Why did the mayor vote to make those legal expenses far greater than they would otherwise have been? With one more LAFCO vote, the approval of MPWMD's latent powers would have been assured. This vote was one of the two critical votes that made that impossible.

Maybe the mayor was not paying attention several years ago when all the Salinas Valley LAFCO reps voted against the will of the Peninsula voters who want a buyout of Cal Am. To say you "hope that whoever is assigned a board seat in LAFCO would not vote on personal or interests of their city, but on what is best for the entire county based on the facts" shows naiveté at best.

Does the mayor understand that we already have a reliable long-term water supply coming online this year? The Pure Water Monterey expansion will provide another 2,250 acre-feet every year. This is more water than we can use for growth for decades. MPWMD is arguing for the State Water Resources Control Board to lift the CDO, but Cal Am is arguing against it because they know it would kill their desal project which would raise water bills by 50 to 70 percent, but it would cost Salinas Valley nothing.

Clearly, the mayor's explicit and implicit support for Cal Am flies in the face of the Carmel-by-the-Sea residents who supported his office.

Voters will not make the same mistake again ... the mayor is losing a lot of key residents/voters of Carmel-by-the Sea.

Kenneth Pelletier, Carmel



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LIVES

From page 27A

the Woodstock Opera House, where he wrote a musical version of Maurice Sendak’s children’s book, “Where the Wild Things Are.” He was about to sign a contract to become the resident composer there when McCubbin — who had just played bass with Campbell on the No. 1 pop and country hit, “Southern Nights” — called him. The star needed a new keyboard player and music director.

Kuenster said his first response was something like, “Gee, I don’t know,” but his wife opined that he’d be “crazy not to do it.” He headed to the Anaheim Convention Center for his first gig with Campbell and found himself in front of “5,000 screaming nurses” and hundreds of brightly popping flashbulbs.

“Afterwards, Glen said, ‘You did real good. See you in London,’” Kuenster recalled.

“An Evening with Glen Campbell,” recorded with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, was released in 1977, and Kuenster’s new job included leading the symphony.

“I was green as could be. I’d never conducted anything on that scale,” he said, shaking his head at the memory. He accompanied Campbell on tour, learning as he went.

“Glen mentored me in the early days, but I was the guy in charge toward the end,” he said.

Celestial canines

In 1982 and 1983, Kuenster was music director on “The Glen Campbell Music Show,” an NBC variety series with guest stars like Willie Nelson and Henry Mancini.

He has also conducted and/or played piano and keyboards for other entertainers, including Andy Williams, BJ Thomas, Bobby Vinton, Tanya Tucker, Jim Stafford, Debbie Boone and Marvin Hamlisch.

Somewhere around 1986, after Campbell broke off a romantic relationship with singer Tanya Tucker, the artist fired his band but kept Kuenster on as music director. He also moved to Nashville, which Kuenster quickly decided wasn’t for him. Back in L.A., he got a phone call from brother Dan, by then a former Disney animator who was working in Dublin, Ireland, on “All Dogs Go to Heaven” with director and producer Don Bluth. The animated picture’s j27 songwriter had just left for a new project, and they needed two more numbers, which Kuenster wrote.

The next year, Kuenster worked on another Bluth film, co-directed by Dan. “Rock-a-Doodle” was a live-action and animated movie for which he wrote the theme music

and 11 other songs. Many were sung by Campbell, who voiced the hero, Chanticleer, a rooster with a striking resemblance to Elvis Presley. Actor Phil Harris, in his last public performance, narrated the story, and Kuenster asked him to stop jingling coins in his pocket because the mic was picking them up. Harris wondered aloud whether, instead, they could just draw a chain on his basset hound character, but Kuenster eventually prevailed.

‘Bittersweet’ end

During production, Bluth asked Kuenster to go to New York and work with Christopher Plummer, which wowed him a bit. Capt. von Trapp, himself, voiced the film’s villain and sang two of Kuenster’s songs. Presley’s backup group, the Jordanaires, sang on several numbers, as well.

After returning to the United States, the brothers formed their own production company, but in 1994, Kuenster moved to Branson, Mo., to help Campbell put together a variety show at his new Goodtime Theater.

After three years, Campbell went back on the road. So, said Kuenster, “I decided to keep my home base in Branson — while touring with Glen — where I raised two

teenage daughters as a divorced, single dad.” Following the tour, among other things, Kuenster was the musical director and provided vocals and keyboard for the PBS special, “Glen Campbell in Concert with the South Dakota Symphony” in 2001, as well as the singer’s farewell tour in 2011. Campbell was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease in 2010, and Kuenster called the final performances “bittersweet.”

When the singer retired in 2012, Kuenster once more went to work with Dan, this time at his Dallas company that made interactive educational materials. In 2023, he moved to Marina to be closer to his daughter, Michaela, a private music teacher who owns Pop & Hiss, a music venue and bar in Pacific Grove.

Now 70, Kuenster has had gigs at Bernardus Lodge, La Playa Hotel, the Highlands Inn and several other spots. He also plays at the Park Lane, a senior facility in Monterey.

His extensive and eclectic playlists include all sorts of covers, from the Beatles and Billy Joel, to Fats Domino and Ike and Tina Turner, the Rolling Stones and many more. “I’m playing more than I used to, but I want to play more,” he said.



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CAMP

From page 8A

amenities — the land along Plaskett Ridge Road is “one of the more seriously impacted areas on the South Coast,” according to the Ventana Wilderness Alliance. “Visitation levels are beyond the carrying capacity of the land.”

The forest service will determine specifically where the new campsites will go. They won’t be ready until 2026.

Three dirt roads along Big Sur’s South Coast — Pre-witt Ridge Road, Alms Ridge Road and Plaskett Ridge Road — have been plagued by overuse by campers, and “cannot support the volume they receive,” the wilderness alliance suggests. A 2017 survey revealed 102 unofficial campsites, but that number has increased since. The impacts done by campers include damage to vegetation, road erosion, off-road vehicle use and a proliferation of primitive campsites, along with ongoing threat of wildfire.

A starting point

Gordon Johnson of the Ventana Wilderness Alliance told The Pine Cone that there are simply way too many people who want to camp along the dirt roads. “It’s not sustainable,” Johnson said. “We want to see what works. There is a problem, but how are we going to deal with it?”

Johnson said the issue emerged about 15 years ago when “dozens of new campsites began sprouting up.”

Striking a balance between public access and safety will be a challenge.

“Can we allow people to access the land and still protect it?” he asked. “That keeps me up at night.”

The VWA suggests the spike in dispersed camping that

has happened in recent years is fueled by social media. The group hopes it can use the data gathered by the pilot program to chart the increase and help find solutions to the problems associated with car camping in Big Sur’s backcountry.

“An important mission of the VWA is to help preserve and protect the wildlands of the Northern Santa Lucia Range by monitoring changes to the forest by establishing a baseline of dispersed camping statistics,” according to the group.

Currently, dispersed camping is not permitted along publicly owned dirt roads along Big Sur’s South Coast, but that’s expected to change soon, according to Fin Eif-ert, who leads the Los Padres National Forest’s Monterey Ranger District.

Eifert said his agency will begin the planning phase of the pilot program this year and do the actual work of creating the sites next year. He noted that the effort will put boots on the ground, giving his staff an opportunity to “educate and inform” visitors about safe camping practices — a major concern for locals who are wary and weary of wildfires. It will also serve as a fact-finding mission.

“My hope is that the effort provides us with a real-time account of what’s going on there,” he added.

