

Trump’s logging push targets Los Padres forest

By CHRIS COUNTS

WHILE IT’S uncertain if any local trees will be cut down as a result, a move by the Trump administration to dramatically increase timber production nationwide has some worried about Los Padres National Forest, which stretches from Big Sur to Los Angeles.

A map issued March 28 by the administration shows vast acres of land in Big Sur that could be opened for logging, most of it on the eastern side of the Santa Lucia mountains.

According to Los Padres Forest Watch, the threat to the trees is real. “The move opens nearly all of Los Padres National Forest to the widespread removal of trees, chaparral and other native vegetation, with minimal public oversight and environmental review,” the Santa Barbara-based group said.

Millions of acres

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins issued a memo April 3 detailing the challenges facing forests on federal land — and why timber production needs to be ramped up. She said 67 million acres of forest face a high or very high wildfire risk, while 78 million acres are experiencing declining health — in part due to insect and disease infestation — which only increases the risk of

See **FOREST** page 22A

Owner will rebuild Carl’s Jr. destroyed by fire

By KELLY NIX

THE CARL’S Jr. in Monterey that burned down last week will be rebuilt, said city officials, who have already met with the owners to discuss the plans.

A fire at the restaurant on Central Avenue near the Monterey Bay Aquarium started the morning of April 3 and destroyed the building, despite a large firefighter response. Monterey city manager Hans Usler said city officials met



PHOTO/KELLY NIX

Monterey officials said this Carl’s Jr., destroyed by a fire last week, will once again be a fast-food restaurant.

Despite calm winter, Highway 1 stays closed



PHOTO/CALTRANS

At Rocky Creek in Big Sur, Caltrans is accelerating work on a viaduct that became necessary after a slip-out last March undermined Highway 1. See page 12A.

Eighth time’s the charm for Pastor’s newest building

■ Project on Dolores near Seventh OK’d

By MARY SCHLEY

SIX YEARS after he put forth his initial plan to build apartments and retail space on property he purchased on Dolores south of Seventh, Patrice Pastor received approval Wednesday night of the latest version of his proposed JB Pastor Building.

Designed by architect Jun Sillano, the complex’s set of two-story buildings totaling 12,971 square feet would contain eight upstairs apartments and approximately 5,100 square feet of ground-floor retail space. They would have Mission-style clay tile roofs, decorative ceramic tile, metal-clad wood doors and windows, stucco walls with “random exterior stone,” and redwood headers, beams and rafter tails.

The second floor steps back from the property line, and the complex is designed to top out below the 30-foot height limit, while other buildings on that block on both sides of the street — including the historic former bank building on the corner — exceed it. It also comes in well below the 16,200-square-foot limit on floor area.

A new 852-square-foot basement and space at the rear will include a dozen parking spaces, five of them created by installing lifts. Because the project requires a minimum of 17 spaces, Pastor will compensate the city’s in-lieu parking program, which accumulates funds for public parking projects, for the balance.

In his extensive staff report, senior planner Evan Kort detailed every aspect of the project, noted the changes made in response to the commission’s most recent feedback last July, and recommended approval of the design, an associated lot merger and other required permits.

‘The applicant has complied with every standard’

Long road

Since he purchased a building to the south of the former bank, now the Seventh & Dolores Steakhouse, in October 2018 for \$2.4 million and then bought the two lots north of it, including the bank’s community room, in June 2020 for \$4 million, Pastor has been pursuing development plans.

His efforts were repeatedly thwarted by the historic resources board, which deemed the community room historic after he purchased it — a fight he lost on appeal to the city council — and he was again dealt a blow by the council when it ordered him to preserve in place a cement-and-pebble wall that the HRB had decided he could relocate.

The project has also seen pushback from neighbor Kristi Reimers, whose family owns the Stonehouse Terrace complex directly east of Pastor’s property.

During the two-and-a-half-hour hearing April 9, some

See **PASTOR** page 16A

He transformed Peninsula’s luxury real estate market — and did so much more

■ Bill Mitchell dies at 83

By MARY SCHLEY

IF YOU never met Bill Mitchell, by all accounts, you should wish you had.

Mitchell, who died March 26, was a man who was decorated for his service as an Air Force pilot in Vietnam, went on to fly commercially for three decades, established what would become the Monterey Peninsula’s foremost luxury real estate firm, gave generously of his time and resources — and amidst all of that, managed to squeeze every bit of fun out of life.

“He’s one of the finest gentlemen that I’ve ever done business with,” Monterey County Bank founder Charles Chrietberg said. “He was a man of his word and always did what he said he was going to do.”

“It’s rare to meet anyone with his level of success and competence who is also so humble and giving,” said Pine Cone publisher Paul Miller. “Bill Mitchell was unique.”

“I feel lucky to have known and worked with him and

benefited from his insights,” commented Kurt Schake, executive director of the Veterans Transition Center, one of the nonprofits Mitchell devotedly supported.

“One of the things I always really admired about Bill was how much he cared for and supported the community,” said Chuck Toensketter, a friend for more than 40 years.

“He built a legacy, and it’s one I know our family will forever cherish,” said Dan Lynch, Mitchell’s son-in-law and CEO and managing director of Carmel Realty. “We talk about our commitment to live up to his legacy for generations to come.”

Born to fly

Mitchell’s devotion to service emerged early in life. Born in Piedmont on Feb. 15, 1942, he joined the first four-year class at the U.S. Air Force Academy straight out of high school and graduated in 1963. He went on to serve six years as a decorated commander and instructor, including five years of combat duty flying P-38s and cargo planes — often carrying wounded soldiers — in Vietnam.

It was during military leave in Hawaii that Mitchell met Vicki — a San Francisco native who was taking summer courses at the University of Hawaii — on a blind date.

See **MITCHELL** page 18A



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Bill and Vicki Mitchell in 2000. Together, they reshaped the Monterey Peninsula’s real estate industry — and touched many lives.



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Bako is a rescue, adopted from the SPCA. His forever family doesn't know where his name came from or what it means, but they kept it because it was the one thing he'd find familiar. They know he's part Australian shepherd, but they haven't figured out what else. They think he's 5 years old, but he may be 6.

What they do know is that he's adorable and that it was pretty much love at first sight for everyone.

"I've always had a dog," his person said. "After we lost our little terrier, we were looking for another dog, when my friend called to say she'd seen Bako on Nextdoor, and he was definitely going to be our next dog."

Whatever happened in his first family, it had been a tearful goodbye, Bako's person learned. She said "Yes" the moment she met him.

"He has been amazing," his person said. "We're totally bonded. He doesn't need to be on a leash because he doesn't leave our side, and he responds to voice commands, which we didn't need to teach him."

Aside from the attachment to his family, Bako has bonded with a ball, to the point of obsession. Due to his exuberant play, his family gives it to him only when he's outside, where he can entertain himself all day long.

Bako also loves the beach, which he visits almost every day — with his ball. His family takes him to Car-

By Lisa Crawford Watson



mel or Asilomar Beach where, if he gets hot or another dog bothers him, he jumps into the water to cool off.

"Dogs know who they love and where they belong," his person said. "Bako knows he's rescued, and he seems grateful. Dogs are the best people, and they make us better people."

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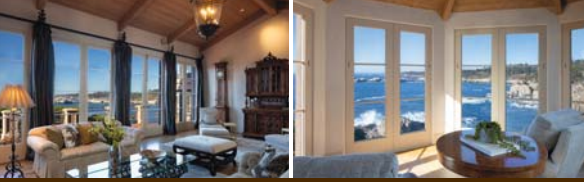

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Salvage of beached yacht slow going

By MARY SCHLEY

REMOVAL OF a 52-foot motor yacht that ran aground in Stillwater Cove early the morning of March 26 continued this week — and isn’t expected to wrap up until April 21, according to Lt. Cmdr. Mark Leahey, incident management chief for the U.S. Coast Guard’s San Francisco sector.

“The USCG and NOAA are conducting investigations into the cause of the grounding,” he said Wednesday. “The investigation is still ongoing.”

Sometime around 4 a.m. March 26, Cal Fire received a call that a vessel was in distress in Stillwater Cove, and firefighters arrived to discover the Emerald C, a fiberglass yacht from Redmond, Wash., had become stranded on the beach.

Two people who were onboard managed to get off the boat safely before fire crews arrived.

The people have not been identified, and no information about the registration of the boat was available, except that it was manufactured by Ocean Alexander.

After efforts to dislodge the vessel and tow it to a mooring in Monterey Harbor where it could be inspected failed, plans were made to remove its batteries, fuel and

any other hazardous substances before they could leak into the protected bay waters. A NOAA alert indicated the Emerald C had 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel onboard.

Bit by bit

In the parking lot of the Beach & Tennis Club the morning of March 27, Lindsey Saum, senior environmental scientist with the California Department of Fish & Wildlife Office of Spill Prevention and Response, said a contractor, Global Diving & Salvage, was brought in to remove the fuel and other potential contaminants.

Saum said this week that now that the petroleum products have been safely drained from the wreck, her agency is no longer involved, and the investigation and salvage operations are in the hands of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Pebble Beach Co.

Sanctuary spokesperson Lisa Uttal, however, declined to comment, saying no one was “available for an interview at this time.”

The Pebble Beach Co. did not respond to an inquiry, but Leahey confirmed the effort to remove the yacht piece by piece is continuing, as is the investigation into what caused it to run aground.



Under the watchful eye of authorities, the 52-foot yacht that ran aground at Stillwater Cove two weeks ago is being disassembled and hauled away.

PHOTO/DAVID MOSLEY



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Police & Sheriff's Log

68-year-old dad pushes his daughter

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.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Pacific Grove: Report of a break-in and theft from a storage area on Lighthouse Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Dead body found on 12th Street.

Pacific Grove: Report of a verbal domestic dispute on Cedar Street.

Pebble Beach: Juvenile issue on 17 Mile Drive.

Carmel area: Residential burglary reported on Trevis Way.

Carmel Valley: Deputies responded to a possible burglary on Via Contenta. Perpetrator(s) still at large.



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SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A citizen from Carmel Cares found an AirPods case with the left AirPods missing. Item placed into evidence pending contact with the owner.

Pacific Grove: Military subject with possible suicidal intentions on Ocean View Boulevard within city limits but was later located in the military jurisdiction by military personnel.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Pacific Grove: Domestic partners in a verbal altercation inside a residence on Central Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Report of a dog bite on 17th Street. Subject refused to provide information.

See **POLICE LOG** page 10RE in the Real Estate Section



The gavel falls

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

Feb. 21 — Cipriano Vargas Ramirez, 75, was sentenced to 8 years in state prison by Superior Court Judge Rafael Vazquez. On Oct. 1, 2024, Vargas Ramirez was found guilty after a court trial of four counts of lewd acts on a child under the age of 14. All four offenses are serious and violent felonies and are considered strikes under California's three strikes law. Ramirez was also ordered to register as a sex offender.

On Dec. 6, 2021, Salinas police officers were dispatched to a home regarding Ramirez harming himself. Through the investigation, officers learned that Jane Doe, a family member of Ramirez, disclosed that Ramirez touched her breasts and thighs over her clothes from ages six to twelve. When the family confronted Ramirez, he asked for forgiveness and tried to harm himself. Doe delayed reporting the incidents. According to research into sexual assault victim behavior, it is very common for victims to delay reporting the sexual abuse, especially when the victim is a minor and has a close relationship with the perpetrator.

This case was investigated by Salinas police officer Steven Hoyte and detective Yolanda Rocha. District attorney investigator Rachel Maldonado and victim/witness assistance program manager Alma Sanchez assisted with the court case and the trial. Court facility support dog, Norma Jeane, provided Doe with support during the trial process and accompanied her on the witness stand as well.

Feb. 21 — Judge Mark E. Hood sentenced

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DARPINIAN CLEARED TO STAND TRIAL

By MARY SCHLEY

LESS THAN three weeks after a judge committed him for up to two years of inpatient psychiatric treatment, the man accused of trying to stab his mother to death in their Carmel Valley home Jan. 25 was found competent to stand trial Wednesday, according to the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office. William Darpinian, 34, remained in Monterey County Jail this week on \$1 million bail, and a preliminary hearing in the case is scheduled for next month.

During a mid-morning altercation in their Del Mesa Carmel residence, Darpinian allegedly stabbed his mother multiple times in her upper body. The attack, after which the victim reportedly ran outside screaming and covered in blood and was helped by neighbors, prompted an hours-long lockdown as Monterey County Sheriff’s deputies searched without success for



William Darpinian

the suspect, who had been identified by his mother.

While an ambulance took the 60-year-old woman to the trauma center at Natividad Medical Center, deputies searched for the man but were unable to find him and lifted the shelter-in-place order around 5:30 p.m.

Early the next morning, wearing only shorts and a T-shirt despite the cold weather, Darpinian turned himself in, and he has remained in county jail ever since.

Not competent

Although he initially pleaded not guilty to a charge of attempted murder and an enhancement for committing the violent crime with a knife, his mental competency was quickly called into question by public defender Rebecca Seldin.

Monterey County Superior Court

See **TREATMENT** page 31A

Criminal, civil cases against L.A. real estate developer dismissed

By MARY SCHLEY

A MONTEREY County judge last month dismissed a long-running felony case against Southern California real estate developer Michael Tutelian after the attorney for the victim advised the court that an agreement between the victim, who is a downtown Carmel restaurateur, and the suspect had been struck.

Tutelian, now 40, was accused of beating up Il Tegamino owner Giuseppe Panzuto and server Jose Morales and damaging Panzuto’s scooter more than two years ago. Tutelian was the only suspect police identified after the allegedly unprovoked attack near the intersection of Monte Verde and Ocean the night of Sept. 1, 2022. According to accounts, Tutelian took Panzuto’s Vespa for a short ride after Panzuto reluctantly agreed to let him, and afterward, words were exchanged and a fight broke out, with Tutelian and his friends beating up Panzuto and punching Morales when he tried to intervene.

Following an extensive investigation that included surveillance footage and help from the victims and witnesses, Carmel Police obtained an arrest warrant for Tutelian, who turned himself in to Monterey P.D. a few weeks after the incident and posted \$30,000 bail.

He later tried to get the case against him suspended based on mental health issues but subsequently withdrew that petition. Meanwhile, Panzuto and Morales sued him in civil court for the injuries they



Michael Tutelian

sustained in the altercation, and Tutelian counter-sued Panzuto.

But now, only Morales’ civil case remains active.

About-face

After numerous delays, criminal proceedings were set to progress following a preliminary hearing last September in which Monterey County Superior Court Judge Mark Hood concluded sufficient evidence existed for the DA’s office to pursue a conviction. The evidence included testimony from two Carmel Police officers and medical records detailing the men’s injuries.

“The court finds sufficient cause to believe that the defendant has committed the offenses charged,” the record concludes, with Hood ordering that Tutelian be held on charges of battery with serious bodily injury with an enhancement for causing great bodily injury to Morales, “assault by means likely to produce great bodily injury” for his fight with Panzuto, and vandalism causing more than \$400 in damage for tipping over Panzuto’s scooter.

But in Hood’s courtroom March 18, when each side was there to confirm the schedule for the upcoming trial, deputy district attorney Crystal Vasalech made a motion to dismiss the case for “furtherance of justice.” The judge agreed.

This week, Monterey County Chief Assistant District Attorney Berkley Brannon said the prosecutor moved for

See **DISMISSED** page 31A



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Newsom tries to make separate trade deals

By CAITLIN CONRAD

CALIFORNIA'S GOVERNOR is hoping to circumvent President Donald Trump's import tariffs. On Friday, Gavin Newsom directed his administration to "look at new opportunities to expand trade" and urged trading partners to exempt California products from retaliatory tariffs.

"I remind all our international trading partners that California is a stable trading partner and we hope you consider that as it relates to California made products," said Newsom in a video posted on X.

Last week, the White House imposed a baseline 10 percent tariff on all imports along with higher rates for countries with large trade surpluses against the U.S. The move set off a tit-for-tat trade war with partners around the globe and the updates

have been changing by the hour.

On Wednesday, Trump announced a 90-day pause on reciprocal tariffs for most countries, imposing instead a 10 percent baseline tariff on almost all of them. At the same time, the president hiked levies on China to 125 percent after that nation announced an 84 percent tariff on imports from the United States, which recorded a \$1.2 trillion trade imbalance last year, something Trump wants to reverse. The 90-day pause brought relief to the stock market and could provide a chance for negotiations.

Still, Central Coast Representative Dawn Addis worries about how the tariffs will impact the people who live in her district and across the state.

"These tariffs may be framed as tough talk, but their impact will be felt at kitchen

tables, in small businesses, and across our fields," said Addis.

The assemblymember indicated Newsom has her support as he attempts to navigate trade deals that would shield Californians where possible.

"While Trump postures, our governor continues to lead, together with the Legislature, we are all focused on stability, opportunity, and safeguarding our economy," said Addis.

Exempting California

Just how far the governor's political power on the international stage extends remains to be seen.

California is home to the world's fifth-largest economy and among U.S. states it's the second largest exporter and the largest importer of goods. Still, the

Golden State is not a separate country and the governor has no power to negotiate separate import tariffs on what comes into the Port of Oakland or any other port.


"There is simply not a lot an individual governor can do," said University of California Davis economics professor Daniel Sumner.

Sumner's fields of interest include national and international agricultural economics and policy. He said what the governor can do is play up California's resistance to Trump on the international stage and request countries forgo increasing tariffs on specific products made or grown in California.

"Certainly, the governor of California could say, 'We're nice people, if you put on retaliatory tariffs, don't do it on almonds, or things that we make here in California, that we export a lot of,'" said Sumner.

See **TRADE** page 24A

Our upcoming season is designed to spark conversations. Conversations between artists and audiences, timeless masterpieces and modern works, and our collective past and the future we strive to create. Dialogues between our tiny little Earth and the infinite universe, a curious exploration between the tangible and the incomprehensible," says Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Grete Pedersen. "Beginning with Mendelssohn's overture to A Midsummer Night's Dream and culminating in Mozart's majestic final symphony, "Jupiter," the 2025 season will invite us to ponder the profound connections that music can illuminate.



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P.G. councilmember does not have conflict, business owner says

By KELLY NIX

THE TENANT of a building owned by a Pacific Grove city councilwoman has come to her defense over an alleged conflict of interest.

Councilwoman Tina Rau, some P.G. residents contend, should have recused herself from a March 19 vote to allow louder amplified entertainment at downtown establishments because she owns the building that music venue Pop & Hiss occupies and could benefit from the new rule, which increased the decibel limit from 70 to 80.

No response

While Rau has not explained her actions or responded to questions from The Pine Cone, Pop & Hiss owner Michaela Kuenster said this week that her 215 Forest Ave. business, which has live bands, DJs, a record store and serves alcohol, would not benefit from the increased noise limit and therefore, Rau would not either.

