

# The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 111 No. 18

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May 2-8, 2025

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## Former River School principal sues CUSD

■ Claims ‘scandal-plagued district’ harassed and illegally fired him

By MARY SCHLEY

A SHORT-LIVED Carmel River School principal who was hired following longtime school head Jay Marden’s retirement two years ago sued the Carmel Unified School District in Monterey County Superior Court April 17, alleging civil rights violations, discrimination and a host of other wrongs. Alberto Ramirez is seeking more than \$1 million in damages.

The complaint, which was filed on his behalf by San Francisco attorney Michael Welch and refers to the “Carmel Unified Scandal District,” paints a picture of Ramirez as a model administrator who found himself on the wrong side of superintendent Sharon Ofek and was subsequently harassed, retaliated against and fired.

According to Ramirez, in July 2023 he embraced his job as principal with enthusiasm after he “was presented with the challenge and opportunity for which he had worked and prepared his entire professional life.” At the time, the lawsuit claims, the district had been “enmeshed in a series of scandals, the most disturbing of which involved reported abuse and neglect of students that shook the entire community.”

The complaint also states as truth that the district “had

See **PRINCIPAL** page 20A

## SALINAS COUNCIL VOTES TO REPEAL RENT CONTROL

■ Increased supply said to be best way to protect tenants

By MARY SCHLEY

LESS THAN four months after the City of Salinas’ rent-control ordinances took effect, the city council — which saw a major overhaul as a new mayor and four new councilmembers were elected last November — voted 5-2 to repeal the measure. The council also moved to get rid of the rental inventory adopted in April 2023.

At the council’s April 22 meeting, planning director Lisa Brinton offered an update on the rent-stabilization program, which was implemented via three ordinances that were all unanimously approved by the previous council last September.

### Many rules

The Salinas rent control law limited rent increases to 2.75 percent or 75 percent of the Consumer Price Index, whichever is lower, over a 12-month period. Apartments that are deed-restricted affordable housing, government-provided units, rentals in institutional and medical

## Tiny bird gets first-class treatment



PHOTO/SPCA MONTEREY COUNTY

This 2-day-old snowy plover, no bigger than a thumb, came from one of two eggs rescued in early April after their nest was washed away with the tide at Marina State Beach. The eggs were taken to SPCA Monterey County’s Wildlife Center. After 25 days in an incubator, the first plover hatched, followed by the second two days later. After about a month of SPCA care, the birds will be released back to the wild.

facilities, those in historic buildings, and units built after Jan. 31, 1995, were exempt.

### Repairs, evictions

Landlords weren’t allowed to charge for utilities unless they were separately metered and could only pass through capital-improvement costs after the work is done, based on actual expenses amortized over the life of the improvement. Tenants could also file for hardships to avoid construction-related increases.

If a landlord failed to keep a unit in compliance with health and safety codes or didn’t make repairs ordered by the city or the courts, any rent increase was invalid, and landlords were required to pay a per-unit fee to cover the costs of the city’s rental registry but couldn’t pass those fees on to tenants.

A tenant evicted without fault had to be paid the equivalent of three months’ rent, plus any deposit owed. Owner move-in could only be used for one unit on any property if there are no other vacancies in the same complex and the person doesn’t own a vacant rental anywhere else in the City of Salinas.

See **RENTS** page 22A

## Seaside sixth graders pilot underwater robots

By LILY PATTERSON

LAST WEEKEND, two underwater robots designed by students from Del Rey Woods Elementary School carried out successful missions under a cloudless sky and with a faint breeze — favorable conditions to see what was going on at the bottom of the Watsonville High pool.

Wet Turtle Logistics — the joint enterprise of sixth-graders Alex, Corine, Isaac and Monica — guided a remotely operated vehicle through a series of complex tasks, using only an electrical control box equipped with switches the students engineered to motor their robot forward and back, up and down, and to extend its “claw” to grab various objects. Wet Turtle scored 70 out of 100 possible points for a strong finish at the Marine Advanced Technology Education Remotely Operated Vehicle Competition, an elementary through college-level regional event drawing tech-savvy students from across Monterey

County. Following similar competitions all over the globe, MATE ROV, as it’s known, will have its 2025 World Championship at Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena, Mich., June 19-21.

### High-pressure competition

Next in the pool was Kraken Logistics, a formidable two-man team of Ivan and Adriel, also sixth graders, whose robot altered the blueprint in a couple significant ways. Kraken had done what every tech startup would be wise to: let the other guys make the first mistake, then create the solution. Armed with fresh knowledge of electrical circuitry, the team installed a small breaker along the cable connecting the underwater robot to its electrical box, to prevent a possible electrical surge from doing any damage. Early flotation tests inspired Ivan and Adriel to add small

See **ROBOTS** page 14A

## Kaiser buys \$8.7M property in Marina

By KELLY NIX

JUST MONTHS after Kaiser Permanente opened medical offices in Salinas, the nonprofit healthcare company signaled its intention to move even more aggressively into Monterey County by purchasing an \$8.7 million property in Marina.

According to a deed at the Monterey County Recorder’s Office, on April 22, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan acquired property at 2405 Sea Shell Avenue in Marina for \$8,712,000. The acquisition follows Kaiser’s January opening on Davis Road in Salinas.

The Kaiser facility will be on property that is part of The Dunes, the Marina development off Highway 1 and Imjin Road, where Target, Best Buy, hundreds of new homes and two hotels are located. It’s also near a Montage wellness facility and a VA medical clinic.

The seller is Marina Community Partners, an entity controlled by Shea Homes, developer of the Dunes.

Asked about the development, a Kaiser spokesperson offered a statement from the company but did not furnish details. “Kaiser Permanente exists to provide high-quality, affordable health care and to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve. We continue to explore all possible options to serve individuals and employers in Monterey County who over the years have expressed their desire to have Kaiser Permanente’s high-quality care available to them,” the company said.

### ‘Important to quality of life’

Marina city manager Layne Long told The Pine Cone this week that the city is looking forward to the development.

“We are very excited about a high-quality healthcare company like Kaiser locating in our Dunes development and becoming part of our Marina community,” Long said. “Access to quality healthcare is such an important part of our community’s quality of life and we look forward to working and partnering with Kaiser as they continue to grow and expand in our region.”

The Kaiser facility will be on a parcel at 2nd Avenue and Divarty Street, across from the Cal State Monterey Bay sports complex.

Last week, the board of directors for the California Office of Health Care Affordability imposed spending restrictions on seven hospitals, including Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula and Salinas Valley

See **KAISER** page 18A



PHOTO/STAN WYMAN

“Accept no apologies, contact Wet Turtle Technologies,” goes the slogan of a team of sixth-grade engineers from Del Rey Woods Elementary, who present their robot to a panel of scientists.





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# Sandy Claws

## Rooting for Russell

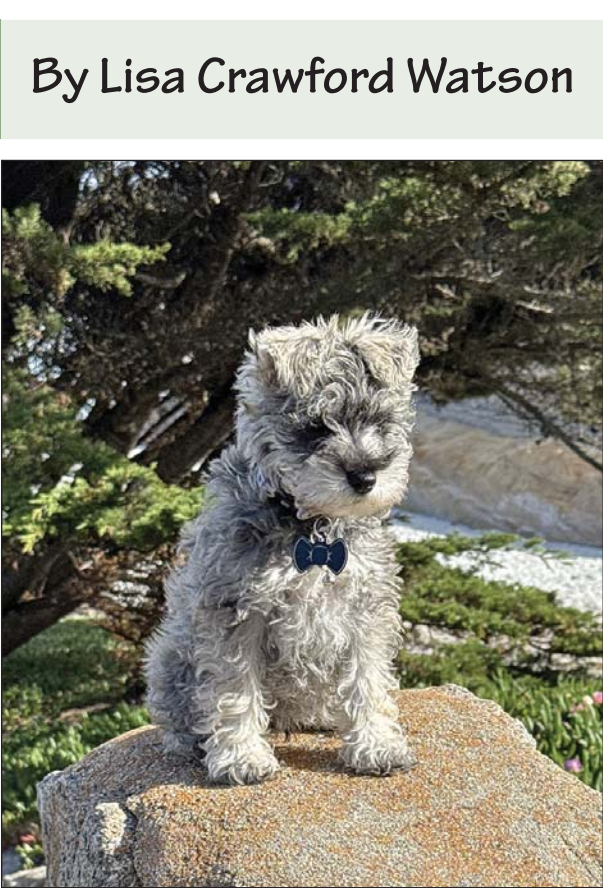
Her sister's purebred mini-schnauzers had just produced a litter, of which only one pup survived.

Her husband said with Maggie, their 12-year-old 74-pound yellow Lab, they didn't have the time or space for another dog.

"But wait till you meet him," she said. "Russell's only 4 pounds and is adorable."

He knew, the moment his wife named the little dog, there was no turning back. Still, he tried. Coerced to meet the mini-schnauzer, he agreed to go but vowed not to pick him up, lest he become attached to the little thing and want to bring him home.

"My husband picked him up, fell in love, and brought Russell home. Now the pup sits in his lap, and he calls him 'Russie,'" she said. "No more Mr. Tough Guy."



Now nearly 10 weeks old, Russell is exhibiting "little sibling" syndrome with Maggie, whom he loves to engage. "He's very vocal, and he doesn't back down," his person said "He's going to get her attention, even if it means irritating her until she responds."

Russell, whose family lives in Porterville, brought him along to visit two of their three children at CSU Monterey Bay. Unfamiliar with the beach and way too small to navigate the sand, the shoreline, the seagulls, and the community of expert local canines, he was relegated to the path meandering above the scene.

"We put Russell on a leash for the first time," his person said, "and he loved it, trotting along the trail with his ears back and head held high like he was the king of England."

Now that Mom and Dad are empty-nesters with all three kids away at school, Russell has been filling the void, giving them another baby to care for.

"Russell is a quintessentially curious puppy," said his person. "He fills my heart as he fumbles through the house."

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# Police & Sheriff's Log

## Prowlers come in families now?

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

### TUESDAY, APRIL 15

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Open door at Mission and 10th.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Suspicious circumstance of male asking security questions at a jewelry store at Ocean and Mission.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Five juveniles were contacted during a traffic stop at Santa Lucia Avenue and Monte Verde. A 14-year-old male passenger was found in possession of an illegal firearm and attempted to flee from police.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Adult male warned about trespassing at a jewelry store at Ocean and Dolores.

**Carmel area:** Report of damaged person-

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Multiple requests for welfare checks at Lincoln and Seventh after reports of suspicious circumstances at 0007 hours. Appeared to be unfounded.

**Pacific Grove:** Property found near the Asilomar turnout.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** A 45-year-old female was arrested at Ocean and Del Mar for DUI.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Adult Protective Services referral at Lincoln and 13th. Info only at this time.

See **POLICE LOG** page 4RE in the Real Estate Section



## The gavel falls

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

**March 6** — Monterey County Superior Court Judge Andrew G. Liu sentenced Rodrigo Bravo, 33, to 16 years to life in the Californian Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

On Jan. 8, Bravo pleaded no contest to the second-degree murder of his girlfriend and the mother of his children, Eleni Tavua, in June 2023. Bravo also admitted that he personally used a knife in the commission of Tavua's killing.

On June 23, 2023, Tavua and her two children, ages 1 and 2, were at their residence in Salinas. Despite a domestic violence restraining order in place prohibiting Bravo from contacting Tavua, Bravo was also at the residence. While there, Bravo and Tavua engaged in an argument. During their argument, Bravo pulled out a knife and stabbed Tavua at

least five times, puncturing her aorta. Bravo immediately fled the residence, leaving the two children with their mother as she bled to death.

This case was investigated by Salinas Police Department Detective Pete Gomez and Monterey County District Attorney Investigator Rachel Maldonado.

**March 7** — Monterey County Superior Court Judge Pamela L. Butler sentenced James Sloop, 48, of Marina, to 30 years to life in prison for arson. Sloop was sentenced as a third strike offender pursuant to the California three strikes law.

On May 1, 2024, Sloop drove from Marina to a Seaside neighborhood and parked his vehicle. He walked down the street and paced

See **GAVEL** page 21A



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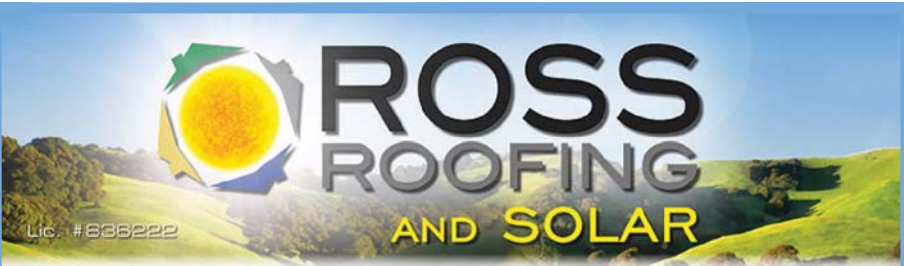
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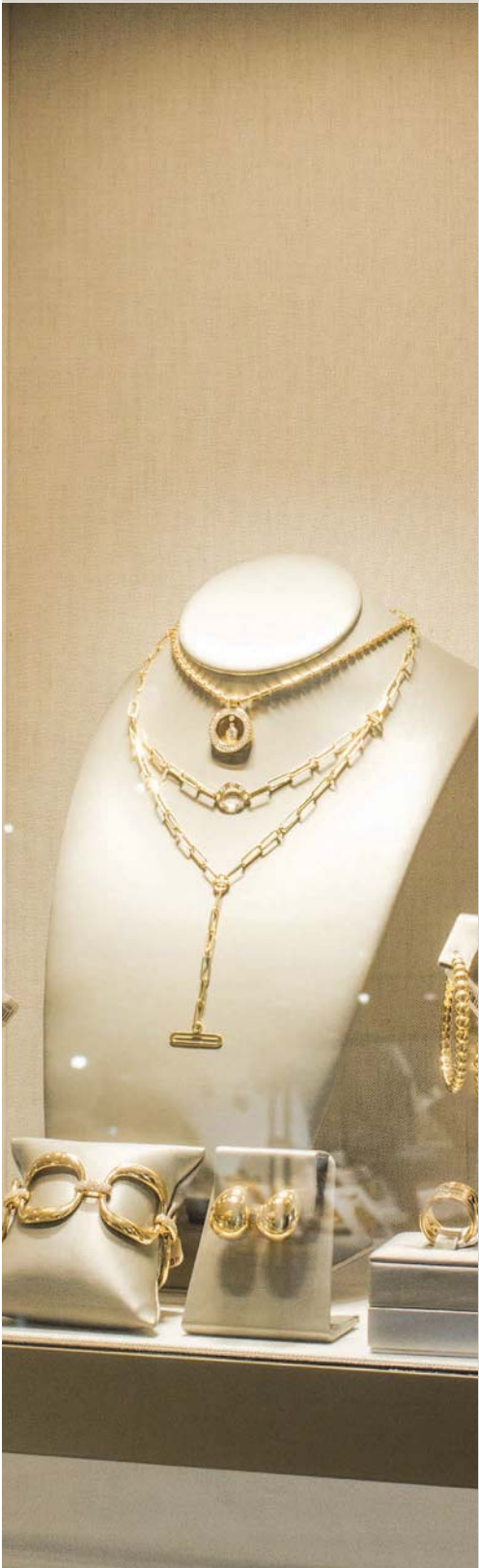
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# State paroles Salinas man who murdered infant son

By MARY SCHLEY

AT THE end of his sixth hearing, Joel Garcia — who was serving a 15 years-to-life sentence — was granted parole April 17 over the objections of the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office and Salinas Police Department.

On Sept. 27, 2000, before heading to the store for baby formula and to stop by an ATM — a roughly 30-minute trip — the baby’s mother, Noemi, left him with Garcia, now 51. When she returned, Garcia called to her to come upstairs, where she found their baby not breathing and turning blue, according to assistant district attorney Marisol Mendez.

“She attempted CPR and rushed him to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly after arrival,” Mendez said.

An autopsy revealed the infant had died from “whiplash shaking infant syndrome” and “compressive force to his trunk,” which cut off his breathing and caused him to asphyxiate. The baby had also suffered a fractured upper right arm, a cracked left elbow, and various abrasions and bruises, and medical experts determined the injuries were inflicted shortly before he died, according to Mendez.

Garcia denied hurting Raul and, even after being convicted of second-degree murder, and has continued to maintain his innocence, she said. He appealed his conviction in 2001, according to Monterey County Superior Court records, but was convicted and has been serving time at Soledad Correctional Training Facility.

At the time of the crime, Garcia was

on felony probation for statutory rape — Raul’s mother was a minor — and misdemeanor probation for domestic violence against her, Mendez said. He also admitted during the parole hearing that he’d been violent with his wife, Victoria.

But at the hearing last month, parole commissioners focused on Garcia’s conduct while in prison, including having no documented violations and participating in rehabilitative programs addressing alcohol abuse, anger management and “criminal thinking.” In addition, psychologists who evaluated Garcia during the last few years concluded there is little risk he will act violently again.

“The board concluded he no longer poses an unreasonable risk to public safety and acknowledged what they believe to be genuine remorse,” Mendez said, even though she said he still proclaims his innocence. He also presented

his plans for life in the United States — or in Mexico, if he’s deported — after release.

“The board emphasized that its decision did not diminish the gravity of the crime or the profound suffering endured by Raul’s mother and family,” she added.

### Opposition

Regardless, the DA’s office strongly opposed Garcia’s parole, arguing that he remains dangerous, especially for women and children.

“During the hearing, Garcia claimed his actions were driven by insecurity, low self-esteem, and jealousy over the attention Noemi gave to their son,” Mendez

See **PAROLE** page 21A

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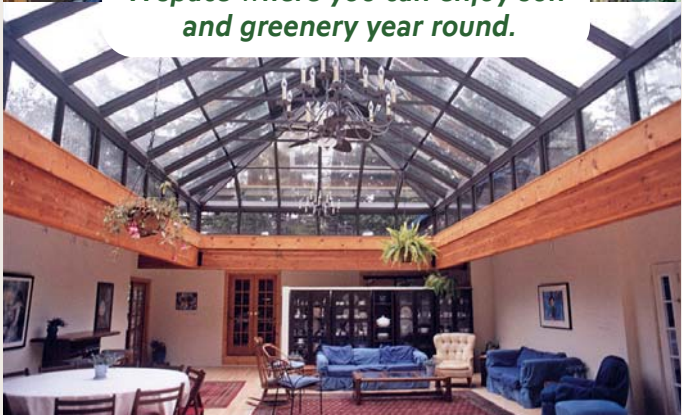
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# Trump can’t freeze funds because of ‘sanctuary’ laws, judge says

By KELLY NIX

MONTEREY COUNTY and numerous other California cities and counties that sued the Trump administration over its threat to stop federal funds because of their policies to protect illegal immigrants have prevailed in their first major court showdown.

On Feb. 27, the county joined a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court Northern District by San Francisco and a dozen other cities and counties to block the Trump administration’s efforts to stop the distribution of federal tax dollars to “sanctuary jurisdictions,” which prohibit cooperation with federal deportation efforts for most undocumented immigrants. Monterey County estimates it received a half-billion dollars from the feds in the last two years.

On April 24, though, United States District Judge William H. Orrick — who was nominated by President Barack Obama and has strong links to the Democratic Party — issued a preliminary injunction preventing Trump from blocking the money.

### ‘Unconstitutional’

“Defendants and their officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and any other persons who are in active concert or participation with them are hereby restrained and enjoined from directly or indirectly taking any action to withhold, freeze, or condition federal funds from the cities and counties” that filed the suit, Orrick’s six-page order said.

Orrick found that the jurisdictions had “demonstrated a likelihood of irreparable harm,” and that the threat to withhold funds causes them “injury in the form of budgetary uncertainty, deprivation of

constitutional rights, and undermining trust between the cities and counties and the communities they serve.”

Trump’s executive orders to withhold or freeze federal funding to sanctuary jurisdictions also “violate the 10th Amendment because they impose coercive conditions

intended to commandeer local officials into enforcing federal immigration practices and law,” the judge said.

A preliminary injunction, he explained, is warranted if a party in a lawsuit establishes a likelihood of prevailing on the merits and irreparable harm in the absence

of relief, and that relief is in the public interest.

According to Federal Election Commission data, Orrick contributed more than \$110,000 to Democratic candidates from 1992 to 2008, including a \$28,500 donation to the Obama Victory Fund and \$26,200 to the Democratic National Committee. He was also behind a 2017 injunction preventing Trump from withholding funds from sanctuary jurisdictions during his first term.

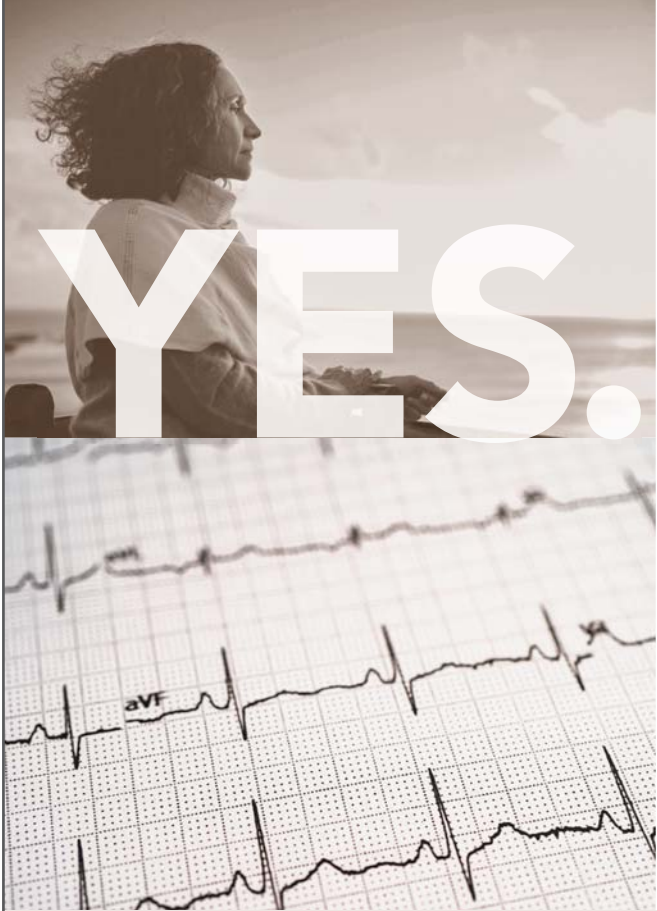
The Monterey County Board of Supervisors established the county as “welcoming” for refugees and undocumented immigrants and declared it “a place of trust and safety.”