SQUATTER

From page 6A

According to the California Penal Code, when a defend-ant enters an insanity plea, the judge must appoint two or three “psychiatrists, or licensed psychologists who have doctoral degrees in psychology and at least five years of postgraduate experience in the diagnosis and treatment of emotional and mental disorders, to examine the defendant and investigate his or her mental status.”

The doctors, compensated by county taxpayers, then testify “in any proceeding in which the sanity of the defend-ant is in question.” Two doctors were assigned to Peck’s case.

Pleas withdrawn

Three weeks after he made bail, Peck checked into the Laurel House men’s residential facility for treatment of substance abuse in San Mateo on Feb. 21, 2024, and was set to spend three months there, according to a letter filed with the court. Peterson told Bergeron that even though the court appointed the experts, “he was never evaluated,” and he withdrew his insanity pleas at a September 2024 hearing and the case against him was cleared to proceed, with the preliminary hearing set to take place.

Smith told The Pine Cone the prosecutor had offered a plea bargain with a 6-year-4-month sentence, with the offer set to be withdrawn at the start of last Thursday’s hearing if it was not accepted. Otherwise, he was facing a maximum of more than 11 years.

The person who was set to drive him to court that morning dialed 911 to request a welfare check after Peck did not answer the door. Emergency responders found him deceased, according to Smith.

ARTIST

From page 27A

and from scene to scene, a challenge I found really inter-esting,” he said.

Meanwhile, layoffs — common in the film industry — began to wear on Marien, who eventually started weighing a career change.

In 1990, at 41, he returned to CSU Northridge, earned his bachelor’s degree in American literature and spent two years pursuing a teaching credential. But life intervened.

A dark place

“In 1996, my brother got murdered, which really pulled the rug out from under me,” he said. “Emotionally, it was all I could do to deal with that. I was in a dark place, and couldn’t handle more school.”

Four years later, he enrolled at Ventura College of Law, planning to become an attorney, but left after a year and got certified as a paralegal.

The law education and his video talents came together for Marien in 2007 when he launched his own company, Victory Legal, which contracted with attorneys and court reporters to videotape legal depositions.

In 2011, he relocated to the Monterey Peninsula with his wife, Elizabeth Stacey, a professional writer.

“In 2020, when Covid hit, I saw it as an excuse to retire and focus on my photography,” he said.

Fine-art photography has remained an enduring inter-est for Marien, who uses a Nikon camera and the digital editing app, Lightroom, to expand an evolving portfolio of landscapes, seascapes, cityscapes and cloudscapes. The common thread is nature.

In 2023, Marien and Elizabeth traveled with a large group of photographers to Costa Rica, where they cap-tured images of birds and other wildlife.

“Nature, for me, is a healing balm — just to get out and hike is a relief from worldly pressures. I try to get outside each and every day,” he said.

Panorama projects

His recent focus blends multiple images that he stitches together in editing to create large, stunning landscape pan-oramas — some several feet in width. In 2024, he created seascape, landscape and cityscape panoramas by shooting sunsets, mostly on the Monterey Peninsula, every week throughout the year.

He also ventured into astrophotography in November, capturing a series of images of a super moon that rose over the Peninsula.

“The Monterey Peninsula is one of the best locations in the world, by far, for nature and landscape photography,” declared Marien, a member of the Center for Photographic Art in Carmel.

Some of his most recent photographs can be viewed at wmarien.myportfolio.com. Email him through that website.

Dennis Taylor is a professional freelance writer in Monterey County. Contact him at scribelaureate@gmail.com.

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MAYOR

From page 27A

limited staff and outdated systems. By leveraging the talented staff with artificial intelligence, setting clear performance goals, and incorporating volunteer support where appropriate, we could enhance responsiveness.

■ Modernizing municipal codes

Carmel’s charm is deeply rooted in tradition, but outdated municipal codes can create unnecessary obstacles. New state housing mandates, an insurance crisis and evolving fire codes make aligning regulations related to things like building materials, landscaping and zoning a high-priority item. Some updates are in progress, but we must move quickly to reduce bureaucratic hurdles while preserving our village’s character and livability.

■ Road Repairs

Last year, a resident collaborated with the county public works director and Carmel’s maintenance supervisor on a straightforward cost-effective plan to repair the Carpenter and Ocean entrances, with the County funding its

portion. The city council rejected this proposal, but residents remain frustrated by the condition of our roads. We should revisit and execute this project to demonstrate a commitment to practical solutions.

■ Efficiency and stewardship

There are many more examples of how we can improve city operations, including shoreline maintenance, beautification, street addresses and leveraging underutilized city-owned properties. Elected officials, commission members and city staff all have roles to play as creative, solution-oriented leaders.

Additionally, Carmel is filled with passionate, talented business owners and residents eager to contribute ideas and help fund projects.

By embracing action, accountability and practical problem-solving, we can ensure a thriving future while preserving what makes our village special. Let’s commit to a government that listens, acts and delivers real results. Go to www.re.cl/commoncents to hear an AI-generated podcast made directly from this column.

Dale Byrne is Mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea. His email is dbyrne@cbts.us.

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Ocean & Mission

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HEALTHY

Lifestyles

Preventing stroke with surgery that takes less than an hour

By ELAINE HESSER

THERE ARE two kinds of strokes — a condition defined as loss of blood flow and oxygen to the brain — both of which can do permanent damage. Experts say that about 13 to 15 percent of strokes are hemorrhagic, meaning a blood vessel in the brain ruptures and bleeds. Brain cells don’t receive oxygen and nutrients, and pressure and swelling build up in the surrounding tissues.

The second type, ischemic, accounts for the remaining 85 to 87 percent and is caused by a clogged or blocked blood vessel. Dr. Emaad Farooqui, a vascular and endovascular surgeon with Montage Medical Group, said that about half of ischemic strokes are caused by a blocked carotid artery — one of the vessels in the neck that carry blood to the brain. However, a procedure that can be done in less than an hour can help prevent those strokes and has recently become more widely available, including at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula.

Traditional surgery

First, a little background. A blockage in the carotid artery is usually asymptomatic, although some people have transient ischemic attacks, commonly called ministrokes or simply TIA, which sometimes precede a stroke.

If someone has a TIA — marked by sudden symptoms that include numbness or weakness, often on one side of the body, trouble speaking and understanding speech, trouble seeing in one eye, frequently with what Farooqui called the appearance of a “curtain” coming over their field of vision and sudden onset dizziness — they should seek emergency care. After that, or based on other risk factors, like smoking, diabetes, high cholesterol or blood pressure, or a family history of strokes, a doctor might order tests, including an ultrasound or a CT scan, to see if the carotid



Montage Health is “transforming medical care for blood vessel conditions in Monterey County” with a new program led by Dr. Emaad Farooqui, whom they say is the only board-certified vascular and endovascular surgeon in the county.

arteries are in danger of becoming blocked.