Rau “doesn’t stand to make any more” money “or profit from anything” Pop & Hiss does, Kuenster told The Pine Cone Monday. “She is only my landlord. No matter what I make, she gets the same amount in rent.”

Kuenster said Pop & Hiss doesn’t plan on taking advantage of the 80-decibel limit, though it would give musicians some leeway since they sometimes play louder than they realize.

“The 70-decibel level is perfectly comfortable and fine,” Kuenster said. “The louder it is, the less people want to hang out in my space.”

The Political Reform Act states that an elected official “has a disqualifying conflict of interest in a governmental decision if it is foreseeable that the decision will have a financial impact on his or her personal finances or other financial interests.”

City manager Matt Mogensen told The Pine Cone last week that the city is looking into whether Rau had a conflict. Proponents of allowing for louder entertainment in Pacific Grove say it will boost business sales by helping prevent residents from leaving town and going to Monterey and other nearby cities for entertainment.

Follow local rules

While the P.G. Municipal Code states that amplified and unamplified music and entertainment cannot generate noise at a business’ property line in excess of 65 decibels between 10 p.m. and 12 a.m., the Alcoholic Beverage Control says that the use of any “amplifying system or device” inside Pop & Hiss “shall not be audible outside the premises after 10 p.m.” Kuenster said the discrepancy was due to an error. “That was a mistake on the ABC’s part,” she explained. “I was told by the ABC to follow the rules of the city.”

Pop & Hiss celebrates its first anniversary Saturday.

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Multiple injuries in collision between van, MST bus

By MARY SCHLEY

TWO DRIVERS and several passengers were injured in a Carmel Valley Road crash in front of Folktale Winery

late Saturday afternoon involving a Monterey-Salinas Transit ADA Rides mini-bus and a Toyota van, according to California Highway Patrol officer Saul Perez. Perez did not release any names but

said the Toyota, which had one passenger, was being driven by an 81-year-old female from Saratoga, while the MST bus driver was a 43-year-old woman from Salinas. Perez said the MST Rides vehicle was carrying three people.

Cause unknown

“Extent of injuries varied from minor to major,” he said. “The circumstances that led to the crash and the cause for the crash are under investigation by the CHP.”

Reached at an industry trade show in Austin, Texas, MST general manager and CEO Carl Sedoryk said he was told the Toyota van pulled out in front of the bus, which was heading eastbound on Carmel

Valley Road toward the Rippling River housing complex in the Village. MST Rides is a transit program for passengers

See COLLIDE page 23A



PHOTO/MICHAEL JONES, FACEBOOK

A van collided with an MST Rides paratransit bus in front of Folktale Winery Saturday afternoon.



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Lawsuit filed over ‘violent electrocution’

By KELLY NIX

TWO PEOPLE who say they were injured when a power line fell on them have filed a lawsuit against PG&E and other companies.

Veronica Cruz Villavicencio and Raul Cervantes Martinez said they were working on private property on the 400 block of Blanco Road in Salinas on May 20, 2024, when “suddenly and without warning,” a power line detached from its pole and fell on them.

“It first contacted Villavicencio, violently electrocuting her and causing her to lose consciousness, fall, and hit the hard-packed ground while she was unable to protect herself or break her fall,” the lawsuit alleges.


The civil complaint, filed March 14 in Monterey County Superior Court, goes on to say that as Villavicencio was on the ground she “continued to be violently shocked by approximately 7,200 volts of electricity flowing from the power line into her body.”

Also shocked

Martinez attempted to help Villavicencio by dragging her away from the power line, but the current passed into his body, as well.

Besides both losing consciousness, the workers had injuries to their heads, backs, and arms and legs, and suffered severe headaches, chest pain, damage to their


See SHOCKED page 23A



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Crab season ends, fishermen vexed

By KELLY NIX

LOCAL DUNGENESS crab fishermen — who suffered a two-month delay to the start of the season — were hit with more bad news last week when state regulators announced the season would end prematurely next week.

California’s crab fishing season is sup-



PHOTO/ADAM ALIOTTI

Adam Aliotti, who owns this boat, and other local fisherman are taking big financial hits after a state agency announced it would end the Dungeness crab season much earlier.

posed to begin the first part of November and last until midsummer. But the California Department of Fish and Wildlife didn’t kick it off until January. And last week, the agency said that in several fishing areas, including Monterey Bay, the season would

end at 6 p.m. April 15 — two and a half months before the season’s usual June 30 wrap-up.

“Humpback whale sightings are increasing, and additional management actions must be applied because humpbacks are now arriving from their winter breeding grounds,” Fish and Wildlife director Charlton H. Bonham said in an April 3 letter. Whales can become entangled in fishing nets and vertical lines, which are attached to small buoys so fishermen can retrieve them.

Bonham pointed to an aerial survey in late March that identified 16 humpbacks within Fishing Zone 4, an area spanning from Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Lopez Point in Big Sur. The number triggered a state law requiring Bonham to shut down the season much earlier. He also cited a “running average of two humpback whale entanglements over a three-year period” as another trigger.

40 percent loss

This year’s shorter season is another blow to many California crab fisherman, who have already faced myriad regulatory hurdles over the past decade. Monterey fisherman Adam Aliotti, who owns vessel Ocean Warrior in Monterey and has two employees, is one of those affected by the shorter season.

“We got three month’s worth of fishing,” a frustrated Aliotti told The Pine Cone this week. “The season used to be November 15 to June 30. That is a huge reduction.”

See **CRAB** page 25A

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Reopening of Highway 1 to Cambria depends on stabilization of active slide

■ Closed more than two years

By CHRIS COUNTS

AS THE effort to build a viaduct at Rocky Creek hits the homestretch, the only thing preventing motorists from taking the world-famous drive between Carmel and Cambria is the active and unpredictable Regent Slide, which continues to frustrate road crews about 3 miles south of Esalen Institute.

According to Kevin Drabinski of Caltrans, the mountainside continues to move at a rate of about a foot each day. Although the winter has ended with no major landslides along the route, workers continue to deal with “soggy conditions” at Regent Slide.

To try to get things stabilized so the world-famous highway can reopen after being closed for more than two years, “we work for a few days and load material on top of the slide,” Drabinski explained. “Then, when we see the slide advancing, we have to back off for a while and withdraw our crews — we don’t want to put them in harm’s way.”

One of two slides in Big Sur that storms triggered in early 2024, the Regent Slide was anticipated to be cleared by last fall, but in August, cracks were discovered in a

slope where major excavation efforts were underway, which temporarily stopped work — and has slowed it since.

Another major highway project, the Rocky Creek viaduct, is expected to be completed sometime this summer. The work, which is expected to cost \$25 million, became necessary when a section of the pavement gave way in March.

‘Buzz of activity’

Kevin Drabinski of Caltrans told The Pine Cone that construction has ramped up at Rocky Creek in recent weeks as the state roads agency makes a push to get it repaired.

“It’s just a buzz of activity right now,” Drabinski reported. “Crews have recently moved to extended shifts of 10 and 12 hours.”

Caltrans announced overnight closures April 15, 16 and 17, to give the contractor, Gordon N. Ball, Inc. of Walnut Creek, time to complete some difficult tasks.

“During these overnight closures, vacuum trucks will occupy the southbound travel lane and remove rock and water from holes left by the removal of the temporary shoring piles,” Drabinski explained. “These temporary shoring piles were the vertical structures driven into the ground to support excavation work, prevent soil



Far above Highway 1 in Big Sur, Caltrans crews try to stabilize a hillside so the highway — closed since January 2023 — can reopen to traffic between Cambria and Carmel.

PHOTO/CALTRANS

collapse, and ensure stability during construction. These holes will then be back-filled with concrete during daytime shifts in coming weeks.”

What’s next

Soon, Caltrans will install giant girders to support the road, and once that task is complete, Drabinski said the agency should have better idea of when the viaduct will be open.

“The nature of the remaining work

depends on the conditions in the field,” he added. “We’re getting much closer.”

Aside from the overnight closures, motorists face only minor delays at Rocky Creek, where a one-way signal regulates traffic. Highway 1 is open between Carmel and the Esalen Institute, providing access to most of Big Sur’s resorts, inns, galleries and parks. But to travel between the Monterey Peninsula and San Luis Obispo County, the only option is to use Highway 101 through the Salinas Valley.

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For the first time in more than a decade, park district seeks new GM

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE MONTEREY Peninsula Regional Park District sent out word this week that it has begun the process to hire a new general manager.

The previous GM, Rafael Payan, resigned at the end of 2024. Payan was hired in 2013 after leaving his previous job as director of Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation. Administrative services manager Shuran Parker is the interim general manager.

According to the job posting, the position will pay from \$166,000 to \$201,774, “based on experience and qualifications.” It also comes with what’s described as a “An outstanding benefits package.”

Qualifications sought

According to the park district, the general manager is responsible for the enforcement of all district ordinances, policies and procedures, the conduct of all financial activities and “the efficient and economical performance” of the district’s operations and programs.

The park district is looking for someone with a “roll up your sleeves” approach to

work.

“The ideal candidate is an experienced parks and recreation professional with strong interpersonal skills who instills customer service values in the organization,” the consulting firm conducting the search, Bob Murray and Associates, announced. “Candidates should be knowledgeable generalists with superior leadership and management skills and possess the highest level of personal integrity. The ideal candidate will be passionate about and an advocate for parks, natural resource protection, and recreation in the community.”

Once the consultant interviews candidates, finalists will be interviewed by the park district’s board of directors — each representing one of five “wards” — who will select the new general manager. The district is governed by the board, and the general manager works for it.

May 4 deadline

The park district was created by a ballot measure in 1972 and is funded by property taxes. Its website lists nine staff members, along with five environmental education specialists, a supervising ranger and six rangers.

The park district owns and manages nearly 14,000 acres of parklands and open space throughout Monterey County, including its crown jewels, Garland Ranch Regional Park and Palo Corona Regional

Park, along with the Frog Pond Wetland Preserve in Del Rey Oaks.

Those interested can apply online at bobmurrayassoc.com. The deadline for submitting applications is May 4.



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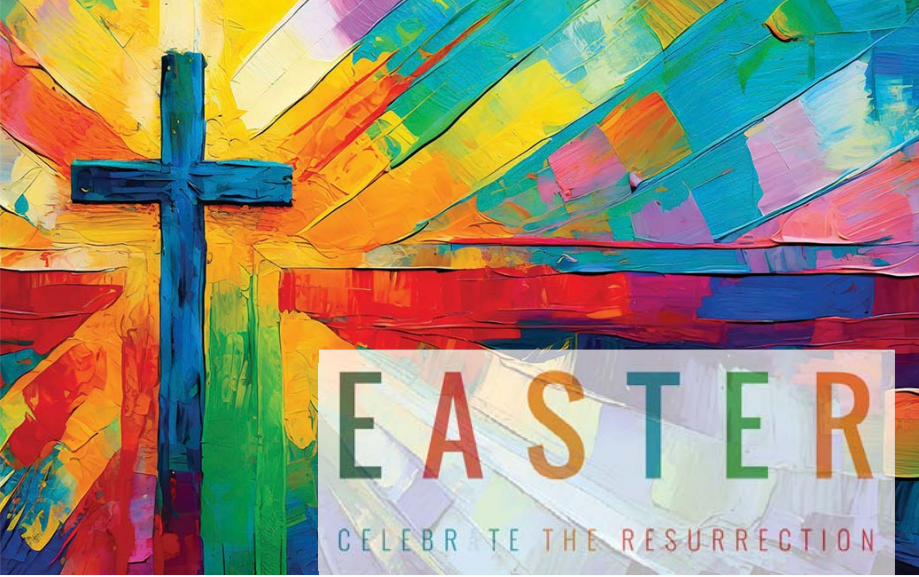




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State Farm seeks 38 percent rate hike

By CAITLIN CONRAD

STATE FARM wants to increase homeowners' insurance rates up to 38 percent for some properties in California. The insurance giant went before the California Department of Insurance and an administrative law judge on Tuesday morning in Oakland to make its case for what it calls "emergency" rate hikes.

State Farm executives say rate increases are needed after the Los Angeles wildfires destroyed thousands of homes, causing billions of dollars of damage and creating huge liabilities for insurance companies. State Farm said it will be in a "dire" financial position if the state does not allow the emergency increases, explaining it is responsible for \$7 billion in claims following the L.A. fires.

"One of the key issues addressed and described in the stipulation is State Farm's financial condition, in particular as it relates to the risk of an imminent financial strengths rating downgrade," Katherine Wellington, an attorney for the company, told the judge on Tuesday.

Without the ability to quickly rebuild capital, banks and lenders could stop allowing State Farm insurance as collateral for mortgages and require State Farm policyholders to find coverage from different insurers. The company has argued if homeowners can't find a replacement private insurer, they'll be forced onto the FAIR Plan, also known as the state's insurance of last resort.

Proposed rate increases

The rate increase would impact around 3 million State Farm customers in California, including many in the Monterey Peninsula. The original request for a 22 percent rate hike would have resulted in a \$921 million increase, boosting homeowners' premiums by an estimated \$600 a year, according to Consumer Watchdog.

Four days before the hearing, State

Farm and the Department of Insurance proposed reducing the increase to 17 percent, which would cost homeowners an average of \$468 more per year.

A group that says it "provides a voice for taxpayers and consumers in an era when special interests dominate public discourse, government and politics," opposes the rate increases. Consumer Watchdog had three attorneys at the hearing arguing against State Farm's request, pointing to the fact that state law allows the commissioner to approve interim rates only when current rates are plainly insufficient. It does not think that applies in this case.

"We haven't seen the evidence that would justify the emergency request that they are making," Consumer Watchdog spokesman William Pletcher told San Francisco television station KGO.

Commissioner's response

Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara has provisionally approved the rate increase but is requiring State Farm to make its case in court.

Speaking at an oversight hearing to brief state lawmakers prior to Tuesday's meeting, Lara explained his decision to call for the hearing, which is a first for California.

"After my own negotiations, I thought that they were still playing around, so we are going to have a hearing with the administrative law judge, who is going to dig in deep," said Lara.

The commissioner went on to say he did not want to set a precedent for insurance companies to request emergency rate hikes after catastrophes without providing adequate data.

No decision was made at Tuesday's hearing. The administrative law judge who heard from all sides is expected to make a recommendation to the insurance commissioner within 10 days of the hearing. The commissioner will have the ultimate say in approving the rate increase.



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PASTOR

From page 1A

speakers, like former planning commissioner Ian Martin and lifelong resident Cindy Lloyd, condemned the project as being too large and out of character. Former planning commissioner Steve Hillyard sent a 10-page letter arguing that it's too big and that it violates parking standards and environmental law.

Martin disagreed with Kort's take that the two buildings are separate and therefore come in under the 10,000-square-foot per-structure limit.

"The staff report bends the definition of 'structure,'" he said.

Lloyd said the design lacks "the difficult-to-define Carmel character," is too tall and is "not respectful."

Bring on the housing

But gallery owner Julia Christopher, who lives downtown, said the project will address the critical shortage of housing in the commercial areas.

"We are so lucky to have a developer as qualified as this," she said.

Former historic resources board member Karyl Hall observed that Pastor "has been through the mill with this project," and recounted the many twists and turns the bureaucratic process has taken since his initial application.

"Here we have eight apartments ready to go, all designated for long-term rentals," she said. "They have designed something that fits with the historic downtown

district, and once finished, it will look like it has always belonged in Carmel."

Former Mayor Ken White was complimentary, too, as was downtown resident Neal Kruse.

Former city councilwoman Karen Ferlito worried that the driveway onto Dolores would be dangerous and that deliveries to the complex's retailers would tie up traffic, and former city administrator Doug Schmitz suggested in a letter that the city shouldn't approve more commercial space, considering how many vacancies there are in town. Kort countered that many of the storefronts he mentioned are undergoing remodel work and have incoming tenants.

"Clearly, he cares about the town, or else why would he so patiently persist with the projects he has in town?" resident Diana Bearman asked in a letter. "We have already seen the improvements they have made elsewhere in Carmel, so let's encourage them to keep up this good work."

Reimers remained critical, arguing that, despite changes made to reduce impacts on her family's complex, her apartment windows "will still be blocked off by a wall." She also worried someone standing on one of the balconies on the east side of Pastor's building could look into her apartment and might even be able to climb into it.

"Most of the natural light in my home comes from the west-facing windows," she said, referring to the side of her building looking toward Pastor's property. Because hers has zero setback, a portion of Pastor's would be several feet away, and she will "need to have my lights on for most of the day," Reimers said.

The neighbors to the south, however, praised the plans. Thomas and Nancy Carlsen and Jared and Jayne Watkin sent a joint letter saying their block will benefit from new

retail and long-term rentals.

"We are in support and welcome this project and its ultimate positive impact on our neighborhood," they wrote.

Other proponents included Lee Morcus, longtime owner of the Hog's Breath and a tenant of Pastor's Esperanza Carmel, resident Alessia Ucelli and Stephanie Besmehn.

Commissioner Stefan Karapetkov described the latest version as a significant improvement, especially since it provides more space between it and the community room, though he worried about people being able to maneuver in and out of the driveway and parking lot and suggested the apartments at the rear are too invasive of Reimers' privacy.

Speaking at length, commissioner Stephanie Locke listed numerous objections and desired changes, including building underground parking, alternative landscape plans and less rooftop planting, inclusion of "some kind of park-like area where people could actually gather and use and enjoy it," installing public bathrooms in the retail spaces instead of in the basement, further accommodating Reimers, and requiring utilities on Dolores to be undergrounded.

"That was a lot. That constitutes a total redesign, which I am not in favor of," chair Michael LePage responded. "We've been here before. We gave the applicant direction, he made significant changes to the project, and he's complied with every standard that I can see, or is under it."

Living downtown is different

LePage also noted that downtown buildings can be constructed with zero setbacks and that people who live in the denser commercial areas must accept the fact that it's different than being in a single-family-residential neighborhood.

"It's a choice you make. You have to acknowledge that you're going to have bigger buildings next to you," he

See **APPROVED** next page

FIRE

From page 1A

"A patron then came in and said, 'you have smoke coming from your roof,'" Cooper said. "They called 911 and evacuated the building."

While the building did not have fire sprinklers, it had several localized devices to stop fires. The employee activated the fire suppression device for the broiler.

The fire, reported at 6:37 a.m., drew 39 firefighters and other personnel, seven engines, two aerial ladder trucks, a breathing support apparatus and two chief officers. Cooper, who also responded to the fire, said that crews were tasked with forcing their way through plywood — not only drywall — to get to the attic space to extinguish it.

After it was out, someone placed a dozen white roses on the steps to its entrance.

"The delicate flower stand in stark contrast to the charred remains, offering a silent message of hope and healing," a social media user said in response to the make-shift memorial.