“Like many other political subdivisions of California, Monterey County boasts rich demographic and cultural diversity that reflects its tradition of attracting people from all over the world who come to the county in search of employment opportunities and a better life,” the lawsuit said.

Other plaintiffs include Santa Cruz, Oakland, and Santa Clara County.

## County would be harmed by Trump order, court finds

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# Grand jury worries about wharf safety

■ City says ‘no need for alarm’  
By KELLY NIX

A NEW report alleges that the City of Monterey has not properly maintained its two fisherman’s wharves and that their poor condition puts the public at risk. But the city maintains they’re safe for visitors and tenants, and it’s seeking funding to fix them.

The results of a Monterey County Civil Grand Jury investigation, entitled “Monterey’s Deteriorating Wharves: A Concern for Public Safety,” described the condition of Fisherman’s wharves 1 and 2 as “poor,” and said the City of Monterey has failed to maintain them.

“Several structural elements have been identified as requiring immediate repair,



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Fisherman’s Wharf is safe, City of Monterey officials contend, after a report said its two wharves are in very poor condition.

yet little action has been taken,” the report, released April 18, claims. “This neglect poses serious risks to public safety, the city’s historic structures,” as well as the numerous businesses that lease space on the wharves.

The 21-page report said a 2017 assessment identified “extensive repairs needed to ensure the safety of all users.” Two other analyses in 2024 found they were still in bad condition, which prompted the grand jury inquiry.

The investigation focused solely on the structural integrity of the wharves, including pilings and supporting structures under the walkways, driveways and buildings. Some of the photographs in the report depicts pilings with vertical cracks and various stages of deterioration, including rot.

‘Wharves are safe’  
A Monterey city official told The Pine Cone last week that there is no need for alarm.

“The wharves are safe for public use,” Monterey public works director Andrea Renny said. “We don’t have any indication — barring an earthquake or something out of the ordinary — that we need to shut down the wharf or that there is any indication the wharves are not safe.”

Renny said the city has been transparent about the need for repairs and it has done some maintenance. Structural engineers have assessed them, and the Monterey City Council heard a presentation on the condition of Wharf 2 in early April, before the report was released. In May 2024, the council also heard about their condition.

“We would not allow any use of the wharves if our consultants said they were unsafe,” Renny said.

See WHARF page 21A

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Suit blames Salinas ag biz for illnesses

■ Taylor emphatically denies  
being source of contamination

By KELLY NIX

AGRICULTURAL GIANT Taylor Farms is facing lawsuits by several people who claim its lettuce was the source of an E. coli outbreak that sickened dozens late last year, including two children and an adult who suffered kidney failure. But the Salinas-based business maintains it has safeguards to prevent such contamination and is not responsible for the outbreak.

On April 15, Washington-based law firm Marler Clark filed two new civil complaints and amended several others in a U.S. District Court in Missouri. The com-

2024, she experienced nausea, vomiting, bloody diarrhea, stomach cramps, muscle aches, fatigue, headache and a urinary tract infection after eating romaine lettuce sold by Taylor Farms, according to her lawsuit.

"Hefling was hospitalized at St. Luke's from Nov. 22 to Dec. 17, 2024," the suit alleges. "As she became more critically ill, on Nov. 29, she was admitted to the ICU for hemodialysis, where she remained until Dec. 7, then to a regular bed until she was discharged on Dec. 17."

'Lacks sufficient evidence'

A Taylor Farms spokesperson responded to the allegations in a statement to The Pine Cone.

"Taylor Farms product was not the source of the referenced 2024 E. coli outbreak. We perform extensive raw and finished product testing on all our product and there was no evidence of contamination. Any reporting that connects Taylor Farms products to these heartbreaking illnesses is dangerous, irresponsible and unfair to the impacted families."

The company said all its leafy greens are subjected to a robust sampling and pathogen-testing program and are processed in a state-of-the-art facility that uses innovative technology and the industry's most advanced USDA-verified wash systems.

Taylor Farms also said it invests in research, innovation

and enhancements to its food safety program, which is supported by third-party partnerships and certifications.

The company said it's considering legal action to defend itself from the claims.

Hefling's lawsuit claims she was



PHOTO/TAYLOR FARMS

Taylor Farms said there's no merit to a lawsuit accusing the company of selling tainted lettuce that made people sick.

plaints blame Salinas-based Taylor Farms for a November 2024 E. coli outbreak that sickened 89 people in 15 states, including 36 who were hospitalized, seven who suffered kidney failure, and the death of one person, the law firm said.

One of the plaintiffs, Cynthia Hefling of Wildwood, Mo., said that on Nov. 21,

See FARMS page 30A



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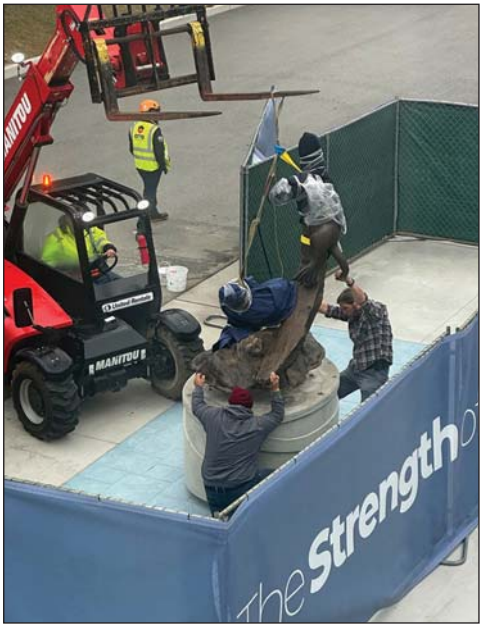
# CSUMB mascot sculpture defaced over concerns about cost of housing

By KELLY NIX

A NEWLY installed bronze sculpture of two playful otters that Cal State University Monterey Bay officials hoped would be a centerpiece of pride for the campus instead became a symbol of frustration over student housing.

The bronze piece, entitled Otters for Life — created by artist and former long-time Pacific Grove resident Edward Eyth — was unveiled April 24. Early Monday, though, officials found that it had been vandalized with spray paint.

In black, the words “fix housing” were sprayed around the base of the piece along with “money hungry f...s” and another expletive aimed at W. Jeff Cooper, the



PHOTO/CSUMB

Only a few days after this bronze otter sculpture was erected at CSUMB, someone vandalized it.

director of student housing and residential life. Toilet paper was wrapped around part of the art, which is in front of CSUMB’s Otter Student Union.

University spokesman Walter Ryce told The Pine Cone that the school is saddened by the vandalism.

“This new statue is a symbol of the strength of our otter raft and our dedication to community and belonging,” Ryce said. “Actions such as these divide our community and are not in alignment with our Cal State Monterey Bay values of engaging in respectful and productive dialogues.”

The school and university police, Ryce said, are trying to identify the perpetrators.

“Any individual found responsible will be held fully accountable for all related expenses, and if the person is a student, they will face student-conduct consequences,” he said. “Each time we have an incident of graffiti, we must deploy facilities and maintenance staff to clear it up.”

The statue, CSUMB said, was “supported” through philanthropic efforts, including donations from alumni, community members, staff and faculty, but the school would not disclose the cost of the artwork.

Eyth, of Savannah, Ga., sculpted the original in clay. It was then cast in 26 bronze pieces, which were welded to a stainless-steel interior skeleton to create the finished sculpture.

## Greater demand

Meanwhile, the availability of student housing at CSUMB changes annually depending on demand. In the last year, the university, which has about 7,200 students, had an uptick in enrollment among first-time and transfer

See **SCULPTURE** page 28A

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# Laguna Seca prepares to kick off race season under new leadership

■ Many changes afoot  
By MARY SCHLEY

WEATHERTECH RACEWAY Laguna Seca is heading into this year’s racing season in a new era, with a nonprofit called Friends of Laguna Seca in charge of all management and operations. Led by Lauri Eberhart, the organization has already brought in new leadership, replacing former general manager John Narigi with motorsports veteran Mel Harder, and making other internal changes.

“Since signing a long-term concessionaire’s agreement last August, Friends of Laguna Seca has hit the ground running,” Eberhart said in a recent message to supporters and fans of the iconic raceway,

tens of millions of dollars over the next 50-plus years to make those renovations and oversee the track and surrounding recreation area, and Eberhart reported ticket sales are exceeding last year’s numbers, sponsorships are growing, and the first round of capital improvements is nearing completion.

Namely, she said, the suites above the garages on pit row — where sponsors entertain guests and a few fortunate spectators can pay a premium to enjoy racing in comfort — have been refreshed, and the garages themselves have been deep cleaned and repainted.

**Repairs done**

Recent storms revealed more of the track’s chronic drainage problems, and repairs were made, along with repaving in the Andretti Hairpin at Turn 2, Turn 5 and Turn 11, to remedy them. A retaining wall was built, too.

The scoring trilon — a scoreboard that tracks the position of the racers — was last updated 15 years ago and has not functioned properly in quite some time but is being fully overhauled, with new LED screens and real-time scoring. And the iconic tire bridge between turns 4 and 5 was recently repainted to show off new sponsor Tire-Rack.com.

Eberhart said the Friends group is intent on reducing costs, finding new revenue streams and increasing operating income. The biggest

See RACE page 21A



PHOTO/MICHAEL TROUTMAN, DMT IMAGING

The rickety old bridge over the start-finish line at Laguna Seca was replaced with a modern steel structure in 2023.

which was founded in 1957 and is owned by Monterey County but is in need of major capital improvements and upgrades. The Friends group is tasked with raising



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# Good Sam Center mural to celebrate the generosity of Sabu Shake

By CHRIS COUNTS

PAYING TRIBUTE to both the town’s creative spirit and a local family’s generosity, a large mural for the Sabu Shake Sr. and Family Good Samaritan Center was unanimously approved April 29 by the Sand City Arts Committee. Now it heads to the town’s council May 20 for its final OK before it can be installed.

The art committee’s decision offers a glimpse into the process for approving murals in Sand City — which has become famous for them.

Measuring 16 feet long by 26 feet high, the mural will be painted in three sections on the center’s east wall along Shake Avenue. The artist will be Nick

Burns of Greenville, S.C.

The first section shows volunteers putting together food boxes for the needy. In the background is a dramatic seascape with waves, seabirds and a sunset. The last section shows a man praying — along with depictions of some of the services the center offers.

Also pictured in the mural will be the center’s namesake, Shake, who passed away in 1998.

**Generous spirit**

“He is depicted holding out a plate full of food,” the artist said. “He is known for having always provided free food for those in greatest need.”

A well-known restaurateur, family man and philanthropist with a generous

spirit, Shake immigrated to the United States from Karachi, Pakistan. He was honored with the Wharf Person of the Year Award in 1993 by Monterey Mayor Dan Albert.

A captain at the Salvation Army, Ashley Koebel, her husband and others came up with the idea of the mural.

“It was a lot of heads working together to beautify the wall,” Koebel explained. “Our advisory board thought we could create something to symbolize what’s happening at the center. The Shakes took the idea and made it bigger and better.”

Koebel is thrilled with the design. “It’s really great,” she said. “I love



ART/NICK BURNS

The Sand City Arts Committee recently OK’d a new mural in Sand City that will honor the late Sabu Shake, Sr.

See MURAL page 31A

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“We had the pleasure of working with Debby as both the selling and buying agent for properties in Pacific Grove and Carmel. For both transactions, Debby was professional and thorough. She kept us informed every step of the way.”

“We found ourselves selling not one, but two houses, within a couple of months of each other. Extraordinary situations call for extraordinary skills, and Debby demonstrated them amply in advising us in the sale of the two houses. I cannot imagine any realtor doing a better job than she did.”

“If you are anything like us, selling your house and buying another property will be the most important financial transaction of your lives. When facing this daunting moment, we looked for an agent who was hard working and trustworthy. Fortunately, we found a person who embodied both characteristics. That agent is Debby Beck.”

“Purchasing a house or property is probably the single most important financial transaction most of us will ever make. However, to make this event more palatable, it is important to have a strong realtor every step of the way that is knowledgeable, supportive, and attentive to every single detail. In the Monterey Bay area, that person is Debby Beck.”

“We have recommended Debby Beck to many friends and will continue to do so, and we only recommend people who we absolutely trust and believe in. Debby Beck encompasses all that a trusted business professional should possess; she deserves recognition for this as well as her dedication to her community and the volunteer work that she performs.”

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“Debby Beck is one of the most trustworthy, professional, dedicated and caring real estate agents we have ever worked with. She was our expert guide through the selling of our home in Pacific Grove, and the purchase of our dream home in Pebble Beach.”

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# ROBOTS

From page 1A

buoys to their cable, noticing that Wet Turtle’s submersible would sometimes become entangled in its wiring.

Throw in some physics, chemistry, marine science and robotics history, and you have the hands-on curriculum that Seaside local and retired teacher Stan Wyman has refined in the 15 years since he first introduced underwater robotics to his students at John Gutierrez (formerly Bolsa Knolls) Middle School in Salinas. Wyman is the volunteer educator, key supplier and technician behind the new underwater remote vehicle club at Del Rey Woods Elementary.

### First-time engineers

“It’s created quite a buzz on campus,” said Renee Mondragon, Community Schools Coordinator, who joined Del Rey Woods at the start of this school year to integrate the California Community Schools Initiative. Part of the grant-based initiative is aimed at “enriched learning opportunities, after-school programs and leveraging community resources,” according to Del Rey Woods principal Mariana Monge. Monge added that the effort has involved extensive surveys of students and their families, and that sixth graders Alex

and Isaac were among the first to approach with their response: robotics club.

None of the students had made a robot before. But the headfirst plunge is the best part, according to Wyman, who admitted he had it easy, with just six students this year. “It just started off as an idea for a science enrichment elective,” recalled Wyman of his first, 40-student robotics class at Bolsa Knolls, inspired by a summer continuing education course hosted by the Monterey Bay Aquarium and the Peninsula-based MATE, or Marine Advanced Technology Education.

Over the years, he’s earned recognition from the Aquarium, taught other teachers how to integrate robotics education, and served as a judge for regional and world championship marine technology competitions. But when Wyman approached Del Rey Woods administrators in January, his future students were way ahead of him.

It was Alex — who shared that he’s “always been around” technology, because of his family’s computer business — who recruited Isaac to help him find a dozen students who might be interested in filling out an application. Interviews conducted by Wyman and Mondragon identified six students, all of whom stuck out the four-month engineering crash course and competed at the regionals last Saturday.

“I heard about Alex’s club and filled out the application. It was very intriguing to me,” said Adriel, of Kraken Mechanics.

Corine and Monica, of Wet Turtle Technologies, nodded along. It sounded cool to them, too — enough to spend a dozen Wednesday afternoons in the classroom with Wyman, plus multiple Saturdays water-testing at the Patullo Swim Center pool in Seaside. Ivan, of Kraken Mechanics, couldn’t wait to get his hands on some tools. “I wanted to learn more about robots. I thought maybe I could find out how to build them on my own and get the supplies I need to do it at home.”

**Deep sea research**

An regional underwater robotics competition operates like a science fair on steroids, with the atmosphere of a championship swim meet. Between events, teams huddle poolside and under pop-up tents emblazoned with school names and mascots, where parents pull up camp chairs and enthusiastically replenish snacks.

Remarkably, Wyman explained, there’s little difference in the mission given to a team of 10-year-olds versus a team of 20-somethings — the progress is evident in the robots they create. Where fifth and sixth graders compete in an entry category, just getting the hang of circuitry and flotation, college teams battle for top honors by equipping their robots with cameras and fine motor skills — but they’re expected to conduct missions with their backs to the pool, relying only on computer monitors to guide their submersibles.

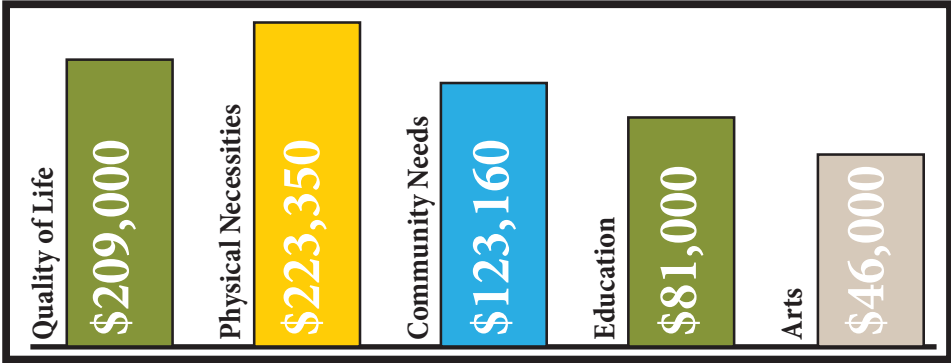
Inside the gymnasium, tri-fold poster boards served as marketing displays, documenting tech specs and illuminating the real-world applications of each team’s “product.” In addition to their marketing display, each team was required to present their remotely operated vehicle to a panel of engineering professionals, highlighting system design and safety features, and previous efforts at troubleshooting.

Displayed in the center of the gym was a roughly 6-foot “floater,” playing the monolith from “2001: A Space Odyssey.” George Matsumoto, senior education and research specialist at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, stood by, fielding questions from curious students — including those from Del Rey Woods — who built miniature “floaters” to accompany their robots. There are about 4,000 of these devices in use today, dropped down to the deep sea to record things like water quality, ocean currents and climate fluctuations for oceanographic research. It’s a tool of the trade for Matsumoto, along with the bevy of professional engineers, marine scientists and researchers who served as this year’s judging panel.

Established in 1997 with a grant to Monterey Peninsula College’s Marine Advanced Technology Education Center, the present-day organization describes a vision “to inspire and challenge students

Continues next page

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From previous page

to learn and creatively apply STEM skills to solving real-world problems in a way that strengthens their critical thinking, collaboration, entrepreneurship, and innovation and prepares them for the Blue Economy workforce.”

“Blue” refers to the focus on underwater robotics, though similar remote-operated vehicles are in use all over the world, from the depths of the ocean, to combat zones, drilling and archeological sites.

Once the marketing portion ended, all teams took turns launching in the pool. Each got two attempts at a mission which involved several real-world tasks, like locating a shipwreck using coordinates, deploying floaters, replacing components on a renewable energy station (this year, a mock windmill), taking water samples, and identifying endangered species by picking up “samples” of DNA.

Wyman’s fifth and sixth-grade students from Del Rey Woods Elementary competed in the entry-level Scout class this year. According to Wyman, all six are shoo-ins for the Navigator level next year.

“As we were taught”

At one point during the lunch break, Wyman heard his name and turned to find four Cabrillo College students, who remember him from years ago. He beamed, “A lot of kids keep in touch with me. I had four or five former students who attended Cal Poly and ended up as engineers for both on-land and underwater robotics.”

After 35 years of full-time teaching, he’s witnessed a great deal of change. “We teach as we were taught,” Wyman reflected. “And I grew up in the ’70s, when it was all about experiential learning. I’m afraid many students these days aren’t being judged on stuff that matters, like critical thinking and the ability to collaborate and solve complex problems.”

To his point, a 2022 survey by the California Institute of Public Policy reports that “staff shortages, teacher burnout and lack of dedicated funding” exacerbated by the effects of the Covid pandemic have impacted the rollout of California’s Next Generation Science Standards. The education policy was enacted in 2013, aiming to improve “science literacy” and “equip students with the skills to think critically, analyze information, solve complex problems

Everybody reads The Pine Cone

and pursue opportunities within and beyond STEM fields.” According to the survey, 27 percent of surveyed school districts made science a high priority in their Covid recovery plans, whereas more than 80 percent prioritized math and language arts.

Monge assured that Del Rey Woods students get hands-on time every week with content from STEM-Scopes, the digital- and print-based science curriculum recommended by the state in compliance with Next Generation Science Standards. On a daily basis, however, “science-based curricula” are integrated through Common Core material — e.g., a reading comprehension lesson will use a text about the Earth’s climate, or an arithmetic problem might be structured around a simple physics question. But for students like Alex, that’s not enough. He said he’s only had a “few opportunities” to experiment like he has this semester.

Monge describes the Underwater ROV Club and other

electives as companions to the classroom, possible through initiatives like Community Schools. “For our students to be able to dedicate themselves to one project for a long period of time, and learn to stand up and share their knowledge — these are the things that make learning stick.”

“It’s a beautiful thing, to have Stan give of his own time and resources and educational background to support our students,” added Mondragon.

According to Monge, the club will be open to fifth-grade students in the 2025-2026 school year. In addition to bringing the club back to the elementary school, Wyman is already working on an elective slot at Seaside Middle School, where his current students will be attending seventh grade.

When The Pine Cone took a brief survey of the club, the response was unanimous: they’d be back next year.

“I think we’re going to get to use cameras,” added Isaac. “Which will be really cool.”

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## The Carmel Foundation Celebrates 75 Years of Community



*This article is part of The Carmel Foundation's new monthly column in the Carmel Pine Cone, highlighting stories, resources, and reflections to support successful aging.*

**Senior Moments from The Carmel Foundation**

Can't Sleep? Try a Little Mental Reshuffling

At The Carmel Foundation, we believe aging successfully is an art—and it's one we practice every day. In our new monthly column, we'll share simple tips to support living well at every stage.

This month's idea is one our staff loves: mental reshuffling.

If your mind is racing at bedtime—or you wake up in the middle of the night—try this: Pick a letter—any letter.

Think of as many words as you can that start with that letter.

When you run out of words, pick another letter and begin again.


No pressure, no judgment—just a gentle way to guide your mind from worries to calm. Many people find they're asleep before they even make it to their third letter!