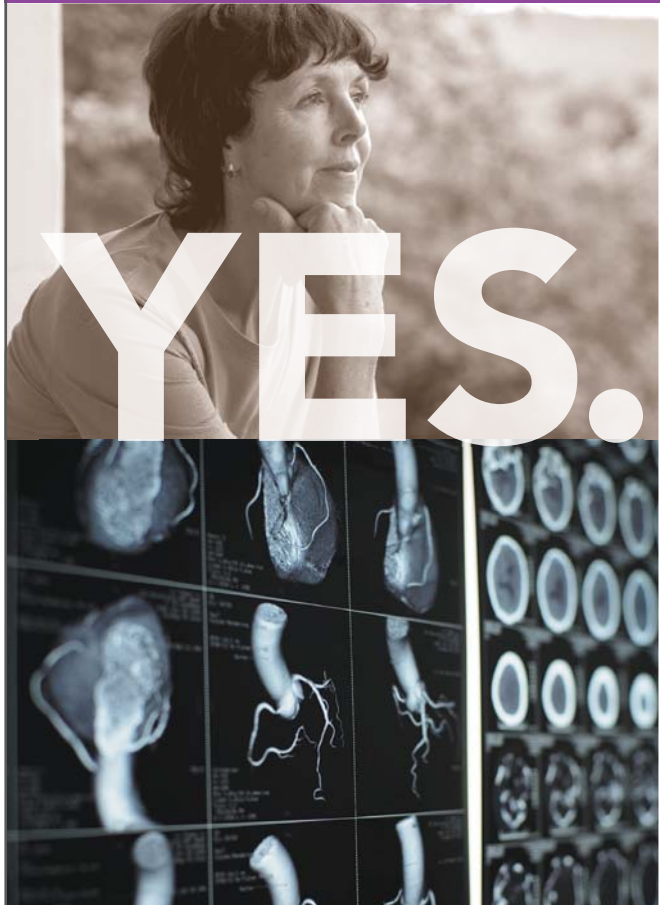
“Traditionally, carotid surgery consists of creating a large opening in the artery and manually removing the plaque, which takes about three hours and isn’t always safe in elderly adults or in patients with difficult anatomy.

This can result in higher risk of nerve injury, bleeding, and risks of anesthesia,” Farooqui said.

An alternative, carotid angioplasty, in which a tiny bal-

STROKE *con’t. page 35A*

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Good fats, bad fats, and how to choose wisely

By FUAD AL QUDSI

FATS HAVE taken a long rollercoaster ride in nutrition trends — from the low-fat craze of the past, to the current popularity of high-fat, low-carb diets. But what’s the real deal? Fat is essential for energy and to absorb certain nutrients, but not all fats are created equal. Let’s break down the types, their effects on our bodies, and how to make better choices for your health.



Fuad Al Qudsi

Trans fats — avoid completely

Trans fats can be either added to foods or found naturally in full-fat products. In the United States, the addition of artificial trans fats to foods has been prohibited since 2018, but products that contain fewer than 0.5 grams of trans fat per serving can be labeled as having 0 grams of trans fat. If you eat a lot of these types of food, that can add up.

Hydrogenated or partially hydrogenated oils — those which have had hydrogen added to them to extend their shelf life — are trans fats, so consumers should still look for them on ingredient labels.

Additionally, natural fats can convert to trans fats when subjected to high heat, such as in deep frying or searing, which alters their chemical structure.

Trans fats are particularly harmful to heart health, can raise bad cholesterol levels and increase the risk of heart disease.

Here are a few items that may contain small amounts of trans fats:

- Microwave popcorn
- Prepared frosting
- Packaged baked goods, including cookies, pastries, cakes

Avoid products which list partially hydrogenated oils among their ingredients, and reach for baked, grilled or air-fried options instead of deep-fried foods instead.

Saturated fats — limit consumption

Saturated fats, found in animal products and some trop-

ical oils, are usually solid at room temperature and can contribute to blocked arteries if eaten in excess, increasing the risk of heart disease over time. While they can be part of a balanced diet in moderation, it’s important to limit intake and make smarter substitutions. The American Heart Association notes that many foods labeled “0 trans fat” or “trans fat-free” may contain significant amounts of saturated fat instead.

Sources of saturated fats include:

- Processed meats, like bologna, salami, hot dogs
- Tropical oils, including coconut and palm oil
- Full-fat dairy, such as milk, cheese, butter and cream

Instead, choose:

- Lean cuts of meat
- Low-fat or fat-free dairy
- Heart-healthy oils (see below) instead of butter for cooking

Unsaturated fats — your heart’s best friend

Monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats have different chemical structures, but both are considered “healthy.” They’re liquid at room temperature and are known to lower bad cholesterol and reduce inflammation. Omega-3 fats, a type of polyunsaturated fat, are especially beneficial for brain and heart health.

Sources of unsaturated fat include:

- Fatty fish, including salmon, mackerel, sardines and tuna
- Avocados, olives and olive oil



Not all fats are bad for you, and many of your favorite foods might have some of the good ones.

- Nuts, such as walnuts and almonds, and seeds, like chia, flax or hemp


Incorporate these fats daily. Add sliced avocado to sandwiches, sprinkle nuts or seeds on salads or yogurt, and aim for two or three servings of fatty fish per week.

Simple swaps for better health

- Instead of butter, cook with olive or avocado oil.
- Swap cream-based dressings for vinaigrettes or another oil-and-vinegar-focused option.
- Replace fried snacks with roasted nuts or seeds.
- Use nut butter as a spread instead of margarine or butter, or combine olive oil with herbs to make a dip for

FATS con’t. page 39A



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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

STROKE *from page 33A*

loon is inserted into the artery and inflated to create an opening within the blood vessel, is usually followed by inserting a stent — a mesh “scaffold” made of titanium and nickel — into the artery to keep it from narrowing again.

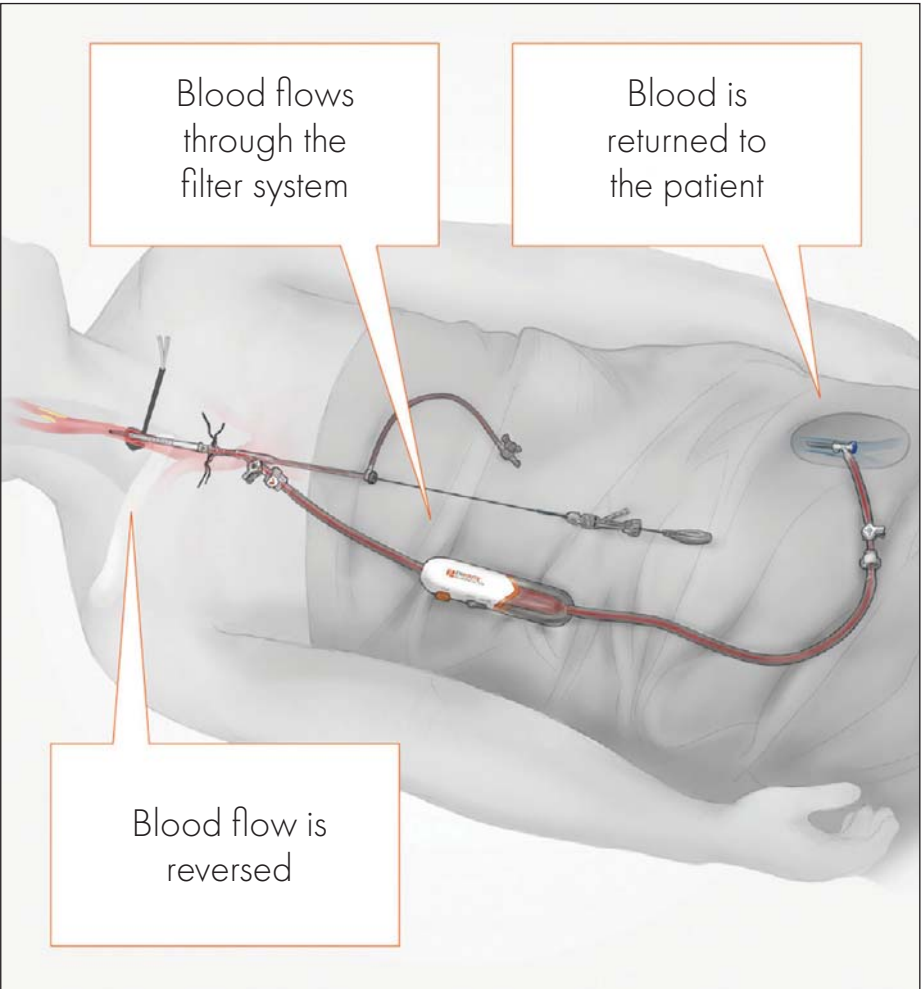
Each approach has disadvantages, one of which, ironically, is a risk of stroke during the procedure if a clot breaks loose,

or hardened cholesterol and fat deposits are dislodged and travel to the brain.