PHOTO/KELLY NIX

This fire at Carl's Jr. in Monterey last week destroyed the building, but the eatery's owners said they will rebuild it.



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Whalefest Monterey returns for 15th year

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

WHALEFEST MONTEREY will take place Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Old Fisherman’s Wharf and Custom House Plaza. Visitors can explore marine exhibits, tour research vessels and attend expert talks at the Monterey History & Art Stanton Center. Dan Haifley from the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation will host the symposium, featuring presentations from marine scientists from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Diverse sea life

New this year, the General Pershing, an historic fishing boat built in 1930, joins the lineup of boats and ships open for tours. The event will also showcase artists from the Monterey Bay Plein Air Painters Association.

Popular attractions include “Dee,” a walk-through inflatable humpback whale, and “Gracie,” a 30-foot whale skeleton assembly activity. Maritime historian Tim Thomas will lead wharf walks both days, while more than 30 local organizations will host exhibits about marine conservation and research.

Just for fun, Carousel Candies will offer its special whale-themed caramel apples for 20 percent off.

The free event celebrates Monterey Bay’s rich marine life, including its 15 whale species and diverse marine mammals. It’s supported by the Arts Council for Monterey County, City of Monterey, and various marine conservation groups. For more info, visit whalefest.org.

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APPROVED

From previous page

said, and that, yes, people might be able to see through your windows if you don’t close the blinds.

The commission could require Pastor to remove the balconies on the east side of the building, he said, but they add an interesting architectural element.

No reason

LePage also said there’s no reason Pastor shouldn’t be allowed to pay into the in-lieu parking program, just as other developers have done.

After Karapetkov and Locke reiterated their desire for further study of the potential for underground parking, possibly at a capacity that could exceed the minimum requirements, Sillano asked the commission to either approve the project with conditions or deny it.

“We’ve had seven hearings since 2019, and we’re now

in 2025,” he said.

Ultimately, the commission was convinced, with Locke making the motion to approve the project as Kort recommended, and LePage seconding it. The approval passed unanimously. Commissioner Erin Allen was absent.

Unanimous vote

Despite the long road, Pastor told The Pine Cone he was happy with the result. “I am genuinely pleased with the outcome, despite the somewhat subjective and not entirely rational interventions throughout the process,” he said Thursday. “After extensive exchanges, the latest version of the application, recommended for approval by the city staff, has been officially approved.”

Pastor continued: “From an external perspective, the process may appear surprising, to say the least. Nonetheless, it is the system we must work with, accept, and continue moving forward. I am sincerely grateful for the dedication and professionalism of my team, who, despite the various challenges encountered, remained focused and meticulous throughout.”

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MITCHELL

From page 1A

They were married in Palo Alto in 1964.

Following his stint in the Air Force, Mitchell wanted to continue flying and got a job with American Airlines. A furlough early in his career prompted him to enroll in the Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he obtained his MBA in 1973, despite being summoned back to the cockpit before he was done.

Mitchell spent the next 30 years working full-time as a captain flying out of San Francisco, even as he launched his commercial real estate firm, The Mitchell Group, in Palo Alto in 1975.

In 1990, he and his wife moved to Pebble Beach and joined forces with his parents, Jean Booth and William Franks Mitchell, who had a small real estate firm here and decided to make it part of The Mitchell Group.

Over the years, they grew the company into what Mitchell would describe as “the largest independent real estate brokerage in the county,” with five offices and some 140 agents. In 2005, the couple sold it to Sotheby’s and subsequently relaunched Carmel Realty — a company that predates the city’s founding and is celebrating 112 years in business — and sister firm Monterey Coast Realty. The companies have become defining forces in luxury real estate on the Monterey Peninsula.

An empire

“It’s a highly competitive business — probably even more competitive than the banking business — and to build the empire that he did, the firm he built, was no question a feat,” said Chrietzberg, who worked with him for 20 years but met him more than 40 years ago when the banker and his wife bought their first home here.

Realtor Bobbie Ehrenpreis, who went to work for the Mitchells “when the office was a sleepy little 20 agents downtown, and they were just expanding into a building in

the Clock Tower,” said her career with the family has “been a beautiful ride.”

She followed them to Sotheby’s and then to Carmel Realty. “I always felt that Bill was honorable, and amazingly so,” and the company’s culture reflects that.

“A business can be too business-like and not honorable and reasonable and honest and smart,” she said. “I always felt proud of being associated with them, which has allowed me to work for them for so long.”

Mutual trust and support, raising each other up instead of competing with one another, and collaboration are among the key elements the family cultivates at Carmel Realty, according to Ehrenpreis.

“One time, he said to me, ‘How do you think I feel that every deal has my name on it? It better be honorable,’” she recalled. “That feeling infuses the office. Nobody locks a desk. Everybody works together. I am so proud of the Mitchell family and what they’ve done.”

Pride in others

Mitchell had a penchant for encouraging all employees and often had newer office staff make presentations on their projects. Learning to speak thoughtfully and intelligently in front of 60 or 70 mature businesspeople can be daunting, but doing so will benefit them for the rest of their lives, she said.

“Bill had great satisfaction seeing other people succeed,” Lynch agreed. “At our monthly staff meetings, he wanted to be there just to congratulate people on their success. That’s something I’ll have to work hard to continue on his behalf.”

The Mitchells also founded the Carmel Realty Foundation, which has grown to support more than 100 local nonprofits, and everyone who works at the company is encouraged to give, too, with the firm matching up to \$250 per person to the charities of their choice. “That was part of his citizenship,” Ehrenpreis said. “They did it well and invited you to share.”

Lynch concurred.

Continues next page

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From previous page

“Bill and I would talk about the reason we work so hard to make our company viable is not to maximize profits for ourselves, but to continue to meet the expectations of the charities that we support and who make up the community,” he said.

Lynch observed that his father-in-law’s desire to serve began with serving his country, but “quickly, I think, he was empathetic to the challenges people face in their lives and to suffering, and he wanted to try to minimize that.”

He focused on local nonprofits because he wanted to give back to the community that has supported him, and causes range widely, from Hospice and the Boys & Girls Clubs, to museums and conservation groups. “His passion was, ‘How can I help people live better lives?’” Lynch said.

“It was never just about what was in it for him, he wanted a good outcome for everybody,” Chrietzberg said. “He wanted to do well and was highly successful, but he was always putting back into the community.”

Indispensable

Mitchell was a longtime supporter of the Veterans Transition Center and served on its board. “He was so generous with his time and information and expertise,” Schake said. “He not only was a donor, he introduced us to people who could further the Veterans Transition Center’s mission not just with money, but with talent.”

The Carmel Realty team made annual visits to the center’s facilities on the former Fort Ord to learn about the organization and its mission, according to Schake.

“Without him, we would be more isolated. He helped integrate us into the community,” Schake said. “He cared deeply about nonprofits and veterans. Without Bill, we would be a much lesser organization.”

Vicki Mitchell recently delivered a collection of mementos, airplane models, plaques and awards from her husband’s time in the Air Force, according to Schake,

and they will be displayed with pride in the new 70-unit affordable housing project, Lightfighter Village, “so a piece of Bill can perpetually be seen at the Veterans Transition Center.”

And fun

Service, business and family — Mitchell was devoted to his wife and to their daughters, Shelly Mitchell Lynch and Sheri Mitchell, both whom are also with Carmel Realty — were essential in his life. But so was fun. As busy as he was, Mitchell found time to travel all over the world in pursuit of one of his favorite activities, fly fishing, and to ride his custom Harley-Davidson.

Toensketter accompanied him on many of those excursions and greatly enjoyed riding with people from all walks of life. He, Mitchell and fellow Stanford GSB alumni formed the Rolex Riders, but the duo also went out cruising with veterans and others, including Hells Angels.

“That was Bill living his life on his own terms,” he said. “That’s as big a difference as you can get, and he was comfortable in both realms. He didn’t care whether he was riding with a CEO, a mechanic, a construction worker — they’re all equal — and Bill always treated them that way. And that’s why I liked him so much.”

Even in his final days, Mitchell was generous with his time, thoughtfulness and words, according to Lynch.

“He taught us how to live with character and integrity — that was the most important thing — and you always wanted to meet his expectations,” he said. “And I found it extraordinary that he went out in that same manner. In those last few weeks, when it was clear he wasn’t going to get through this illness, he taught us that again.

“We all had the opportunity to spend time and sit with him, including all his grandchildren,” Lynch continued. “And in a very selfless manner, he encouraged them to be the best they can be, and he described what he saw was extraordinary about them. He encouraged them to lead meaningful lives and hugged them. He was a complete class act.”



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Acclaimed author unveils new novel

By ELAINE HESSER

IT WAS a long runway, but once Pacific Grove author Alka Joshi’s first novel, “The Henna Artist,” took off, her writing soared to heights she never imagined.

“I had no idea how big it would become,” she said of the book she spent 10 years writing. “My first inkling was when they sent that second book contract for ‘The Secret Keeper of Jaipur’ before ‘The Henna Artist’ had even been printed,” she recalled.

Her fourth novel, “Six Days in Bombay,” published by Harper Collins, goes on sale April 15.

Joshi’s first visit with The Pine Cone readers via their computer screens.

“The Henna Artist” was translated into 29 languages, and actress Reese Witherspoon selected it for her book club. Joshi, now 67, became one of Forbes magazine’s “50 over 50,” in 2023, joining a list of what its editors called, “people whose collective power stretches from the deep sea to outer space.”

Vivid imagery

After the quick turnaround for “The Secret Keeper,” a sequel published in June 2021, Harper Collins bought the final installment in the trilogy, “The Perfumer of Paris,” for which Joshi signed her first seven-figure contract.

It came out last year, and reviewers cheered the author’s rich, vivid imagery — something she’s become known for — as well as the satisfying wrap-up of all the storylines.

Joshi’s latest story begins in 1937, when Sona Falstaff, a hospital nurse in Bombay — the city now called Mumbai — tends to a patient named Mira Novak, who dies suddenly under suspicious circumstances less than a week after they meet. Novak’s adventurous life as a celebrated painter chiefly fascinates Falstaff, as does the fact that, like her, Novak is of mixed race.

The hospital suspects Falstaff was involved in Novak’s death and sends the nurse packing, passing along a note and



PHOTO/COURTESY ALKA JOSHI


Pacific Grove author Alka Joshi’s fourth book, “Six Days in Bombay,” goes on sale next week. Her first, “The Henna Artist” became a 2020 bestseller.

was in December 2021, about a year-and-a-half after “The Henna Artist” — a tale of a woman in India and the intrigue among her clients — was snapped up by readers in search of good books during the Covid-19 lockdown. At the time, the author estimated she’d spoken to more than 650 book clubs and about seven or eight thousand

adventurous life as a celebrated painter chiefly fascinates Falstaff, as does the fact that, like her, Novak is of mixed race.

The hospital suspects Falstaff was involved in Novak’s death and sends the nurse packing, passing along a note and


See **NOVEL** page 25A



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Modern art gallery next to Little Swiss Café celebrates opening Thursday

A NEW gallery with a focus on modern art will have its grand opening Thursday, including a public reception from 5 to 7 p.m. “Carmel Modern looks forward to welcoming the community to our gallery, focused entirely on modernist and contemporary art,” its owner, painter John Cromwell, said. The gallery’s first show features paintings by Cromwell and Lucas Blok. The latter is the subject of a show that’s on display at the Monterey Museum of

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

Art through the end of the month. Cromwell, meanwhile, describes himself as “an abstract colorist who explores the shapes, colors and relationships between objects and layers.”

According to Cromwell, his work and Blok’s “complement one another with their vibrant use of color and geometric elements to create compositions rich in depth, illusion and emotive content.”

Thursday’s reception includes a ribbon cutting by the Carmel Chamber of Commerce, along with wine and small bites. The gallery is located on Sixth between Dolores and Lincoln — next to the Little Swiss Café.

■ New galleries open

Two artist-owned galleries join the Carmel Art Walk this Saturday, including Carmel Modern (see above) and Bea’s Studio, which is located at San Carlos between Ocean and Seventh. Also, Robin Winfield Gallery, on Ocean between San Carlos and Dolores, is returning to the art walk after a lengthy hiatus.

At Gallery Sur, on Sixth between Dolores and Lincoln, photographers Winston Swift Boyer, Gary Geiger and Gary Lopez, along with gallery owner David Potigian will be on hand to greet visitors and talk about their work.

The art walk showcases downtown artist-owned galleries, and 17 are participating this month. Look for the green lanterns hanging in their windows — tour maps are available in each gallery.

The event provides an opportunity to “meet the local artists who keep the heart of Carmel beating strong,” said painter and gallery owner Joaquin Turner.

■ Remembering Jeff

A painter and gallery owner who died in 2023, Jeff Daniel Smith will be remembered Saturday when the Carmel Art Association hosts a reception from 4 to 7 p.m.

An exhibit of Smith’s paintings is on display this month at the downtown gallery on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth. Smith co-owned Galerie Plein Aire with wife, painter Cyndra Bradford.

“Through a meaningful selection of his vivid oil paintings, this exhibition reflects Jeff’s deep connection to California’s beauty — from weathered barns and towering

eucalyptus trees to shimmering waters and golden hills,” the gallery said.

At the reception, copies of a new book, “The California Landscape,” about Daniel’s career will be available. The book “serves as a lasting tribute to his remarkable career,” according to the gallery.

Also on display at the art association through May 5 are shows by illustrator Will Bullas (“Lions and Tigers and Beers”) and Carol Harper and printmaker Jennifer Anderson (“It’s All About the Blues”).

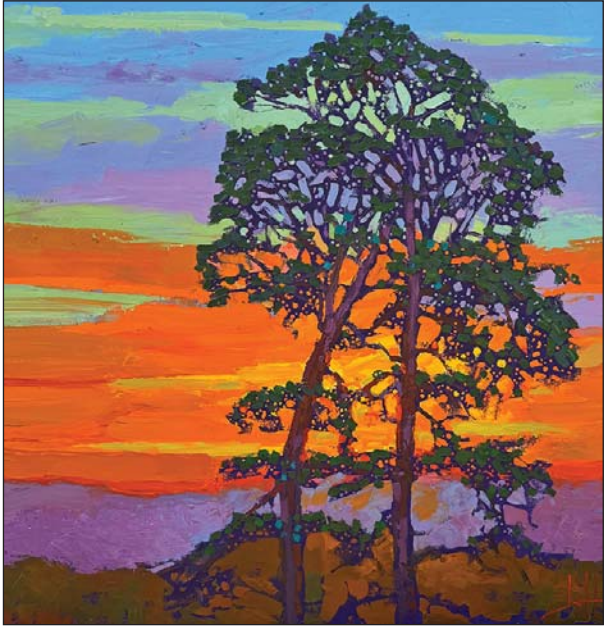
■ ‘Soulscapes’ on display

On display at Venture Gallery this month is an exhibit of Gordon Mayfield’s striking watercolors, “Soulscapes,” which highlights the artist’s “intense devotion to wild beauty.”

“Mayfield has for many years painted his favorite hikes and journeys taken into the wilderness,” the gallery’s Edi Matsumoto said.

“His striking paintings of the Big Sur Coast share an intimate look into his experiences living and painting on the cliffs. They envelop the viewer with the quiet strength of the natural world.”

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



An exhibit on display this month at Carmel Art Association celebrates the work of the late Jeff Daniel Smith, who painted this piece, “Pines At Sunset.”

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FOREST

From page 1A

wildfires.

“The United States has an abundance of timber resources that are more than adequate to meet our domestic timber production needs, but heavy-handed federal policies have prevented full utilization of these resources and made us reliant on foreign producers,” Rollins said. “It is vital that we reverse these policies and increase domestic timber production to protect our national and economic security.”

Rollins said she is issuing “an emergency situation determination” to make it possible for her agency to take measures to increase “the durability, resilience, and resistance to fire, insects, and disease within forests and grasslands” in national forests. Those measures include salvaging dead or dying trees, harvesting trees damaged by ice and wind, removing hazardous

trees in proximity to roads and trails, and restoring water sources or infrastructure.

Emergency declared

The memo also establishes expedited “emergency processes” for complying with the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act and the Clean Water Act — as well as guidance on streamlining, “to the extent allowable by law, all processes related to timber production.”

A day earlier, a memo from U.S. Forest Service official Chris French directed “all regional foresters to develop five-year strategies, tiered to the national strategy, to increase their timber volume offered, leading to an agency-wide increase of 25 percent over the next four to five years.”

A month earlier, President Donald Trump issued an executive order to boost timber production to create jobs and reduce the risk of wildfire.

Not surprisingly, many disagree with the administration’s plan, including the

Sierra Club.

“The Trump administration has made a move to log 112 million acres of our national forests,” the environmental group declared. “The order would also gut environmental protections for forests and endangered species in the process. The Trump administration says this will prevent wildfires, but it’s clearly a giveaway to logging corporations.”

Jeff Kuyper of Los Padres Forest Watch echoed the Sierra Club’s sentiments.

“This is a thinly veiled attempt to ramp up logging on our national forests, bypass environmental laws, and line the pockets of the timber industry,” Kuyper said. “This move — coupled with mass firings, budget cuts, and environmental rollbacks — will wreak havoc on the Los Padres and other national forests across the country.”

Flawed logic?

Kuyper suggested the strategy to remove large quantities of vegetation to reduce fire risk is flawed. Instead, he said the focus should be on “retrofitting homes,” “creating defensible space” and improving emergency response systems.

“Despite claims that logging will reduce wildfire risk, decades of scientific research and recent wildfire disasters consistently show that commercial logging does not prevent the most destructive fires — those driven by extreme winds and climate conditions,” he said.

Some parts of Big Sur experienced heavy logging in the late 19th century. Redwoods were turned into building materials, while tanbark oaks were harvested for the tannin in their bark. But there has been little timber harvesting along the coast during the past century.

A plan in the 1980s to log along Palo Colorado Road led to the creation of the Mill Creek Redwood Preserve, which has long been closed due to wildfire damage. A 2018 push by the Trump administration to increase logging put some trees in Big Sur on the hit list, but the plan never went forward.

While only time will tell if Big Sur’s trees will be a part of any specific logging proposal by the federal government, the region’s steep terrain and difficult access make harvesting trees elsewhere a much easier proposition.

SHERIE E. THORN

March 12, 1956 – March 13, 2025

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Sherie E. Thorn on March 13, 2025, in Monterey, California.

Born on March 12, 1956, in San Francisco, she traveled the world as an "Army brat" and later decided that Monterey was the most beautiful place to live. She dedicated over 40 years of her life to caring for animals at the Animal Hospital at the Crossroads. Her kindness, compassion and bright spirit touched the lives of countless pets and their owners, leaving a lasting impact on all who knew her.