Also, thank you to everyone who celebrated The Carmel Foundation's 75th Anniversary with us! What a wonderful community—one that cared so deeply about its elders that, 75 years ago, it came together to create this Foundation. We are honored to carry that legacy forward with you.

Our next celebration is an Open House on July 19th from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM—and the entire community, young and young-at-heart, is warmly invited!

Sweet dreams from all of us at The Carmel Foundation.

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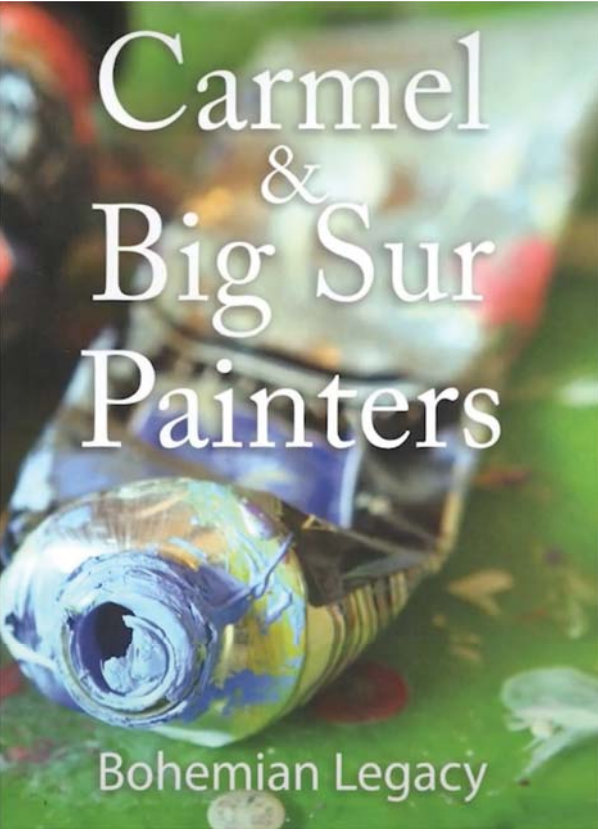
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# Mehdipour house approved again

By CHRIS COUNTS

A PLAN by Massy Mehdipour to build a two-level, 8,290-square-foot two-story home at 1170 Signal Hill in Pebble Beach was unanimously approved by the Monterey County Planning Commission Wednesday — marking what could be the end of a long and tortured planning process for the Silicon Valley businesswoman.

“I would like for this to be finished,” planning commissioner Martha Diehl said before making the motion to OK the plan. “It’s gone on for way too long.”

Designed by noted architect Richard Neutra and built in 1958, the Connell House was bought in 2004 by Mehdipour, who proposed replacing it with a three-level, 11,933-square-foot single-family dwelling. But the old house was deemed historic in 2014, seemingly protecting it.

Later, the home fell into disrepair and was vandalized. According to some project opponents, it was intentionally damaged to make way for a new and larger home. Trees were also removed.

The planning commission approved the demolition of the Connell House in

2023, and approved plans for the home Mehdipour wanted. But the approval was appealed by Neutra’s son, Raymond, a neighbor, Samuel Reeves, and the Alliance of Monterey Area Preservationists.

### No U-shape

Later that year, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors agreed with the appeals and ruled that the size of the new home must be limited to the footprint of the existing structure.

The Connell House featured a distinctive U-shape, and there was discussion over whether the new home should have a similar design. But at Wednesday’s hearing, county planner Mary Israel suggested such a requirement could lead to a lawsuit, and planning commissioner Francisco Mendoza agreed.

“Keeping in mind the property rights of individuals in this country, to demand that they build a U-shape structure would put some liability on the county,” Israel said.

At Wednesday’s hearing, Mehdipour told the planning commission that she

See NEUTRA page 19A

**‘It’s gone on for way too long’**

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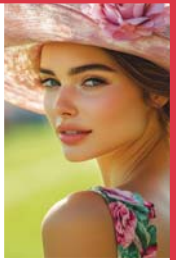
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# JANE FONDA LENDS STAR POWER TO ASSEMBLYMEMBERS’ NEW CLIMATE BILL

By CAITLIN CONRAD

THE MONTEREY Peninsula’s representative in the State Assembly, Dawn Addis, says she wants to make polluters pay for past and future natural disasters in California. Addis introduced her newest piece of climate legislation Tuesday alongside State Senator Caroline Menjivar and movie star Jane Fonda.

Both Addis and Menjivar, a San Fernando Valley Democrat, have drafted separate climate bills that together

program and require fossil fuel companies to pay for damage caused by climate change over the last three decades.

“If you cause harm, you should be part of the solution, so that each and every one of us can prosper,” said Addis.

Determining which fossil fuel companies will have

to pay into the fund would involve a complicated process. The California Environmental Protection Agency would administer the program and would have to look at

See CLIMATE page 29A



PINE CONE SCREENSHOT

Jane Fonda expressing support for a bill sponsored by Dawn Addis (pink jacket) to make fossil fuel companies responsible for disaster damage attributable to climate change.

would create the Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act of 2025.

“I want to give my deep thanks to Senator Menjivar and Assemblymember Addis for championing this visionary piece of climate legislation, I think it is one of the most, if not the most, important pieces of climate legislation in the world,” said Fonda, who is well known for her environmental activism.

### Crowd of activists

On Tuesday Fonda and the two lawmakers were joined at the State Capitol by a crowd of climate activists holding signs reading “Make Polluters Pay” and “Invest in Communities” as they detailed how their legislation would work.

Addis’ bill, AB 1243, would establish the superfund

## HEAD AND NECK PAIN

### A CHIROPRACTIC MESSAGE from Dr. Steven MacDonald, D.C.

Dr. MacDonald’s specialty is the Cervical Spine and Skull alignment. The skull and the cervical spine (Cranial-Cervical segment) must be in alignment to keep the rest of the body in balance. This section of the spine houses and protects the most important area of the central nervous system-the brain and brainstem. There are also so many life forces housed here, often called the mouth of God where the skull meets the cervical spine. The nervous system, Cerebral spinal fluid, circulatory system must be able to flow freely here to keep us healthy. Head and neck injuries and stress can misalign this area and interfere with these systems. Old and new injuries can hurt this spinal alignment and then be the cause of many of the symptoms people have today and distort posture later in life. Headaches can occur, balance problems, middle ear problems, neck and shoulder pain, mid and low back pain, poor memory, brain fog, blurred vision, speech, mood, depression, numbness and tingling, constipation, Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue. Cranial-Cervical misalignment can hurt every system in the body. It’s not something to take lightly.

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## KAISER

From page 1A

Health, that it contends are “high-cost.” The move is intended to reduce patient costs by restricting how much hospitals spend.

“Limiting the rate of growth for these hospitals would bring the costs incurred by consumers for these hospitals more in line with the broader hospital sector, thereby reducing historical inequities between high-cost facilities and more efficient facilities,” the state agency said in a February statement.

In a press release last August, Kaiser Permanente central coast area director of account management Rick Bar cited the cost of medical care in Monterey County as a reason for the company’s move into the market. “Monterey County’s location away from major population centers and a lack of market competition have driven up health care pricing here, leading to the need for our brand of high-quality, affordable care,” Bar said.

Kaiser’s Salinas facility has 20 exam rooms and offers adult and family medicine, pediatrics, ob-gyn, dermatology, a pharmacy and radiology and lab services.

The company offers insurance to individuals and businesses and provides healthcare services to those covered by Kaiser.

Before its Salinas office opened, Kaiser Permanente had planned to sign up employer groups from the Salinas area, including school districts, city and county employees, agricultural and hospitality workers, businesses and individuals seeking health services.

## Bridge tournament

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE MONTEREY Bridge Club will host a duplicate bridge tournament May 3-4 at the Portuguese Hall on Casanova Street in Monterey. The two-day event features open games on Saturday at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., followed by team games Sunday morning at 10. Players of all skill levels are welcome, with a special section for newcomers. Each game costs \$15 per player, and lunch will be available for purchase.

The possibility of winning hard-to-achieve silver points, needed by players who wish to become life masters, will be awarded to top-scoring players.

The Monterey Bridge Club, a fixture in the local bridge community for more than 60 years, offers daily games and lessons at its Del Rey Oaks location. To register for the tournament, call Ann Ahmadi at (831) 620-5547. For more information, visit [bridgewebs.com/montereyunit530](http://bridgewebs.com/montereyunit530) or call (831) 747-1650.



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# NEUTRA

From page 16A

hasn't been treated fairly throughout the process.

"I complied with every requirement that was put in front of me," she insisted. "How do you justify for somebody like me to have a property for 21 years, pay taxes, and not use it? Throughout the history of this project, I've been discriminated against and my property rights have been ignored. If it was a White man, this wouldn't happen."

Mehdipour reported that she has hired "close to 100 different consultants, attorneys and experts" to get through the planning process.

"My architect passed away," she said. "My lawyer for CEQA passed away, my second lawyer retired, my arborist passed away, my second arborist retired, and my biologist retired."

Mehdipour noted that several of her neighbors have much larger homes. She pleaded with the planning commission. "Please let me build a house," she added. "I don't want to die before I build this."

**Opponents sound off**

Opposing her plea was attorney Tony Lombardo, who was representing Reeves.

"The board would not have approved the demolition of that house had the damage not been so severe," Lombardo told the planning commission. "The one thing they didn't want was for the applicant to profit from that illegal

demolition. That's why they said, 'If you demolish the historic house, you have to build the house back in the exact same size and the exact same location.'"

Also testifying was Denise Estrada, a board member for the preservationist group.

"The Connell House was a landmark property that was victim to the failure to protect it from demolition by neglect and obviously, vandalism," Estrada said. "The county's been faced with a very long protracted series of difficult decisions when faced with a property owner who

would rather erase the landmark home and the coastal habitat that surrounds it in favor a new structure that clearly dwarfs the landmark home."

Estrada suggested the county "acquiesced to the demands of a single wealthy property owner" over its "responsibility to protect our irreplaceable historic properties."

The approval of the project comes with a slew of conditions, including the relocation of three cypress trees and establishing a plan to monitor them.



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# PRINCIPAL

From page 1A

been rocked repeatedly by rampant and persistent assaults on the basic rights of students and parents to a safe learning environment, that included claims of sex abuse of child-students, sexual harassment of school staffers, and racial and religious discrimination and harassment of certain minority and Jewish students.”

### Immediate improvements

But, Ramirez said, when he was put in charge of River School, he was “by almost every meaningful measure” a “model administrator” who immediately improved “the image and performance of the scandal-plagued CUSD,” and provided the care, concern and quality that the school’s families expected. His suit quotes a couple of employees and the Carmel Sandpiper,

Carmel High School’s student newspaper, extolling his virtues.

“However, none of those turnaround achievements and milestones would be enough to preserve his job and employment within this scandal-plagued district,” his suit says, because, with Ofek, then the acting superintendent, leading CUSD after the resignation of former superintendent Ted Knight, the “parade of systemic abuses of the CUSD’s students and staff, and the erosion and deterioration of its safety, standing and credibility” continued.

In the complaint, Ramirez says Ofek pressured him into supporting her bid for the permanent post — to which she was later appointed — while masking “a private contempt” for students and their parents. He accuses Ofek of using his “Latino background to gain credibility and elicit political support” from parents and the community.

After she got the top job, Ofek started showing up at Ramirez’ office in the late

afternoon on Fridays, after everyone else had left for the day, he says. Her visits put him “in a very awkward and uncomfortable situation,” as she made him “an unwilling audience for awkward, inappropriate and offensive subjects and remarks, both political and personal.”

He says she would engage in “bizarre rants” and, sometimes appearing in tightly fitting gym clothes, would ask him “to comment on her figure” and would ask questions about his personal life and work-out habits. When he finally tried to “diplomatically express his discomfort” with her comments and behavior, she seemed offended.

### Retaliation, racism

Because he supported students, parents and staff, and advocated for transparency, Ramirez says, he was forced out of his job.

His suit cites a handful of incidents. In one, he asked that one of his “respected and accomplished” teachers who requested a reduced workload be accommodated, since she was eligible, but Ofek’s office objected. Ramirez submitted a written complaint in response.

In another, he stood up for two teachers who had taken maternity leave under the impression their tenure tracks would not be affected, only to learn after they returned that they were being “denied the credit that would have raised them from probationary status,” he says. And when he wanted to hire an educator who was pregnant, the administration argued against it, since she would likely go out on leave.

His defense of those teachers “put him in conflict with the authority and agenda” of Ofek and the district, Ramirez says.

After he complained about an unnamed River School teacher who allegedly hit a student in the face with a “hard plastic cone,” the faculty member was put on leave for a short period but was reinstated over the principal’s “strong objections,” he says. Ramirez was so concerned for the safety of his students and staff that he repeatedly “issued dire written warnings” against letting the person return to the

school.

When he didn’t get a response from Ofek’s office, he turned to school board member Sara Hinds, but he was not confident the issue had been resolved, the complaint says, and his opposing the reinstatement and calling out the superintendent’s “apparent disregard of those safety and security issues effectively sealed the unlawful demise of his job, and possibly his professional career, at the hands of Ofek.”

Indeed, on the last day of the school year, she scheduled a last-minute meeting with Ramirez at which she told him he was being fired. When he asked why, she became defensive, said she didn’t have to tell him anything, and then pressured him to resign, lest there be a “negative mark” on his record, his suit says.

She then allegedly fabricated a claim that there was some kind of record against Ramirez barring him from continuing in the job, and, while he earlier accuses Ofek of using his ethnicity to her benefit, he argues he was the victim of racism. “The all-White school board failed to conduct any reasonable investigation, or review any claimed grounds by Ofek for getting rid of CUSD’s only Latino principal, whose job performance and record within CUSD were exemplary,” his complaint says.

Ramirez accuses Ofek and the district of violating numerous Labor Code and Education Code sections by subjecting him to retaliation, threats, a hostile work environment and “pay disparities between him and others who held his position” based on “gender and/or race.” He also says he was the victim of sexual and racial harassment, and when he filed a complaint with the California Civil Rights Department, he received a right-to-sue letter.

Ramirez is seeking at least \$1 million in general and compensatory damages, as well as payouts for “severe emotional distress,” damages to his reputation, punitive damages, and attorney’s fees.

Ofek did not respond to The Pine Cone, and a court hearing is set for late summer.

## JUDY TATELBAUM

9/22/1938 – 4/17/2025

Judy Tatelbaum was born in Rochester, New York, the daughter of Esther Beckler Tatelbaum, and Abraham J. Tatelbaum, M.D., a renowned obstetrician and gynecologist. Her only sibling, David, died in an automobile accident at 20, when she was 17. This loss was the foundation for her extensive work with grief. She graduated cum laude from Syracuse University just before her 21st birthday in 1959, and was a top student achieving a master’s degree from Simmons College School of Social Work, 1961.

She worked for two years as a psychiatric social worker at Massachusetts Mental Health Center, Boston, and then for eight years at Payne Whitney Clinic, New York City. While in N.Y.C. she was also a supervisor for several second year social work students from Columbia University and had a small private therapy practice.

After training in Gestalt Therapy with Jim Simkin, Ph.D. in 1972 in Big Sur, California, she moved to Carmel Valley, California and began her psychotherapy practice with individuals and groups.

Judy was committed to encouraging people to face and recover from life’s inevitable crises courageously, and to showing people new possibilities for creating satisfying lives. Over her lifetime, Judy was an inspirational psychotherapist, workshop leader, professional speaker, trainer and educator. For several years she traveled all over the U.S. and also to France, London and Frankfurt to present lectures, workshops and trainings on dealing with grief and loss. She did several similar weekend workshops in the adult extension programs at Cal Poly and Berkeley universities.

She was a volunteer for Grief, AIDS, Hospice and other health-related causes. Congressmen Sam Farr and Henry Mello honored her for her eight years on the Monterey County AIDS Advisory board, for which she was chairperson for three years. At the same time, she led several groups and trainings as a volunteer at the Monterey County AIDS Project, and John 23rd AIDS Ministry.

She was best known for her groundbreaking book, THE COURAGE TO GRIEVE. Since 1980 it has been read by millions. She was equally proud of her second book, YOU DON’T HAVE TO SUFFER, and later a fable she wrote about afterlife entitled THE JOURNEY FROM THE LAND OF FOREVER FLOWERS. In 2018 she published a book comprised of 102 of her monthly inspirational newsletter articles entitled INSPIRATION FOR LIVING.

From a profile she wrote about herself: “All of my life, I have been a champion of the underdog, interested in subjects that were not popular, like death, loss and grief, and concerned with questions about why people live? Why people die? How do people survive traumatic circumstances? What does it take to overcome a fatal disease? What causes healing? These pursuits stimulate me and enliven my life. And I like engaging in areas that are less popular, perhaps even secret — like death.”

Her greatest loves were her husband, Allan Marcus, who died at age 74 of progressive supranuclear palsy on 6/6/16; her friends; family; her dogs; writing; reading; films and computer Scrabble. She leaves her sister-in-law, Lynn Richards; Allan’s two sons, Dan (Iana) and Bill (Margaret); and four grandchildren; many friends and clients; and her beloved dog, Lovey.

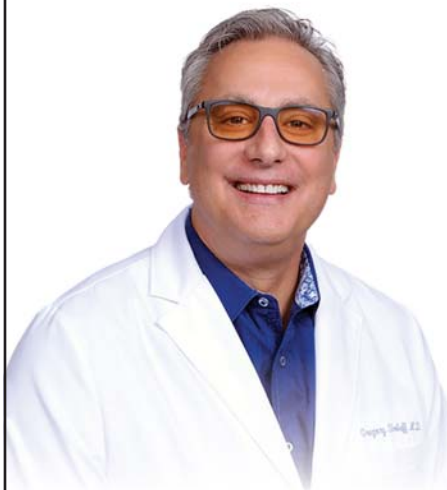
Donations in Judy’s memory may be sent to FUND FOR HOMELESS WOMEN c/o Community Foundation of Monterey Peninsula, 2354 Garden Road Monterey 93940 or PLANNED PARENTHOOD MARMONTE, 316 N. Main St., Suite 100 Salinas, CA 93901 or PEACE OF MIND DOG RESCUE, 615 Forest Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

Friends are invited to A Celebration of Judy’s Life which will begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 4509 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel.  
More information or to respond please contact  
[ziona.goren@gmail.com](mailto:ziona.goren@gmail.com)



## DR. GREGORY SHOLEFF, MD

*New to the Monterey Peninsula Community*



**I am a board-certified family medicine physician with over 26 years of experience.** To me, great medicine begins with expertise, compassion and understanding. My practice can provide these foundational skills in a warm and welcoming environment. I believe that personalized medicine starts with listening skills, laying the foundation for a stronger patient-physician relationship.

My approach is deeply rooted in preventive, evidence-based, anticipatory medicine, with a special interest in cardiovascular medicine, diabetes, women’s health, nutrition and special needs patients.

I believe that my extensive background as a teaching physician and clinical researcher, especially in the areas of psychiatry, diabetes, infectious diseases and liver disease, helps to enrich my more comprehensive care approach in the Monterey County, California area.



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[www.mdvip.com/doctors/gregorysholeffmd](http://www.mdvip.com/doctors/gregorysholeffmd)



# WHARF

From page 9A

Funding is the primary obstacle in getting them fixed. “When you are looking at strengthening, it’s about \$50 million for Wharf 2,” she said. “And for replacing it, we are looking at \$150 million.”

The city is looking into obtaining grants from the federal or state government.

### Shared responsibility

There are two different types of leases for tenants of the wharves. Twelve leaseholders maintain the buildings above the wharf decking and through their rent collectively contribute 60 percent of common area maintenance costs, including the structural elements under their buildings.

Twenty-one so-called ground leaseholders are “fully responsible” for maintaining and repairing structural elements above the sand, including pilings below the decking and buildings above, the jury said. They are obligated to conduct engineering inspections every three years and complete fixes within six months. However, while they are required to make repairs identified during those inspections, they are not required to make additional repairs identified by the City of Monterey. Most ground leases were signed in 1991 and continue to 2042.

The jury gave Monterey 90 days to respond to its findings and recommendations, which include developing a policy to provide a “reasonable” time frame for leaseholders to complete repairs.

# PAROLE

From page 6A

said. “The DA’s representative challenged this narrative, calling Garcia ‘manipulative’ and ‘deceptive,’ and characterized him as a selfish and callous individual.”

Further, she said, prison records indicate that between 2001 and 2008, Garcia associated with a prison gang and smuggled contraband on its behalf, even though no formal violations were recorded.

Salinas Police Chief Carlos Acosta opposed Garcia’s release, as well, writing to the parole board in March that “based on the brutality of this crime, which appears to be a completely senseless and unjustifiable act of violence, Mr. Garcia is unsuitable for parole.” Acosta said Salinas P.D. believes he poses “an unreasonable danger to the community.”

Mendez went on to say that Garcia’s release is part of a broader trend of convicted child murderers being paroled. In April, hearings in Kern and San Luis Obispo counties had similar outcomes.

“These decisions reflect a disturbing statewide shift in which some of the most severe and heart-wrenching crimes are being met with early release, prompting serious concerns about justice, accountability and the safety of our communities,” she said.

# GAVEL

From page 4A

in front of the victim’s house and driveway for several minutes. Finally, Sloop poured an unknown ignitable fluid over the hood of a car, causing an explosion and severe fire damage to two vehicles in the driveway. Sloop then fled the scene. He was captured on various surveillance cameras the entire time after entering the victim’s neighborhood.

On Nov. 7, 2024, after a four-day jury trial, a Monterey County jury convicted Sloop of one felony count of arson. Butler found true that Sloop previously suffered multiple strike priors for kidnapping, first-degree robbery, and dissuading a witness.

This case was investigated by detectives Jacob Sweyd and Hector Huizar of the Seaside Police Department, and district attorney investigators Sabrina Currier, Dominique Hohmann, Natalie Dill and Alicia Cox. Cal Fire Deputy Chief Christopher Van Cor and a now-retired K9, Ranger, trained in ignitable fluid detection, also assisted with the investigation.