New approach

In 2015, the Food and Drug Administration approved a new procedure, transcatheter artery revascularization — TCAR for short — to treat blockages in the carotid arteries. Initially, said Farooqui, it was

CLOTS *cont. page 37A*




An example of a TCAR device, showing the temporary change of blood flow during the procedure.



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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

It looks like a quick fix but can cause long-term damage

By TULLAH MCCOLL

‘ALCOHOL AND marijuana are accessible,’ said Dr. Reb Close, an addiction specialist with Montage Health, confirming what many parents already suspected. She added that the temptation is too much for many.

“If I am 12, and want to feel better, and it’s right there, or I’m seeing my mom or uncle use it, it’s almost like a barrier is broken,” Close said.

In 2023, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that alcohol and marijuana were the most common illicit substances used by U.S. high school students. In the same year, the National

Institutes of Health said that 3.3 million youth ages 12 to 20 reported binge drinking, defined as consuming at least four drinks within a two-hour period. That behavior can have consequences well into adulthood.

Close spent more than 20 years working in Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula’s emergency room, where she saw many patients suffering from addiction to medications and other substances. She believed that she could better help people in her community if she focused on

SUBSTANCES *cont. page 40A*



Since marijuana and alcohol are legal — and kids see their parents using them — some teens may find it easier to give them a try.



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Need extra motivation to stick with your exercise routine? Research shows regular activity can maintain your auditory system, delaying age-related hearing loss.

What Empirical Evidence Reveals

Research findings suggest that people over 50 who are not genetically disposed to hearing loss and complete 20–30 minutes of cardio five times a week have a greater likelihood of maintaining their auditory function than those who exercise less frequently.¹ In addition, individuals over 50 with moderate or high cardiovascular fitness levels retain hearing sensitivity comparable to those in their 30s.²

How to Incorporate Exercise into Your Day

Remember: Always consult with your doctor before starting a new exercise routine.

- Engage in short bursts of activity—aim for 20–30 minutes of daily exercise, which you can divide into two 15-minute chunks.
- Pick types of cardio you enjoy—find activities you can commit to consistently.
- Team up with a workout buddy—having a friend to motivate and hold you accountable will keep you on track.

Stay Healthy, Happy and Hearing Well

If you are already experiencing signs of hearing loss, consider seeking evidence-based care from a doctor of audiology. If hearing aids are deemed an appropriate treatment, they will recommend the model that best suits your unique needs, program it to match your personal hearing profile and provide follow-up care to ensure your devices perform at their peak.

You deserve a life full of good health and happiness. Exercising regularly, getting hearing checkups and receiving hearing loss treatment if needed make it more likely that you can!

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Riddle of the Month: I have ears but cannot hear, I am maybe near you, but I never speak a word. What am I?

1 Phan, Y. (2018). Get moving to preserve your hearing. Hearing Health Foundation. <https://hearinghealthfoundation.org/blogs/get-moving-to-preserve-your-hearing>
2 The Hearing Review. (2008). Exercise promotes hearing health. <https://hearingreview.com/hearing-loss/hearing-loss-prevention/exercise-promotes-hearing-health>



HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

CLOTS *from page 35A*

used for people who couldn't tolerate other approaches.

But as more people had TCAR, the results, including lowered long-term stroke risk, were positive enough that the FDA approved it for broader use.

The whole process takes around 45 minutes with a working time of 15 minutes, explained Farooqui, who has performed roughly 100 TCAR procedures. Although it was designed to be done under local anesthesia, he said, most patients prefer general anesthesia, and outcomes are the same.

An approximately 1 1/2-inch incision is made near the collarbone to expose the carotid artery. Farooqui said that unlike traditional open surgery, this approach doesn't risk damaging significant nerves higher up in the neck.

Farooqui described what happens next. "A fine needle is inserted into the artery, and, using X-ray/fluoroscopic guidance, a wire guide goes through the blockage. During this time, a device is inserted into the carotid artery which temporarily reverses the blood flow to the brain into a filter to prevent any plaque or debris from traveling up to the brain and causing a stroke."

The blood goes back into the body through the femoral vein in the upper leg.

He continued, "Once the wire is through the blockage, we then insert a balloon over the wire and open up the narrowing in the carotid artery. The balloon is then removed and we place the stent to keep that blockage open which stays within the artery

permanently." The brain receives blood via the arteries on its other side during the time it takes to finish the job.

Normal blood flow is then restored, and the opening at the collarbone is closed with a stitch (that will eventually be absorbed into the body) under that skin, a small bandage, and maybe a bit of glue. The puncture in the femoral vein is also closed.

"It's the best of both worlds," said Farooqui of TCAR, which allows a doctor to clean the artery and insert a stent without lengthy surgery or increased stroke risk.

Although many patients are up and walking the same day, all spend the night in the hospital for observation and 80 to 90 percent go home the next day. "They're tired for about a week," too, because the procedure temporarily lowers blood pressure, Farooqui said.

"Not everyone's a good fit," however, he noted. There might be a problem with the size of the artery, for example, or someone might not be able to tolerate the required anti-platelet medications meant to prevent clots from forming after the procedure.

For most patients, however, TCAR provides a far safer alternative to help prevent stroke, and is definitely worth a conversation with your doctor, should the need arise.



Dr. Emaad Farooqui



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THE KITCHEN

Quinoa tabbouleh with hummus

Courtesy Goran Basarov, executive chef, The Quail

PLEASE DON'T let the look of this recipe intimidate you. Chef Goran Basarov's instructions are quite simple, and you probably have most of the ingredients in your pantry and fridge.

Tabbouleh is a Middle Eastern salad usually made with bulghur wheat, but Basarov's version uses quinoa, which is high in protein — a single cup of the cooked grain has more than 8 grams, more than an egg — and has a slightly nutty taste. Nearly all recipes using quinoa require giving it a good rinse under running water, because its natural coating, which protects it from fungus and pests, has a bitter, soapy flavor.

Basarov broke down the finished dish into four parts, which we've edited slightly for the home cook — prepping the quinoa, making the hummus, creating a vinaigrette, then making the tabbouleh and assembling the final dish. Can you buy the hummus? Can you use prepared vinaigrette? Of course, but it probably won't be quite as tasty.

The instructions for preparing the quinoa call for placing the herbs into a sachet. These inexpensive items are marketed as cooking sachets or empty tea bags or filters in grocery stores and online. You can also tie the herbs together with cooking twine and drop them into the cooking liquid.