Beyond her work, Sherie loved spending time in her beautiful cottage-style garden. She was also creative and had a gift for uncovering hidden treasures throughout Monterey County – often restoring and repurposing antiques to give them new life.

She is survived by her daughter, Stephanie Thorn; and her brother, Mike Valpey. She was preceded in death by her parents, Joyce Valpey and Jack Valpey.

In lieu of a service, donations may be made in her memory to Peace of Mind Dog Rescue in Pacific Grove or SPCA of Monterey County.



Marilyn Well Hyde

Marilyn Well Hyde passed away March 17, 2025, peacefully, comfortably, and with dignity, supported by her devoted and loving husband, Blair Hyde, to whom she had been married for 79 years. She was a delightful, intelligent, wise and caring person, a great wife, mother and grandmother to all of us.

Born Jan. 12, 1923, in Chicago, Il., she was the only child of Mabel and Ira Well. In 1937 the Well family moved to Hillsborough, California after which she attended the Sarah Dix Hamlin School for girls in San Francisco, San Mateo High School, Mills College, Oakland, and later graduated Stanford with a BA in philosophy, sociology and economics. While at Stanford she was affiliated with the Alpha Phi sorority. At this time she also served as a volunteer with the Red Cross, working at Stanford Hospital and Mills Memorial Hospital during WWII. Meanwhile Blair was serving in the Marines in the Pacific.

On May 12, 1945, Marilyn married Capt. Blair Hyde of the 3rd U.S. Marine Division, just returned from two years in the South Pacific.

The Hydys settled in Pasadena where they worked and raised two sons, Greg and Mark. Marilyn eventually earned a teaching credential and taught for 15 years in the Temple City school district while Blair made a career with Atlantic Richfield in Los Angeles.

In 1988 Marilyn and Blair moved to their new home at Quail Lodge in Carmel Valley, joined the local Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula and the Carmel Valley Racquet Club. In 2015 they moved to Carmel Valley Manor.

Marilyn enjoyed friends and family as well as dancing, gardening, reading, playing bridge and the piano, drawing and painting.

She is survived by her husband Blair and their two sons: Greg (Dixie) of Salinas and Mark (Victoria) of Maui; grandchildren: Nathan (Jennifer) of Monterey, Megan (Mike Burton) of Walnut Creek, Blair and Spencer of Maui; great-grandchildren: Chloe, Kira and Charlotte, and step great-granddaughter Alexandra.

At Marilyn’s request, services will be held for family members only.



PUBLIC NOTICES

SUMMONS (Citacion Judicial) CASE NUMBER: 24CV005301

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (Aviso al demandado) MARIA PINEDA, AND DOES 1 - 20

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (Lo esta demandando el demandante) LOYA CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY

NOTICE: You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta.

Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$ 10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is (El nombre y direccion de le corte es):
MONTEREY COURT
1200 AGUAJITO ROAD
MONTEREY, CA 93940

The name, address and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado,es):
Charlotte M. Konczal, Esq. (SBN 212832);
11900 North 26 St., Suite 200, Edinburg, TX 78539;
(915) 383-2536
Date: Dec. 13, 2024
(s) Clerk, by Rosa Lopez, Deputy

Publication Dates: April 11, 18, May 2, 9, 2025. (PC425)

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COLLIDE

From page 10A

with disabilities.

The Rides bus was being driven by an employee of a private contractor. “The MST Rides vehicle was being operated by MV Transit, which we use for all of our small-bus operations,” he said.

Sedoryk said he’d been told the mini-bus contained two passengers and was on its way to the Village when “a vehicle just pulled out right in front of our MST Rides vehicle, and the driver had probably a second to respond,” but couldn’t avoid colliding with the Toyota.

“We do know the driver and two passengers were transported to the hospital,” Sedoryk said. “The driver was treated and released.”

He did not know which hospital provided the care or the condition of the passengers. “It’s unfortunate that it occurred,” he said. “I’m not sure how you don’t see a bus coming, but they obviously must not have seen it or it didn’t register, or they thought they could get out ahead of it. They made a misjudgment, it seems.”

SHOCKED

From page 10A


arms and legs, and suffered severe headaches, chest pain, damage to their cardiovascular systems, mental and emotional distress and other injuries, the complaint says.

Villavicencio and Martinez said that the accident occurred “directly after” work was performed on the power line, and they accuse PG&E of negligently leaving it in an unsafe and dangerous condition.

Damages sought

The lawsuit said the accident occurred on Bardin Ranch, which is owned by Thomas Bunn Family, LLC, which is also named as a defendant. Other defendants in the complaint are Merrill Farms, which was issued a ranching permit by Monterey County for the property, Sunberry Growers, LLC, and Monterey Bay Farms, which leased the land.

The injured workers are seeking an unspecified monetary amount for past and future medical expenses, lost earnings and other damages.



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DEMETRIO ‘DANNY’ CORONA

May 4, 1936 ❖ March 21, 2025

With great sorrow and a heavy heart, we announce the passing of Demetrio (Danny) Corona, a resident of Pacific Grove. He passed away peacefully at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula on March 21st at the age of 88.

Danny worked for Holman’s Department Store in Pacific Grove for more than 15 years and later the City of Monterey for 35 years.

Born in Milpitas, California, and raised in Pleasanton, California, where he attended grammar school and high school, Demetrio had a great sense of humor and a quick wit. He was a classic car enthusiast and owned many during his lifetime.

He moved to the Monterey Peninsula after marrying his high school sweetheart, Ella. Demetrio is survived by his wife, Ella; three daughters, Yalonda (Eric) Guerra, Tina and Lisa Corona; and granddaughter, Raquel Danel Guerra. He also leaves behind three sisters, Ramona Chavez of San Bernadino, Anna Contreras of Salinas and Maria Corona of West Covina; his brother, Ubaldo Corona of San Bernadino; his brother-in-law, Ray Magsalay of Pacific Grove; his sister-in-law Alvina Steele of Long Beach and many nieces and nephews. Demetrio was preceded in death by his brother, James, and sister, Rebecca.

He will be missed by his closest friends and all who knew him as a loyal, loving man who gave so much of himself and asked for nothing but the best for everyone.

He will be deeply missed by his constant companions, his dogs, Lola and Abby.

As per Demetrio’s wishes there will be no services.

Rest in peace until we meet again.

Your Loving Family,

The Coronas



CARLOS G. PINA

May 18, 1944 • March 10, 2025

Resident, Hacienda Carmel

Carlos was a warm, loving, strong man. He passed quietly in Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula with his family around him.

He retired as a Pomona police officer in 1969, and had competed as a tennis player in the California Police Olympics. This career was followed by positions in supermarket security in Southern California, then to the Monterey Bay area in 1998. Carlos served with Gilroy Unified School District as director of operations. He subsequently worked as golf marshall at Quail Lodge, all these years battling multiple health issues.

His passions were many: tennis, golf, cycling, lifelong Packer fan, travel — especially to Mazatlan.

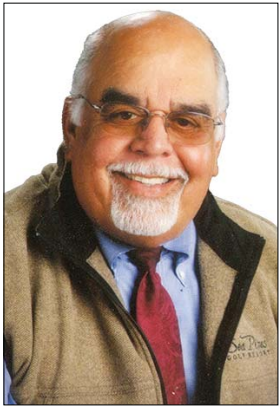
He leaves behind his loving wife, Janice; sons, John (Kelly) and Timothy (Daria); stepsons, Mitchell (Elizabeth) and Scotland (Jessica); sisters, Lillian (Paul) and Olivia (Mike).

He was known as “best grandpa ever” or Tata by his multiple grandchildren.

Carlos was preceded in death by his parents, Francisco and Lillian (Cisneros) Pina; brother, Frank; and sister, Margaret.

Carlos’ ashes were scattered in Monterey by the Trident Society per his wishes.

He was a larger-than-life personality who was loved so much and will be missed forever.



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PHILOMENE RUPPE REED SMITH

Sept. 12, 1936 – April 1, 2025

Philomene R. Smith (“Phil”) passed peacefully on April 1, 2025, surrounded by her family. She is survived by daughter Philomene McCleskey and son-in-law Mark, daughter Charlotte Arnold and son-in-law Michael, much beloved grandchildren Caroline and Timothy, her brother Jason C. Reed, and numerous nieces and nephews. Phil’s husband of 59 years, Henry H. Smith (“Hank”), predeceased her in 2016. Her sister Kristan T. Grace and brother Donald B. Reed predeceased her in 2011 and 2024 respectively.

Phil was born in Los Angeles, the eldest child of Howard Lyman Reed and Philomene Chandler Reed. She moved with her family to Monterey in 1952 at age 16 and graduated from Monterey Union High School in 1954. Phil fell in love with her new home in Monterey and the lifelong friends, known affectionately as the mob, she made at MUHS. Their adventures took them on camping trips to Big Sur, hiking in the Sierra, and other “highly entertaining” shenanigans known only to themselves. After graduation, Phil attended Monterey Peninsula College and worked for the City of Monterey Parks and Recreation department as a playground supervisor and a counselor at day camp (now Whispering Pines) and Camp Quien Sabe. She graduated from MPC in 1956 at the top of her class and attended UCLA, her parents’ alma mater, before marrying Hank in 1957. She completed her bachelor of arts in sociology with great distinction at San Jose State College in 1959.

In the early 1960s, Phil and Hank settled in Monterey and in 1972, after earning her master of arts in special education from the University of Northern Colorado, Phil launched a 29-year teaching career with the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District as an elementary school resource specialist and middle school math teacher.

Her connection to the Monterey Peninsula ran both wide and deep and reflected her commitment to civic engagement. She served on the Monterey County Juvenile Justice Commission, including as chair, and the planning commission and was active in both the League of Women Voters and the Delta Lambda chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an international professional society for women educators. Phil was an avid hiker and backpacker, with the Emigrant Wilderness in the Sierra Nevada mountains a frequent and favorite destination for backcountry adventures with her immediate and extended family.

Her lifelong love of the outdoors found its greatest expression through decades of volunteering at the Fort Ord National Monument, where she worked closely with staff and other volunteers to document and protect native plants, remove invasive species, and support the annual Public Lands Day celebrations. Her extraordinary efforts were recognized numerous times, most recently in October 2023 when she was presented with the Monumental Legacy award for her years of volunteer service.

Phil encouraged everyone she knew to continue their education, get outside as much as possible, and learn to use a Pulaski. She was always ready to help and, as noted in a heart-felt remembrance from a friend, “push others to make good trouble.”

Those wishing to make a gift in Phil’s memory may donate to the Monterey Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society at www.cnps.org.



TRADE

From page 8A

Almonds are a good example. California grows all of the almonds exported from the United States, so low tariffs on almonds alone would only favor California. In 2022, almond exports were valued at \$4.7 billion and the crop supported 110,000 jobs. Other California products countries could choose to exempt include wine, walnuts and pistachios.

However, agricultural goods are not the only thing coming out of the Golden State. California is also home to 36,000 manufacturing firms that employ 1.1 million people. In 2023 the state exported \$160 billion in manufactured goods, mostly computer and electronic products, but also chemicals and machinery.

Trading partners could reconsider retaliatory tariffs on those goods as well. However, easing up on any one product would also benefit any other state that produces the same goods. Sumner said other countries may be unlikely to support states that voted for Trump.

“In putting together retaliation lists, countries pay attention to what they think is the politics in the other country because these things are often political decisions,” said Sumner.

Trade talks

Speaking on his new podcast, “This is Gavin Newsom,” the governor said he’s already been in talks with international trade partners about the tariffs.

“Foreign leaders have reached directly out to California to express that anxiety, concern from a subnational level, and looked to engage us directly with all the volatility and

the uncertainty,” Newsom told his guest a day prior to the announcement of his trade directive.

California has 60,000 small-business exporters. Their top destinations are China, Mexico and Canada, which buy \$67 billion worth of goods from the state each year, or around a third of California’s exports. More than 40 percent of California’s imported goods come from those three countries, or about \$203 billion worth.

Not all California products will be impacted by a trade war. The Golden State exports a lot of services, like software and education, and those are exempt from import tariffs in other countries.

GAVEL

From page 4A

Manuel Vasquez, 37 and a resident of Salinas, to 100 years to life in state prison for committing two counts of forcible rape and six counts of forcible lewd acts upon a child under 14. The jury also determined that Vazquez had committed the enhancement of tying and binding his victim. Hood also found true that Vasquez has a prior strike conviction for participation in a street gang. All eight offenses are serious and violent felonies and are considered strikes under California’s three strikes law. Vasquez will also be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

Jane Doe 1 disclosed that Vasquez, a family member, had molested her on numerous occasions over a four-year period, starting when she was 11 or 12 years old. Doe 1 stated that while Vazquez was forcibly raping her, she tried to scream, and as a result, Vazquez put a sock in her mouth and tied her hands to prevent her from resisting. Doe 1’s courageous disclosure to law enforcement caused Jane Doe 2 to report that Vasquez had also molested her when she was 9 to 10 years old. Doe 1 and Doe 2 both testified bravely at the jury trial. They stated that they delayed reporting the crime because they were afraid and did not know if they would be believed. According to research into sexual assault victim behavior, it is very common for victims to delay reporting the sexual abuse, especially when the victim is a minor and has a close relationship with the perpetrator.

This case was investigated by detective Ciro Barboza and other officers from the Salinas Police Department. District

attorney investigator Rebecca Garcia also assisted in the investigation. Doe 1 and Doe 2 were assisted by victim witness program manager Alma Sanchez.

Feb. 21 — Gustavo Espinoza Villalobos, 33 and a resident of Greenfield, was sentenced to 25 years to life in state prison by Superior Court Judge Mark Hood. On Dec. 13, 2024, a jury found Villalobos guilty of three counts of Penal Code section 288(a) — lewd or lascivious acts on a child under the age of 14, and one count of Penal Code section 647.6 — annoying or molesting a child under the age of 18. The jury also found true the multiple victim enhancement for each count of Penal Code section 288(a). All three Penal Code section 288(a) offenses are serious and violent felonies and are considered strikes under California’s three strikes law. Villalobos was also ordered to register as a sex offender.

In December 2018, Det. Joseph Dyles of the Greenfield Police Department spoke with John Doe 1, who disclosed to Dyles that Villalobos molested him when he was 10 years old. Villalobos lived next door to Doe 1 in Greenfield at the time of the molestation. Further investigation revealed that John Does 2, 3, and 4, who were members of Villalobos’ family, were also molested by him. These molestations occurred when Doe 2 was 12 years old, Doe 3 was 9 years old, and Doe 4 was 11 or 12 years old. All four victims delayed reporting the incidents for years. Shortly after these accusations came to light, Villalobos fled to Mexico. He was apprehended in 2023 at the border and extradited to Monterey County to face prosecution for his crimes against John Does 1, 2, 3, and 4.

This case was investigated by Greenfield Police Detective Joseph Dyles and King City Police Sergeant Joshue Partida. Monterey County District Attorney Investigator Rebecca Ayala conducted follow-up investigation on the case. John Does 1, 2, 3, and 4 were assisted by the district attorney’s office victim witness assistance program Manager Alma Sanchez. Court facility support dog, Norma Jeane, provided Doe 1 with much needed support his testimony at trial.



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CRAB

From page 11A

The abbreviated fishing period means Aliotti and other professional fishermen — who are facing a possible third consecutive year of restrictions on salmon fishing due to low populations — are seeing another blow to their bottom line.

“We are going on three years of no salmon fishing and went from an 8-month season for crab fishing to three months,” he said. “How do they expect fisherman to survive?”

On top of the revenue losses, Aliotti decried the state’s rules requiring fishermen to register their crab traps every two years, even though they’re not allowed to use them all.

“My tags this year cost me \$2,300, and I’m only allowed to use half of them,” he said, adding that he has 250 traps. “If we are only able to use half our gear, we should only pay for half our tags. Where does it end?”

Between the short season and the trap

restrictions, he estimates he’s suffered a 40 percent loss in revenue.

Dungeness crab customers were also affected, with higher prices at the market.

While Bonham’s order — which affects recreational crab fishing in Monterey Bay — states that “alternative gear” could be used in the closed fishing zones, it says that “currently there are no authorized alternative gear types.” The industry is working to develop no-tangle traps.

Confrontations

The order, which also applies to recreational crab fishing, directs fishermen to remove Dungeness crab traps from ocean waters in the affected fishing zones.

The triggers are the result of the settlement of a 2017 lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity against Fish & Wildlife in response to whale entanglements.

NOAA Fisheries released data last December indicating that 34 whales had been entangled in fishing gear off the West Coast in 2024, which is higher than any other year since 2018. It’s not clear how many of those were in California.

NOVEL

From page 20A

four paintings the artist left for her.

Novak’s written instructions send Falstaff on a journey to Istanbul, Prague, Florence, Paris and London, delivering three of the paintings to people along the way and working to uncover the mystery behind the artist’s death.

Launch party

Joshi said she based Novak on Hungarian-Indian Amrita Sher-Gil, a painter known for her avant-garde style and her colorful life who died under mysterious circumstances at age 28.

Research for the book included traveling

with her husband, author Bradley Owens, following Falstaff’s footsteps. Joshi met with art historians, archivists, tour guides and many others to ensure her work’s historical and cultural accuracy.

A launch party at Santa Catalina School in Monterey is scheduled for April 29 at 6 p.m. There will be an author talk, a musical performance by string duet Sunkiss’d Mozart, book signing, and small bites based on her characters’ travels.

Before she became an author, Joshi worked in advertising in New York, and she said that experience has helped her on book tours.

“I was never nervous in front of audiences and I have had a good understanding of what they want to hear,” she said, then offered a hint. “It’s never the words you wrote. It’s always why you wrote them.”



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Editorial

Why did it happen?

THE STARTLING changes at the U.S.-Mexico border since Donald Trump became president have been reported endlessly, and we have no need to repeat here the basic facts of the virtual elimination, not only of illegal crossings, but of claims for asylum along the entire border from San Diego to Texas. It is striking, however, that the impacts are being felt thousands of miles from our shores. This week, in a story headlined, “Once a migratory highway, the Darien Gap has been left empty under Trump crackdown,” the AP reported that even the daily stream of would-be immigrants to the United States from Colombia to Panama has dried up.

Unlike the controversies surrounding his efforts to reduce the country’s trade imbalance, the president’s seizure of the border was established quickly and effectively — not only without a hitch, but also without much dissent. Even Chuck Schumer and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez aren’t calling for the border to be reopened. In fact, the Democrats are trying to convince the public that the crackdown was former President Joe Biden’s idea.

So if even the Democrats aren’t in favor of illegal immigration, why was it allowed to happen in such massive numbers? Assuming the country needs 1 million or more immigrants a year from Latin America, Africa and Asia, is there a reason they have to come here illegally, instead of through an approval process to make sure criminals, at least, aren’t included?