**March 7** — Monterey County Superior Court Judge Stephanie Hulsey sentenced Tyrone Owens, 41, an inmate housed at the Salinas Valley State Prison, to a term of 25 years to life in prison for a sexual assault that occurred on prison grounds. Owens was sentenced as a third-strike offender pursuant to the California three strikes law.

On March 23, 2023, Owens was walking in Facility D yard at the Salinas Valley State Prison when he approached a licensed vocational nurse, Jane Doe, asking for “help.” Doe proceeded to instruct him on how to get help, Owens then told her he needed “sexual help,” ran after her, grabbed her, and tried to put his hand down her pants. Doe eventually broke free from Owen’s grasp and correctional officers arrived on-scene to assist. The entire incident was recorded on surveillance video. At the time of the incident, Owens was serving a 17-year prison sentence for similar conduct. The life sentence in this case won’t begin until he has served his previous term, which began in 2019.

This case was investigated by ISU officers at the Salinas Valley State Prison. District attorney investigator Erik Morris also assisted.

# RACE

From page 12A

item on the nonprofit’s plate, perhaps, is a full assessment of Laguna’s business operations and facilities.

“Development of a strategic and comprehensive master plan is well underway,” Eberhart said. “This long-term vision will guide improvements to both the raceway and surrounding recreation area — prioritizing guest experience, sustainability and facility innovation.”

### Racing begins

More immediately, though, the race season kicks off with the Laguna Seca Speed Tour, which features the Trans Am series, May 2-4, followed by the Monterey SportsCar Championship, which showcases cutting-edge

IMSA racecars, May 9-11.

During the IMSA weekend, Women in Motorsports North America will team up with Bosch to hold an immersive two-day program, Electrify Your Career in Motorsports. The workshop is “designed to inspire and equip women interested in exploring career opportunities in motorsports, particularly in STEM fields,” and is accepting applications from eligible college and university students. Eberhart is a founding board member of the women’s group and recently launched a Monterey chapter, and the workshop “aligns perfectly with WIMNA’s mission to advance, connect and enable women across all motorsports industry sectors.”

The workshop will provide industry insights through networking sessions, classroom discussions, behind-the-scenes tours of paddocks and garages, access to manufacturers, and conversations with professionals across a variety of disciplines.

## DAVID SCOTT KASTING, M.D.

Dr. David Scott Kasting passed away peacefully on Jan. 25, 2025, in Lone, California, at the age of 79. A dedicated physician and scholar, Dr. Kasting led a life defined by service, intellectual pursuit and a commitment to advancing neonatal care.



Born on June 10, 1945, in Seymour, Indiana, he was the son of G. Roland and Vernabelle (Cherry) Kasting. He graduated from Seymour High School and continued his education at Wabash College before earning his medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine. Dr. Kasting completed his internship and residency in pediatrics at Stanford University and pursued postdoctoral fellowships in neonatology at both McGill University and Stanford. From 1974 to 1976, he served as a pediatrician in the United States Air Force at Dyess Air Force Base in Texas.

Board-certified in neonatal-perinatal medicine in 1978, Dr. Kasting began a distinguished career that spanned more than four decades. He practiced at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center and Mt. Zion Hospital before moving to Ventura, California, where he led neonatal services across three NICU units from 1985 to 2001. He then served as director of the NICU at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital until 2009 and later as chief medical information officer until his retirement in 2023. Dr. Kasting was known for his clinical excellence and dedication to improving outcomes for newborns across California.

Outside of medicine, he enjoyed hiking, photography, reading fiction, gardening, and traveling to countries including Mexico, Ireland, France, Italy, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Romania. He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Ann M. Kasting; daughter, Delilah Kasting; son, Scott Kasting; sister, Janice White; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A Celebration of Life will take place 11 a.m to 3 p.m. June 10, 2025, at the Spreckels Veterans’ Memorial Building, 90 Fifth St., Spreckels, CA 93962. Memorial contributions may be made in David’s name to Wabash College at [www.wabash.edu/give](http://www.wabash.edu/give) or mailed to 301 W. Wabash Ave., Crawfordsville, IN 47933.

## ERNEST ‘ERNIE’ LAUBACHER JR.

Ernest (Ernie) Laubacher Jr., 89, passed away peacefully on April 9, 2025, at his home in Pacific Grove, California, with his loving family by his side.



He was born on Dec. 4, 1935, in Los Angeles, California to Ernest Sr. and Matilda (Berta) Laubacher. Ernie graduated from LA High School (class of ’54) where he met his devoted wife of 69 years, Martha. Ernie lived a full and vibrant life marked by hard work, deep faith and a genuine love for people.

In his early years, Ernie demonstrated an entrepreneurial spirit by owning a gas station. He later found his calling in men’s clothing, working for many years in the industry before realizing his dream of opening his own store. In 1980, he established a traditional clothing store, E.L. Huntington in Pasadena that became a family business. After more than a decade of successful business ownership, he retired to Pacific Grove in 1992.

Retirement didn’t keep Ernie idle for long. His outgoing nature and gift of conversation led him to the Red House Cafe, where he became the beloved lunchtime greeter. His warm presence and welcoming smile made him a fixture in the PG community and brought joy to countless patrons.

Ernie had a lifelong passion for cars and was especially fond of Monterey Car Week and all the festivities. Over the years, he was able to travel to car shows and even participated in the famous Mille Miglia race in Italy. He always enjoyed sharing stories and photos with fellow car enthusiasts. A deeply spiritual man, Ernie’s faith was central to his life. He maintained an extensive prayer list and faithfully sent out daily devotional emails featuring Bible verses to uplift and encourage his friends. His unwavering belief provided him with strength throughout his life and was a source of comfort to those around him.

Ernest is survived by his wife, Martha; daughters, Lindi (Coleman) McClary, Teri Martin and Kimi Jones; and grandson, Cade Jones. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest Sr. and Matilda Laubacher; and son-in-law, William (Gus) Martin.

Ernie’s legacy lives on through the lives he touched with kindness, humor, and steadfast faith. May his memory bring a smile to those who knew him.







From previous page

shouldn’t make any rash decisions. Several representatives of the local Teamsters union, including Erik Larsen, said rents are driving workers out of the area. “Rent can take three-quarters of a paycheck, and rent is killing our workers’ families’ budgets,” Larsen said. “I encourage you to listen to our diverse community. Hold off on any action.”

Several high-school students pleaded with the council to preserve the program, and a couple of physicians said instability can lead to numerous health problems.

“Housing insecurity is a public health issue,” said Dr. Jaime Gonzalez of Salinas Valley Health, because it causes reduced access to preventive care, as well as distress, homelessness and sickness.

Boos and catcalls

Some councilmembers shared their own stories of hardship, including Andrew Sandoval. He said he lost both of his parents, who were ag workers, when he was young, but he persevered through high school and college. “I will never leave Salinas,” he said. “I will die here.”

As much as he loves his city, he said, rent control isn’t accomplishing what was intended.

“The previous council was well intended, but I’m hearing that this doesn’t work,” he said.

Councilwoman Margaret D’Arrigo, a member of one of the area’s large ag families, said the problem is supply. Salinas needs farmworkers, but the solution to the housing crisis is not rent control. “I’m confident we can find a better way forward,” she said.

Jose Luis Barajas, who was also recently elected at the age of 26, recalled selling produce door to door in East Salinas when he was a kid and said the housing problem in Salinas is “a 40-plus-years problem in the making.” He favored establishing programs to provide incentives to developers to build housing for seniors, students and others in need.

“Let’s focus on policies that get housing done,” he said. While he congratulated those who are fortunate enough

to own homes and rentals, councilman Tony Barrera sympathized with tenants. “One thing we do agree on is we need more housing,” he said, and the council should give laws to achieve that more time to bear fruit.

Councilman Aurelio Salazar agreed with Barrera and suggested “fact checking on all sides.” He wondered why the council would strip tenants of protections they had so recently received.

“I feel helpless at times,” he said. “You wouldn’t believe how many phone calls I get from people being displaced.”

Mayor Dennis Donohue sided with the majority leaning in favor of repealing the ordinances, “because at the end of the day, rental assistance is the best solution to the problem.”

“I believe rent stabilization isn’t the solution,” he said, and the rental inventory “has had time to do its job,” in terms of collecting useful data.

He also said state legislation protects tenants from

predatory landlords, and the council voted 5-2 — with Barrera and Salazar, the only members of the former council, dissenting — to proceed with repealing the recently enacted ordinances establishing rent control, tenant protections and the registry. The vote evoked boos, catcalls and protests from the audience.

**‘Ignoring’ constituents**

Three days later, the Center for Community Advocacy issued a statement condemning the decision. “Despite over two years of meaningful thoughtful community engagement numerous discussions between property owners, residents and advocates, the new majority of the council swiftly dismissed these dialogues within weeks of taking office,” the group said. “Just months after the start of the rent stabilization, they have chosen to ignore the voices of those most impacted. This reckless course of action perpetuates a form of institutional violence against our community.”

Have something important to say about a local controversy? Pine Cone readers would like to hear from you! Submit your letter to the editor (350 words max) to letters@carmelpinecone.com.



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# Competitions for those who like to run in circles and throw things

In 1994, when Gina Chapin threw the discus 110 feet to set a Stevenson School record, “Friends” and “Seinfeld” were brand-new TV attractions, O.J. Simpson was standing trial, and the World Wide Web was making its debut.

In 1997, when Amanda Vicencio established Stevenson’s shotput record — 30 feet, 7 inches — “Titanic” was the hottest movie of the year.

The girl destined to eclipse both records wouldn’t be born for another decade, then she came all the way from the west coast of Africa to do it.

Vicky Darko, a boarding student from Accra, Ghana, competed in track and field for the first time as a sophomore at Stevenson, running the 100- and 300-meter hurdles. Last spring, she laid her hands on the discus and shot put for the first time, with unremarkable results.

“Her personal best in the shot put as a junior was 27 feet 6 inches, and she threw the discus just over 68 feet,” remembered Ron Provost, Stevenson’s head track coach. “But Vicky is the consummate hard worker, she’s incredibly coachable, and she’s really honed in on improving her technique.”

**‘A huge moment’**

An April 17, in a dual meet against Watsonville, Darko propelled the discus 117 feet 6 inches, almost 50 feet farther than her 2024 best and more than 7 feet beyond Chapin’s 31-year-old school record.

“A scream went up all over our home field. Her parents were there and it was a huge moment for our whole team,” said the coach.

Two days later, Darko lofted the shot put 32 feet 2 inches, 17 inches past Vicencio’s 1997 mark, at the CCS Top 8 Invitational, a showcase for the best athletes in the section.

Provost credits Stevenson alumnus and faculty member

**Peninsula Sports**

By DENNIS TAYLOR

Taylor Coady, who threw the discus 99 feet 8 inches — third-best in school history — in 2012, and Pirates’ throwing coach Dewey Mosley, who still holds the boys’ discus record he set in 1988, with improving Darko’s technique.

Darko is one of several local athletes who are favorites or serious contenders to win their events Friday in Pacific



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

Stevenson senior Kekoa Williams (above) is ranked No. 1 in CCS in the high jump with a school-record mark of 6-foot-8. (Right) Mack Aldi is Carmel’s record-holder in the 800 and 1600. Pole vaulter Bella Ortega ranks No. 1 in the Gabilan Division. Both seniors are CCS title contenders.



Coast Athletic League’s division championship meets, scheduled today at three different locations.

Carmel High will be at the Gabilan Division finals in Hollister, and Stevenson is in the Mission Division meet at King City, both with 4 p.m. starting times. Santa Catalina will vie for Santa Lucia Division medals at Pacific Grove High at 3:30 p.m.

**Mack Aldi paces Padres**

Carmel’s Gabilan medal contenders on the boys side will be led by senior Mack Aldi, school record holder in the 800 (1:52.64 this year, tops in the division) and the 1,600 (4:19.80 in 2023, No. 2 in the division). Aldi also is ranked No. 2 in the Gabilan in the 400, at 50.65.

Teammates currently ranked among the top six include junior Bodhi Melton, third in the 800, fifth in the 1600, sophomore Jasper Bolante, third in the 3,200, senior Maddox Zarazua, fourth in the 200, fifth in the 100, sophomore Matthew David, fifth in the 800, sixth in the 400, and junior Robert Beverly, fifth in the shotput.

“Our guys should be pretty strong in the distance area and relays, with Mack, Jasper, Bodhi, Matthew David and Connor Bone,” said Carmel coach Ralph Ward.

Simeon Brown, a standout on Carmel’s state championship football team and Gabilan champ basketball team,

only joined the track team a week ago but could contend in the high jump, long jump, triple jump, or sprints.

Best bets among Carmel’s girls include senior pole vaulter Bella Ortega, No. 1 in the Gabilan, No. 3 in the CCS, at 11 feet, freshman Jasmine Jin, No. 4 in the 3,200, and freshman Gianna Kemmerly and senior Jaydn Lome, who rank third and fourth in the high jump.

Stevenson’s prime contenders on the boys’ side begins with senior high jumper Kekoa Williams, who won the Top 8 meet with a school-record leap of 6-8, eclipsing his own mark of 6-7, set earlier this year. Williams, who is bound for the University of Oregon, is ranked No. 1 in the CCS in that event.

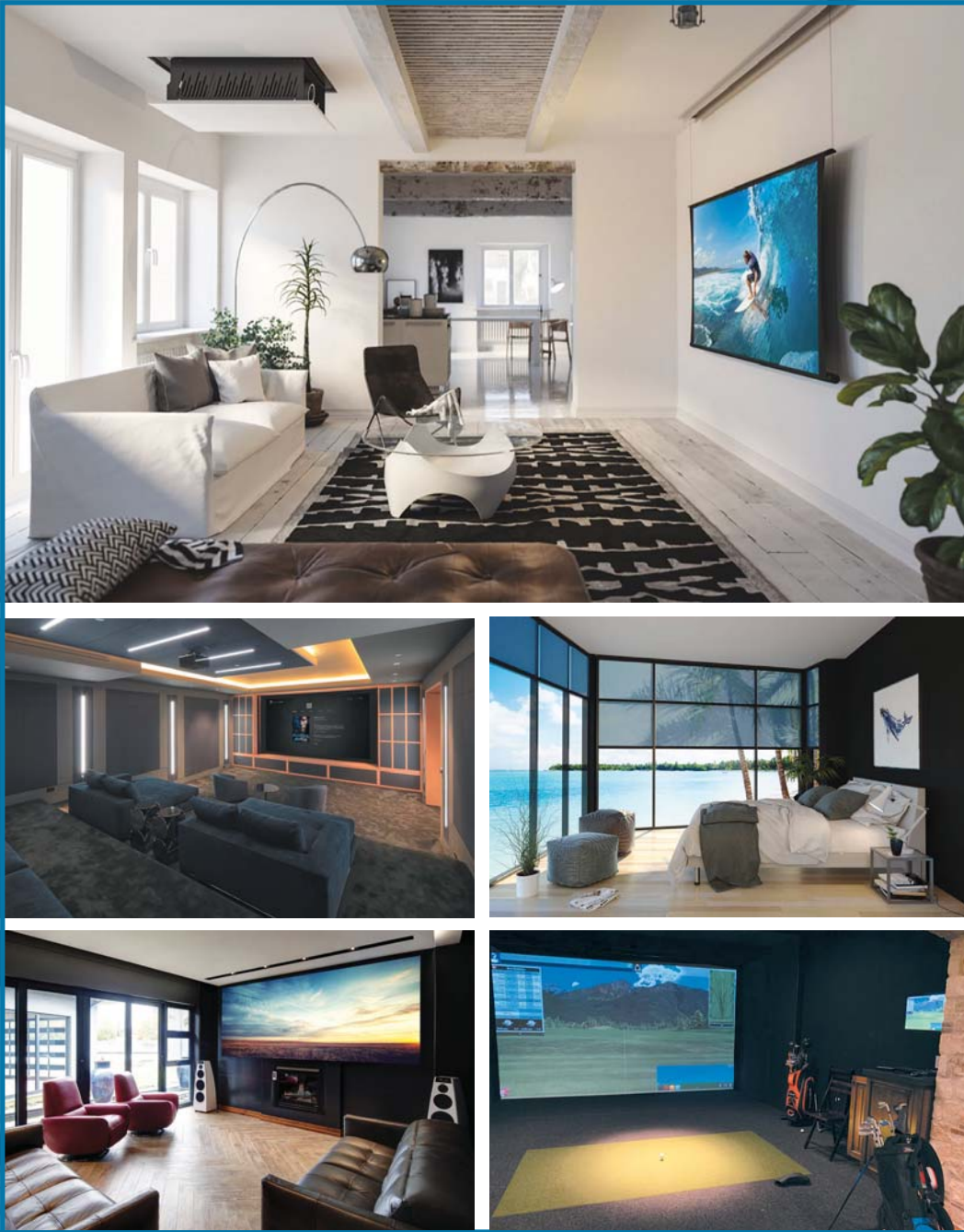
**RLS record in 4-by-800**


Teammate Will Kernan, a senior, ranked No. 1 in the division in the 800. He’ll also team with fellow seniors Marcus Finley and Alessandro De Leo, and freshman Nate Gregory, in the 4-by-800 relay. That foursome set the school record at 8:30.67 this year.

Finley, Kernan, and De Leo are podium contenders in middle-distance and distance events.

Other high placers for the Pirates in the Mission meet

See **SPORTS** next page





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# SPORTS

From previous page

are likely to be sophomore Divij Anderson, No. 2 in the 100, Gregory, No. 4 in the 400, and the 4-by-100 relay team, ranked No. 2, of Caden Olsen, Lincoln Fung, Zryan Morgan, and Anderson. Stevenson's girls squad, the best in years, aspires to win the Mission Division team crown.

The division's best sprinter is senior Anna Kosmont, who is No. 1 in the 100, 12.91, and No. 2 in the 200, 26.86, and could win the Mission in both events.

"Anna crashed over the finish line in the 4-by-100 at our first meet of the year," Stevenson girls coach Megan Driscoll said of Kosmont, who will run for New York University next season. "She hit her head pretty hard, missed the rest of the meet and was out for the next couple of weeks."

She hasn't lost a race this year, said Provost, and her times have been steadily dropping.

### Building a future

Other high scorers for the Pirates Friday at King City should include pole vaulters Siobhan Ong, a senior, No. 1 at 10 feet, 7.5 inches, and junior Mary Zewert, No. 3, triple jumpers Katrina Bauer, a senior, No. 1, 34-7.5, Amaya Chadha, No. 2, a junior, and Darko, who is second in the division to senior Angela Ayozie of Everett Alvarez in both throwing



Triple jumper Katrina Bauer, discus and shot put thrower Vicky Darko, and sprinter Anna Kosmont — all seniors at Stevenson — are top seeds in the Mission Division heading into Friday's championships.



The Fujita twins — Isabell, a sprinter, in grey, and Delilah, a hurdler and quarter miler, in black — are standout juniors at Santa Catalina.

The Cougars also are strong in the 200-meter dash, where sophomore Abri DeRanieri has the Santa Lucia's fastest time of 20.68, and junior Isabell Fujita is No. 3.

They are also the top seed in the 4-by-100 relay with Isabell and Delilah Fujita, Hope Yoshiyama, and Sagin recording a 51.11 time.

Delilah Fujita is seeded No. 4 in the 300 hurdles.

"We only have three seniors on a roster of 26, so we're building toward the future," said Catalina coach Barry Panes. "We feel a lot of optimism going forward, in part because my middle school girls are really good this year, and if they come out for the high school team in 2026, we'll definitely be much stronger."

The PCAL Masters meet is May 9 at King City. CCS semifinals are May 17, and finals are May 24 at Gilroy.

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





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# Editorial

# It's not racism

**MASSY MEHDIPOUR** has been victimized by a series of a gross injustices during her 20-plus years in Monterey County's version of permit hell, so it's understandable, as we report this week on page 16A, that she made an emotional plea this week for the Monterey County Planning Commission to finally give her a permit to build a home on her property in Pebble Beach.

“How do you justify for somebody like me to have a property for 21 years, pay taxes, and not use it?” she asked the commission. “Throughout the history of this project, I’ve been discriminated against and my property rights have been ignored.”

Mehdipour, who bought her property overlooking Fanshell Beach in 2004 only to find out the old home on it was considered historic by some, said that she has hired “close to 100 different consultants, attorneys and experts” to get through the planning process.

“My architect passed away,” she recounted. “My lawyer for CEQA passed away, my second lawyer retired, my arborist passed away, my second arborist retired, and my biologist retired.”

It's a litany that would sound absurd to anybody from a real place, but this is coastal California, where decades-long pursuits of building permits have been common since the environmental, resource protection and historic preservationist movements seized political power beginning in the 1970s — at the expense not only of individual property owners, but the state's housing supply.

There are dozens of local examples, and thousands around the state, to show why California more than amply deserves its reputation as a place where it's practically impossible to get anything done, as Mehdipour surely knows.

She began her career at Bechtel Group, an engineering and construction firm, where she worked for over a decade, rising through the ranks to become the first woman assigned to field construction, managing multibillion-dollar projects across oil and gas, technology, and microelectronics sectors.

In the late 1990s, MehdiPour founded Quasar Engineering, a company providing engineering and consulting services to industry leaders. She later established Skire Inc., a software company focused on construction and facilities management, where she served as CEO. Under her leadership, Skire developed Unifier, software adopted by Fortune 500 companies, government agencies, and educational institutions for managing large capital programs, according to industry publications. In 2012, Skire was acquired by Oracle, marking a significant milestone in her career — and in her personal wealth.

A native of Iran, Mehdipour must have overcome many obstacles to achieve her success. But according to a 2007 article in the San Jose Mercury News, she said she hadn't run into any discrimination along the way.