Tahini is sesame seed paste, and it can also be used as a veggie dip, or in salad dressing and many other dishes. Many cooks believe you can keep an opened container in the pantry, but we prefer the fridge, where it can last six months to a year. Unless you're planning to use a lot of it, this is one of those times you really don't want the large economy size.

INGREDIENTS

(Serves 2)

Hummus

- 2 cups cooked garbanzo beans
- 1 tablespoon roasted garlic
- Juice and zest of 1/2 lemon
- 2 tablespoons tahini (see notes)
- 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
- Pinch garlic powder
- Pinch ground black pepper

Strain garbanzo beans, rinse generously with water and rub together to remove any peels. Place all ingredients in a food processor or blender and process until smooth. Season with salt to taste.

Quinoa

- 2-3 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1-2 stems fresh rosemary
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 medium shallot, minced
- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1 cup uncooked quinoa, rinsed thoroughly
- 2 cups vegetable stock
- 1/4 cup white wine

Place the thyme and rosemary in a sachet (see notes) or tie the sprigs with kitchen twine. Warm the vegetable stock in a pot over medium heat.

Cook the shallot and garlic in the olive oil over medium heat until translucent, then add the quinoa and ground coriander and stir for a few minutes to toast the grains.

Add the white wine and gently scrape



the bottom of the saucepan to loosen any brown bits, then add the vegetable stock and bring to a simmer. Drop in the sachet or tied herbs and stir. Cover the pan with foil, lower the heat and cook for 15 minutes, then remove from heat and set aside for 10 minutes. Fluff the quinoa, remove the sachet or bundle, adjust seasonings and spread on a cookie sheet or sheet pan to cool.

Roasted lemon vinaigrette

- 5 whole lemons
- 1/2 shallot, roasted
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 2 teaspoons prepared Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoons roasted garlic

1 cup grapeseed oil

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Pare the lemons and reserve the peel for later use. Place the lemons in a piece of foil and roast until caramelized, about 15 minutes, then remove and cool completely. Juice the lemons, then place in a blender with everything except the oil. With the blender on medium speed, slowly add the oil. Transfer the finished product to a jar or squeeze bottle, and store leftovers in the refrigerator.

Tabbouleh — finished dish

- 1 cup cooked quinoa

KITCHEN *cont. page 40A*

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Chef Bio



CHEF GORAN Basarov came to Quail Lodge — now known simply as The Quail — on Dec. 27, 2023, and he brought 15 years of cooking experience with him. He said he came from a family where his

mother, father and both grandmothers were cooks, and his family ran a bakery. Although he originally wanted to be general manager of a hotel or restaurant, he altered his plans after a stint in a kitchen in Colorado. He met a pastry chef there who became his wife and set him on a path in the culinary arts, first

as a lead banquet chef, then as catering sous chef.

Since then, he's worked at properties in Vail, Colo., Key West and Northern California, including the 112-year-old Balboa Café in San Francisco. He said the mantra there was “We do the classics in a modern way.” Basarov loves to have fun in the kitchen, and has enjoyed being creative with the Covey's menus. He is also responsible for Edgar's, located at the resort's golf course, and room service. When he's not bringing imaginative and seasonal menus to life, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Natalie — pastry chef at Ventana — and riding his motorcycle. For more about Basarov, see this week's food and wine section.

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

FATS from page 34A

bread.

Reading all of the nutritional information on food labels — as opposed to relying on a claim on the front of a package — is always a good idea. One of the major problems with zero-fat or low-fat craze of the 1990s was that manufacturers of prepared foods amped up the amount of sugar and salt in their products to improve flavor

lost when the amount of fat was reduced.

Fats aren't the enemy — they're vital for health when chosen wisely. Focus on unsaturated fats while minimizing trans and saturated fats. Small swaps can make a big difference for your heart and overall health.

Fuad Al Qudsi is a registered dietitian with a bachelor's degree in nutrition and food science. You can visit his website at fuadfit.com.



Reading the label might take a few extra moments, but it can pay off in better heart health.

KITCHEN from page 34A

- 1 cucumber, diced
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 bunch parsley, roughly chopped
- 1 bunch chives, chopped

- 2 tablespoons lemon vinaigrette
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt, or to taste
- Place everything in a bowl, drizzle in the vinaigrette, and mix. Put some hummus on each of two plates, top with tabbouleh, and serve.



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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

SUBSTANCES *cont. from page 36A*

those issues.

“I help people who are struggling with alcohol, cannabis, kratom, fentanyl or meth in various different clinics,” said Close. (Per the National Institute on Drug Abuse, kratom is a legal herbal substance that produces opioid- and stimulant-like effects.) “When I ask my patients when they started using, almost the universal answer is 12. The majority of my patients are exposed in that pre-teen age, if not earlier. And the majority is cannabis and alcohol.”

Both are, of course, readily available in California — the state made medical marijuana legal in 1996, and, in 2016, adult recreational use was legalized.

Close said that having relatively easy

access to those substances is not the only cause of dependency or addiction — many factors play a role. In February 2024, the CDC reported that the most common reason people ages 13 to 18 want to use substances is to feel calm or relaxed. Others reported they wanted to stop worrying and have fun.

No free ride

The doctor said many of her patients reported beginning to use substances because they “just want to feel something,” which she interprets as something other than what they’re experiencing in the moment, a high, or a need to self-medicate anxiety, depression, frustration or fear. Many are simply seeking the same escape that adults want.

Whether teenagers are trying to forget about academic pressures, social stress or family challenges, substances can often provide a temporary but easy “out” from the realities of the world.

The escape isn’t a free ride. Substance abuse is known to interfere with the development of the brain. Physical effects of drinking can vary, but the liver and heart are most affected by long-term use of alcohol. Close said that the liver can be very forgiving — until it isn’t. Long-term drinking can lead to damage like fatty liver, inflammation and cirrhosis.

Johns Hopkins Medical school notes that, “excessive alcohol intake can lead to high blood pressure, heart failure or stroke,” and “alcohol can contribute to obesity and the long list of health problems that can go along with it.”

In addition, studies have shown that about 25 percent of women and 41 percent of men who start using alcohol before the age of 14 develop dependencies. Overall, drinking at earlier ages substantially increases the risk of alcohol use disorders that lead to life-threatening damage.

The NIH also found that the younger people begin using weed, the higher the risk of future dependency issues. Long-term use of marijuana — smoking or eating — can lead to cognitive impairment, along with mental health effects like depression, anxiety and memory loss.

Many medical professionals are concerned about marijuana use because of a lack of research. It has long been classified by the federal Drug Enforcement Agency as a Schedule 1 drug — a class that includes heroin and LSD, among others —

so research on it has been highly restricted and regulated. In addition, the level of tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the psychoactive compound in cannabis, is significantly higher than it has been in the last 50 years, making it difficult for specialists to predict what this increased potency can mean for long-term use.

Open discussion between adults and adolescents, along with education, is extremely important. Peer influence exists in pressure to use illicit drugs and in influencing someone not to reach out for help because they’re worried about getting others in trouble. Additionally, a lot of fear with being open about substance abuse comes with the stigma surrounding addiction.

A different way to address the issue helps. “When you approach someone who is suffering with addiction with honesty and kindness, they are so grateful,” Close suggested. Being understanding and approachable can make it easier for people dealing with substance abuse to reach out for help.

Anyone concerned about a substance abuse problem can call Monterey County Behavioral Health’s Access Team line at (888) 258-6029, Montage’s Recovery Center at (831) 625-4608, or Ohana Center for Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health at (831) 642-6201.