The answer is that immigration across our southern border began in such small numbers, and the border was so long, even when numbers rose and crackdowns were promised, it usually seemed more economically and politically expedient to look the other way than to actually bring things under control. Finally, it took an unmistakable deluge of unwanted immigration for the public to decide to elect a president who would stop it.

The story of illegal immigration from Mexico to the United States begins in the late 19th century, when the U.S. was already the richest country in the world, offering economic opportunities much greater than those south of the border, especially during periods of Mexican political instability. The Mexican Revolution, which lasted from 1910 to 1920, displaced many, pushing them northward during a time when the border was largely unregulated and fences were nonexistent. The Immigration Act of 1917 introduced literacy tests and head taxes, marking the first significant restrictions. Many Mexicans entered legally as laborers, especially during World War I, but some crossed informally, evading fees or documentation.

Border enforcement tightened with the creation of the U.S. Border Patrol in 1924, partly in response to Prohibition-era smuggling, leading to a rise in illegal crossings. During the Great Depression, anti-immigrant sentiment led to mass deportations — up to 1 million Mexicans and Mexican-Americans were repatriated, including U.S. citizens. World War II reversed this trend with the Bracero Program, a legal guest worker initiative to fill labor shortages. Despite that, illegal entries continued as demand outstripped the program’s quotas.

In 1954, the United States launched “Operation Wetback,” a deportation campaign targeting more than 1 million Mexican workers in its first year. The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act capped Western Hemisphere immigration to the United States at 120,000 annually, inadvertently spurring illegal crossings. Mexicans, facing long waits for visas, increasingly crossed on their own, often aided by smugglers.

Economic crises in Mexico during the 1970s and 1980s drove migration northward, while U.S. industries, including agriculture and construction, began to rely on cheap labor. Illegal immigration surged, with estimates of 5 million undocumented Mexicans in the United States by the 1980s. Border enforcement ramped up, but then the Regan-era 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act granted amnesty to about 3 million immigrants, while promising increased border security and penalties for employers. However, enforcement was weak, and illegal crossings continued to rise.

The early 2000s witnessed a sharp increase in immigration from Mexico, and by 2007, the undocumented population hit an estimated 12 million. Post-9/11 security concerns led to the Secure Fence Act expanding border walls, and a doubling of border patrol agents, and the Great Recession also slowed migration, as U.S. job losses reduced incentives. So did the Covid-19 pandemic. Not until Joe Biden became president in 2021 did the floodgates truly open, resulting in public outrage, the election of Trump, and the slamming of the border doors.

If the president’s crackdown results in labor shortages, voices will be raised to admit more migrants. But we doubt anybody — not in public, at least — will call for them to come illegally.

BEST of BATES



“They moved to town when civility ended in 1994.”

Letters to the Editor

The Pine Cone encourages submission of letters which address issues of public importance. Letters cannot exceed 350 words, and must include the author’s name and home town. We reserve the right to determine which letters are suitable for publication and to edit for length and clarity.

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

Outsourcing concerns

Dear Editor,

In response to The Carmel Pine Cone’s front page article last week, the Carmel Residents Association board of directors has concerns regarding potential outsourcing of our police services as the city council addresses both urgent repairs and expanded renovations to our police department facilities. Outsourcing considerations are a critical issue affecting village safety, overall experience, and our reputation reaching far beyond our 1 square mile.

Moreover, as budget constraints loom over upcoming discussions, it is essential to consider the long-term implications of potential outsourcing. While it may seem like a cost-saving measure in the short term, the potential erosion of community police relationships and the impact on local businesses and employment cannot be ignored. Additionally, our police staff are not just employees, they are members

of our community who understand our unique people, challenges and needs.

As these decisions are considered, everyone will benefit from an open dialogue that includes the pros and cons of outsourcing, the potential impacts on community safety, and alternative solutions that may better serve our needs without compromising the quality of our police services. We are an engaged, informed community who are essential stakeholders for making decisions that will materially affect our future.

We look forward to working together to ensure that our police department remains a personal, trusted and effective part of our community. We are very concerned about outsourcing our police services and look forward to engaging in a collaborative dialogue with the city council, staff, businesses and residents about our safety and well-being.

We’d also like to express our gratitude to the leadership, community engagement and services the Carmel Police Department provides our residents, businesses and visitors. Chief Paul Tomasi and his team exemplify the best in keeping our village safe and secure. Their performance, communication, teamwork and judgement have enabled us all to feel confident that Carmel is secure.

Graeme Robertson, President,
CRA board of directors

Forest management

Dear Editor,

On May 31, 1987, an illegal campfire

See LETTERS page 30A

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Uphill and down — with love, nature and ‘whatever God must be’

DUNCAN CLARKE’S mom was a Campfire Girl, which instilled in her an appreciation for the wilderness. His father was a mining engineer with a similar respect for nature. Clarke, a hybrid of the two, loves to hike, tackling long, arduous treks like the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Winding through the Eastern United States, the “A.T.,” as hikers refer to it, covers almost 2,200 miles across 14 states between Springer Mountain in Georgia and Mount Katahdin in Maine, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy says more than 3 million people leave their footprints on portions of it each year.

Shenandoah

One of Clarke’s first dates with his late wife, Cynthia, was a hike. If it was a test, she passed, because just three weeks later, the couple — who met at American University in Washington D.C., where he was teaching —Three months after that, they married.

“I’ve always liked the works by Henry Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson that introduce a oneness with nature and whatever God must be,” he said.

Cynthia felt it, too,” he said, and sharing the experience with her was wonderful.

They first became acquainted with a significant stretch of the Appalachian Trail



Duncan Clarke has been all over the Appalachian Trail with his family, hiking its 2,000-plus miles in segments.

the Shenandoah National Park, then kept going on weekends and vacations.

“Doing the trail in short hikes is called section hiking. Sometimes this was only a day hike — it varied widely — of 10 to 20-plus miles. Other times, we’d backpack for three to eight days, almost always with our German shepherd, Ruby.

“In 1976, after three-and-a-half years, we completed the trail.”

Hiking the Appalachians isn’t without its dangers. Once, in Maine, said Clarke, “no more than 15 feet away was a massive bull moose with the melancholy face of a fatigued scholar.” However, any comic effect was moderated by the animal’s size.

“His prominent nose and 5-foot-wide rack of thick horn conveyed the authority and self-confidence of an emperor,”

See **LIVES** page 30A

Great Lives

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

that runs through Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, about 75 miles from D.C.

“After completing three or four circuit hikes, we’d covered about 50 miles and decided to keep going,” said Clarke. They finished all 105 miles of the trail in

From the mayor’s desk — Empathy key to good government

By DALE BYRNE

IN MY last column, I emphasized the importance of collaboration to solve problems. This past week, several situations reminded me again how quickly we can lose sight of one another’s perspectives. Whether it was concern over a proposed policy change, frustration about uneven enforcement of guidelines, or a city employee on the receiving end of that frustration, the common thread was a lack of empathy.

Let me assure you: Your mayor, city council, and city staff are deeply engaged with complex, meaningful issues. We value your input and ask for your respect in return. I assume good intentions in every resident and business owner I meet, and I hope you’ll extend the same grace to those serving our community.

In a close-knit town like Carmel, mutual

understanding is essential. Our proximity is part of the charm — and it sometimes calls for added patience and kindness.

■ What it takes to serve

Serving as mayor or council member is demanding, time-consuming, and for all practical purposes, unpaid. Yet each member of this council stepped up out of a deep love for Carmel and a strong sense of responsibility.

Though the council and I have only been working together for 90 days, we’ve already made meaningful progress. One recent milestone, approving a contract for a potential \$15 million remodel of the Harrison Memorial Library — at no cost to the city — shows what’s possible when public servants and staff partner with passionate civic groups.

See **MAYOR** next page

Learning what you don’t want can be pretty important, too

PENINSULA ARTIST Vanessa Martin learned two life-altering lessons shortly after college during a three-and-a-half-year apprenticeship with a dour, grumpy San Francisco goldsmith.

The moody curmudgeon, who, she said, never met an employee he didn’t repel, taught her the fundamentals of making beautiful one-of-a-kind pieces of jewelry.

He also unintentionally gifted her with this realization: She needed to become her own boss, so she’d never have to work for anybody like him again.

And she hasn’t. She’s essentially been self-employed as an artist throughout her adult life.

“I feel very fortunate to live here, to be an artist here,” said Martin, who also paints the seascapes she sees from a window of her home studio, which overlooks Monterey Bay. “But I feel like I worked really, really hard to get here.”

She has exhibited her jewelry and abstract acrylic paintings for the past 25 years at Monterey’s Venture Gallery, which

makes her the longest-tenured member of the co-op.

Martin’s artistic passions and the foundations of a great work ethic have been with her since her early days in Pasadena.

“We were a creative family,” she said. “My mom was an artist. My oldest sis-

Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

ter became an artist. I did all kinds of art things as a little kid — clay, decoupage, maybe a little bit of painting.

“Then I started stringing beads, making necklaces,” remembered Martin, who invariably brought home A’s from her art teachers. “Friends and I would get together as teenagers for bead-trading sessions, which were fun, and in high school the walls of my bedroom were like a curtain of beads and necklaces.”

Her father, born in Switzerland, owned a Swiss machinery shop — where her mother also worked — in Los Angeles, making tiny parts for aircraft and other things.

“Some of the things he made went into one of the first space shuttles,” Martin said.

“I worked there for a little bit,” she added. “Dad had me doing secretary-type things until I said, ‘No, I don’t want to do this. Put me on the machine.’”

‘I’ll work for free’

The headstrong youth decided at an early age that she’d never work at a fast-food restaurant or wait tables. Instead, as a high school student with no experience or training, she walked into a picture-framing shop and asked for a job.

“My brother said, ‘Go in there and tell them you’ll work the first week for free. Then they can decide if they want to hire you.’

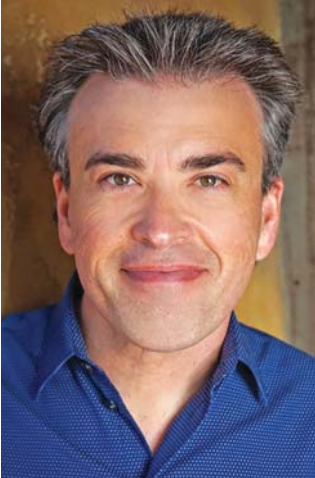
“So, that’s what I did. And they said, ‘No, you don’t have to work for free. We’ll pay you

See **ARTIST** page 29A



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

Peninsula artist Vanessa Martin has shown her “jewel tone” abstract paintings and fine art jewelry at Monterey’s Venture Gallery for the past 25 years.



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MAYOR

From previous page

This council is focused on making fair, thoughtful decisions based on facts. We listen to residents, staff, and business owners, ask good questions, speak honestly, and take responsible action. We value common sense, have friendly debate and don't believe in delay or deflection.

Carmel needs forward-thinking leadership — and that's what we're here to deliver.

■ Respect a two-way street

The best decision-making relies on public partnership. Success requires mutual respect and the willingness to understand each other's point of view.

Before reacting in frustration, I ask that you pause and reflect. Be kind. Be constructive. Ask why a policy exists and what issue it addresses. If you have a better idea, share it. Get involved early. If you're a business owner navigating city rules, know that staff operate within structures shaped by past decisions. Council can revise those when needed. City employees should understand some policies may confuse or frustrate residents at first. And for those of us in government, it's our job to keep listening and lead with empathy.

You don't have to agree with every decision to be part of the solution. Disagreement is healthy. But let's assume good intentions and remember we all want what's best for Carmel.

Our shared goals are clear: Preserve the village charm, improve safety, support local businesses and enhance quality of life. We are modernizing infrastructure, streamlining the permitting process and tackling long-standing challenges. We know some policies are outdated, and our customer service can improve. A future column will speak more on that.

■ Taking care of each other

The road ahead won't always be easy, but it's easier when we treat each other with respect and approach problems with a solution-oriented mindset. Attend meetings with ideas in hand. Keep comments crisp and kind. At a late-night meeting, a smile goes a long way. Reach out through respectful emails or personal conversations with council members, commissioners, or staff.

As your mayor, I will continue to lead with honesty and humility — and I invite you to do the same. Let's take care of one another and build a stronger Carmel-by-the-Sea together.

To hear a podcast based on this column, visit cli.re/empathy.


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

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ARTIST

From page 27A

and train you,” she remembered.

Martin worked through her high school years at the company’s two stores until, at 18, she boldly seized an opportunity to rent and run one of the locations.

“I was very good at that job, because I knew how to make things look better,” she said. “The boss popped in twice a week to say, ‘What do you need?’ That was the only supervision I got.”

Martin enrolled in Sonoma State University, declared a fine arts major and explored every available medium — oil painting, photography, paper-making, pottery, silk screening and ceramics.

“I also made a little bit of jewelry during my last year there,” she said, “I learned how to solder and things like that and discovered that I was pretty good at it.”

Then, she took a class — just one — at the San Francisco Academy of Jewelry, made her first ring, and realized her life ambition had dramatically changed.

“I felt high as a kite — I just loved making jewelry,” she said. “I remember thinking, ‘OK, this is what I want to do for the rest of my life.’”

That’s when she left picture-framing behind and got hired by that perpetually cranky San Francisco goldsmith.

“Everybody who ever worked for him ended up being self-employed, because he

was not a nice person,” she said. “He’d say, ‘Come in on your day off and I’ll teach you how to do this.’”

More than three years later, she left to exhibit her wares at her friend’s Santa Rosa business, one of the top 10 galleries in the United States.

“We ended up becoming best friends, and she talked me into doing my first wholesale shows in Chicago and Philadelphia,” Martin said.

“My dad said, ‘You can’t do that!’ And I said, ‘Watch me,’” she remembered with a laugh.

That trip proved more educational than lucrative for the fledgling business-woman. She became a meticulous planner over the next 10 years, selling her work briskly at shows from San Francisco to Palm Springs.

“Those were a lot of work — traveling, setting up a booth, standing there for three days, talking to hundreds of people, breaking down the booth, packing up, driving home,” she said. “But if I made a lot of money, it was worth the drive.”

Mann’s marketing ideas

Pivotal for Martin was a marketing class she took from a well-known jeweler, Thomas Mann, famous for his metalsmithing and assemblage.

She also pitched an impressive business plan to her parents, whose loan enabled her to open her own gallery on the Peninsula, a business she ran successfully for seven years.

In 2000, she became a member at Venture Gallery, where she has exhibited her

work ever since.

“Today, I feel like I have the best of both worlds,” she said. “I’ve wanted to live by the ocean my entire life, and now I do. I love creating art, and that’s what I do. I have a lot of artist friends who are important to me, because we all speak the same language. It’s important to receive feedback.”

Feeding the senses

Her painting skills have blossomed, thanks in part to workshops she’s taken from Peninsula abstract guru Mary Titus and San Fernando Valley legend Robert Burridge, who now lives in Mexico.

“Mary is the best abstract painter I know,” she said of Titus. “And Robert Burridge, who teaches all over the country, changed my painting entirely during a three-day workshop.”

Martin and a friend are tentatively

planning to visit the 82-year-old Burridge for another workshop in January.

“After years living next to the Monterey Bay, I am constantly inspired and intrigued by the changing light,” she wrote on her website. “Subconsciously, the forces of nature feed our senses, and I create from that life force.”

She describes the colors she applies as “jewel tones” — a bow toward the luminous gems and pearls she uses in her jewelry, which she considers “mini-sculptures.”

Martin’s moody, often mysterious abstract paintings, colorful Zen collages, and jewelry can be seen at Venture Gallery (260 Alvarado St.), open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Find images of her work and additional information at artworkbyvanna.com and venturegallery.com.

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

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In the belief that our foreign aid program has not served our national interest, the new Administration has dismantled the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and frozen nearly all the contracts and grants that it funded. Our guest, Mark Ward, worked for USAID in the Foreign Service for over 30 years in some of the world’s most dangerous places. Ward will discuss the need for long overdue reform of our foreign aid program and explore how the United States may suffer without foreign aid.

A limited number of seats for auditors will be available at no charge. Please notify the WACMB office no later than April 17 at www.wacmb.org or call 831-643-1855. Auditors will be allowed entry at 6:35 p.m.

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LIVES

From page 27A

Clarke said. “He squinted at us in his calm enormity.”

Fortunately, rutting season was still a month away, or “we would have been in considerable danger,” he said.

The Clarkes also introduced their two young daughters, Amelia and Julia, to hiking, and the family pursued it together, continuing after Cindy was diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

“Even after the cancer metastasized, Cynthia continued to hike for seven years,” Clarke said. They finished the trail a second time in August 1995, this time as a family, by climbing 5,269-foot Mount Katahdin, the northern terminus of the trail and Maine’s highest mountain.

Clarke said, “Cynthia had had multiple chemotherapy treatments, radiation, and surgeries. She insisted on climbing Katahdin with the girls and me.”

‘Love never dies’

They started the final stretch at 6 a.m., but Cynthia was too weak for the challenge, so “I pushed, pulled, and mostly carried her up granite boulders and cliffs, once hauling her up a long, wobbly, wooden ladder,” Clarke said.

After suffering multiple scrapes and bruises, and a couple of falls, he asked her, “Lovey, should we go back down?” But her answer was always the same: “No way!” Late in the afternoon, they finally reached the summit.

“Coming down was at least as difficult. Amelia and Julia had been waiting hours for us at the trailhead and were extremely concerned. Cynthia and I struggled in by flashlight well after dark and reached them about 9 p.m.,” Clarke said. “It was one of the most challenging days of my life, and one of the most rewarding.”

The memory, he said, still brings tears to his eyes. His wife died on July 7, 2000, “but love never dies.”

In addition to sharing his avocation with his family, Clarke said he enjoyed the physical challenge. “Hiking sure as hell keeps you fit and young. It’s an amazing cardiovascular workout.” He also appreciates the community of hikers who look out for and take care of each other.

“Many hikers in those early days were Vietnam vets who found hiking an effective way to come to terms with their lives. They talked and talked along the trail, and I listened,” he said.

Devoted to writing

Clarke earned his bachelor’s degree at Clark University in Massachusetts, his law degree at Cornell University, and his Ph.D. in political science and international relations at the University of Virginia. By 1969, he was ready to get to work. He took a job at a public women’s college in southwest Virginia but was there just one year before becoming a professor of international relations at American University in Washington D.C., where he “retired” after 37 years.

He then served as a professor of national security at the National War College of the National Defense University in D.C. and guest-lectured at the Naval Postgraduate School. Clarke was also a visiting professor of politics at UC Santa Cruz from 2008 to 2012.

He retired again and moved to Carmel Valley Manor, where he has devoted himself to writing.