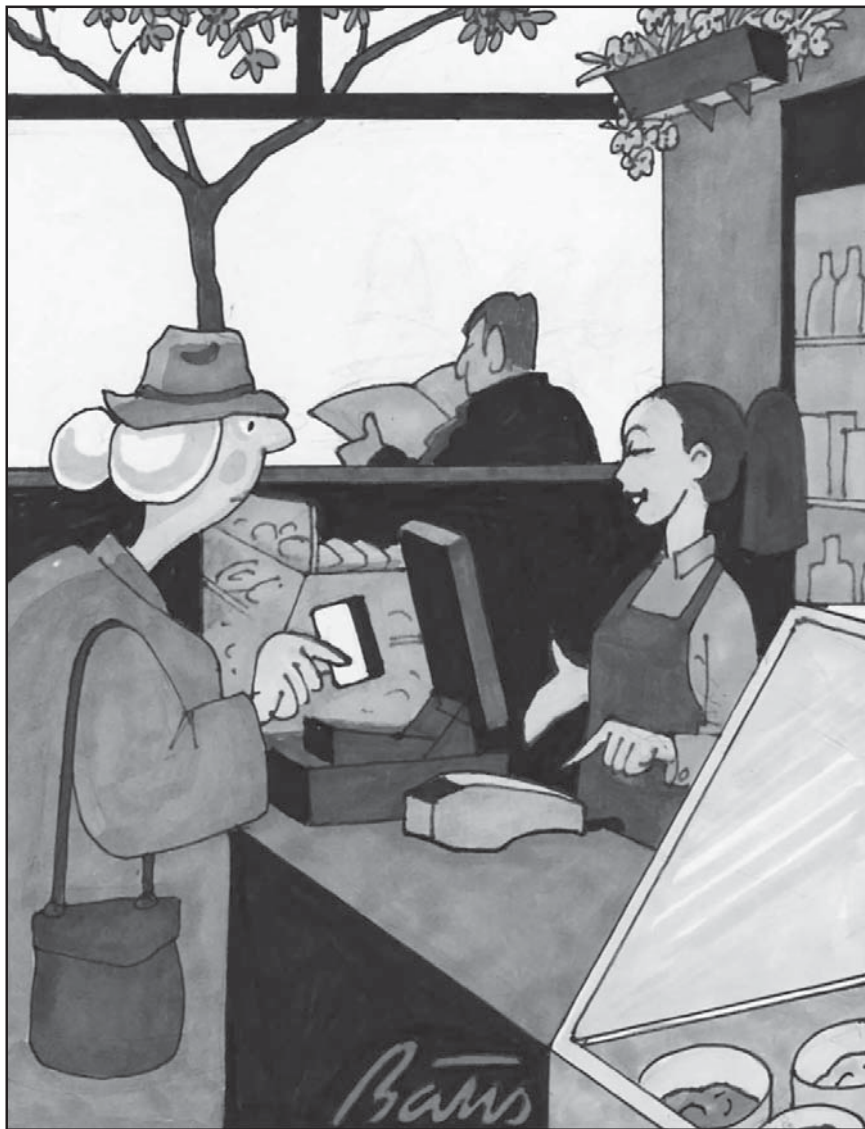
“Maybe I’m blind,” Mehdi-pour said, according to the newspaper. “There was nothing that I could feel. I tend to look at the glass half full, instead of half empty.”

This week at the county planning commission, however, she provided a different assessment.

“If it was a white man, this wouldn’t happen,” Mehdipour said about the torture she’s endured trying to get a permit in Monterey County.

She's wrong, though. What has happened to Mehdipour is horrible, but the permit process in California mistreats everybody.

## BEST of BATES



**“Yes, ma’am, we know you’re a local, but you can’t use your library card in a credit card machine.”**

## 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](mailto:mail@carmelpinecone.com)*

## Put it to voters

**Dear Editor,**

There has been considerable debate surrounding the proposal to implement a city-wide house-numbering system in Carmel. In evaluating this issue, I believe it's essential to reflect on why house numbers were never introduced here in the first place.

My great-grandfather, J. Frank Devendorf, founded Carmel with a vision of creating “a place where people could go to church, send their children to school, and enjoy the natural environment without the unnecessary encroachments of civilization.” At the heart of that vision was the desire to foster a true sense of community. He deliberately avoided house numbers and street addresses, believing that daily visits to the post office would encourage neighbors to connect in person — building friendships and reinforcing the fabric of our town. With the added influence of social media and the internet, this seems

even more essential now.

This tradition has become a defining characteristic of Carmel and deserves thoughtful consideration as we weigh any potential changes. While open discussion is healthy and necessary, the current tone of the debate has grown unproductive and, at times, hostile — something that runs counter to the spirit of our community.

There are possible alternatives that respect both practical concerns and our 100-year tradition. These should be explored through respectful, inclusive dialogue. Ultimately, any decision on this matter should be made democratically and include input from all those affected — residents and businesses alike. I believe that such an important, tradition-altering issue should be decided by the community at large through a vote and not simply left up to our city council.

**Jack Galante, *Carmel***

### Limiting hospitals' prices

Dear Editor,

California's Office of Health Care Affordability has chosen a strange way to make health care affordable. As The Pine Cone reports, the state agency will restrict Monterey County hospitals' spending increases to 1.8 percent next year and slightly lower percentages in subsequent years. What would that do to make health care more affordable? Absolutely nothing.

Notice that the OHCA's limits are on spending, not on revenue. And one obvious way to spend less is to treat fewer patients. What problem does that solve?

*See LETTERS page 28A*

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# The Carmel Pine Cone

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**Deliveries:** 734 Lighthouse Ave.,  
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**Telephone:** (831) 274-8593

**Email:** mail@carmelpinecone.com  
or *firstname@carmelpinecone.com*

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# From lights and cameras to working in soil and sunshine

BORN IN the small town of Delano to a Greek farming family, by the age of 10, Tonya Antle joined her siblings to drive tractors, help their father irrigate crops, and do whatever else was needed on the farm. When she finished her chores, she worked inside with her mom, helping with payroll. “We learned early that Saturday morning was not about watching cartoons,” said Antle, now a retired agriculture executive. “It was all about working the family farm. Working at such a young age instilled a sense of responsibility in us and the value inherent in working together.” She left the family farm at 18 to study communications at UC Irvine. There, she auditioned for the university’s “UC Eye Show,” a news magazine with a “Today Show” format.

## Great Lives

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

“I became head anchorwoman, working with an anchorman,” she recalled. She said they interviewed philanthropist Joan Irvine (for whose family the university was named) and comedian Jay Leno, “and covered whatever was happening of interest in Southern California. I fell in love with the idea that I could do this, so I called ABC in Hollywood. The network was bringing in students from UCLA and I said, ‘You need a student intern from UC Irvine.’” She got the job.

**Not for her** Antle worked on “ABC7 On Your Side,” a show for which she read consumer complaint letters and helped sleuth out the most interesting stories for the on-air talent, but she soon called her mom back on the farm and said she didn’t think it was the industry for her.

“Instead, I went into what I knew, produce sales. I worked for an all-female company, ‘Frieda’s Finest,’ at the Los Angeles Terminal Market, a fresh foods market where produce-industry pioneer Frieda Caplan had a specialty produce company,” she said. “We sold exotic fruits and vegetables, like dragon fruit, sapote, and kiwi.”

Antle, who learned how to sell 300 fruits and vegetables to buyers across the country, said she believes she was hired because she understood farming. Yet she recognized how much she learned from Caplan and her daughter, Karen.

Becoming engaged to her first husband, an organic farmer from the San Joaquin Valley, gave her the

opportunity to come home and work with her family, who were involved in organic farming long before it was popular. She helped launch the organic fruit segment as the company became one of the first producers in the country to sell organic produce to a mainstream supermarket.

“I sold to Stop & Shop supermarkets in Boston, whose leadership team was respected as innovative in the retail community, so whatever they did in specialties and organics, others would copy.”

**Recognized leader** Antle said her career’s heyday came when she joined Earthbound Farms as vice president of organic marketing. During her 13-year tenure, she helped propel sales and expand product offerings. During this time, she met and married the late Rick Antle, whose company, Salinas produce giant Tanimura & Antle, had invested in a one-third partnership with Earthbound Farms.

“The company had gone from a very small beginning to more than 35,000 acres and was made up of 250 growers,” she said.

“When we sold in 2010, our brand was nationally recognized as the leader in the organic produce segment.”

After the business was sold, Antle felt she still had more to give to the industry she loved.

So, she and her good friend, Matt Seeley, co-founded the Organic Produce Network, which became the go-to source for information, education and live-events marketing for the entire organic industry, she recalled.

“One show catered to the sales and marketing of fresh organic produce, while the

See LIVES next page



PHOTO/COURTESY TONYA ANTLE

Raised in a farming family, Tonya Antle tried the bright lights of big-city broadcasting but eventually returned to her roots.

# Always a dark and stormy night

DANNY VANCAS fell in love for the first time at age 5. The object of his affection was a beautiful blonde provocatively posed in an artistic, marginally naughty deck of playing cards that belonged to his father. He realizes today that she actually was

meetings with people in the industry who love the concept and tell me it’s doable,” he said. Most of his locations are in Los Angeles; a few scenes take place in Monterey and Carmel.

“Strip City” is a 40-by-30-inch oil painting on exhibit at Pacific Grove’s 480 Lighthouse Gallery.

A dead man bleeds on a sidewalk alongside a vintage police car that gleams under the lights of downtown L.A. — notably a purple-neon “Strip City” sign

on the nightclub across the street.

A blonde woman stares at the corpse from the back seat of the police cruiser. A reporter with a camera hovers over the body.

## Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

an amalgam of images he saw on two different cards. One was a reproduction of a painting by Gil Elvgren, the other featured the work of Alberto Vargas, the most famous pinup and calendar girl artists of all time.

“The two women looked so similar that I thought they were the same person, and I decided in my little-boy brain that she was the girl I would marry someday,” reflected Vancas, a longtime Peninsula artist who became nationally known for resurrecting the Elvgren/Vargas style.

### Gil Elvgren’s easel

At 72, in a studio within walking distance of Cannery Row, Vancas paints on the same mahogany easel that Elvgren used throughout his professional life.

“It’s well-worn, covered with paint and so ancient and durable that you can’t even push a tack into it,” he said. “I found it in 2001, acquired it, and I’ve been painting on it for the past 24 years.”

Working in Monterey and Los Angeles, Vancas paints pinup girls and film noir-style street scenes, applying between 15 and 200-plus layers of paint for his creations. Most are illustrations for a semi-autobiographical, pulp-fiction-style novel — the first of a series, he said — that he’s close to finishing.

“I see the end product as either a movie or a streaming series. I’ve already had

His painting and writing styles are throwbacks to a bygone era of saucy calendars, gritty “true detective” magazines, and the golden age of Hollywood crime movies, starring film legends like Humphrey Bogart, Robert Mitchum and Cary Grant, as well as “femme fatales” like Barbara Stanwyck, Rita Hayworth and Kim Novak

### Illegal booze

Vancas and two older siblings were born to parents who told them mesmerizing stories from their own past.

His dad had been a Depression-era Chicago street urchin, orphaned at 8, sleeping on park benches under newspapers and cardboard to stay warm.

“He was street-smart, with a genius intellect — a voracious reader, an artistic talent. He led a wonderful, crazy life,” Vancas said of his father, whose first “enterprise,” at 18, involved the distribution of illegal alcohol. “A lot of his



PHOTO/COURTESY DANNY VANCAS

Danny Vancas is known for vibrant oil paintings of film-noir-style scenes, like this illustration for a book series he’s authoring.

See ARTIST page 30A

Don’t miss “Scenic Views” by Jerry Gervase — every week in the Real Estate Section.



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# LETTERS

From page 26A

I'm not advocating that the OHCA restrict revenue. Restricting revenue could cause CHOMP and other hospitals to reduce prices. But, as with spending limits, another way to reduce revenue increases is to treat fewer patients.

Nor do I advocate that the OHCA impose price controls. As we economists know, price controls virtually always cause unintended and bad consequences.

So what is to be done? The main way to get more affordable anything, whether cars, houses, or health care, is to allow more competition. To their credit, and somewhat surprisingly, California legislators have repealed Certificate of Need laws that limited competition. What they should do next is repeal laws and regulations that make it hard to build anything in California, including hospitals and surgery centers.

But don't go telling hospitals how much they can increase spending.

**David R. Henderson, Research Fellow, Stanford University**

## Measles and autism

Dear Editor,

Regarding your article about childhood measles (April 25), there are a few details that were missed. First, on the hospitalization rate, most children who are hospitalized are admitted for observation and isolation, to prevent them from spreading measles to others. Very few of them need oxygen or intravenous fluids, which are the usual reasons that we admit children to the hospital.

Second, there is simple outpatient treatment for measles, ordinary vitamin A, 200,000 units per day by mouth for two days (only). That is the treatment that hospitals use for children with measles but it can easily be done at home. Since most of my patients are not immunized for measles, I advise them to keep vitamin A on hand for that possibility, although it should not be given when the child is well, as too much is harmful.

Third, the U.S. Department of Health and Human services is now investigating the role of measles and other vaccinations as possible causes for the epidemic of childhood autism, which now strikes one in every 20 California 4-year-old children, and one in every 12 California 4-year old boys, according to the most recent CDC data. Worse yet, not only has the prevalence of autism increased dramatically, so has the severity of the cases. The rate of the most severe autism cases, with IQs less than 70, has risen from 25 percent of the total, to 40 percent of the total over the past four years. Those children are classified as "intellectually disabled" and will never have more than a few dozen words, never be able to toilet themselves, and will

need lifetime custodial care at enormous social and financial cost to both families and the public.

**Richard B. Fox, M.D., Pacific Grove**

## Controlling fires

Dear Editor,

Combustion requires three essential elements: a heat source, oxygen, and fuel. Any efforts to reduce combustion must control one or more of these essential elements.

If vegetation is allowed to remain as habitat for flora and fauna and as fuel for combustion, it would be prudent to ensure that what lives in that habitat be limited to plants and animals that taste good when cooked.

**Roger Magyar, Pacific Grove**

## Likes us in Texas

Dear Editor,

I look forward to The Carmel Pine Cone in Houston, Texas. Although it has been more than 60 years since we lived in Monterey and were privileged to enjoy Carmel and the spectacular beauty, we remember it fondly. Your editorials are always relevant and truthful. The Best of Bates never fails to elicit a smile. Jerry Gervase brings me a good dose of life to ponder and agree with. However, it is far from his Buffalo, N.Y., and my Mission, Texas, youth.

Thank you for such an excellent weekly publication. I read The Houston Chronicle daily, but The Pine Cone has priority on Fridays.

**Gary Wright, Houston, Texas**

# DRILL

From page 3A

of domestic oil production and 2 percent of domestic natural gas production, yielding \$7 billion in federal revenues.

Panetta's legislation is part of a suite of anti-offshore drilling bills by Democrats in the House and Senate — including California Sen. Alex Padilla and Rep. Jared Huffman.

Under former President Joe Biden, more than 625 million acres of U.S. offshore waters were protected from offshore oil and gas drilling, said Panetta, adding that the Trump administration is trying to roll back the protections and "illegally" reopen the same areas to oil exploration.

Panetta said that the legislation is intended to protect the "biodiversity of our waters and the businesses and communities that rely on them."

"We must take action to ensure we are living up to the legacy of our home to protect the incredible beauty and bounty that our ocean provides for the next generation," he said.

Monterey Bay Aquarium executive director Julie Packard lauded the congressional proposals.

"These important bills would enshrine in law the essential protections from the hazards of offshore drilling and take decisive action on behalf of the people of California," Packard said.

# LIVES

From previous page

other featured everything from the ground up — seeds, soil amendments, tractors and the latest in ag tech — offering a one-stop shopping experience for the organic farmer." She spoke to retailers across the country on the latest statistics, trends in organics and the importance of continuing to engage in organic produce.

After going on to achieve a satisfying career, the Carmel resident, who lives near Hatton Canyon, still finds she has a lot of energy.

"Rick taught me the philosophy of 'Give where you live,' and I think I've lived up to that approach and have honored him by keeping visible in the community through philanthropic work," she said.

**Impressive resume**

Tonya Antle is a recipient of the Women in Produce achievement award, the Ag Against Hunger award, and is a co-recipient of the United Lifetime achievement award. The nonprofit Girls Inc. created the Tonya Antle Visionary Award in her honor. Today, she is a devoted grandmother to Simone Athena Drobný.

Antle is also a mentor and guest lecturer at the Cal Poly School of Agriculture and the CSU Monterey Bay School of Business. She holds board positions with the Panetta Institute, the Community Foundation for Monterey County Women's Fund, the Carmel Woman's Club and the Morse Foundation at Monterey Peninsula Country Club.

Plus, she really loves good games of tennis, golf, and pickleball.

# SCULPTURE

From page 11A

students. More students and soaring local rental costs have led to a greater demand for on-campus housing.

"Additionally, more students are seeking specialized accommodations through the student disability and accessibility center and applying for family housing options, which also impact overall housing capacity," Ryce explained.

**Offering support**

CSUMB provides housing for about half of its enrollees, which Ryce said is a significantly higher percentage than most California State University schools, which house 5 to 10 percent of students on campus.

The university has a waiting list for housing for fall 2025, but Ryce said it's working diligently to get students on the list into housing.

"We are also providing support to those students on the waitlist who would like to seek off-campus housing options," he said.



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# CLIMATE

From page 17A

all companies that may have contributed to greenhouse gases via extraction, production, refining, sales or combustion of fossil fuels or petroleum products between 1990 and 2024.

If the state found a company was responsible for more than 1 billion metric tons of emissions in California during that 34-year period, the company would be required to make payments for past and future climate harm.

During the press conference, Addis and Menjivar laid the blame for natural disasters at the feet of the fossil fuel industry. Addis described catastrophic flooding along the Central Coast in 2023, as well as the recent wildfires in Los Angeles, as examples of climate-driven destruction she thinks Big Oil should pay to fix. “The oil industry caused this, they have known they were causing this for decades, and then they pushed the cost on to us to pay for it,” said Addis.

How much money the industry could be on the hook for under the legislation is yet to be determined. The California Environmental Protection Agency would do a climate cost study within a year of the bill becoming law to quantify the damages. The amount would cover not just past destruction, but also future climate harms through the year 2045. From there, the agency would make a cost-recovery demand from the companies it already identified as responsible.

### Leaving the state

The dollar amount could be massive. According to Menjivar, California taxpayers have already spent \$52.3 billion on responding to catastrophes over the past six years. “Enough is enough. We are not asking

to change the whole system, we are asking for a little bit of a fair share, for you to come in to pay for something you broke,” said Menjivar during the press conference. Oil and gas companies have faced ever-tightening regulation in California over the years, resulting in an exodus from the state. In August of last year, Chevron announced it was moving its headquarters out from San Ramon to Houston. In October, Phillips 66 dropped the news it will close down its Los Angeles-area refinery before the end of this year. And in April, Valero told the public it’s considering shutting its Benicia refinery next year.

While passing legislation of this magnitude may seem like a stretch, Addis and fellow Democrats were able to push through a law that gives cities and counties the power to limit or prohibit oil and gas operations, power that used to lie exclusively with the state.

“When I decided to take on Big Oil last year, I did that on the heels of historic atmospheric rivers that hit central California in January 2023 and, frankly, those storms almost brought the Central Coast to its knees,” said Addis.

The assemblymember went on to detail the millions of dollars in lost infrastructure during the storms and why she thinks fossil fuel companies should have to pay into her proposed super fund.

Money from the super fund would be spent on a broad range of things, including disaster recovery, renewable energy projects, school resilience, home hardening and infill housing development.

“Believe me, I know it is not easy to go up against Big Oil, but we have to, and when we stand together and fight, we win,” said Fonda.

Addis’ bill was heard by the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources in late April, it now heads to the Assembly Judiciary Committee. No date for that hearing has been set.

‘Believe me, it’s not easy going up against Big Oil’

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July 21–25

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# ARTIST

From page 27A

stories made their way into my books,” he said.

His mom inspired his fiction with her own adventurous tales and became his first muse. At age 8, bedridden with an infected compound fracture, Vancas drew her portrait

“When she saw what I had done, she said, ‘Oh, my goodness ... I can recognize myself!’”

His siblings were grown and gone by the time Vancas attended Catholic school, while his divorced mom worked two jobs.

“I was basically a latchkey kid, so she put me in an after-school program at the Olive Hyde Art Gallery at Mission San Jose,” remembered Vancas, who took classes there through high school.

## Into the dumpster

At 17, he enrolled in a photography class in Oakland, where his teacher was a soon-to-be-famous photographer, composer, author, poet, filmmaker and civil rights figure.

“Gordon Parks walked into the room, held up an egg, and started talking about composition and lighting,” Vancas recalled. “He said, ‘I’m going to teach you how to convey emotion.’

“I was transfixed. It was an important turning point for me. I started to learn the importance of composition in visually telling a story.”

When Vancas was 18, his mother was afflicted with lung cancer caused by inhaling asbestos fibers. When she died, he stopped producing the paintings and poetry he had been creating. He was 22.

“I threw 600 pages of poetry into a dumpster at the 7-Eleven across the street,” he reflected. “Then — I still don’t know why — I cut all of my paintings out of their frames, rolled them up, and threw those in the dumpster,

too.”

Two months later, he glanced into the back room of the convenience store and noticed one of his paintings on the wall of the manager’s office.

“Whoever threw those away must’ve be crazy,” chuckled a young assistant manager on duty. “I just love them.”

Validated but embarrassed, Vancas never identified himself as the artist. And he didn’t paint again for decades.

He got married that year, fathered two kids, and, at 25, began working as a carpenter, a livelihood that lasted most of his adult life. Through the years, Vancas also endured a series of horrific injuries, including a broken neck and multiple herniated discs in his spine.

In 1990, with his second wife, he moved to Monterey, where their neighbor, Carmel Art Association icon Bruce Ariss, became a friend and mentor.

Vancas felt inspired to paint again, and two years later he opened Vanguard Gallery in Carmel, an upstairs space next to the Cypress Inn. It was the first of several Carmel addresses for his business over the next 24 years.

“I filled my gallery with artifacts, and gave a ‘museum tour,’ to whoever came through the door,” reminisced Vancas, who also painted on-site. “I played Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw, Billie Holiday and music from the ’50s and ’60s.” The tunes came from vintage radios he collected and restored.