Dr. Reb Close



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Singer brings aloha to Sunset, father-son duo pays tribute to pop stars

SHARING HIS golden voice — along with the spirit of aloha — four-time Grammy Award-winning singer **Kalani Pe’a** takes the stage Friday, 7:30 p.m., at Sunset Center.

As a young boy growing up on the Big Island of Hawaii, Pe’a started singing as a young child because he had a

out later that year, earning him a Grammy for Best Regional Roots Music Album. He has won that award four times — including three weeks ago

When he performs, Kalani Pe’a plays his original music alongside his favorite old r&b tunes. His talent and accomplishments caught the attention of Hawaii’s legislature, which honored him with a proclamation declaring him “a torch-bearer” for native Hawaiian culture.

Tickets start at \$40. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 620-2048 or visit sunsetcenter.org.



Singer Kalani Pe’a, who earned his fourth Grammy Award just three weeks ago, takes the stage Friday, 7:30 p.m. at Sunset Center.

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

speech impediment. As he grew up, he continued to love music, but pursued another career path, earning a master’s degree in childhood education. But in 2017, when he was 34 and working as a school official, he left that career to pursue music full time. His debut album, “E Walea,” came



Violinist Mads Tolling, who has two Grammy Awards, presents a concert Thursday, 7 p.m., at Wendi Kirby Music in Monterey.

■ ‘Piano Men’ play Monterey

No two singers who played piano in the 1970s and 1980s were more successful Elton John and Billy Joel — and thanks to a tribute act, you can see both of them Friday, 8 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

The two musical superstars are portrayed by a father-son duo, **Terry and Nick Davies**, and they are backed by a band. Titled “Piano Men: Generations,” the show is billed as the “ultimate Billy Joel and Elton John experience.”

Tickets start at \$42. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstate theatre.com.

■ Cure drummer visits Big Sur

A founding member of the Cure who played on the band’s first four albums, drummer **Lol Tolhurst** is back on the road with a few of his musical friends, and they’ll perform Saturday, 8 p.m., at the Henry Miller Library in Big Sur.

Tolhurst will be joined by **The Miki Berenyi Trio**. Berenyi once fronted the alternative rock band

Lush. The indoor show will be an intimate one, with just 40 seats available.

Tickets are \$115. The library is located at 48603 Highway 1. Visit henrymillerlibrary.org.

■ Something new

New music by six local composers and songwriters will be featured when the Monterey County Composers’ Forum presents its latest showcase Sunday, 3 p.m., at Hidden Valley Music Seminars in Carmel Valley.

The composers and songwriters are **Dale Victorine, Steve Ettinger, Doug Ovens, Jose Chaidez, Julie Roseman** and **Paula Kaiser**.

See MUSIC page 44A

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Chef takes a ride, Cypress gets new GM, and Marriott entertains

AFTER 14 months at Quail Lodge, you’d think that executive chef Goran Basarov might take a deep breath and maybe chill for a bit. Yeah, no.

He’s not really a chill sort of guy, and that, as it turns out, made him just right for this job.

“It’s been a fun ride and a long ride. A lot’s been done and there’s still lots to do,” he said last week, as he sat in the lobby and discussed his work.

Speaking of his arrival at the resort just off Carmel Valley Road, he recalled that “the Covey had just been renovated and had just reopened. It was awesome.”

Caviar, focaccia

Basarov came here following a turn as executive sous chef at a restaurant in Atherton, and before that, he’d worked in Key West, San Francisco, Colorado and his native Macedonia, among others.

He said that when he got here, he asked his new boss what to do in the updated space.

“Do whatever you want,” came the reply. Basarov’s first innovation was the Wednesday night “Love Your Neighbor” dinners intended for locals. The dishes are always a little playful. One recent menu included appetizer



The Central Valley’s brief almond blossom and pollination season can be beautiful — and fascinating, given the number of bees involved. A day trip can include viewing the trees, having lunch, and even visiting some elk.

he wanted to stay. He thought he’d be GM of a hotel or restaurant, but the suit-and-tie life didn’t quite fit.

While working in Colorado, he met a pastry chef named Natalie who became his wife. (These days, she works at Ventana.) She nudged him toward kitchen work, including running a catering department at a resort in Tabernash, Colo. He helped open two restaurants in Vail, and then became executive chef of a sister property, the popular Balboa Café in San Francisco. “We were always exploring and having fun,” he said, noting that they’d do 170 covers — kitchen lingo for the number of guests served — on a weeknight.

A caffeinated blur

What’s next for Basarov and Quail Lodge? He’s looking at the resort’s breakfast menu and room service, and he’s been tinkering with Edgar’s, the eatery in the golf course’s clubhouse. He makes thoughtful changes, following the mantra, “If it’s done, it has to be done right, from the get-go.”

Basarov also loves riding his Triumph motorcycle and embraces an alter-ego as a self-described “gear head” who also adores “old-school” Porsches. Car Week was a high-

light of his first year here. “My God, was it fun! It was a caffeine-fueled blur,” he said. He’ll participate in Pebble Beach Food & Wine for the second time in April, another exciting weekend for him.

To check out Basarov’s cooking, visit The Covey restaurant or try his recipe for tabbouleh with hummus in this week’s Healthy Lifestyles special section.

■ Violi takes charge at iconic hotel

Joseph Violi, a veteran of the hotel business and former Carmel Valley Ranch GM, has been named general manager of the Cypress Inn in downtown Carmel. Owner Denny LeVett announced this week that Violi has been appointed to oversee the 96-year-old landmark property that he and late co-owner Doris Day transformed into one of the most dog-friendly places on the planet. Violi is also overseeing two sister properties, the Forest Lodge and the Lamp Lighter.

LeVett cited Violi’s “strategic mindset” and “passion for excellence,” as well as his “extensive experience and

Continues next page

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Photo by Mona A

Bruno's market and deli is just walking distance to the beach in Carmel. My husband and I parked nearby , picked up a tri tip sandwich, which was highly recommended by the very busy but very nice staff for \$13.99 and a pasta salad.The one sandwich and one order of pasta salad was enough for the both of us. We picked up chips at the store too but they also sell wines, local snacks amongst other fresh deli items. It reminded me of the little markets you would find in Italy, so cute and convenient, it really gives a mom and pop feel when you enter. Recommend if you're in Carmel. - Saysamon L., Fresno, CA

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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

dedication to hospitality,” in describing why he is ideal for the job. Originally from Massena, N.Y., Violi graduated from Cornell University’s School of Hotel Administration before embarking on a 35-plus-year career in managing luxury hotels and golf and beach resorts, including stints at three Ritz-Carlton properties, Hyatt hotels, Hilton hotels in California and Florida, and Carmel Valley Ranch.

Violi brings expertise in hotel marketing and food and beverage operations, as well, and is involved with highly regarded organizations like the international Chaine des Rôtisseurs and Les Toques Blanches.

The Cypress Inn boasts a beautiful vintage bar and dining area, Terry’s Restaurant + Lounge, where guests are welcome to bring their canine companions. In addition, its front “living room” features live music every week. Visit cypress-inn.com for more information.



The Cypress Inn — dog-friendly and full of Doris Day memorabilia — just got a new general manager, Joseph Violi.

with mole sauce and roasted pineapple salsa. There’s plenty of beef on the menu along with an Italian-inspired halibut dish served with wide ribbons of pappardelle pasta, and a Faroe Island salmon with mashed potatoes and grilled broccolini. A selection of pizzas is available, and des-

serts include a banana split sundae with crushed Oreos, Kahlua dark chocolate sauce and whipped cream. Fin + Field is open nightly for dinner from 5 to 10 p.m.

