



# PENINSULA BUSINESSES

Behind every great enterprise are a lot of great people,  
and you can meet some of them ... *Inside this week!*

# The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 111 No. 21 <https://carmelpinecone.com> May 23-29, 2025

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## Replacement of three homes gets unanimous OK

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER MONTHS of hearings that included numerous complaints, signed petitions and other vocal opposition, a proposal to demolish three houses on Mission Street and replace them with three contemporary ones received unanimous support from the Carmel Planning Commission last week, with nary a peep of protest.

Craig Collins and Lynne Hermle proposed tearing down three homes, all of which are old but none of which is historic, on the east side of Mission Street between First

and Vista, adjusting the lot lines to accommodate new two-story houses designed by architect Erik Dyar ranging from 1,818 to 2,116 square feet in size after some revisions, and installing extensive landscaping throughout.

### Petition circulated

Monterey County property records indicate Collins and Hermle purchased the homes in February and March 2022 from Eileen and Kevin King for a combined \$4.9 million. Stephanie Cox was also listed as a seller on two of the three properties.

After their proposals debuted last fall, numerous residents complained about the homes' contemporary designs, two-story profiles and other aspects. A few circulated petitions and collected some 60 signatures — though at least one signer later told the city he hadn't been fully informed at the time and subsequently voiced his support. The outcry even reached the public comment period at city council meetings.

See **SISTERS** page 15A



RENDERING/ERIK DYAR

The planning commission unanimously OK'd these three new homes for Mission Street last week after hearing only supportive comments and not one demand for further changes.

## CUSD boosts housing fee by 671 percent

By LILY PATTERSON

THE CARMEL Unified School District Board of Education signed off on a massive hike in developer fees for local property owners and residential builders last week, picking up a mystifying 20 years of slack. The new fee represents a 671 percent increase from \$0.49 per square foot to \$3.78 per square foot of new construction and per square foot added to existing homes, and will go into effect on July 13.

A 36-page study to justify the increase was prepared by SchoolWorks, the educational consulting firm contracted by Monterey and P.G. school districts to conduct similar studies. The analysis described the increase as "proportional, not punitive."

### On top of taxes

Developer fees are also known as impact fees, and in the case of California schools are levied on residential and commercial developments to accommodate projected population growth within the district and the impact of new students on school facilities.

The construction impact fee increase comes on top of thousands of dollars developers must also pay for permits, inspections, traffic impacts and the like, adding substantial

See **SCHOOLS** page 16A

## Feds use warrants to take migrants into custody

### ■ Sheriff says county would cooperate

By KELLY NIX

A UNITED States attorney this week launched a new task force — intended to thwart California's protection of illegal immigrants who have committed crimes — by issuing federal arrest warrants for those being held in local jails. A similar program could eventually be established in Monterey County.

On Monday, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California — an area that includes Los Angeles County — announced Operation Guardian Angel, a task force that seeks to "neutralize" California's sanctuary designation, which among other things bars police from helping federal immigration authorities.

### Trump appointee

"Even the worst criminal aliens in state custody are frequently released into the community because California's sanctuary state policies block cooperation with federal law

enforcement," said Bill Essayli, interim head of the Southern California U.S. Attorney's Office, when he announced the task force. Essayli was appointed to the position in April by President Donald Trump.

### 'Circumvent'

California restricts state and local law enforcement agencies, including jails and prisons, from honoring U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainees. Those are requests that they notify ICE as early as possible before releasing an illegal immigrant from custody and that they "hold the alien for up to 48 hours beyond the time they would ordinarily release them" so the government can take custody.

Operation Guardian Angel would circumvent California's refusal to help the feds by scanning a criminal database daily to identify undocumented immigrants in county jails who have previously been deported, so the Department of Justice can arrest and charge them with federal felonies for illegally reentering the country. The program

See **WARRANTS** page 14A

## Newsom's budget revisions anger fellow Democrats

By CAITLIN CONRAD

PROGRESSIVES ACROSS California are balking at changes to the state budget Gov. Gavin Newsom unveiled last week, including deep cuts to Medi-Cal and other social services. The program slashes were unveiled at a press conference last Wednesday, and this week, major Democratic interest groups released statement after statement demanding aspects of Newsom's proposed budget be blocked.