Clarke’s first book, “A Little Rebellion is a Good Thing: Troubles at Traymore College” (2021) is a novel that portrays his experiences at the college in southwest Virginia.

His new book, “Murder on the Appalachian Trail,” is a fictional piece inspired by life events. It introduces the trail as a “place of solace for a grieving law professor,” who decides to join the murder investigation as a way to find purpose.

Clarke, 84, lives with his wife, attorney Ann Clarke, who teaches at Monterey College of Law. The last time he hiked the Appalachian Trail was in 2021.

LETTERS

From page 26A

ignited the Morris Fire in Pebble Beach. Within hours, it raced uphill toward Community Hospital, and by the time it was brought under control, it had consumed 160 acres, 36 homes and caused \$18 million in damage. Small in scale, when compared to the recent fires in Southern California, but a grim reminder of the impact of climate change and the lack of effective forest management.

Decades of misguided fire management practices have left the mountains and forests of the Western United States overgrown with an abundance of fuel and susceptible to unfightable wildfires.

In January, the Fix Our Forest Act, H.R. 471, was introduced to Congress. This bill was co-sponsored by Monterey Rep. Jimmy Panetta and establishes requirements for managing forests on federal land, including requirements concerning reducing wildfire threats, expediting the review of certain forest management projects, and implementing forest management projects and other activities. The bill has passed the House and is currently in the Senate.

The Fix Our Forest Act is a critical step in reversing years of forest mismanagement and helping to restore our forests to a healthy condition that is more resistant to wildfires.

Please reach out to your local representatives and urge them to pass The Fix Our Forest Act. The safety of your community and neighbors depends on it!

Ralph Goldbeck,
Pebble Beach

Giving embers a ‘free ride’
Dear Editor,

I wholeheartedly agree with the statement in last week’s article regarding plans for vegetation removal in Big Sur: “The practice of clearing vast swaths of brush not only does little to alleviate the threat of wildfire but ends up destroying rich and

complex habitat.” If one goes out in the habitat, one can see that there are many kinds of plants there that support animals living there, not just “brush.”

Where people have unfortunately cleared areas of habitat down to the ground it gives embers a free ride right to the home. The statement from the Chaparral Institute that removing habitat encourages “the invasive growth of highly flammable non-native weeds and grasses” is on the mark.

Carmel Valley and the whole of the Monterey Peninsula represent but a small fraction of land areas throughout California suffering from this destructive mastication practice, leading to exponential spread of invasive plants. Now, with this heightened push for “clearing,” even more habitat is being lost.

The Monterey County General Plan and the Carmel Valley Master Plan have policies that highlight the importance of preservation of native habitat. Animals live there, just as we live in our homes. These invasive plants, especially genista, also find their way into untouched habitats, resulting in highly degraded areas that do not support the needs of birds and many other animals, including people, that depend on complex biodiversity. Thin, trim, and prune native plants at the right time of year. Pull out invasives. Protect birds, pollinators, lizards and so much more. Don’t clear!


Paola Berthoin,
Carmel Valley

Stop sign danger


Dear Editor,

I walk past Sunset Center quite often, and I have noticed a lot of drivers just blowing through the stop sign right there on San Carlos at Ninth. Someone is going to get killed. I know Carmel P.D. has a huge amount on their hands with people wearing high heels on our lumpy, bumpy sidewalks, but they could derive a goodly income from handing out tickets right

See **MORE LETTERS** next page



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MORE LETTERS

From previous page

there ... and it's not just tourists. I have seen numerous locals just blasting through with impunity.

Barry Edwards, Carmel

3SE8 Lincoln Street

Dear Editor,

As a Carmel native, I have great respect for the town's quirky traditions, so the subject of house numbers interests me. Unfortunately, I feel cursed by the ability to appreciate both sides of the issue. I've gone back and forth on this several times.

Upon reading your April 4 article on the subject, I was struck with a possible solution. The article said that house numbers can include both letters and numbers. That opens up some possibilities. Specifically, the current system of identifying a house could be formalized into a system of letters and numbers posted on the property.

For example, we start with "Lincoln Street 3 southeast of Eighth Avenue." Just formalize it as "3SE8 Lincoln Street" with "3SE8" posted on the house. Around the corner on Eighth, the second house from the corner on Lincoln, the second house would be "2SELN."

This system would preserve Carmel's traditional way of identifying an address, while actually being more precise than conventional house numbers. Consider my Seaside house number and those of my immediate neighbors. They are 1025, 1049 and 1065. These don't tell you which side of the street they're on, where they are in relation to the nearest cross street, or the name of the nearest cross street. The system I propose identifies all three, and once you understand the code, you can locate an address very quickly whether you can see the number displayed or not.

But if house numbers become the norm, will Carmelites not bother to name their houses? I'll let you guys deal with that problem.

James B. Toy,
Seaside

Fawning season

Dear Editor,

As spring brings us sunshine and flowers, it is also fawning season, a crucial time that typically begins in late March and early April and ends in early summer. For our local deer, it's a time of vulnerability and maternal care, while for us, it's a reminder of the importance of coexisting with our wildlife.

In Pacific Grove, the arrival of fawning season brings a shift in the behavior of our deer population. Does, the female deer, become increasingly solitary, seeking secluded and sheltered spots to give birth. Because they are generational, they will return to birthing places, like yards, to deliver their fawns. These newborns are incredibly fragile and rely entirely on their mothers for survival. Does are extremely protective of their fawns and will become very defensive to humans, particularly those with dogs, when they get too close.

During fawning season, you might encounter young fawns that are alone. This is perfectly normal. Does often leave their fawns hidden in tall grass or underbrush while they forage for food. Foraging typically occurs during the early hours of the morning. Be assured the doe will return.

It is absolutely crucial to slow down and be cautious while driving, and to resist the urge to approach or touch a fawn if you happen to encounter one. Human scent can alarm the mother and even lead her to abandon her young. While your intentions might be good, interference can have devastating consequences.

Understanding the needs of these new families and giving them the space they need, we can ensure the survival of these innocent creatures.

As a result of the generosity of our supporters, P.G. Deer Awareness has been able to purchase signs indicating fawning season and asking drivers to slow down. The response from the Community has been very positive. We are currently having to re-order and if you are interested in a sign, you can go to our website: pgdeer-awarenessresource.org and send an email with your address.

Carmelita Garcia, Pacific Grove

TREATMENT

From page 6A

Judge Pamela Butler ordered an evaluation by experts, and at a March 7 hearing, she received the reports on his mental state, declared he was "not competent to stand trial," and suspended the criminal proceedings. She referred the case to the clinical director at Harper Medical Group's South Bay Conditional Release Program in San Jose to determine whether Darpinian "should be required to undergo outpatient treatment or committed to a state hospital or any other treatment facility."

Restored

At a court session two weeks later, Butler ruled that Darpinian was "not suitable for outpatient treatment," and would therefore be committed to a facility designated by the Department of State Hospitals "for

treatment to restore competency."

If the state deemed it an option, he could remain in county jail under its competency treatment program, according to Butler.

"The defendant has the capacity to make decisions regarding antipsychotic medication and with the advice of counsel consents to the administration of such medication," the judge's order continued. "Defendant is advised that if consent is withdrawn, the defendant shall be returned to the court for a hearing on whether such medication should be administered involuntarily."

She set a two-year maximum term for inpatient treatment and gave Darpinian credit for serving 55 days in custody.

Darpinian underwent treatment at the jail rather than being moved to a state facility, and in court April 9, the judge determined he is now fit to stand trial. A preliminary hearing, in which the prosecutor will outline the case against him, is set for next month.

intentional infliction of emotional distress. He sought compensatory and general damages, punitive damages, a \$25,000 civil penalty, attorney's fees, the costs of the suit and any other relief the court might deem "just and proper."

Everything dropped

In March 2024, Tutelian counter-sued Panzuto, giving a completely different account of the incident that put him as the victim and Panzuto as the aggressor.

While Tutelian never pursued criminal charges against Panzuto based on the events he described, his counter-suit alleged assault, battery, taking money from his wallet, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

He similarly sought compensation, punitive damages and reimbursement of legal fees.

The court agreed with Panzuto's request and dismissed the civil cases.

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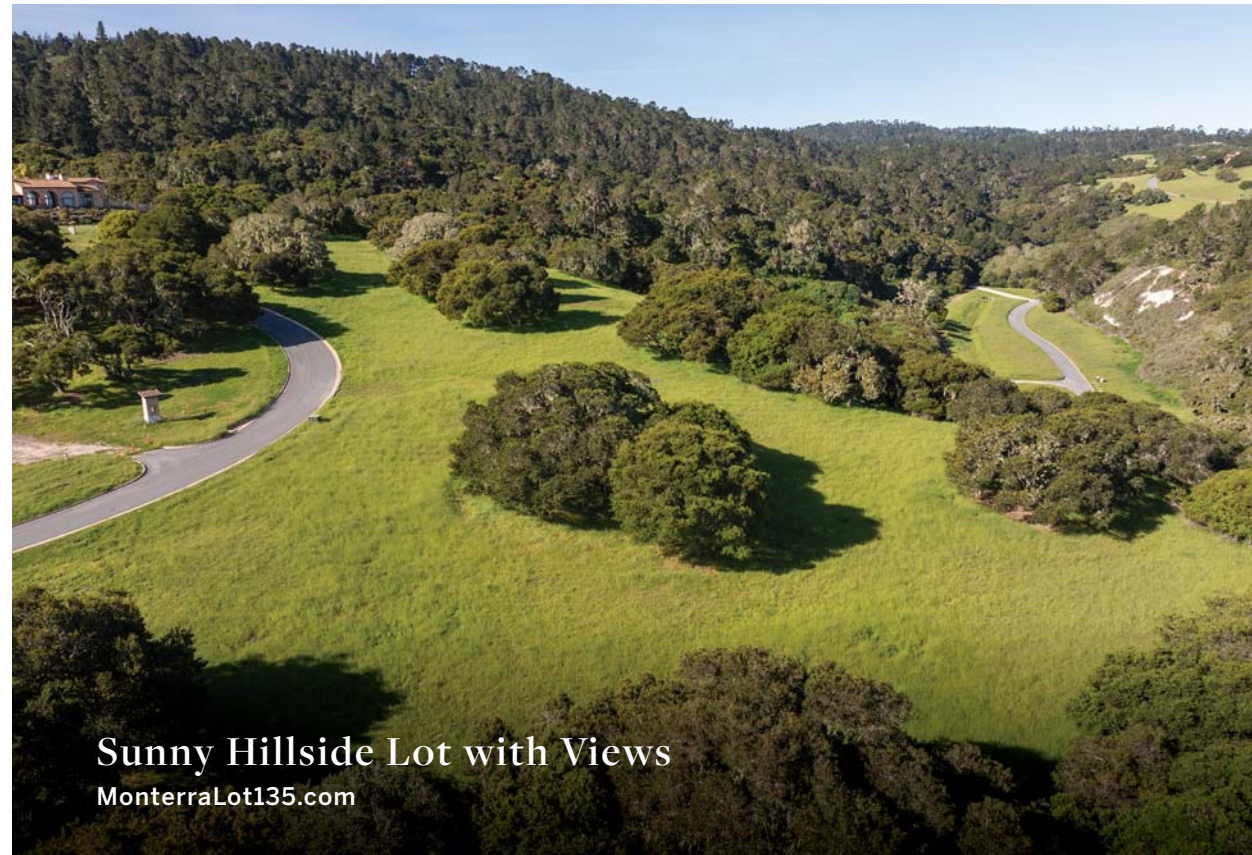
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The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

Peninsula softball teams field a wide range of experience, talent

WITH SEVEN returning players from last year’s second-place team, and the addition of two elite freshmen to this year’s squad, the Carmel High School Padres expect to contend for the Pacific Coast Athletic League’s Mission Division softball championship again this season.

Stevenson hopes to win at least half of its games this spring after dropping into the Mission with six varsity veterans from a team that went 2-12 a year ago in the big-school Gabilan Division.

And Santa Catalina — 0-11 in the Mission in 2024 — has just enough players to field a team as a new member of the Cypress Division.

The Padres began the current week with an 8-3 overall record, 5-1 in Mission Division games, second-best to league-leading Pacific Grove (7-3, 5-0), the team considered “most likely to succeed” this season. Those two teams played each other March 27 at Carmel, with the Breakers prevailing 8-7 in extra innings.

Carmel’s talent-laden lineup is averag-

doubles and two triples, with 13 RBI and 17 runs in 40 at-bats.

Beals also starts at shortstop for the Padres, even though she’s a summertime outfielder for one of the elite club softball teams in the United States.

Right fielder Chloe LeMaster, last year’s all-division catcher, and center fielder Nicole Tapson, the Mission Division’s 2024 Offensive Player of the Year, both carried .531 batting averages into the week. Both are seniors.

“Nicole Tapson is an excellent table-setter at the top of our lineup,” Coach Mike Palshaw said of his leadoff hitter, who reaches base at a .625 clip and has a team-best .813 slugging percentage. “She also threw out a runner at the plate when we played Stevenson. She’s a complete ballplayer.”

Beals, who hits second, has a .622 on-base percentage and .800 slugging, with six extra-base hits.

LeMaster, a power hitter in the No. 3 slot, leads the team with 19 RBI and three triples. She moved from catcher to outfield this year to accommodate the arrival of another freshman phenom, Avery Houston, who has knocked in 11 runs with 12 hits,



Power-hitting senior Ava Mangiapane (left), an all-division second baseman, is Carmel’s No. 1 pitcher this season. Senior Chloe LeMaster, an all-division catcher last season, moved to right field to make room for a talented ninth-grader.

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

ing nearly 12 runs a game, with three hitters batting higher than .500, a .377 team batting average and a .473 team on-base percentage.

Freshman, 2 seniors lead

The top hitter, Lily Beals, is a freshman whose .600 batting average includes four

and carries a .387 average.

“Lily Beals and Avery Houston, both travel-ball players, are most likely to become college softball players down the road,” Palshaw said. “Avery’s working very hard to improve her defensive skills. Lily takes a professional approach to hitting, she understands the game very well, and she’s a great communicator out there.”

Mangiapane, Stahle

Senior Ava Mangiapane — an all-division second baseman — is batting .345 in the cleanup spot and has also stepped up as Carmel’s No. 1 pitcher this year, appearing in 10 of the team’s 11 games and leading the squad with 44.2 innings.

“We graduated our four-year starting pitcher, Allison Hacker, and Ava was happy to step into that role for us,” the coach said. “She’s a total competitor.”

The second baseman, junior Ava Stahle, granddaughter of former big-league infielder Marv Stahle, is a high-energy sparkplug who teams with Beals to provide stellar defense in the middle of the diamond and has a .300 batting average.

The corner infielders are junior Sydney Ozel, a first baseman with a .345 bat and a good glove, and sophomore third baseman Delilah Herro, an aggressive defender who hits with power and bunts well.

Continues next page

CARMEL ART ASSOCIATION

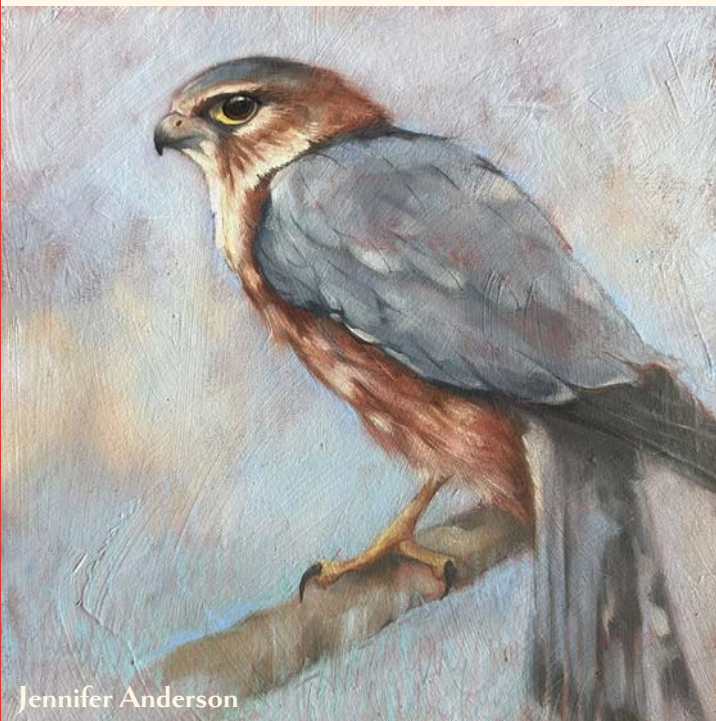
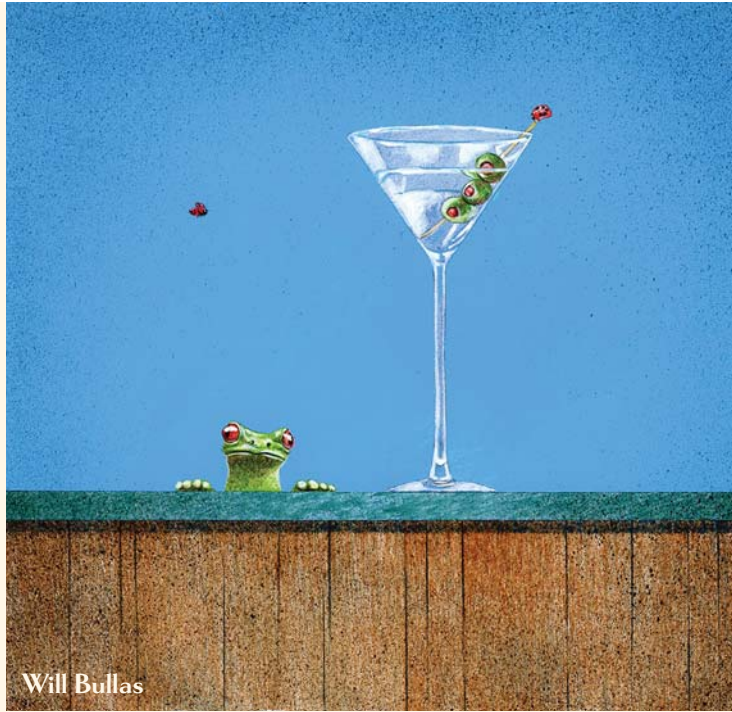
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From previous page

She shares that position with senior Kristen Mastin, another reliable infielder who backs up Mangiapane on the mound (2-0, 3.68 ERA in 4 appearances), along with sophomore Annabelle Riddle, who also plays outfield.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Adele Ramirez, a first-year pitcher, is one of six freshmen on Catalina's nine-player roster who have never played softball before.

Roster depth comes from senior outfielder Sophia Tucker, along with freshman Clair Stevens, a part-time starter in the outfield, and twin sister Harper, who plays infield and outfield.