“Madonna came into my gallery ... John Travolta ... a lot of famous faces.”

## Painting and writing

When his lease on the gallery expired, Doris Day generously helped him relocate. In 2016, when he lost yet another space in the Eastwood Building, Vanguard closed for the last time.

In 2023, Vancas contracted a rare spinal infection related to his herniated discs that hospitalized him for six weeks and nearly cost him his life.

That experience rejuvenated his resolve to enjoy a

creative lifestyle in Monterey, where he lives today with his companion of 15 years, a woman named Odile.

Despite chronic pain, Vancas is enthusiastically painting and writing again, working toward a possible movie or TV deal in Los Angeles. He also hopes to interest other local galleries in displaying his art.

Visit 480 Lighthouse Gallery in Pacific Grove to see his “Strip City” painting on exhibit.

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

# FARMS

From page 10A

diagnosed with “life-threatening hemolytic uremic syndrome” which can cause kidney failure,” and that she underwent daily, then intermittent, dialysis for nine of the 25 days she was hospitalized and received a blood transfusion.

Taylor Farms provided a statement from food safety expert Frank Yiannas, noting the FDA’s inability to pinpoint the source of the contamination.

“If the FDA lacked sufficient scientific evidence to publicly identify a farm or firm,” Yiannas said, “it would make sense for them not to name a company. Incorrectly identifying or implicating a food or firm without sufficient evidence would be reckless, unfairly damage the livelihood of a farmer and/or producer and, in the longer term, do more harm than good to the trust in the FDA and the broader food system.”

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S/Jane Mitchel

Date signed: March 24, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 24, 2025.  
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30A

The Carmel Pine Cone

May 2, 2025



# Big Sur Fire hosts open house Sunday

By CHRIS COUNTS

FOR THE second year in a row, Big Sur Fire will celebrate International Firefighters Day with a Community Open House and Safety Fair Sunday, from noon to 3 p.m., at the Post Ranch Inn. “Come meet our firefighters, enjoy food and refreshments from local businesses, and check out some of our tools and equipment,” the fire brigade says. “Refreshments, small bites and music will all help set the scene for a wonderful community gathering.”

Residents will have an opportunity to learn more about how to stay safe in Big Sur, which is extremely vulnerable to wildfires due to its steep topography and dense, dry brush.

Representatives from the Red Cross, the Big Sur Community Emergency Response Team, the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, SPCA Monterey County, PG&E and other organizations or agencies will be on hand “to answer questions to share community resources and answer any questions you may have.”

Post Ranch Inn, the Big Sur River Inn, Nepenthe restaurant and others will provide food and drink, while Elliot’s Haircut will play music. Parking will be available at Post Ranch Inn or in nearby turnouts along Highway 1. The resort is located at 47900 Highway 1.

## MURAL

From page 13A

that Sabu is out in front — he has a very strong legacy here.”

The project is funded by Shake’s son, Chris. “My brother, Sabu Jr., and I are very excited to see this mural become a reality,” Chris Shake told The Pine Cone. “It really represents what our dad stood for.”

Founded in 1997 and located at 800 Scott St., the center is operated by the Salvation Army. It provides a place for the homeless to receive hot meals — served daily at 10:30 a.m. — do laundry, take showers, make phone calls and receive spiritual counseling.



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Pastor Paul Wrightman

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Carmel-by-the-Sea  
Centering Prayer - Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.  
(In-Person and Online)

831.624.3883 [info@allsaintscarmel.org](mailto:info@allsaintscarmel.org)



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• 12:30 p.m. (Single adults)

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• 10:30 a.m.  
• 1 pm (Tongan)

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1Q2025 Market Update - Santa Lucia Preserve

\$2.15M

TOTAL DOLLAR VOLUME

↓ 89% less than 4Q 2024  
↓ 84% less than 1Q 2024

2

TOTAL UNITS SOLD

↓ 33% less than 4Q 2024  
↓ 33% less than 1Q 2024

421

AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET

↓ 64% less than 4Q 2024  
↑ 135% more than 1Q 2024

\$1.075M

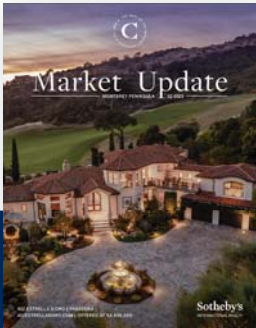
MEDIAN LOT SALES PRICE

↑ 34% more than 2024

“The first quarter of 2025 started off at a slower pace, with two homesite sales: 33 Pronghorn closed at \$1.6M and 24 Pronghorn closed at \$550K. There were no home sales; currently, there are 9 finished homes on the market, including our recently listed 18 Touche Pass, a stunning custom home designed by Hart|Howerton. Outside of the real estate activity, both the Ranch and Golf Clubs are nearing full capacity, with exciting events and activities on the horizon—another strong indicator of the community’s continued vibrancy and appeal.”



Brian Keck  
Santa Lucia Preserve Specialist



To View the Full Report Scan the QR Code Above

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# MOTHER'S DAY GUIDE

## GIVING, DINING AND CELEBRATING

### Taking care of the mother who took care of you

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

**SHE COULD** be any or every mom. As the morning light streamed through the windows, she turned the calendar page to May 11, picked up a pen and wrote "Mother's Day brunch, 10 a.m."

Admittedly, she's an exceptionally giving person. But as one Carmel mom was sitting down to plan the Mother's Day brunch she throws every year for her mom, mother-in-law and assorted friends, she started to feel a bit neglected.

"But what about me?" she asked herself. Why didn't anyone throw a brunch for her? Or at least indulge her with some of her favorite luxuries?

Maybe they just needed a little nudge, so she made a list to leave out on the kitchen counter, just in case. Here are some of her picks.

**Big Little Boxes** on San Carlos Street can put together any number of indulgent gift boxes, including the "Pretty Mama." It includes a "Go Salt Soak," plus a box of eight "You're So Pretty" shower steamers paired with tea sachets, a scented candle inscribed with "Mother," and Black Box sparkling rose gummy bears. It all comes in a pine box with a bouquet of dried flowers which, said owner Linda Persall, will help the sense of attention and indulgence last.

**Signature Day Spa** on Dolores Street can prepare a gift certificate for a session that feels like a luxury but should be understood as a right, a necessity, a priority for busy moms.

Whether it's a 90- or 110-minute massage, a wash and blowout, or the popular platinum hydro-facial designed to help reduce signs of stress, aging and pigmentation, all the treatments are designed to help women feel brighter, more

vibrant and youthful, said owner Tonya Montgomery. "I've been doing these treatments for 35 years, so I am a pro at what women want and need on Mother's Day and every other day in their busy lives."

Perhaps a thoughtful giver — maybe an admiring spouse — would stop by **Augustina's** boutique on Ocean Avenue for something that's an investment in price and style. There's always the understated opulence of a Buccellati 18k yellow gold Opera Tulle bracelet with enamel or mother of pearl.

After all, it could be "everyday special," paired with tennis togs, or jeans, but it could also work with a daring date dress.

Augustina's does offer matching earrings and necklaces in the Buccellati luxury collection, which is designed to resemble silk, lace, damask, tulle or linen.

"Buccellati has been in business for more than 100 years," said Augustina owner Tracy Delaney Odle. "We are proud to be their brand ambassador."



Moms are like superheroes, which makes it doubly important to show them love on their special day.

Anyone who walks into **Ami Carmel** gift shop for herself or her home is going to get lost in the experience, and time will pass, but not to worry. They serve hot coffee and warm chocolate-chip cookies to sip and savor

**GIFTS** *cont. page 35A*

## Give mom what she really wants, WINE!

### Raise a glass to the women who inspire you!

Enjoy the day with us or come pick up something special for mom.



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# MOTHER'S DAY

Beautiful but fading fast?  
Here's how to make flowers last.

By SALLY BAHO

**MOST MOMS** are thrilled with their Mother's Day flowers. If you're reading this and haven't ordered an arrangement yet, consider this your reminder to do it now. But what can Mom do to make her flowers last longer? After all, you did go to one of the many local professional florists to choose all her favorite blossoms in her

favorite colors, so let's help her enjoy them for as long as she can.

Maybe you have heard to add aspirin to the water in the flower vase, and the bouquets at the supermarket always come with those packets of powder, but what do the

**BLOOMS** *cont. page 37A*



PHOTO/RYAN CHARD SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

Though it's more ephemeral than other art, this arrangement from Fionna Floral can last a little longer—with some tender loving care and a few helpful pro tips.



## Make Her Month Unforgettable!

Treat her to a Mother's Day she'll truly remember. Enjoy an exquisite brunch, a luxurious spa escape, or a Bernardus gift card—each experience wrapped in California wine country warmth.  
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### Celebrate Mother's Day Sunday, May 11

Ami Carmel offers curated gifts that speak from the heart. Discover elegant scarves, artisan jewelry, and timeless keepsakes to make Mother's Day memorable.

Visit our Carmel store or browse online.

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**Ami**  
CARMEL



# MOTHER'S DAY

## GIFTS from page 33A

while shopping. Everyone who takes a step inside the store will end up wanting a Lafco scented candle. For example, there's the "Dutchess Peony" option, with its lovely pink glass and its indulgent fragrance. Since there are 20 varieties in the line, all of them attractive, no one would complain about receiving any of them.

The candle is a little pricey at \$60, so it's probably not the sort of thing a mother would buy for herself — all the better for gift-givers. Your mom may have her eye on the versatile \$88 Angelrox "Girly Wrap" in sustainable plant-based fabrics, which can be worn as a skirt, a wrap, a beach cover-up, a vest or a shirt. "Ami" means "friend" in French, and it's a terrific place for lifelong besties to hang out and shop for themselves and each other, too.

You might want to consider purchasing a lavish gift certificate to **Treehouse Café** on San Carlos. Take a gamble on enlightened self-interest. You never know — you might be invited to join the recipient on the outside deck among the foliage for a glass of something to toast with, an appetizer to share — like the calamari and the burrata cheese — followed by a main course from the extensive menu.

Many customers swear by the yellow Thai curry. Heck, even the servers warn diners that they might find the red is too spicy. Greece is represented by a gyros plate and dolmas, and there's the popular eggplant dish, baba ghanouj, as well.

You can get a salmon burger, some calamari or a plate of pasta, too. Properly done, the meal should be completed by the most indulgent chocolate cake, the baklava, or the tiramisu.

The wine list includes bottles from local vintners, like Bernardus, and you can also get Argentinian malbecs, Italian prosecco or a bottle of Veuve Clicquot Champagne.

SHOPS cont. page 38A



Honor Mom with a special gift from Big Little Boxes (top), a stunning accessory from Augustina's, or a bite from the Treehouse Café.

# Celebrate

## MOTHER'S DAY



SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025  
SERVING 12:00 NOON - 8:00 PM

### Our Special Mother's Day Three-Course Prix-Fixe

#### CHOICE OF SOUP OR SALAD

##### SEAFOOD BISQUE

tomato cream, prawns, lobster, chives

##### SPRING MIX GREENS & STRAWBERRIES

glazed pecans, Maytag blue cheese, chopped red onion,  
Baker's bacon, balsamic poppy seed dressing

#### CHOICE OF ENTRÉE

##### SLOW ROASTED 50-DAYS AGED PRIME, PRIME RIB, 10 OZ., AU JUS

pan roasted garlic herb potatoes, creamed spinach, horseradish cream  
(prime rib extra cut, 12 oz. add 9)

##### CARVED FILET MIGNON & BUTTER POACHED LOBSTER

truffle potato pavé, broccolini, béarnaise sauce

##### GRILLED WILD KING SALMON

fondant potato, corn & red pepper succotash, hollandaise sauce

##### PAN SEARED DAY BOAT SEA SCALLOPS

English pea & wild mushroom risotto, chive beurre blanc sauce

#### CHOICE OF DESSERT

##### OUR FAMOUS CLASSIC CHERRIES JUBILEE

rich vanilla bean ice cream, flamed warm black cherries, cinnamon, Kirschwasser

##### CHOCOLATE CRÉMEUX

coco streusel, cherry gel

##### RASPBERRY PANNA COTTA

blueberry compote, almond crunch

~ \$79 PER PERSON ~

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# Mother's Day

## activities

May 9 - 11, 2025

### Friday, May 9

**4:00 PM - 6:00 PM** Build Your Own Bouquet for Mom  
**4:00 PM - 9:00 PM** Live Music, Cocktails & Custom Card Making  
Social Hall West Deck

### Saturday, May 10

**7:30 AM - 9:00 AM**  
Breakfast Crocker Dining Hall  
**10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**  
Yoga on the Beach  
**5:00 PM**  
3 Course Cocoa Dinner with Wine Pairing  
Crocker Dining Hall  
**7:00 PM**  
Family Movie Night  
Grace Dodge Chapel

### Sunday, May 11

**8:30 AM - 2:00 PM**  
Mother's Day Brunch  
with Live Music & Kids Craft Station  
Seascape Dining Room  
**9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**  
Build Your Own Bouquet  
Meadow Circle



Scan QR code or call **831.642.4248** for  
Mother's Day Brunch Reservations





M O T H E R ' S D A Y G U I D E

The gift of experience: active ways to reimagine Mother’s Day

By LILY PATTERSON

**YOU KNOW** exactly what she wants for Mother’s Day, so why not spin that into a gift for everyone involved? Get her exactly what she’s asking for — to spend time with you, of course — while giving the whole family a welcome swap for the brunch-and-beach routine. With ideas for foodies, nature lovers, and creative types up and down the Peninsula, we suspect this list will inspire something more than a once-yearly tradition.

Play with clay

Two local ceramics outfits prove clay instruction has come a ways since kindergarten, when you proudly presented Mom your Play-Doh trinkets. Still, neither of you needs a fine art degree to learn techniques on and off the potter’s wheel. **Casey Starks Studio** on Lighthouse Avenue in P.G. offers weekend classes like “Intro to Hand-building,” where you’ll leave with a beautifully glazed cup, plate or planter. Ceramic jewelry and mug-making workshops are coming up, too. A fourth-generation California artist, Starks teaches group workshops that start at \$150 per person, as well as private lessons, and gift cards are available on her website, caseystarks.com.

Once Mom’s new hobby has picked up speed, Palo Colorado native Lizzy Eichhorn is ready with a slew of classes in wheel-throwing (the technical term for using a potter’s wheel) at **Monterey Clay Studio** on Broadway in Seaside.

“Our ‘Play with Clay’ workshops are experiential classes where participants can try throwing clay on the potter’s wheel,” said Eichhorn of the popular weekend intro course for students 18 and older.

She offers eight-week introductory intensives for a \$350 fee, tools included, which culminates in glazing and firing your creations. She, too, offers hand-building classes open to ages 12 and up — perfect for a little mommy-and-me bonding. Visit lizzyeichhornstudios.com to sign up.

Watch your step

**Hacienda Hay & Feed** on Carmel Valley Road has two speeds for Mother’s Day gifting: slow-moving wheels and quick-stepping eight-counts. Ceramics instruction deserves an honorable mention, but lately the historic



You can take Mom out to brunch — or you can learn to cook a new cuisine together with Thai is Fun.

Carmel Valley hub has in-the-know locals hooked on country line dancing. Try a little boot-stomping on Foot-loose Fridays (\$20 per person) or Saturday Night Line Dancing (\$25 per person), all-levels classes offered rain or shine. Sunday, May 11, from 10 a.m. to 2p.m. brings a special Mother’s Day touch to the weekly Kick the Dust Up event, an introductory line-dancing session that

starts at noon. Featuring a make-your-own bouquet bar, “Mom-mosas” and special menu items, candle-making and notecard stations for kids, Moms get free entry to this all-inclusive celebration when you book online with code MOM. Learn more at haciendacv.com.

FUN cont. page 38A



MONTEREY PLAZA  
HOTEL & SPA

Mother's Day

SUNDAY, MAY 11th | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

*Celebrate Mom in style with an elegant Mother’s Day Buffet at Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa. Treat her to a decadent dining experience featuring a lavish selection of chef-curated dishes, fresh seafood, gourmet entrées, and delectable desserts.*

*There will also be fun activities available such as create your own Mother’s Day Cards and a festive banner to take family photos in front of.*

\$125 ADULTS

\$49 CHILDREN (Ages 6-13)

Free for children under 6. Tax and service charge not included.

Pricing for children adjusted upon arrival,  
kindly book for the total seats desired.

RESERVATIONS



(831) 645-4058



# M O T H E R ' S   D A Y

## BLOOMS *from page 34A*

pros say? The Pine Cone asked a few well-known local floral wizards about their secrets.

All the florists we spoke to said that starting with fresh flowers is key. Sourcing from a local florist helps ensure that — there’s no way to know when mass-marketed bouquets in big-box stores were cut, or how well-traveled they are.

“We’re so fortunate being here. We go to local growers,” Cheryl Merritt, co-owner of the Twigery in Carmel, said. Kim England, owner of Fleurs du Soleil in Monterey echoed the sentiment. “We’re really lucky here in California because a lot of the growers where we get our flowers are basically shipping across the country. The growers we go to are in Watsonville, Aromas, and Castroville, and we also work with the San Francisco flower market.”

Sarah Hackworth, owner of Fionna Floral in Pacific Grove, said she stops at the growers in Watsonville on her way to work just about daily.

### Trimming matters

If you’re making your own arrangement, trim off any low-hanging leaves, otherwise they will foul the water, said Hackworth. “No foliage below waterline,” she emphasized.

The florists also agreed it’s important to change the water regularly and keep it clean. “Even if the foliage is removed, the water is still going to get dirty,” Merritt said. When you get an arrangement from the florist, it will have a preservative in the water — a mix of sugar to feed the flowers and bleach to kill bacteria, England said. So, when you first get your arrangement, wait a few days before you start changing the water. And yes, the packets that come with the flowers you buy elsewhere do help.



Fleurs du Soleil in Monterey offers stunning dried arrangements, while the Twigery is well known for its unique flair.

Finally, some of the stems need a little attention, too. The trick is that each flower requires special care — they’re not all treated alike. For example, those with

**BLOSSOMS** *cont. page 39A*



CANNERY ROW  
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## Mother’s Day Special

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Offer is only valid while supplies last on May 7th ONLY!  
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M O T H E R ' S D A Y G U I D E

SHOPS from page 35A

Wines are for sale by the glass and the bottle.

If you're wondering how much to spend, \$150 should cover two dinners with wine.

Finally, for a very sweet gift that offers the kind of indulgence women are hoping for on Mother's Day, why not get one of the larger boxes of sea salt caramels from **Lula's Chocolates**? The day Scott Lund brought his grandmother, Lula Lund's, confections to town in 2004 sweetened the whole Peninsula.

The sea salt caramels — creamy smooth caramel covered in smooth dark chocolate — are sprinkled with nine kinds of sea salt from around the world. A beribboned

chocolate-brown box of 18 costs \$32.

Yet, since most moms can't stop themselves from sharing, perhaps the 30-piece box at \$49.50 would be more appropriate. And, as everyone knows, those who step into a Lula's Chocolates boutique to browse or buy are often offered samples..

A relaxing walk around town might lead you to a host of other ideas, from Fourtané to Carmel Bay Co., Roy's at Spanish Bay to Casanova, Soiled Dove to Lloyd's Shoes....

No matter what you decide, almost every mother enjoys the loving mementos her loved ones have given her. They remind her — the other 364 days — how important and treasured she is.



An Old World chocolate recipe is the secret behind Lula's treats.

FUN from page 36A

In Pacific Grove, **N Space Dance Studio** on Central Avenue is so popular that Mom may already be a regular. Group and couples' lessons, plus private sessions, are offered in nearly every partner dance you can think of. Want to learn salsa? West Coast swing? Take a mommy-and-me class? Former professional dancer Natasha Zakravskaia and her team offer a staggering variety. Keep up with the schedule on Facebook, by calling or texting (831) 917-7787, or emailing natashadance97@gmail.com.

**Cooking for fun**

You could take a trip to Thailand and enjoy a week's worth of pad Thai, coconut soups and curries. Or, let **Thai is Fun** teach you a thing or two, and satisfy a lifetime of

cravings. The mobile cooking school is run by Goi Yugaroen, formerly a translator and multilingual instructor for the Defense Language Institute.

The setting is up to you — your cozy kitchen or the school kitchen in Seaside. Yugaroen will supply all the tools and ingredients along with a native Thailander's cultural insight and tips for sourcing the freshest ingredients. Private cooking classes for two to six people are \$111 per person, with two dishes included and a third for an additional \$45, and Yugaroen is flexible with dietary preferences and restrictions. The school is offering a Mother's Day special if you book by May 5, with half off Mom's fee. Learn more at thaaisfun.com.

A workshop with **Happy Girl Kitchen** on Central Avenue in Pacific Grove will infuse family traditions with farm freshness. Give a workshop gift card for \$125, available at happygirlkitchen.com, and let Mom's culinary curiosity take the lead with evening classes offered once or twice a week, often with seasonal themes. Popular offerings include introductions to sourdough, cheeses and yogurts, pickles and preserves. Special workshops are offered on everything from Indian home cooking to "Fresh Tortillas, Three Ways" — which takes place on Cinco de Mayo — in case you'd like to start your Mother's Day celebrations early. Visit happygirlkitchen.com to see the upcoming schedule and sign up.



There's a certain lovely symmetry to preserving food and making memories at Happy Girl Kitchen.

**Scenic views**

Sharp knives and flaming woks are not everyone's idea of a good

time. Fortunately the Monterey Peninsula offers treasures no Mom will turn down: heavenly views and about a hundred ways to catch every detail.

**Monterey Touring Vehicles** has the zippy little automobile that got away — dozens of them, actually. Mom has her pick of classic models including a '55 Ford Thunderbird, '57 Porsche Speedster, and a '78 VW Superbeetle — all with automatic transmission, thankfully. Prices start at \$299 for two-hour rentals, and delivery and pick-up is offered for an extra \$75 within 10 miles of the downtown Monterey location. Pile in for a cruise with two landmarked and audio-guided routes — Highway 1 to Big Sur, or Monterey to Carmel Valley. Book at montereytouringvehicles.com, and don't forget your license and proof of insurance when you go.