Oscar night

The Marriott is also ready for some Oscars excitement on Sunday, March 2, starting at 3 p.m., when it will be the scene of a “night of Hollywood magic” at Characters Bar. The party is called a “Celebrity Awards Night Celebration” and is sponsored by the Monterey County Film Commission. The evening will feature a red carpet, multiscreen viewing of the awards show, discounted bar drinks and “light bites,” a silent auction and “a chance to

See **FOOD** next page



Love THY Neighbor

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FOOD & WINE

FOOD

From previous page

mingle with local film industry professionals,” say organizers. Tickets are \$95 a person on eventbrite.com, and proceeds from the auction will go to Los Angeles wildfire victims.

■ A blooming day trip

If you take a day trip to Los Banos, about 90 minutes from Carmel on the way to Yosemite National Park, you can still catch the seasonal display of almond blossoms. Not only are the Central Valley’s white-and-pink orchards beautiful, but they account for 80 percent of the almonds grown in the world, and Los Banos is where late sports legend John Madden once partnered in some large almond orchards.

Said to be home to the biggest single pollination event on Earth, the area temporarily hosts bees trucked in from across the country, and the hum of gazillions of them working their scientific magic is quite memorable. A map at cemerced.ucanr.edu/files/40632.pdf takes drivers into the

midst of some orchards on public roads. For more nature viewing, the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge includes a large Tule Elk preserve at 7376 S. Wolfsen Road on the outskirts of town.

The Wool Growers Restaurant in Los Banos (woolgrowerslosbanos.com), a century-old, decidedly un-fancy Basque joint where good food is served family style, offers an offbeat lunch experience. There’s also Casa de Fruta (casadefruta.com) off Highway 152, which has long reigned as must-see attraction for California road trips. A lot of locals drive past the “tourist trap,” but you oughta stop just once. There’s stuff to entertain the wee ones, too, like a carousel and train. And the pie really is pretty darned good.

Mary Schley and Elaine Hesser contributed to this week’s column.



Executive chef Goran Basarov has been at the helm of Quail Lodge, including the Covey Grill (above), Edgar’s and room service, for a little over a year and has introduced some fun dishes.

MUSIC

From page 41A

Tickets are \$20. Hidden Valley is located at 104 W. Carmel Valley Road.

■ Celtic quintet returns

One of Ireland’s most respected traditional music ensembles, **Teada** performs Sunday, 3 p.m., at St. Mary’s-by-the-Sea in Pacific Grove. The quintet from County Sligo first played at the local hotspot for Celtic music five years ago.

Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$15 for children. The church is located at 12th and Central. For more details, visit celticsociety.org.

Live music Feb. 28-March 6

■ Big Sur

Big Sur River Inn — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (folk, Saturday at 12:30 p.m.). 46800 Highway 1.

Fernwood Resort in Big Sur — **Kentucky Mule** (alt-country, Friday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

■ Carmel

Barmel — singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Chris Jamez** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). In Carmel Square on San Carlos north of Seventh.

Cypress Inn — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Friday at 7 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Loktionov** and singer **Debbie Davis** (cabaret, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), **The Andrea Carter Trio** (jazz and pop, Sunday at 11 a.m.), guitarist

Richard Devinck (classical, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh.

De Tierra Vineyards tasting room — singer and guitarist **Alex Lucero** (Sunday at 3 p.m.). Mission and Fifth.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Saturday and Thursday, both at 6 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive.

La Playa Hotel — guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Tuesday at 5 p.m.). Camino Real and Eighth.

The Links Club — **Matt Masih &**



Matt Masih and the Messengers play “funky, soulful groove music” Friday at the Links Club.

the Messengers (“funky, soulful groove music,” Friday at 7:30 p.m.), **Octane** (pop and rock, Saturday at 7:30 p.m.), Songwriters Showcase (Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., sign-ups start at 6:30 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

See LIVE next page

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LIVE

From previous page

Mission Ranch — singer and pianist **Maddaline Edstrom** (jazz, Friday through Sunday at 5 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Loktionov** (jazz, Monday through Thursday at 5 p.m.). 26270 Dolores St.

O’Callaghan’s Pub — **Two Rivers** with singer **Richard Bryant** and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (pop and rock, Friday at 6 p.m.). In The Barnyard shopping center.

Carmel Valley

Bernardus Lodge — pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kip Allert** (Saturday at noon), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Folktale Winery — singer and guitarist **Lindsey Wall** (Friday at 4 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

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

The Running Iron in Carmel Valley — Open Mic Night (Sunday at 8 p.m.). 24 E. Carmel Valley Road.



Andrea’s Fault Duo plays jazz and pop at Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove Friday at 4 p.m.

Trailside Cafe in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Tony Burciaga** (Friday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

Monterey

Albatross Ridge Winery and Kitchen — singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Friday at 6 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

Bon Ton LeRoy’s Smokehouse — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Alligator** celebrates Mardi Gras (blues, zydeco, and Cajun music, Saturday at 7 p.m.), Open Mic Night (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 794 Lighthouse Ave.

Bulldog Sports Pub — **Tribe in the Sky** presents a weekly Community Jam (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.). 611 Lighthouse Ave.

Cibo — **The Dave Holodiloff Duo** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Tuesday at 7 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz and swing, Wednesday at 7 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St.

InterContinental Hotel — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Saturday at 9 a.m.), guitarist

Terrence Farrell (Latin music, Sunday at 9 a.m.). 750 Cannery Row.

Midici Pizza — singer **Nina Hadzi-Antich** and guitarist **Brice Albert** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl-Astrup** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

Monterey Plaza Hotel — multi-instrumentalist **Gary Meek** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **TJ Kuenster** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

Pearl Hour — **The Zach Westfall Group** (jazz, Sunday at 8 p.m.), **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz, Wednesday at 8 p.m.). 214 Lighthouse Ave.

Salty Seal Pub — **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Saturday at 8 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 653 Cannery Row.

The Sardine Factory — singer and guitarist **David Conley** (Friday and Saturday, Tuesday through Thursday at 7:30 p.m.). 701 Wave St.

Sly McFly’s — **The Hackjammers** (pop and rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **The New Wave Band** (rock, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

Wendi Kirby Music — violinist **Mads Tolling** (classical, jazz and rock, Thursday at 7 p.m.). Tickets are \$45. 550 Hartnell St.

Pacific Grove

Asilomar Hotel and Conference Grounds — **Andrea’s Fault Duo** (jazz and pop, Friday at 4 p.m.). In the Phoebe Hearst Social Hall, 800 Asilomar Ave.

Il Vecchio Restaurant — **The Cena Jazz Trio** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 110 Central Ave.

Julia’s Vegetarian Restaurant — singer and guitarist **Rags Rosenberg** (Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Smith** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea’s Fault Duo** (“folky stuff mixed with surprises,” Monday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Holysea** (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.),



One of Ireland’s top traditional music ensembles, Teada returns to St. Mary’s By-the-Sea in Pacific Grove Sunday at 3 p.m.

singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave.

PG’s Meetinghouse — **The Charlie Lindner Trio** (jazz, Friday at 6:30 p.m.), **The Stu Reynolds Saxtet** (jazz, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Chuck Brewer** and singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (“a heady brew of cool, classic cover songs,” Sunday at 11 a.m.), Open Mic (Tuesday at 6 p.m., sign up by 5 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.