Seven underclassmen

Stevenson's first-year head coach, Aubrey Cousins, has an interesting blend of youth and varsity experience on her 13-player roster, which includes eight players who saw varsity time last spring and seven underclassmen — four freshmen.

"This team is in a developmental stage,

but our girls are understanding that championships come with hard work," said Cousins, a former CSU Monterey Bay outfielder.

"They come to lift weights on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings, they practice hard in the afternoon, and we're all very focused on the mental game. How do we uplift the team? How do we become better influences on our teammates?"

Senior Sabrina Hardin, who moved to catcher this spring after two years at third base, is valued for exceptional leadership qualities, as well as a strong bat in the middle of the lineup (.444 batting, .625 on-base, .778 slugging).

Multitalented

"She probably has the best power and has a phenomenal arm behind the plate — she's already thrown out a couple of runners," Cousins said. "She's also been working on the mound this year, since we only have one pitcher."

The pitcher, Nadia Patel, is a multitalented junior who also plays center field, shortstop and second base, and bats leadoff for the Pirates.

"She's an overall leader and a captain — a travel-ball player and great leadoff hitter for us," the coach said. "She pitched a bit when she was younger — maybe 10 or 12 years old — but it's basically a new position for her. She continues to develop every game."

Patel leads the team in on-base percentage (.706) and ranks second in batting (.583) and slugging (1.167).

The team's top player, shortstop Maria Hall, is a freshman from an athletic family and another travel-ball veteran whose main goal is to play college softball.

"She's going to be our stud for the next four years," Cousins predicted. "She hits doubles, triples or home runs for us every game and her defense is nonstop."

As the week began, Hall was batting .688 and slugging 1.500, with two doubles, two triples, two home runs, and six RBI —

See **SPORTS** page 47A

Carmel Pine Cone's

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The Carmel Pine Cone

Harpist plays free concert at Harrison library, guitar legend’s son visits Sunset

A HARPIST who started playing the instrument so she could get out of a piano lesson and go to a high school dance, **Susan Bradley** plays a free concert Thursday, 4 p.m., at Harrison Memorial Library.

When Bradley was a teenager, her mom wanted her to take piano lessons on Friday nights. But that made it impossible for her to attend school dances, so she convinced her mom to let her take harp lessons instead.

Much to Bradley’s surprise, the harp became a lifetime passion.

“The joke was on me,” she told The Pine Cone. “I have 31 harps now.”

Not content simply to play the harp, Bradley brings the instrument along on her travels, which has led to some very memorable performances. Highlights include play-

do it this week, but the wind wasn’t strong enough. She’s hoping to check the adventure off her bucket list this coming weekend.

When Bradley performs Thursday, she’ll be joined by her beloved Chiweenie, “Previous,” who has been known “sing” along with her music. The library is located at Ocean and Lincoln.

■ Like father, like son

Following the footsteps of his famous father, legendary Mali guitar player **Ali Farka Touré**, **Vieux Farka Touré** takes the stage Thursday, 7:30 p.m., at Sunset Center.

A singer and guitarist, Farka Touré takes the folk music of his native Mali and infuses it with influences from far and wide, including rock, blues and jazz.

Tickets start at \$35. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 620-2048 or visit sunsetcenter.org.

Also at Sunset Center, singer and guitarist **Doug Fearnside** plays a free outside concert Thursday at 4 p.m. The show coincides with a local farmers market.

■ A whale of a good time

Celebrating the largest creature on earth, and offering a busy slate of family-friendly fun and educational activities, the 15th annual Whalefest Monterey serves up two days of free live music at Custom House Plaza and Fisherman’s Wharf in Monterey Saturday and Sunday from 10



A quintet from Boston that plays Celtic music, the Scottish Fish takes the stage Sunday, 7 p.m., at St. Mary’s by-the-Sea in Pacific Grove.

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

ing in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles Palace in France, performing in a cave beneath a castle in Bavaria, and serenading whales off the coast of Maui.

What comes next?

Bradley also brings her harp to the annual Burning Man celebration in Nevada’s Black Rock Desert, where she performs with some of the more unconventional orchestras ever assembled. At one performance, she played alongside trumpeters who blew actual fire from their instruments, while a giant serpent loomed over her, providing shade against the desert sun.

With such an interesting resume of harp-related adventures, what comes next? Bradley said she’s planning to play the harp while paragliding. In fact, she was going to

a.m. to 5 p.m.

The music lineup features more than a dozen acts, including **Celtic Roads**, **Pacific Pop ‘n’ Jazz**, **The Monterey High School Jazz Band**, mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff**, **Saxophonia** and **I Cantori di Carmel**.

Live music April 11-17

■ Big Sur

Big Sur River Inn — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew**

See MUSIC page 40A

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FOOD & WINE

Easter eggs and surprise cocktails

IS YOUR bonnet ready to go? In my Pennsylvania of days gone by, Easter was a time to don a new dress along with white gloves and patent-leather shoes, a fancy hat and white tights. And even if it snowed on the Bunny — not out of the question when Easter fell in March — the day still meant spring had arrived.

Some of those traditions may no longer be prevalent in the 21st century, but if you need a place to show off your Easter duds and make memories with your family come April 20, we have a few ideas.

Brunch and a stroll

Downtown restaurants serving brunch include Grasing’s near Sixth and Mission. Chef Kurt Grasing’s namesake spot is offering a two-course prix fixe meal for \$56.50 per adult or \$29.50 per child under 12, plus tax & gratuity. Start with asparagus and prosciutto salad, lemon chicken with saffron orzo, and a roasted beet, feta and orange salad with candied pecans, then choose from sole meunière, grilled king salmon, a Belgian waffle with all the fixings, and roast leg of lamb. For the full menu, visit grasings.com. To reserve, call (831) 624-6562.

Mission Ranch’s (26270 Dolores St.)

they’ll go quickly. Call (831) 625-9040 and stay on the line, the restaurant advises. Back to Easter. The brunch buffet is



Easter’s three b’s — bunnies, brunch and baskets — will be seen all over the Monterey Peninsula. But don’t procrastinate making reservations — chocolate rabbits aren’t really for breakfast.

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and, weather permitting, you can queue up for patio seating. Select from entrees including omelets to prime rib and baked ham, plenty of classic breakfast items, seafood and more. Brunch is \$70 for adults and \$30 for kids 5 to 10 years old. Learn more at missionranchcarmel.com.

Bruno’s Market invites folks to order ahead for Easter takeout and has ham entrées available. Call (831) 624-3821 or stop by Sixth and Junipero from

Continues next page



Love THY Neighbor

Executive Chef Goran Basarov presents carefully prepared, seasonally inspired, bespoke menu selections offered on Wednesdays.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16 | \$59** PER PERSON
THREE - COURSE PRIX FIXE MENU

Reservations Recommended

APPETIZER	ENTRÉE	DESSERT
Scallop Tiradito preserved mango, alliums	Grilled Striploin jerusalem artichoke, smashed peas	Chocolate & Vanilla crème anglaise
Green Asparagus egg yolk emulsion, parma ham	Confit Leg of Duck roasted tomato, amarosa potato, pumpkin seed gremolata	Kouign-Amann dulce de leche, canela, spiced ganache
Pork Belly Bao Buns spicy slaw, hoisin	Branzino lentils, snow peas, sauce normande	

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Reservations recommended 831-375-0176 | estebanrestaurant.com

Adjacent to Casa Munras Garden Hotel & Spa | 700 Munras Ave., Monterey

FOOD & WINE

From previous page

6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Just outside of town at 3665 Rio Road, the Carmel Mission Inn has a few special Easter dishes — a baby beet and asparagus salad, stout-braised lamb shank with whipped potato, and a mixed berry cobbler with vanilla ice cream — along with its regular breakfast menu, served from 6:30 to 11 a.m.

Southern charm

Hyatt Highlands Inn at 120 Highlands Drive is prepping for brunch with a view. Reservations on [opentable.com](https://www.opentable.com) are available from 10:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and the holiday buffet is priced at \$95 for adults and \$40 for kids younger than 11. Tax, gratuity and fees are not included.

Several chef stations will tempt diners with prime rib, salmon, frittatas and a full

array of breakfast items. Lollipop lamb chops, barbecued kielbasa, and chicken and waffles are on offer along with assorted breads, salads and a cheese display. Kid-friendly items will be available, and assorted desserts round out the meal. Questions? Call the restaurant at (831) 620-1234.

Pfeiffer Big Sur Lodge at 47225 Highway 1 has a casual Easter dinner for \$29 a person, with roasted chicken, apple stuffing and haricots verts. Reservations are available on [opentable.com](https://www.opentable.com) between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. for seating indoors or on the patio, which overlooks the Big Sur River. Allow time for traffic controls at the roadwork near Rocky Creek.

Big Sur River Inn (46800 Highway 1) is advertising a holiday sit-down brunch from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a BYOB (bring your own basket) egg hunt scheduled for 10:30 a.m. The menu will include traditional items like eggs Benedict, along with huevos rancheros, surf and turf, and braised lamb shanks. To reserve, call (831) 667-2700.

Still in Eden

Among Carmel Valley’s culinary celebrations is Baum & Blume’s “Roman Holiday” Easter to go. Wishing everyone “Buona Pasqua,” they’re whipping up starters of Italian-style cured salmon, some cheesy artichoke dip, a salumi board, and marinated olives with mozzarella “pearls.” Mini



Predictably, indoor reservations for Mission Ranch’s Easter brunch are long gone, but first-come, first-served service is available on the patio if weather permits. And they’ll start taking reservations for Mothers Day on Monday.

PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE



Lucia Restaurant at Bernardus Lodge in Carmel Valley will hold its annual Easter brunch buffet, created by executive chef Christian Ojeda, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. There’s also an egg hunt.

quiches, parmesan canapés and vegetarian Bolognese mini turnovers are available, plus carrot soup with green pea pesto, as well as assorted salads.

Entrees include pastry-wrapped chicken with wild mushrooms and a side of asparagus, spring lamb with peas and fresh mint served with polenta crostini, and shrimp and scallop spiedini (on a skewer). For dessert, try the limoncello tiramisu, chocolate ricotta tart, glazed Italian ricotta cookies, or orange cupcakes with orange frosting.

Place your order by Monday at (831) 659-0400 for pickup on Saturday, April 19. Unpack, serve and clean up. Get the teenagers off their phones long enough to help. Call it “bonding time.”

Lucia Restaurant in Bernardus Lodge (415 W. Carmel Valley Road) will serve a brunch buffet, created by chef Christian Ojeda, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and while reservations are already nearly scarce as hen’s teeth, you can give it a go at [exploretock.com](https://www.exploretock.com). Prices before tax and tip are \$155 for adults and \$55 for kids ages 6 to 12. An egg hunt is also scheduled. Dishes

include classic brunch fare and fresh oysters, cedar-plank salmon and many other options. Check out the website at [bernarduslodge.com](https://www.bernarduslodge.com) for more information.

Monterey morsels

The Marriott at 350 Calle Principal in Old Monterey is holding its annual Easter brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Ferrante’s Bay View Room on the top floor, with views of the harbor and Monterey Bay. Guests will enjoy a complimentary Champagne toast and a lavish smorgasbord of breakfast and dinner favorites.

Morning people will likely take to the swirl cinnamon French toast, all sorts of egg dishes, and smoked salmon. For everyone else, there’s roast leg of lamb, swordfish puttanesca, chicken, and an assortment of sides like grilled asparagus, sweet potato hash and all sorts of salads. A seafood display will feature peel-and-eat shrimp, stone crab claws and other treats from the ocean. The meal is priced at \$89

See **EASTER** next page

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FOOD & WINE

EASTER

From previous page

for adults, \$79 for seniors 65 and over, \$39 for children 5 to 12 years old and free for those 4 and younger. Prices exclude tax and 20 percent gratuity, but cover two hours of valet parking. For reservations, email isabella.martinez@marriott.com or call (831) 647-4018

Across Del Monte at Portola Hotel, an equally impressive buffet is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Egg hunts are at 10 a.m. and noon, with live piano music by Dave Conley from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Easter Bunny will be there from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.,

too.

The spread includes eggs Benedict, scrambled eggs, cinnamon swirl French toast, and breakfast sausages and bacon. A display with ahi tuna, smoked salmon with bagels, toppings and schmears, peel-and-eat shrimp and a charcuterie selection is also planned. Choose from entrees like wild salmon, cheese tortellini, maple-glazed ham and prime rib. Little diners might be happy to see the mac and cheese, grilled chicken “fingers” and apple slices, and everyone will want to check out dessert with that sure sign of spring: strawberry shortcake. It’s priced at \$89.95 for adults, seniors 65 and older pay \$74.95, kids 6 to 12 are \$29.95 and those 5 and younger eat free. A 20 percent gratuity and tax will be

added. To reserve, call (831) 649-7870 or email lhenderson@portolahotel.com.

■ Champion bartender crowned

In the Links Club’s Battle of the Bartenders, the championship round for the Carmel-by-the-Sea title Monday night saw Felicia Gonzalez-Acosta, who recently took over the diminutive bar at the two-Michelin-starred Aubergine restaurant, triumph over opponent Baylie Barba, mixologist at another downtown institution, Vesuvio.

The two had bested other bartenders during earlier rounds in the Carmel Plaza spot to become finalists. The battle began in February, with contestants from Barmel, Bud’s at La Playa, Links Club, Mulligan, Nicolas Cocina de Herencia and Sade’s fighting for chances to make it to the next level.

The challenges at the April 7 bout included using specific spirits like Kevin Hart’s Gran Caramino Cristalino tequila and Bushmills original Irish whiskey, coupled with the surprise ingredient of coffee liqueur. In the final round, they had to create a cocktail using mezcal with a few surprise ingredients.

In addition to undergoing the scrutiny of judges, Gonzalez-Acosta and Barba had to wow the audience, who voted via applause. “The Vesuvio crowd set a new record for their cheers for Baylie Barba,” proprietor

April Montgomery said.

At the end, Gonzalez-Acosta prevailed, earning a chance at the Grand Champion title later in the year.

“The Battle of the Bartenders series highlights the creativity and skill of local mixologists, offering a platform for them to showcase their talents and compete at a high level,” Montgomery said.

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



Felicia Gonzalez-Acosta, bartender at Aubergine, won the most recent round of the Links Club’s Battle of the Bartenders, edging out Vesuvio’s Baylie Barba for the honor.

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Photos with the Easter Bunny

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I’m a local author/illustrator who visited Botswana, saw the magnificent giant tree, talked with the locals, then drew and wrote this book. It’s my first of seven children’s books and all of them are very different!

I’m **Bobbi Dooley Hunter** and I’d like to read my story, **‘The Legend of the African Baobab Tree’** on **Saturday, April 12th.** Please join us at **Mopane** for a book signing from **2:00 to 4:00.**

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FOOD & WINE

MUSIC

From page 35A

(folk, Saturday at 12:30 p.m.). 46800 Highway 1.
Fernwood Resort — **Up the Creek, Jungle Bug** (rock, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

Carmel

Barmel — singer and guitarist **Tony Burciaga** (Sunday at 7 p.m.). In Carmel Square on San Carlos north of Seventh.
Carmel First Presbyterian Church — **The Monterey Peninsula Gospel Community Choir** (Saturday at 5 p.m.). Ocean and Junipero.
Cypress Inn — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Friday at 7 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Lok-**

tionov 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.
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 — **The Edge Band** (rock, Friday at 7:30 p.m.), **The Rod Squad** (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.
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 — **Open Mic Night** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). In The Barnyard shopping center.

Carmel Valley

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



Singer Malinda DeRouen and others pay tribute to the music of Sade Friday, 6:30 p.m., at the P.G. Meetinghouse.

strom (rock and blues, Friday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Adrea Castiano** (Saturday at 2 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Sunday at 11 a.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.
The Running Iron in Carmel Valley — **Open Mic Night** (Sunday at 8 p.m.). 24 E. Carmel Valley Road.

Continues next page

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Silky Carrot Soup w/Green Pea Pesto Swirl
Salad of Spring Greens, Ripe Strawberries,
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Diane’s House-Baked Italian Feather Rolls

Entrées with Sides
Pastry-Wrapped Chicken Sfogliata w/Mushrooms & Fontina
Asparagus Mimosa with Crispy Capers

Stufato of Spring Lamb with Fresh Peas and Mint
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Carmel Host Lions Club 27th Annual

Pancake Breakfast in Bunnyland

Saturday, April 19th, 2025
8:30 am–Noon
Devendorf Park, corner of Ocean & Junipero

Breakfast with The Bunny

Join the Carmel Host Lions Club and Mr. Bunny himself for a wonderful Breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, orange juice, and coffee
\$7.00 for children 12 years old and younger; \$14.00 for adults; and \$36.00 for a family of 4 (2 adults and 2 children)
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Bunnyland

Hosted by Monterey Peninsula Musical Theater

After Breakfast, visit “Bunnyland” for family fun!
• Face painting and cupcake walk • Play fun carnival games and win prizes • Watch a show and dance on stage
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(Breakfast not included)

THIS IS NOT AN EASTER EGG HUNT
Event sponsored by Carmel Host Lions Club, P.O. Box 3113, Carmel, CA, 93921

In case of rain, events will be held at the Carmel Youth Center, 4th & Torres

From previous page

Trailside Cafe in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Brad Wilson** (rock and blues, Friday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

■ Monterey

Albatross Ridge Winery and Kitchen — singer and guitarist **Dan Cioper** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **RJ DeMarco** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

Bon Ton LeRoy’s Smokehouse — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Alligator** (blues, zydeco, and Cajun, 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.

Golden State Theatre — **Pete Floyd** (Pink Floyd tribute, Friday at 8 p.m.). Tickets start at \$35. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com.

InterContinental Hotel — singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 9 a.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Saturday at 7 p.m.), guitarist **Terrence Farrell** (Latin music, Sunday at 9 a.m.). 750 Cannery Row.

Melville Tavern — singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (Tuesday at 6 p.m.). 484 Washington St., Ste. A.

Midici Pizza — singer **Janice Perl** and keyboardist **Pamela Charles Arthur** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), flutist **Kenny Stahl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Thursday

at 5 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.), pianist **Joe Indence** (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.

Puma Road tasting room — singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Gin Fragonard** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), **Smoky Vegas Project** (“classic lounge,” Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

Salty Seal Pub — **Blind Pass** (rock, Friday at 8 p.m.),

See LIVE page 43A



Harpist Susan Bradley presents a free concert Thursday, 4 p.m., in the reading room at Harrison Memorial Library.

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From page 41A

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Tickets are \$40.

Il Vecchio Restaurant — **Magenta Spreen** (folk-pop and soul, Tuesday at 6 p.m.), **The Cena Jazz Trio** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 110 Central Ave.