**Monterey Expeditions**, meanwhile, brings you up close to local wonders. They offer scuba and snorkeling lessons, but why not get your feet wet first? Try a guided tide-pooling session for \$49 per person. You can't disappoint your mom with jewels like aquamarine anemones, violet urchins and ruby-red starfish. "Our guides will expose intertidal secrets, hidden gems and weird, wacky creatures," according to the Monterey-based team — and all you need is a pair of hiking boots (note: never a bad gift idea).

Sessions welcome up to eight people (minimum age: 3)



Line dancing is a fun way to bond.

MEMORIES cont. page 40A

7D TEA PARTY

AT SEVENTH & DOLORES

SATURDAY MAY 10TH



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May 11th

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M O T H E R ' S D A Y G U I D E

**BLOSSOMS** *from page 37A*

woody stems, such as hydrangeas or roses, should have their stems cut up or smashed to increase the surface area and allow the flower to absorb the water easily, Hackworth explained.

Long-stem roses force the water to travel farther, while blooms with soft, more absorbent stems, like tulips, anemones and ranunculus, “drink” easily. If you have an arrangement of mixed flowers such as tulips and roses, trim the roses, but leave the tulips, and continue to change the water regularly. England suggested trimming the arrangements every couple of days.

Maybe Mom loved her bouquet so much this year — perhaps it’s her first Mother’s Day as a mom or a grandma — that she

wants to keep it. There are services that will preserve special arrangements like bridal bouquets for you, but a simpler and more economical way to do it is to press individual flowers in a book.

Merritt suggesting making potpourri by placing the flower petals loosely over newspaper in a box and letting them dry. You can also hang bouquets to dry, but “it’s hard in P.G. or Carmel to hang bouquets upside down because it’s a bit damp. If you hang it upside down in a dark closet — especially if your closet has the crystals that absorb extra humidity — that will work,” Hackforth suggested.

England shared that she recently visited France and noticed that dried floral bouquets are trending there. “They are so beautiful, not dusty old, dried flowers,”

she said. So, for the sustainably minded or Francophile in your life, maybe a dried bouquet is just the thing. And those will last virtually forever.

You are in great hands with local florists. For more information or to place an order, you can call the Twigery at (831) 626-8944 or visit twigery.com. Contact Fleurs du Soleil at (831) 656-0455, or see fleursdusoleil.com, and Fionna Floral can be reached at (831) 275-5434, or visit fionnafloral.com.



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MEMORIES *from page 38A*

and last a little under two hours. Specific tide-pooling locations depend on ocean conditions. To learn more and book a session, go to [montereyexpeditions.com](http://montereyexpeditions.com).  
Or, travel back in time just 25 miles south on wildflower-dotted Highway 1, where panoramic views are illuminated by the rich maritime history of the **Point Sur Light Station**. This year, moonlight tours of the 136-year-old lighthouse make a long-awaited return. Parking is at the bottom of the hill, then the group walks up to the top with a guide, with several stops for storytelling. With a full moon (and, one hopes, clear skies) an evening tour can be mystical. By day, it's good family fun spotting frolicking dolphins and humpbacked beauties on their annual northern passage off the coast — or perhaps an elusive California condor.  
Daytime tours are first come, first served. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 6-17. For evening tours, tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for children ages 6-17, free for ages 5 and under. More information is available at [pointsur.org](http://pointsur.org). And about that walk up the hill — and back down — those in need of ADA accommodations can call (831) 625-4419 for assistance.

A little ahhhhhhh time

After all that, quiet time awaits at **Refuge** spa, where relaxation is the only goal. A day pass starts at \$67 for a fluffy robe and freedom to roam the facility, including sauna, steam rooms, hot and warm pools, Nordic cool and cold pools, and Adirondack chairs arranged around outdoor fire pits. Swedish and deep-tissue massages and “glow facials” are available as add-ons, for an extra fee.  
A few tips: The spa doesn't permit talking among its guests, although infrequent quiet whispers won't attract attention. And your cell phone is not coming into the spa area with you, nor is any food or drink except water. Swimsuits are required. Everything is aimed at establishing and maintaining a peaceful experience.  
According to the Refuge team, “Our silence policy, our exceptional massages, and our beautiful natural setting contribute to an unrivaled relaxation experience” — as does the recently added Kids' Club, when Mom needs a break ASAP and the babysitter is booked. Gift cards are available in \$50 increments, and you can visit [refuge.com](http://refuge.com) for a virtual tour of the facility and its many amenities.  
Happy gifting!



Refuge spa in Carmel Valley more than lives up to its name.



Celebrate Mom with  
Mother's Day Brunch!



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Mother's Day Sunday Brunch, May 11, 2025 | 9am-2pm  
Reservations recommended 831-375-0176 | [estebanrestaurant.com](http://estebanrestaurant.com)  
Adjacent to Casa Munras Garden Hotel & Spa | 700 Munras Ave., Monterey



Mother's Day  
BRUNCH AT COVEY GRILL  
SUNDAY, MAY 11 | 11:00AM - 3:00PM

Three-Course Prix Fixe Menu  
\$72<sup>++</sup> for Adults    \$30<sup>++</sup> for Children, 5-12

Celebrate Mom with a decadent brunch lakeside at Covey Grill.  
Choose from lavish selections such as Citrus Cured Salmon,  
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Children's Menu Available

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For Menu & Reservations Please Visit: [quailodge.com/coveygrill](http://quailodge.com/coveygrill)

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Food & Wine  
Galleries and Art

This Week

Live Music,  
Clubs and Events

Good Old Days rocks P.G., I Cantori di Carmel makes Sunset Center debut

OFFERING PERFORMANCES for just about every genre of music, and drawing thousands of people, the 66th annual Good Old Days street fair returns to downtown Pacific Grove Saturday and Sunday — along with a dizzying array of local music acts.

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

Presented by the Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce, the street fair features five stages, with more than 50 acts performing. Saturday’s highlights include shows by **Red Beans & Rice**, singer and guitarist **Stu Heydon**, **The Transducers**, **The Katherine Lavin Band** and **Johnny**

**Tsunami**, while Sunday’s lineup features **The Money Band**, **The Rayburn Brothers**, **The New Wave Band**, **Samba Legal** and **East Side Funk** and many others.

Besides live music, the street fair offers a vast display of artisans, merchants and food vendors, a pancake breakfast, a parade, a quilt show (at nearby Chautauqua Hall), a petting zoo, carnival rides, and an assortment of family-friendly activities.

For more details, visit [pacificgrove.org](http://pacificgrove.org).

■ Busy week at Sunset

One of three classical performers featured this week at Sunset Center, **The Catalyst Quartet** plays Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Featuring violinists **Karla Donehew Perez** and **Abi Fayette**, violist **Paul Laraia** and cellist **Karlos Rodriguez**, the quartet will perform Astor Piazzolla’s *Suite del Angel*, David Bruce’s *Gumboots*, and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor’s *Clarinet Quintet in F-sharp Minor, op. 10*.

Tickets start at \$30. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 625-2212 or visit [chambermusicmontereybay.org](http://chambermusicmontereybay.org).

Cuban classical guitarist **Manuel Barrueco** performs Sunday, 3 p.m., at Sunset.

Barrueco, who was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2007 for Best Instrumental Soloist Performance, will play Bach’s *Suite in D Major, BWV 1007*, along with an array of compositions from the early 20th century.

Tickets start at \$41.50. Call (831) 625-9938 or visit [carmelmusic.org](http://carmelmusic.org)



The Catalyst Quartet takes the stage Saturday at Sunset Center. The concert is presented by Chamber Music Monterey Bay.

After presenting classical choral music locally for four decades, **I Cantori di Carmel** makes its Sunset Center debut Tuesday and Wednesday. Both concerts start at 7:30 p.m.

The program, “Songs of Destiny,” explores German Romantic and French Impressionist works from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including music by Brahms, Ravel and Debussy.

“These are staples of the romantic choral symphonic repertoire,” artistic director **Daniel Henriks** told The Pine Cone. “The music is really life-affirming and cinematic, with soaring melodies — it should be a profoundly moving concert.”

See MUSIC page 45A



I Cantori di Carmel performs for the first time at Sunset Center Tuesday and Wednesday. The program includes music by Brahms, Ravel and Debussy.

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ROUND 1

Cinco de Mayo

MONDAY, MAY 5 @ 6:30PM

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ROUND 2 - MONDAY, MAY 12

BAJA CANTINA VS SALTWOOD KITCHEN

CHAMPIONSHIP - MAY 19

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE

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42A    The Carmel Pine Cone    May 2, 2025

FOOD & WINE

Moms, drinks and colorful pastry

WELCOME TO the Mother's Day brunchtacular. This week and next, look to The Pine Cone for tips on all the best spots to take the great lady in your life. But before we get started, maybe a drink isn't a bad idea ....

■ Cinco de mixto

If overpriced blended fruit margaritas aren't your thing but you'd still like to get out and celebrate Cinco de Mayo, the Links Club in Carmel Plaza is hosting another bout in Battle of the Bartenders Monday night.

In the "Carmel and Beyond" segment of the year-long competition, the first round will feature Sander Koning from Nepenthe in Big Sur facing off against Renee Balducci from Honey & Rose mobile bartending.

The May 5 event starts at 6:30 p.m., and in honor of the day, Patron is the featured sponsor and will be offering tequila tastings all evening. Koning and Balducci will each be invited to share a signature drink and produce a cocktail developed by Patrón. Their



Rainbow-colored pastries from Lafayette Bakery taste as good as they look, including (clockwise from upper left), a lavender-lemon filled knot, one with yuzu and pistachio, a red raspberry croissant and a French pain au chocolat.

Soup to Nuts

final creations will contain a "secret" spirit they learn about on the spot, and they can include only the mixers provided.

In addition to three judges awarding points for each entry, members of the audience will vote for their favorite concoctions, with the winner moving on to the championship round May 19.

That person will compete against the winner of the May 12 round, when last year's champion, Daniel Garrett from Baja Cantina, will defend his title against a yet-to-be-named area bartender. Eden Mill Gin will be the spirit sponsor.

The champion will take home a \$500 cash prize and earn the chance to compete for the Master Mixologist title later in the year.

Tickets are \$40 and are available at linksclubgolf.com. Admission includes samples of all cocktails, along with light bites.

See MOM next page



mother's day  
brunch

AT PORTOLA HOTEL & SPA

SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025 | 10AM TO 2PM  
DAVE CONLEY ON PIANO

Complimentary Mimosa for Mom

Treat Mom and Grandma to a spectacular dining experience the whole family will cherish. Brunch kicks off with a Complimentary Mimosa for Mom to start the celebration on a sparkling note, followed by an exquisite buffet hosted in the elegant De Anza Ballroom.



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PORTOLA HOTEL & SPA  
AT MONTEREY BAY



FOOD & WINE

MOM

From previous page

Celebrating Mom

Lucia Restaurant & Bar in Bernardus Lodge at 415 Carmel Valley Road says it is planning “an elevated brunch” for Mother’s Day.

“Our signature buffet runs from 11 a.m.



Carmel Valley Ranch is busily preparing for its Mother’s Day brunch. The outing promises to be a truly special event. The luxury resort keeps hens (top), goats, bees and a garden, so the food that’s served in the elegant dining room (above) is truly “farm fresh.”

to 2:30 p.m., featuring seasonal specialties and brunch favorites in an intimate setting.” There will be live music and a photographer to record the event.

The menu will include organic vegetable salads, a grand seafood and ceviche station, the chef’s custom omelet station, and traditional brunch favorites. The experience is said to be “designed to delight the senses with an exquisite selection of gourmet dishes. From seasonal delicacies to timeless brunch classics, our thoughtfully curated buffet offers something for every palate, all served in a refined and intimate setting.”

The buffet is \$155 for adults, children 6-12 are \$55, and there’s a special menu for kids under 6. It’s helpful if you specify the number and ages of children when booking your reservation through [exploretock.com](http://exploretock.com). Planning to bring your pup? Include that info, too, to ensure proper seating.

Bar seating is also available with a separate a la carte menu for a more casual option. A 23 percent gratuity will be added to the check, and there’s a \$50 per person charge for cancellations within 72 hours of the event.

It’s iconic

Anton & Michel, the self-described “icon of romantic fine dining on the Monterey Peninsula for more than four decades” on Mission between Ocean and Seventh, is serving

See **FOOD** next page



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Reservations Recommended

APPETIZER	ENTRÉE	DESSERT
Confit Duck Croquettes sauce remoulade, apricot preserves	Glazed Short Rib grilled delta asparagus	Pistachios & Chocolate raspberries
Prawn Toast brioche, chili crunch	Halibut spring vegetables, beurre blanc à l'orange sanguine	Blueberry & Ricotta Bread Pudding mint, crème anglaise
Hamachi Crudo buttermilk, english peas, wasabi crème fraiche	Spaghetti Chitarra cacio e pepe fonduta, speck	

8205 VALLEY GREENS DRIVE, CARMEL | 831.620.8860



FOOD & WINE

FOOD

From previous page

moms and their fans from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 11. Offerings include a bit of Champagne, a mimosa, bloody mary, or orange juice, with a first-course Caesar salad or lobster bisque. Mains include a choice of wild mushroom risotto, braised lamb shank, black Angus filet mignon, seafood fricassee, baked chicken breast, or sesame-crusted ahi tuna.

It's priced at \$75 for adults and \$40 for children 12 and younger. Call (831) 624-2406 to reserve.

On the ranch

Carmel Valley Ranch is planning a delightful-sounding Mother's Day brunch in its Redwood and Oak ballrooms from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with live entertainment and kids' activities. On the menu: made-to-order omelets, carving stations, desserts, "and much more," the ranch's representatives said.



Lucia restaurant at Bernardus Lodge has a sunny dining room with a terrace where diners can be seated amid the trees. Its Mother's Day brunch will be Chef Christian Ojeda's usual lavish affair, and there's a special kids menu for the youngest diners.

It's \$150 for grownups, \$60 for kids 6-12 and free for those 5 and younger, all plus tax and gratuity.

Monterey Mamas

The Portola Hotel at the foot of Alvarado Street in Monterey will hold its brunch in the De Anza ballroom from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event begins with a complimentary mimosa for Mom and features what the hotel is describing as "a lavish buffet," with live piano music by Dave Conley. Smoked salmon and all the fixings will be offered alongside a seasonal fruit display, and there will be a selection of California cheese and cured meats with baguettes and crackers. Chilled prawns and cocktail sauce will also be available.

The hotel's Strawberry Fields Forever salad with organic berries, ricotta salata

(dried ricotta cheese, similar to feta), arugula, spring onions and balsamic dressing will bring a touch of spring, as will organic asparagus with crispy shallots and red wine vinaigrette. Other items will include eggs Benedict, eggplant Parmesan, prime rib, wild king salmon, and plenty of sweet goodies — including Death by Chocolate cake — to round out the meal. A special kids' menu will also be offered. Prices range from \$29.95 to \$89.95, with kids 5 and under dining for free. Reservations are required at (831) 649-7870, or visit the hotel's website.

Note: A recent item about the Portola's Espolón tequila dinner on May 3 said it would be in Jacks; it should have said The Club Room.

Didn't see anything you like this week? Stay tuned — there's more to come.



In Carmel Valley, Bernardus Lodge's restaurant, Lucia, will have its Mother's Day celebration from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with entertainment for kids as well as live music, but if you want to head into the bar and share some wine at dusk, that's perfectly all right, too.

■ Crazy (good) croissants

Lafayette Bakery and Café in the Barnyard has introduced a line of brightly colored croissants — yuzu in green, double chocolate in brown, lavender lemon, and raspberry — to feed your eyes and your appetite. These artistic takes on the traditional French pastry are the creation of head baker Florent Tavardon.

The most striking is the yuzu croissant. Yuzu, an Asian citrus fruit used in Japanese and Korean cuisine, is similar to a lemon but has a more complex and floral flavor. It's primarily used for flavoring sauces and other dishes.

Tavardon was inspired to incorporate the fruit in his baking after a recent trip to Japan. "We make a custard with yuzu puree, just like we make a lemon custard," he explained. The resulting croissant looks a little like a Celtic knot — nice and round — with stripes of vibrant green dough woven through the plain butter dough. It's filled with yuzu custard and dusted with some pistachio

See MEAL next page



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PIZZA JAMS

Thursday, May 8th • 5-8pm

Enjoy the night in collaboration with  
Fire on Wheels & music by The Transducers.

Pay as you go for pizza, beer, wine or full bar.  
Outside event around our beautiful open fire pits,  
dress accordingly. Children & dog friendly  
event and encouraged.

Join us on  
Sunday, May 11th • 11am - 2pm  
for Mother's Day Jazz Brunch

3665 RIO ROAD, CARMEL • SHEARWATERTAVERN.COM



WOODY'S RESTAURANT  
AT DEL MESA

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

WEDNESDAYS - SUNDAYS  
LUNCH 11:00 - 2:30  
DINNER 4:30 - 8:30  
831.624.1854



MOTHERS DAY

SPRING SPECIALS FOR THE SPECIAL  
LADIES IN OUR LIVES!

CALL TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS  
831.624.1854  
FULL MENU ON OUR WEBSITE

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Bay Area

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47 Old Fisherman's Wharf #1, Monterey | www.cafefina.com



# MEAL

From previous page

powder. Not only is it eye-catching, but it’s delicious, with a lovely combination of textures — crispy-to-soft croissant dough and cloudlike custard.

The double chocolate croissant looks like a traditional pain au chocolat but has a thin layer of brown (chocolate) dough on top and a delicate piping of chocolate ganache, and it’s sprinkled with some chocolate “pearls.” Of course, it’s filled with chocolate.

Lavender flower buds are kneaded into the dough for the lavender lemon croissant, which is filled with a lemon custard. The color on this one is subtle but elegant, and it browns a bit during baking. Finally, the raspberry croissant has deep red dough stripes and is filled with raspberry jam.

While you’re there, you could grab a prosciutto sandwich for lunch and a loaf of farmer’s rye to go along with your dinner. Stop by Lafayette in the Barnyard, where it’s right above Bistro Lugano. For more information visit their website at [lafayette-bakery.com](http://lafayette-bakery.com).

## ■ For the DIYers

Are you a knight of the knives? King of the kitchen? The Boyle Design Group’s Sarah Boyle has shared some thoughts about making a great meal in her online video series, “Sundays with Sarah.” She said that in addition to running an award-winning design firm, “I do cook a lot,” adding that her “two boys eat me out of house and home.”

She posted some videos in April with brunch ideas and instructions for preparing leg of lamb and sheet pan chicken. You can watch on YouTube at [youtube.com/@SundayswSarah](http://youtube.com/@SundayswSarah), see her on Instagram at [instagram.com/sundayswsarah](http://instagram.com/sundayswsarah) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/sundayswsarah](http://facebook.com/sundayswsarah).

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

# MUSIC

From page 41A

Tickets start at \$30. Call (831) 620-2048 or visit [sunsetcenter.org](http://sunsetcenter.org).

## ■ Haynes rocks Golden State

A longtime member of the Allman Brothers and the front man of the jam band, Gov’t Mule, singer and guitarist **Warren Haynes** plays at Golden State Theatre in Monterey Tuesday at 7 p.m.


Recruited by late guitarist Dickey Betts, Haynes joined the Allman Brothers in 1989, injecting new life into the band, which saw its fortunes rise in the 1990s as guitar rock fell back in fashion.

During his tenure with the Allman Brothers, Haynes played on four studio albums — including 1994’s “Where it all Begins.” Haynes wrote the song, “Soul-



See **ROCKS** next page



La Santa Cecilia plays Wednesday at Golden State Theatre in Monterey. The group earned a Grammy Award in 2014 for Best Latin Rock, Urban or Alternative Album.



HEALING  
PARTNERS  
*of the Central Coast*



Hands. Hearts. Healing.

# HANDS & HEARTS

## @ HIDDEN VALLEY

104 W Carmel Valley Rd, Carmel Valley

Wednesday,  
May 21, 2025  
5:30–10:00 pm


A lively and meaningful evening honoring those affected by cancer and celebrating the generosity of our supporters.


**Featured Events:**  
**Live Music from the 60 East Band & Anne & Pete Sibley**  
**Delicious Food & Wine • Raffle • Silent Auction • & Much More! Indoor/Outdoor Venue**

### ADMISSION \$125

*Ticket price includes Good Time Catering buffet, appetizers and beverage (wine, beer or nonalcoholic drinks)*

Tickets available online at Eventbrite. Use this QR code to purchase your tickets.





Watch our website for more information:  
**[www.hpcchealingtouch.org](http://www.hpcchealingtouch.org)**

Healing Partners of the Central Coast, a local 501(c)(3), has provided over 8,800 free Healing Touch (HT) sessions to local cancer patients. HT therapy is life changing as it reduces the challenging side effects of radiation, chemotherapy, and surgery. It also helps patients manage pain, fatigue, stress, anxiety and promotes health and well-being. Fed ID#: 84-3464219

**Join Us! SATURDAY, MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> 3-5 PM**  
**for Baum & Blume's**  
**Pre-Mother's Day Garden Party!**

Enjoy Champagne & Tasty Appetizers!  
Orchid Care Demo! Poetry Readings!  
Informal Fashion & Accessory Modeling!  
Boutique Discounts! Prize Drawings!  
Expert Vendors...and more!  
20.00/PP ~ Reservations a Must!


**BRING YOUR MOM!**  
**BRING YOUR DAUGHTER!**  
**BRING YOUR BESTIE!**

♥ ♥

**4 EL CAMINITO ROAD**  
**CARMEL VALLEY VILLAGE**  
**(831) 659-0400**

*Psst... Did You Hear...*  
*Baum & Blume's*  
*Garden Patio is now*  
*open for lunch!*  
*Thurs-Sat ~ 12-3pm*

## Mothers Day Floral Design Workshop



Seasonal Blooms • Artisan Pottery

Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 10am-Noon  
Just in time for Mother's Day!