Seaside

Cuz’s Sportsman’s Club — **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Friday at 8:30 p.m.). 594 Broadway.

To update these listings, email chris@carmelpinecone.com.



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CALENDAR

March 2 – The Monterey County Composer’s Forum presents “Springtones” on Sunday at 3 p.m. New music by local composers and songwriters including **Jose Chaides, Paula Kaiser, Douglas Ovens, Julie Rosemann** and **Dale Victorine**. Setting is Hidden Valley Music Seminars, 104 West Carmel Valley Road. Admission \$20. Info: ryamat@cs.com

March 2 – Are you ready for the Academy Awards? Enjoy the glitzy excitement from your cozy couch! Order **Baum & Blume’s “Oscar Nosh Box”** filled with canapés, snacks, chocolates, and even a bottle of bubbly! Call now to pick up Sat. March 1! (831) 659-0400. 4 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley.

Il Vecchio hosts live music every Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m., featuring Blues Night on Tuesdays and Jazz Night with the Cena Trio on Thursdays. Also showcased are local artists quarterly – Matt Mesero’s “Night Vision” black and white photography exhibit continues through February. Visit ilvecchiorestaurant.com for more.

March 3 – “Waves of Discovery: Celebrating Marine Science at Our Festival.” **Mary Alice Cerrito Fettis**, chairperson of the non-profit Whalefest Monterey, will discuss the importance of the public to be informed and to protect the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. 2 p.m. Carmel Woman’s Club, San Carlos and Ninth, Carmel-by-the-Sea. Open to the public. \$10 guests/members free.

March 4 – **St. Mary’s is pleased to welcome Téada back to our stage!** Téada will kick off the season with lively traditional tunes, exciting fiddling, beautifully executed accordion, guitar and flute, and magical dancing. Tickets are available now at www.celticsociety.org

March 6 – **B4Noon Community Recital**, 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., at Carmel Presbyterian Church, Ocean & Junipero, SE corner, every Thursday through April 24. Free. **This week, March 6: Solo flute recital with Jennifer Kennedy.**

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Artist turns to printmaking, Cherry Center celebrates high school art

AN ARTIST who was once a painter but is now a printmaker, Noriko Yoshikawa-Constant shares her latest creations in the show, “From the Kitchen to the Printmaker,” which is on display this month at Venture Gallery in Monterey. There will be a public reception for the artist Saturday at 3 p.m.

Constant studied oil painting as a young woman before stepping away from it for nearly two decades. “She returned with an urgent passion for printmaking, which first captivated her in 1997,” Venture Gallery’s Edi Matsumoto explained.

she captures spontaneity and emotion. Her expressive images show a strong connection of her joyful spirit with herself and the world.”

The gallery is located next to Portola Hotel at 260 Alvarado St. venturegallery.com.

‘Thinking Out Loud’

Celebrating the art of today’s high school students, The Carl Cherry Center for the Arts unveils its annual “Thinking Out Loud” exhibit Saturday, with a public reception at 2 p.m.



Man’s best friend is the inspiration for this piece by printmaker Noriko Yoshikawa-Constant, who has a new show on display at Venture Gallery.

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

Today, the artist specializes in making monotype prints.

“Noriko is a Japanese-born artist whose journey has been shaped by many roles — wife, mother, gardener, and animal lover — all influencing her artistic approach,” Matsumoto said. “She exquisitely conveys her energy, vibrancy and humor of life through depictions of dogs and cats, showing that art is a universal language beyond words. Working on Plexiglas and copper plates with oil-based etching ink,

According to the Cherry Center, the regional contest “challenges high school students to create works inspired by their lives.” “Each year, students from across Monterey County are invited to display their artwork across a wide range of media for exhibition in our gallery,” the center announced.

The gallery, which is located at Fourth and Guadalupe, is open Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. or by appointment. The show is on display through March 22. For more details, visit carlcherrycenter.org.

Illustrator visits Del Mesa

Noted for both his wit and his skill as an

illustrator, Will Bullas presents a free talk at Del Mesa Carmel Thursday at 4 p.m.

An exhibit of Bullas’ work is on display at the Gallery at Del Mesa Carmel, which is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A longtime Carmel Valley resident and a former president of the Carmel Art

Association, the lighthearted Bullas has a particular talent for portraying animals in human roles, which has helped earn him a nice collection of Golden Pine Cones as Monterey County’s Best Local Artist.

The show continues through March 30. The community is located at 500 Del Mesa Drive.

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SERVICE DIRECTORY

Continues from previous page

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COMING UP AT
SUNSET CENTER...



KALANI PE'A

KALANI PE'A

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 28, 2025
7:30 PM

In need of an island vacation? Get away for the day when four-time GRAMMY Award winner Kalani Pe'a brings his full band, surprise guests, and award-winning hula to Sunset Center! Kalani Pe'a is a charismatic performer with a gorgeous voice, a powerful presence, and a sound that's all his own. He sings everything from classical, theatrical, ballads, R&B, and soul to both traditional and original Hawaiian music, showcasing his wide-ranging talents as a singer and songwriter.

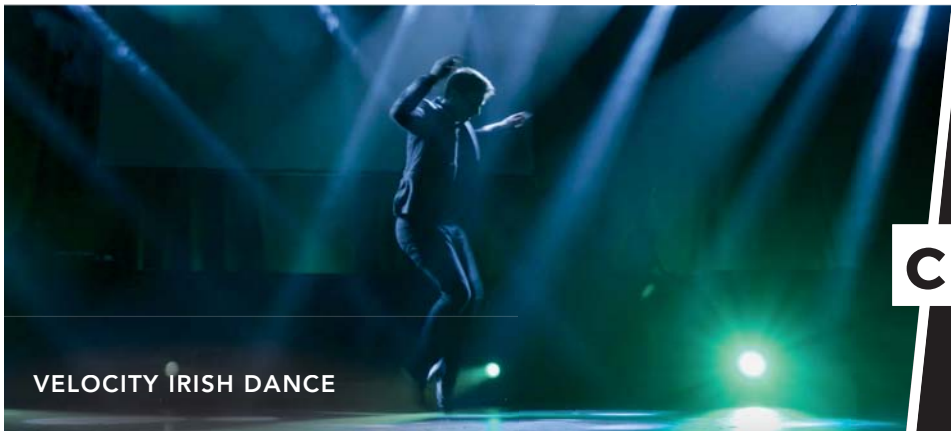


LEAH BONNEMA

LEAH BONNEMA

THURSDAY
MARCH 6, 2025
8:00 PM

Back by popular demand, Leah Bonnema is a stand-up comedian, actor, and writer you know from The Late Show with Stephen Colbert. The New York Times said Leah is "one of the city's most consistently excellent young comics," and The Scotsman called her "a force of nature."



VELOCITY IRISH DANCE

CHRIS BOTTI

MONDAY
MARCH 17, 2025
7:30PM

Described by The New York Times as "a show for all ages, earnestly tracing the evolution of Irish dance while toying with tradition," Velocity Irish Dance is one step you won't want to miss!



CHRIS BOTTI

LIMITED TICKETS
STILL AVAILABLE!

THURSDAY
MARCH 27, 2025
7:30PM

GRAMMY Award-winning trumpeter Chris Botti has been one of the most popular instrumentalists in the world for nearly three decades. This show will sell out—get your tickets before they're gone!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

For the most up-to-date list of events and free community offerings, visit our website [sunsetcenter.org](https://www.sunsetcenter.org).