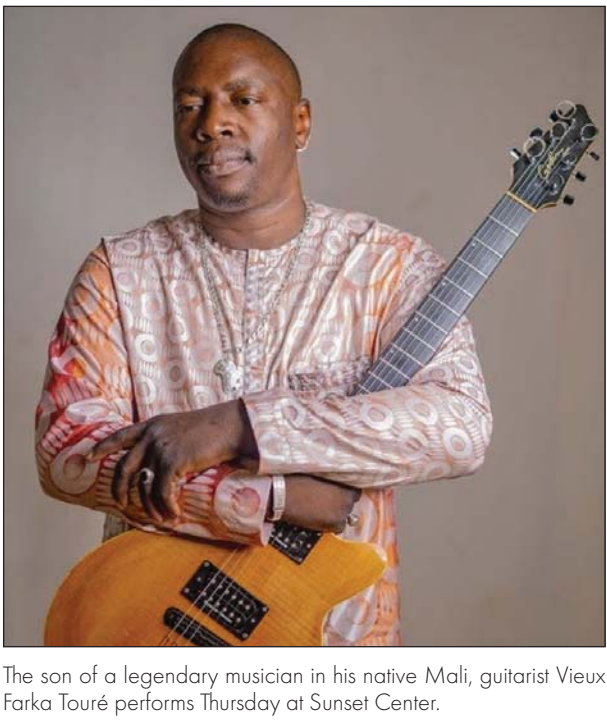
Julia’s Vegetarian Restaurant — singer and guitarist **Rags Rosenberg** (Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Smith** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea’s Fault Duo** (“folky stuff mixed with surprises,” Monday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Holysea** (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave.

PG’s Meetinghouse — **Loud & Local** (tribute to Sade, Friday at 6:30 p.m.), **The Storm Nilson Trio** (jazz, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), guitarist **Bruce Forman** and multi-instrumentalist **Gary Meek** (jazz, Sunday at 11 a.m.), **Open Mic** (Tuesday at 6 p.m., sign up by 5 p.m.). 599 Light-house Ave.

Pop & Hiss — Weekly **Bluegrass Jam** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 215 Forest Ave.

St. Mary’s-by-the-Sea — **The Scottish Fish** (Celtic, Sunday at 3 p.m.). Tickets are \$30, otteropry.org

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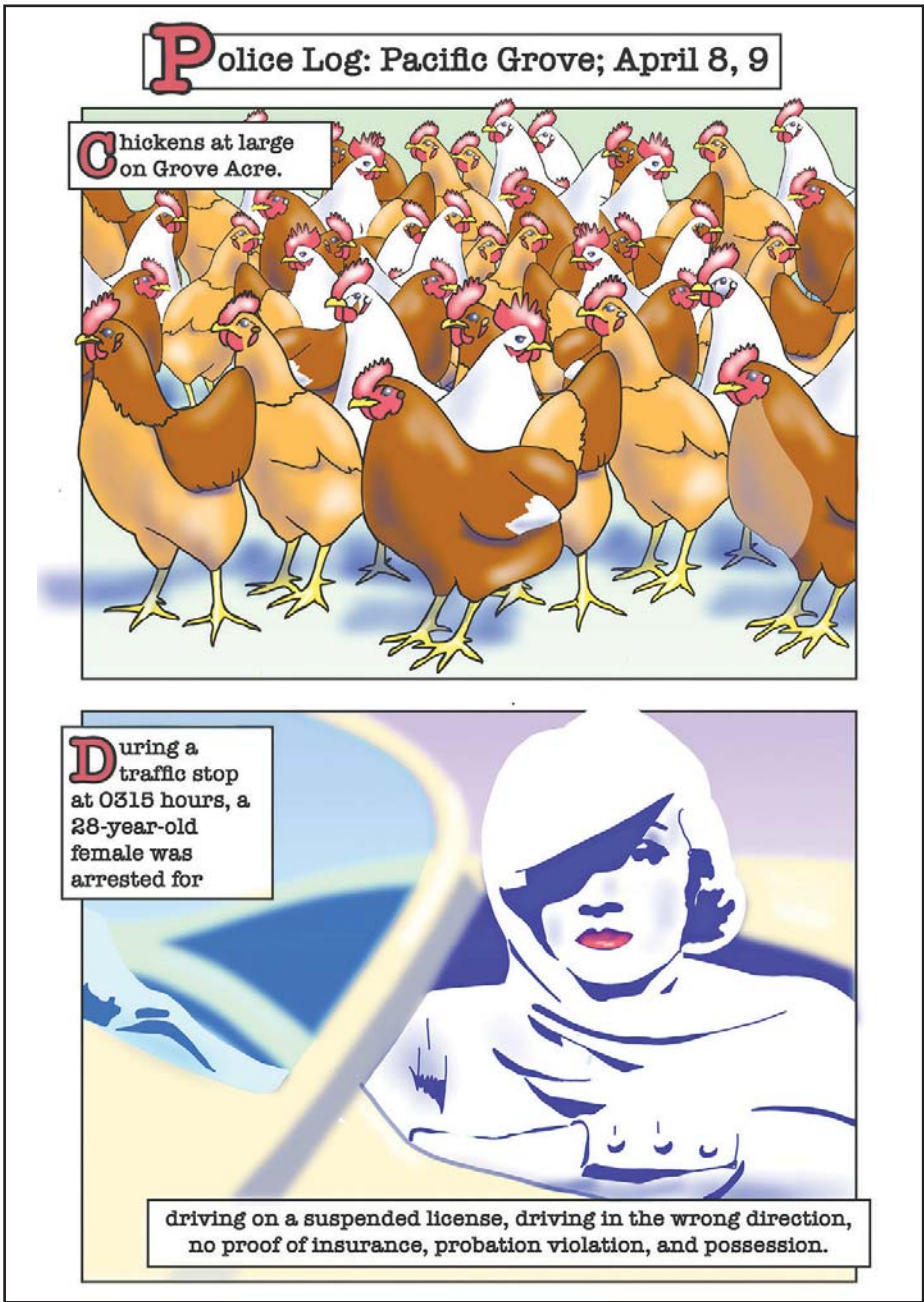
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Continues on next page



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Continues from previous page

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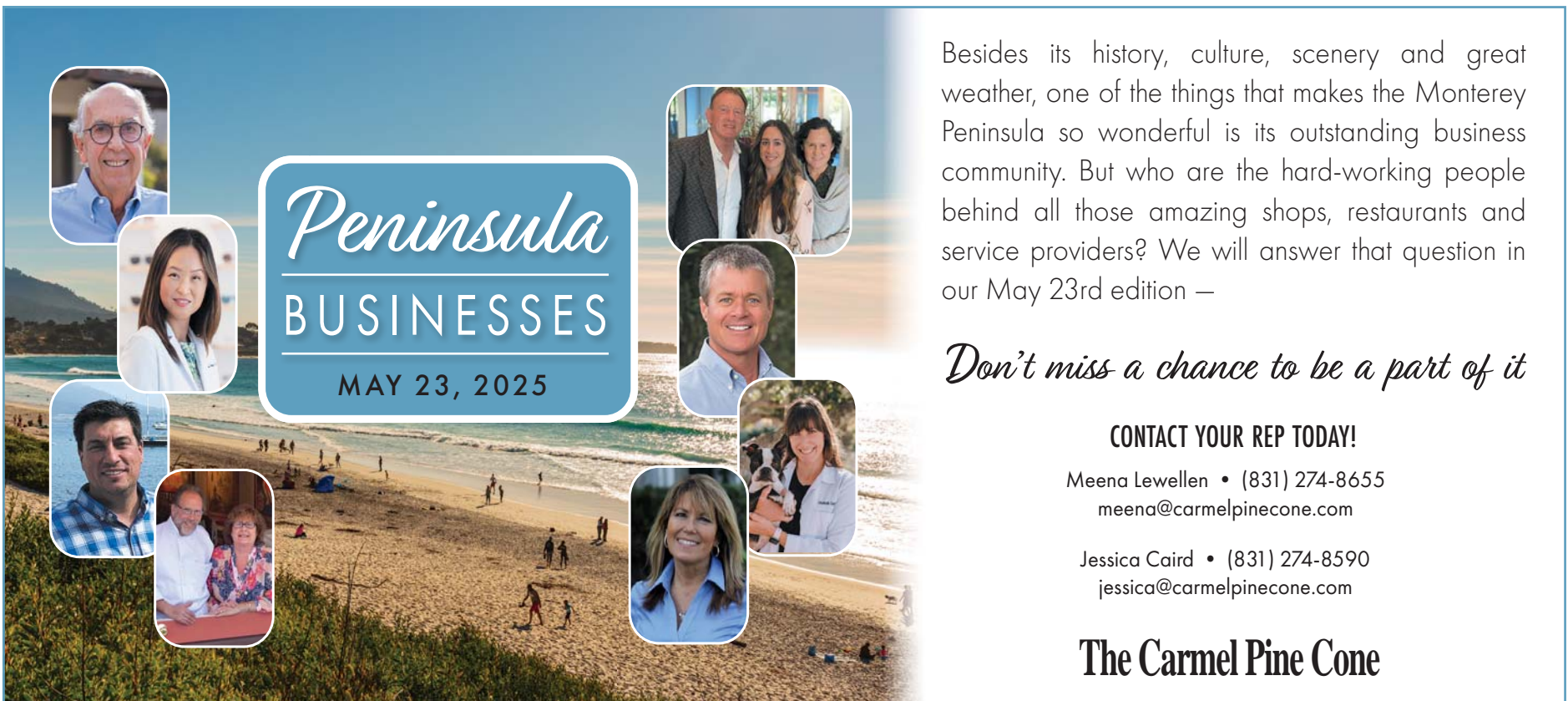
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SPORTS

From page 34A

all team bests.

Others with varsity experience include first baseman Peyton Sanchez, second baseman Sora Petrocelli and center fielder Ashley Dalhamer — all sophomores — plus outfielders Gigi Theroux and Kat Mataira and pitcher Quinn Tran, who are juniors.

Senior Katie Partridge and freshman Kobie Crutcher see playing time at catcher. Third baseman Kaylie Villarreal and outfielder Perryanna Luckett, both freshmen, have also started for the Pirates.

Catalina looks to future

Catalina’s nine-player roster includes six freshmen, a sophomore and a senior who never played softball before.

The lone varsity veteran, senior captain Piper Butler, is an outfielder who volunteered to move this season to catcher, a new position for her, to fill a need.

One other letter-winner, sophomore Hope Yoshiyama, was the team’s ace pitcher — she started every game in 2024 — but recently underwent shoulder surgery and is unlikely to play this season.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Freshman shortstop Maria Hall, Stevenson’s best player, is an outstanding infielder and the team’s leading hitter.

Stepping into Yoshiyama’s spot, purely out of necessity, is Adele Ramirez, a right-handed freshman who has never pitched before.

Ramirez is one of eight players — on a roster of nine — with no previous softball experience.

“She actually has a baseball background, which helps,” said Alyssa Salazar, Catalina’s second-year head coach. “There’s a very big difference, of course, but she’s doing great with the transition.

“Adele also is a lefty batter, and she’s a really good stick,” said Salazar, who was the first head softball coach at Rancho San Juan in Salinas, where she spent four seasons.

Butler, Pablos spark offense

Butler, the senior catcher, and sophomore center fielder Magdalena Pablos, a boarding student from Culiacan, Mexico, figure to be significant contributors in the batting order.

“Magdalena is a great leadoff hitter, and her energy

really gets the girls moving,” said Salazar, a former North Salinas High standout whose assistant coaches are her sister, Annika, and father, Israel.

The only other non-freshman on the roster, senior catcher Katie Partridge, is a first-time softball player.

“Some of our girls had never even held a softball before they came out for this team,” said the coach, whose lineup includes first-time players Lydia Ostos (first base), Olivia Sims (second base), Chloe Wigdahl (shortstop) and outfielders Sophie Brownyard and Reghan Brooks, who is on the swim team — all ninth-graders.

The Cougars started the week with a 1-1 record, with a victory over Anzar and a loss to Seaside.

Santa Catalina travels to Pajaro Valley Friday for a 4:30 p.m. game. Stevenson is at Rancho San Juan on Tuesday and hosts Pacific Grove on Thursday, both with 4 p.m. starts. Carmel is idle until April 22, when it hosts North County at 4:30.

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

CALENDAR

- April 12 – Poetry Reading: “Present Connections: Contemporary Latinx Poets and Robinson Jeffers,”** with Monterey County Poet Laureate **Rachelle Escamilla, Manuel Paul López, MK Chavez** and **Darrell Dela Cruz**. 3 p.m. at Tor House, 26304 Ocean View Ave., Carmel 93923. Admission: \$15. Reservations (required) at www.torhouse.org. Seating limited. Reception to follow. For more information: (831) 624-1813.
- April 12-13 – Don’t miss the 15th Annual Whalefest Monterey** on Saturday, April 12 and Sunday, April 13, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at and around Old Fisherman’s Wharf. This free, fun and educational event for all ages includes a fascinating two-day symposium, engaging activities, live entertainment and more than two dozen interactive displays by national marine organizations that help protect the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. **www.whalefest.org**
- April 13 – Documentary film and flamenco fundraiser** 5 p.m. at Lighthouse Cinema in Pacific Grove. Learn about Spanish Hawaiian migration in the early 1900’s, with live flamenco guitar and post film Q&A with descendants. Hosted by Spanish Hawaiian Heritage Association. Tickets \$25-\$35 at www.lighthousecinema4events.com
- April 15 – Deadline to order Baum & Blume’s “Roman Holiday” Easter takeout!** Stay IN for Easter, stay OUT of the kitchen! Order Baum & Blume’s Italian-inspired Easter feast! Go to www.baumandblume.com to view menu. Prix-Fixe options also available. Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley. (831) 659-0400.
- April 16 – Authors’ Night at Carmel Woman’s Club.** Join us for an evening when words come alive and inspire. Twelve authors will showcase their creative spirits and share their stories in an atmosphere of conviviality. Refreshments will be served. 5 to 7 p.m. at the club, San Carlos and Ninth, Carmel-by-the-Sea. Open to the public.
- April 16 – Got home equity? Curious about reverse mortgage?** A free seminar for homeowners age 55+ will be presented 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Carmel Foundation, Seideneck Room, SE corner Eighth and Lincoln, Carmel. HighTechLending is presenter. Event is open to all but nonmembers of the Carmel Foundation need to register at (31) 624-1588 or online at www.carmelfoundation.org
- April 17 – 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, April 17: **Music of Mozart, Schubert & Chopin** with pianist **Lisa Spector** and **Eun Ha Chung’s** piano students.
- April 19 – Live music for all ages.** Join us at 5:30 p.m. for **“Rhythms & Reads”** featuring **Charged Particles**. The trio’s funky Latin jazz repertoire, blending in elements of classical music, mixes complex orchestration with

- freewheeling improvisation. “Rhythms & Reads” is a new monthly concert series at the Pacific Grove Library.
- April 19 – Come meet City of Monterey Councilmember Jean Rasch** at 2 p.m. at the Monterey Public Library Community Room, 625 Pacific St., Monterey. Come and let Jean know how you think the City of Monterey is doing. Join the discussion and bring your questions.
- April 19 – An Earth Day Celebration**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. For more information, please contact Ashley Wemp, (831) 884-2957.
- April 19-20 – California Native Plant Society/Monterey Bay Spring Wildflower Show.** See labeled specimens, talk with experts on plants & habitats, browse our large selection of books (members receive a discount, and yes, you can join at the show). Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 19 and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 20 at the Carmel Woman’s Club, San Carlos at Ninth, Carmel-by-the-Sea. Suggested donation \$5.
- April 21 – “Glamorous Pebble Beach in Historical Pictures.” Barbara Briggs-Anderson**, curator of more than 27,500 images for the **Julian P. Graham Historical Photographic Collection**, will share her favorite photos depicting Pebble Beach’s history. 2 p.m. Carmel Woman’s Club, San Carlos & Ninth, Carmel-by-the-Sea. Open to the public. \$10 guests/members free.
- April 25 – Melodies of Verse: The Timeless Harmony of Arabic Poetry & Music.** An evening of Middle Eastern poetry & music presented by Monterey Institute of International Studies with support from the Whitney Latham-Lechich Fund. Begins 5:30 p.m. at the Pacific Grove Library. www.pgpubliclibrary.org. 5:30pm
- April 26 – Join Daniel B. Summerhill for “Praying for Rain, A Centennial Celebration of James Baldwin,”** 5:30 p.m. at the Pacific Grove Library. The inaugural Poet Laureate of Monterey County, Summerhill is a writer, scholar and professor of Poetry at Santa Clara University. He is the author of two collections of poems, “Divine, Divine, Divine” and “Mausoleum of Flowers.” www.pgpubliclibrary.org.
- May 16 – 18th Annual Women’s Fund Luncheon of the Community Foundation for Monterey County: “Strength, Resiliency, Hope.”** This inspiring event features a conversation with artist and author **René Romero Schuler**. Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel & Spa, 1 Old Golf Course Road, Monterey. Reception 11 a.m., Luncheon noon-1:30 p.m. Tickets: give.cfmco.org/WomensFund2025.



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THE SECOND CITY

65TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

COMING UP AT
SUNSET CENTER...

SUNDAY
APRIL 13, 2025
7:30PM

From the world's most influential name in comedy for the last sixty-five years, see some of our favorite songs, sketches, and characters written by alumni including Catherine O'Hara, Tina Fey, Keegan-Michael Key, Stephen Colbert, Bill Murray, Tim Robinson, Joan Rivers, and many, many more, brought to the stage by an all-star ensemble!

THURSDAY
APRIL 17, 2025
7:30PM

"The Hendrix of the Sahara" Malian guitarist Vieux Farka Touré remains true to his heritage while using elements of rock, Latin music, and other African influences to create a sound that's all his own. Hot off the release of his collaborative album with psych-rock superstars Khruangbin, you don't want to miss this show!



VIEUX FARKA TOURÉ

THE RED HOT
CHILLI PIPERS

THURSDAY
MAY 8, 2025
7:30PM

The Red Hot Chilli Pipers are bringing Bagrock—the groundbreaking fusion of Scottish folk music with the stadium rock anthems you know and love—to Sunset Center! The Pipers cover hits by bands like Queen, Journey, ZZ Top, and many, many more, in a live music event that is sure to ROCK. YOUR. WORLD.



SCOTS ROCKIN' THE BAGPIPES

DISENCHANTED!

BOOK AND MUSIC BY DENNIS T. GIACINO
DEVELOPED BY FIELY MATIAS

FRIDAY
MAY 9, 2025
7:30PM

Poisoned apples. Glass slippers. Who needs 'em?! Not these princesses, that's for sure! In this hit musical comedy, the storybook heroines you think you know are setting the record straight about their not-so-happy endings. For mature audiences.



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

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