Gallery Nila Fine Art + Floral  
665 Lighthouse Ave. Pacific Grove CA

Register at [www.LaurenWalshFloralDesign.com](http://www.LaurenWalshFloralDesign.com)  
or call 831.383.8969



# New art in Carmel and P.G., Cherry Center honors high school poets

FIVE SHOWS open May 2 at Pacific Grove Art Center, including Norman Muhl’s “In Plain Sight,” which reveals the photographer’s fascination with over-

## Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

looked details of everyday life, such as a crack in a sidewalk or paint chipping on a wall.

“We move through our community surrounded by an environment filled with shapes and colors randomly interacting with line and form, continually moving and changing our view of the world,” Muhl said of his creative focus. “An artist’s job is to pay attention and effectively communicate their response — this show is a documentation of my own personal journey and a chronicle of what I found there.”

Also new at the art center are exhibits by the Monterey Bay Plein Air Painters Association (“Hidden Gems”), the Monterey Peninsula College Printmakers (“Making Impressions”), and Pacific Grove High School students.

A reception starts at 7 p.m., with keyboardist Glenn Leon-Guerrero playing old-school r&b. Along with many other downtown shops and galleries, the art center will stay open to 9 p.m. for the town’s First Fridays celebration.

The shows will be on display through June 26. The gallery is located at 568 Lighthouse Ave.

### ■ New at Dawson Cole

A new show of Richard MacDonald’s figurative sculptures is on display at Dawson Cole Gallery through May 18. The work, which includes new and old pieces,



Known for his striking sculptures of athletes in motion, Richard MacDonald has a new show on display at Dawson Cole Gallery through May 18.

spans his career, which began more than four decades ago.

“With a range of heroic and intimate sculptures, classical and contemporary patinas, and expressive forms drawn from dance, theater and mythology, the collection invites viewers to experience the emotional depth and physical poetry that define his work,” gallery director Michele Jayson said.

Among his career highlights, MacDonald created “The Flair,” a 26-foot-high bronze sculpture for the 1996 Olympics, and “Momentum,” a 16-foot-high bronze piece in 2000 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Open Golf Tournament at Pebble Beach. The sculptor is a Monterey Peninsula resident.

The gallery is located at Lincoln and Sixth. dawsoncofineart.com

### ■ Winning words

Recognizing the wordsmiths of the next generation, the Cherry Center for the Arts presents the annual Elliot Ruchowitz-Roberts Monterey County High School Poetry Awards Saturday at 2 p.m.

The winners will receive certificates of merit and cash prizes.

“Over the past 29 years, the Cherry Center’s poetry program has inspired thousands of high school students to discover classic and contemporary prose, master public speaking skills and promote interest for the written word,” the Cherry Center said. “Teachers, family and friends are invited — the event is free and open to the public.”

The Cherry Center is located at Fourth and Guadalupe.

## CALENDAR

**May 2 – Opening Reception for MPC Printmaker’s exhibit at Pacific Grove Art Center** from 7 to 9 p.m. Show runs from May 2 to June 27th at the PG Art Center on Lighthouse Avenue featuring current and former MPC students. For more information please contact Pacific Grove Art Center, (831) 375-2208.

**May 2 – An Art, Wine, & Meditation event**, 6 p.m. at **Manzoni Cellars, Carmel-by-the-Sea**. Unwind with wine while you learn the **official Zentangle drawing method** as you create your own spring-inspired art piece. Tickets include instruction from a certified instructor, art supplies, and a glass of wine. Register: (831) 620-6541

**May 3 – Reflections Gallery sale and Mother’s Day Gift Fair**. Artists will have special art gifts for sale. All hanging art is 20% off that day only. Reflections is at 271 Alvarado Plaza across walkway from Portola Hotel.

**May 3 – The National Steinbeck Center is pleased to host The Weston Collective’s 2025 Scholarship Awards** from 5 to 8 p.m. Admission is free. After the ceremony, guests will have the opportunity to indulge in a dessert bar and be among the first to view the new exhibition, 1 Main St., Salinas.



**May 3-4 – Carmel Valley Garden Club Garden Show and Plant Sale**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hidden Valley Music Seminars in Carmel Valley Village. Event features flower and photography competitions, large plant, flower and veggie sale, silent auction on Saturday; gardening and craft vendors and food from Woody’s. Donation parking. To learn more, visit cvgardenclub.org

**May 3-4 – Don’t miss the 66th Annual Good Old Days Street Festival – Fun for All Ages!** Bring your family and friends to enjoy over 50 bands and performers, delicious eats and 200+ arts and craft vendors. The PG Rotary Good Old Days Parade starts at 10 a.m. on Pine Avenue. Free event. For more information, visit www.pacificgrove.org.

**May 4 – Garden Party at Tor House**, 2 to 5 p.m., 26304 Ocean View Ave., Carmel. Adults: \$25. Students: \$10. Stroll the gardens, photograph to your heart’s content, learn about Tor House from knowledgeable docents, watch yarn spinning, enjoy music, poetry, birdwatching, plein air artists, tasty treats. Tickets at door or online: www.torhouse.org.

**May 10 – Carmel Valley Lodge’s Spring Maker’s Market** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 8 Ford Road, Carmel Valley Village. Food and drink, local artists, craftspeople, galleries and more! Admission is free. Bring Mom and have a fun day in the sun! See you all there!

**May 10 – “Pre-Mother’s Day” Garden Party 3 to 5 p.m. at Baum & Blume!** Enjoy wine and passed appetizers, an orchid care demo, special guest experts, nature poetry reading, informal fashion modeling and more! Tickets are \$20. Reservations required! Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley, (831) 659-0400

**May 10-11 – “Celestial Voices,” a musical journey that explores the stars and heavens through a variety of choral music**, from jazz to classical to popular. Concert begins 7 p.m. May 10 and 3 p.m. May 11 at the First United Methodist Church of Pacific Grove. Tickets are \$20 to \$30 with a \$5 discount when you purchase from a Monterey Peninsula Voices choir member. Tickets at MPVoices.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.

**May 21 – “Hands & Hearts @ Hidden Valley” is a lively and meaningful evening honoring those affected by cancer.** It features food, wine, raffle, silent auction and live music from the **60 East Band and Anne & Pete Sibley**. Event set for 5:30 to 10 p.m. at Hidden Valley, 104 W. Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley. Admission is \$125. www.hpcchealingtouch.org

**May 27 – The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB) presents a dinner lecture by Mr. Robert Kimmitt, former ambassador to Germany and former deputy secretary of the U.S. Treasury.** Presentation topic is “Defining National Security.” The dinner event takes place at Hilton Garden Inn, Monterey. To learn more visit www.wacmb.org

**June 14 – Crawfish Boil & Cajun Sausage Demo by Chef Peter Braback.** Enjoy live Cajun tunes, feast on spicy Louisiana classics and come ready to socialize. Event is set for 5 to 8 p.m. at Quail and Olive, 14 Del Fino Place, Carmel Valley Village. Tickets at Eventbrite.com or call (831) 659-4288

## ROCKS

From previous page

shine,” for the LP. Today it remains one of the band’s most beloved songs. Haynes is also featured on eight official Allman Brothers live albums, where he proves himself a worthy successful to Betts and the group’s other late great guitarist, Duane Allman.

Tickets start at \$35. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070.

Also at Golden State this week, **Petty Theft** pays tribute to the late rock legend Tom Petty Friday at 7 p.m., while Grammy Award nominee **La Santa Cecilia** takes the stage Wednesday at 7 p.m. The latter serves up a mix of rock and world music.

### Live music May 2-8

#### ■ Big Sur

**Big Sur River Inn** — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (folk, Saturday at 12:30 p.m.), **H Doble R** (Latin pop, Sunday at 1 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Victor Veysey** and bassist **Kemen Waddell** (funk, jazz and country, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 46800 Highway 1.

**Fernwood Resort — Michael Michael Motorcycle** (rock, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

#### ■ Carmel

**Barmel** — singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Sunday at 7 p.m.), singer and

See **LIVE** next page

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SERVED FROM 4PM TO 8:30PM  
SUNDAY, MAY 11TH

209 FOREST AVE. PACIFIC GROVE  
TO MAKE RESERVATIONS CALL OR RESERVE A TABLE ONLINE AT  
**831.375.7997** **WWW.MAXGRILL.COM**



# LIVE

From previous page

guitarist **Tony Burciaga** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). In Carmel Square on San Carlos north of Seventh.

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

**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 Rogue Roosters** (rock and blues, Friday at 7:30 p.m.), **Moondance** (pop and rock, Saturday at 7:30 p.m.), Songwriters Showcase (Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., sign-ups start at 6:30 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

**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** — singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Monday at 6:30 p.m.), **Open Mic Night** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). In The Barnyard shopping center.

**Sunset Center** — **The Red Hot Chili Pipers** (Scottish folk meets rock, Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$39. sunsetcenter.org

## ■ Carmel Valley

**Baja Cantina** — **The Money Band** (pop and rock, Monday at 6 p.m.). 7166 Carmel Valley Road.

**Bernardus Lodge** — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

**Blue Fox Cellars** tasting room — singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Tuesday at 2 p.m.). 25 Pilot Road.

**The Running Iron** in Carmel Valley —



Grammy Award-winning classical guitarist Manuel Barrueco presents a concert Sunday, 3 p.m., at Sunset Center.

**Open Mic Night** (Sunday at 8 p.m.). 24 E. Carmel Valley Road.

**Trailside Cafe** in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Dan Cioper** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

## ■ Monterey

**Bon Ton LeRoy’s Smokehouse** — **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**

See TUNES next page

MEALS ON WHEELS OF

THE MONTEREY PENINSULA

# WOMEN WHO CARE

## COCKTAIL PARTY

Saturday, May 17 from 6PM-10PM  
\$100 Per Person  
The Grill at Point Pinos

Join us for an unforgettable evening as we honor a remarkable woman for her dedicationand impact on our community.

We proudly celebrate Mary Warburton Boland for her outstanding community contributions and support of our mission.

Together, we can drive out hunger and isolation.

PURCHASE TICKETS AT  
MOWMP.ORG/WOMENWHOCARE

A BENEFIT EVENT FOR MEALS ON WHEELS OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA  
A 501(C)(3) EXEMPT ORGANIZATION • TAX ID 94-2157521

Hospice Giving Foundation and Cal State Monterey Bay present...

# The Last Ecstatic Days

"...courageous end-of-life chronicle, which overflows with compassion."  
The Boston Globe

## Screening + Discussion

6pm • Tuesday  
May 6, 2025  
Cal State Monterey Bay  
No Cost to Attend

RVSP at:

thelastecstaticdaysmovie.com @thelastecstaticdays

# CELESTIAL VOICES

Join a musical journey that explores the stars, the heavens, and the mysteries of the celestial sky through a variety of choral music - from jazz to classical to popular and more.

SATURDAY MAY 10, 7PM  
SUNDAY MAY 11, 3PM  
First United Methodist Church of Pacific Grove  
Dr. Sean Boulware - MPV Conductor  
Michelle Galindo - Piano Artist

Tickets at MPVoices.org  
\$30 General Admission  
\$25 Military/Student/Senior  
\$20 12 & under  
\$5 discount when you purchase a ticket from a choir member

MONTEREY PENINSULA  
**Voices**







**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250594

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:  
**CENCAL ELECTRIC, 120 ORANGE DR APT 6 SALINAS, CA 93901,** County of MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):  
APAG ELECTRICAL & UTILITIES, 120 ORANGE DR #6 SALINAS, CA 93901; CA

This business is conducted by A CORPORATION

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on NOT APPLICABLE

S/ ADRIAN MELENDREZ PAZ, PRESIDENT

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 03/26/2025

4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2/25

**CNS-3912862#**  
**CARMEL PINE CONE**  
Publication Dates: April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2025. (PC 414)

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:  
CARMELBARRE, 27236 Prado Del Sol, Carmel, CA 93923.

State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA

This business is conducted by a corporation.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on April 2, 2025.

**BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.** A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). *I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).*

S/R Arianne Marsh, CEO  
Date: March 31, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on April 2, 2025.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS**

Date: March 19, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 28, 2025.

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

Publication Dates: April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2025. (PC 419)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250628

Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing..

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **R & R ROOFING, 15032 Del Monte Farms Rd., Castroville, CA 95012.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:  
R & R CENTRAL COAST LLC, 1418 S. Main St., Ste. 203, Salinas, CA 93908.

State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA

This business is conducted by a limited liability company.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

**BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.** A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). *I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).*

S/Ryan Roche, Manager  
Date: March 26, 2025

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on April 2, 2025.

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

Publication Dates: April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2025. (PC 422)

[HTTPS://CARMELPINECONE.COM](https://carmelpinecone.com)

Publication Dates: April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2025. (PC 420)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Planning Commission of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible. Immediately prior to the Public Hearing, the Commission will visit some or all the project sites in person as part of a Tour of Inspection. Interested members of the public are invited to attend both the Tour and the Hearing.

**This meeting will be held via teleconference and in person in the City Council Chambers at City Hall** located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues. **To participate via teleconference, use this link:** <https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/85075274055?pwd=xjGu1VHPManTYPLVc94aalw24Tld1>. **To participate via phone, dial +1 (669) 444-9171.** Webinar ID: 850 7527 4055. Passcode: 001916.

All interested people are invited to attend in person or via teleconference at the time and place specified above to give oral or written testimony concerning this matter. Written comments may be submitted to the Community Planning & Building Department at City Hall located on the east side of Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, 93921, or P.O. Box CC, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, 93921, or by emailing [aginette@ci.carmel.ca.us](mailto:aginette@ci.carmel.ca.us) prior to the meeting. With respect to written comments, please submit them at least 2 hours before the meeting to ensure they are provided to the legislative body and made part of the record. Comments received after that time and up to the end of the public hearing will be saved as part of the record but may not be provided to the legislative body prior to or during the public hearing.

The staff report and relevant documents will be available at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting on the City's website at <http://www.ci.carmel.ca.us> and found by clicking on "Government" and then "Meetings." The Planning Commission meeting will be broadcast live on the City's website at <http://carmel.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/meetingsresponsive.aspx> and the City's YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofCarmelbytheSea> and archived there after the meeting. For more information regarding Planning Commission meetings, please contact the Community Planning & Building Department at (831) 620-2010.

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<p><b>Citywide</b> Findings, Evidence and Conditions of Approval Training</p> <p><b>Citywide</b> Review draft redlines of proposed Housing Element Amendment</p> <p><b>UP 25090 (The Sea Shack)</b> Tiffany Bufkin, Business Owner San Carlos between Ocean and 7th Avenue (Carmel Square, Unit 2) Block 77; Lots 16 and 18 APN: 010-141-005-000 Consideration of a Use Permit, UP 25090 (The Sea Shack), for the establishment of a new Specialty Food Store selling Scandinavian sweets at San Carlos between Ocean and 7th Avenue (Carmel Square, Unit #2) in the Central Commercial (CC) District. APN: 010-141-005-000.</p> <p><b>DS 22-331 (Collins)</b> Claudio Ortiz, Agent San Carlos Street 3 southeast of 1st Avenue Block 11; Lots 8 and 10 APN: 010-121-013-000 Consideration of a Final Design Study and associated Coastal Development Permit for the demolition of an existing 866-square-foot single-family residence and 213-square-foot shed, and construction of a new 1,800-square-foot two-story single-family residence inclusive of a 200-square-foot attached garage located at San Carlos Street 3 southeast of 1st Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District and Archaeological Significance (AS) Overlay District. APN: 010-121-013-000.</p> <p><b>DS 24207 (Hermle-Collins)</b> Erik Dyar, Architect Mission Street 4 northeast of 1st Avenue Block: 8 Lot: 6 APN: 010-112-012-000 Consideration of a Final Design Study, DS 24207 (Herm-</p>	<p>le-Collins), associated Coastal Development Permit, and associated Lot Line Adjustment for the demolition of an existing 1,321-square-foot, one-story single-family residence and the construction of a 1,855-square-foot, two-story single-family residence, inclusive of a 243-square-foot attached garage, in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District, Archaeological Significance (AS) Overlay, and Very High Fire Severity Zone. APN: 010-112-012-000.</p> <p><b>DS 24208 (Hermle-Collins)</b> Erik Dyar, Architect Mission Street 3 northeast of 1st Avenue Block: 8 Lot: 8 APN: 010-112-013-000 Consideration of a Final Design Study, DS 24208 (Hermle-Collins), associated Coastal Development Permit, and associated Lot Line Adjustment for the demolition of an existing 1,595-square-foot, one-story single-family residence and the construction of a 2,102-square-foot, two-story single-family residence, inclusive of a 250-square-foot detached garage, in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District, Archaeological Significance (AS) Overlay, and Very High Fire Severity Zone. APN: 010-112-013-000.</p> <p><b>DS 24209 (Hermle-Collins)</b> Erik Dyar, Architect Mission Street 2 northeast of 1st Avenue Block: 8 Lot: 10 APN: 010-112-007-000 Consideration of a Final Design Study, DS 24209 (Hermle-Collins), associated Coastal Development Permit, associated Lot Line Adjustment and Coastal Development Permit for the demolition of an existing 1,362-square-foot, one-story single-family residence and the construction of a 2,116-square-foot, two-story single-family residence, inclusive of a 264-square-foot attached garage, in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District, Archaeological Significance (AS) Overlay, and Very High Fire Severity Zone. APN: 010-112-007-000.</p>
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City of Carmel-by-the-Sea  
Brandon Swanson, Assistant City Administrator & Acting Director of Community Planning & Building

Publication dates:  
May 2, 2025  
(PCS11)

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE** No. CA-22-946979-BF Order No.: 220597798-CA-VOI YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/22/2001, UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. **BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE.** Trustor(s): **SCOTT BEUTEL, AN UNMARRIED MAN** Recorded: 8/29/2006 as Instrument No. **2001073067** of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of **MONTEREY** County, California; Date of Sale: **5/13/2025 at 10:00 AM** Place of Sale: **At the main entrance to the County Administration Building, located at 168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901** Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **\$495,798.84** The purported property address is: **26169 ATHERTON DR., CARMEL, CA 93923** Assessor's Parcel No.: **009-292-007-000** **NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 916-939-0772 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: **CA-22-946979-BF**. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call **619-645-7711**, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: **CA-22-946979-BF** to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right purchase. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT:** Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE POST-SALE OVER BIDDERS:** For post-sale information in accordance with Section 2924m(e) of the California Civil Code, use file number CA-22-946979-BF and call (866) 645-7711 or login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com>. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: **QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 FOR NON SALE information only Sale Line: 916-939-0772 Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Post-Sale Information (CCC 2924m(e)): (866) 645-7711 Reinstatement or Payoff Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION TS** No. **CA-22-946979-BF** IDSPub #0247736 4/18/2025 4/25/2025 5/2/2025 Publication dates: April 18, 25, May 2, 2025 (PC42)

FIRST Reading of the Ordinance. The first reading will occur on May 29, 2025 at the regular board meeting.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01**

**AN ORDINANCE SETTING COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, ETC.**

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Carmel Area Wastewater District does ordain as follows:

- 1.) Ordinance 02-02 is hereby repealed in its entirety.
- 2.) Board stipends: Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 6489, compensation for Board of Directors attendance at meetings of the Board or for service rendered by request of the Board is hereby established as follows:
  - a.) Regular Board Meetings: Each member of the Board shall receive \$200 for each day's attendance at regular meetings of the Board, except that the President shall receive \$250 for such attendance.
  - b.) Special Board Meetings: Each member of the Board shall receive \$150 for each day's attendance at special meetings of the Board, except that the President shall receive \$200 for such attendance.
  - c.) Assigned PRCSD Meetings: Each member of the Board assigned to attend a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pebble Beach Community Services District or the Reclamation Management Committee shall receive \$150 for each such meeting attended.
  - d.) Committee Meetings: Each member of the Board assigned to attend a meeting of either a District Standing Committee or an ad hoc committee meeting, as appointed by the President and approved by the Board, shall receive \$100 for each such committee meeting.
  - e.) State Executive Meetings: Each member of the Board who serves on the board of directors or the executive committee of a state organization of which the District is a member shall receive \$100 for attendance at the first day of meetings, and \$50 for each additional successive day of meetings, and shall be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses incurred in attending these meetings, not to include expenses of a spouse.
  - f.) Conferences, forums, workshops, etc.: Each member of the Board assigned to, or for which attendance has been approved by the Board, shall receive \$50 a day for each day of attendance, and shall be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses incurred in attending these meetings, not to include expenses of a spouse.
  - g.) Maximum Monthly Compensable Days: Compensable days shall not exceed six per calendar month.
  - h.) Transportation Expenses: If a member of the Board uses air, train, bus or rental car transportation, the travel expenses shall be the actual cost of economy or similar class, plus incidental expenses connected with traveling to the meeting or conference site, such as gasoline for a rental car. If a member of the Board travels by privately owned vehicle, the member shall be paid the Internal Revenue Service rate per mile.
- 3.) District Dental and Vision benefits shall also be conferred on members of the Board, pursuant to Government Code sections 53201 and 53205.1.
- 4.) Future Policy Revisions: Any subsequent or future amendments or revisions to this ordinance shall be enacted in accordance with the California statutory framework, as stated in Health and Safety Code section 6489 et seq., Water Code section 20021 et seq., Government Code section 53201 et seq., and any other applicable and/or future statutory authority.
- 5.) Severability: The Board declares that each section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance, is severable and independent of every other section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause and phrase of this ordinance. If any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is held invalid, the Board declares that it would have adopted the remaining provisions of this ordinance irrespective of the portion held invalid, and further declares its express intent that the remaining portions of this ordinance should remain in effect after the invalid portion has been eliminated.
- 6.) Publication: Following adoption, this ordinance shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation published in the District.
- 7.) Effective Date: This ordinance shall take effect and be in force sixty (60) days after the date it is published in the newspaper.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Carmel Area Wastewater District duly held on \_\_\_\_\_ 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Board Members: NOES: Board Members: ABSENT: Board Members: ABSTAIN: Board Members:

Ken White, President of the Board  
Attest: Domine Barringer, Board Clerk

Publication dates:  
May 2 & 9, 2025 (PC512)



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**Police Log: Carmel-by-the-Sea, June 1**



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Continues from previous page

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