"Californians expect state leaders to advance a vision that sharply contrasts with the harmful federal agenda, not cuts that target marginalized communities and deepen inequality," said Chris Hoen, executive director of the left-leaning California Budget & Policy Center.

The revised \$322 billion budget outlines some unpalatable revisions for fellow Democrats, including

See **BUDGET** page 19A

## Caltrans: Highway 1 won't reopen this summer

By CHRIS COUNTS

ONE MONTH after Caltrans announced it was deploying remote-controlled bulldozers to speed up the pace of work on Highway 1 in Big Sur — the last remaining obstacle to reopening a highway that's been closed for more than two years — the state roads agency reported this week that yet more instability is plaguing the site of Regents Slide, putting the kibosh on any hopes that the road will reopen this summer.

"After gaining one month of improved excavation with the use of traditional and remote-controlled heavy equipment, monitoring devices and field observations identified new slide activity and surface cracking in the

See **HIGHWAY** page 13A

## Street vendor cited for undercooked pork



PHOTO/MONTEREY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The owner of a makeshift taco shop near Castroville was selling meat that was well below safe cooking temperature, and the operation was shut down by the county. See page 6A.



PHOTO/COURTESY CALTRANS

Recent work has revealed more instability at Regents Slide in Big Sur, further delaying the reopening of Highway 1.



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# Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

## Treats at the beach

Lucy loves the beach. Having grown up in a land-locked community near Walnut Creek, the 12-year-old boxer, whose people moved to Pebble Beach a year-and-a-half ago, truly is living a second puppyhood in her senior years.

"Lucy had been to the beach before but had nowhere near the amount of freedom she's had on Carmel Beach," her person said. "The first time she was off leash was a really big step for her, and she loves it. We do keep her on leash when the jellyfish float near the shore, as she'll go after them."

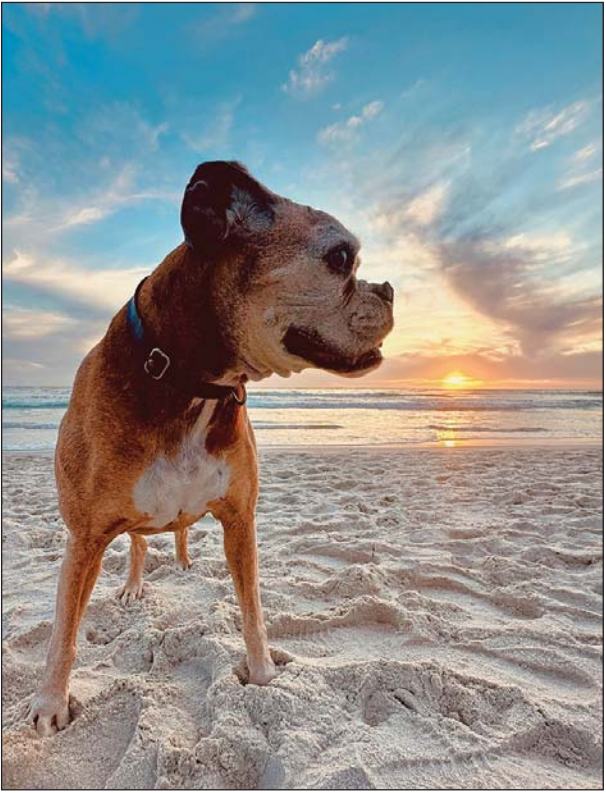
When Lucy sees people and pets she knows, she takes off running across the sand, goes right past the dog, and drops into a "good girl, sit," hoping for a treat.

"Carmel Beach is a treat-rich environment, and Lucy knows she'll get one if she's good," her person said. "Sometimes people have no idea she's doing it to get the treat. They'll say, 'Oh my gosh, what a cute dog,' thinking she just came to say hi."

Lucy's people never sell her out by explaining. She just accepts a pat on the head and moves on, seeking her next treat opportunity.

"It's the puppy eyes that win her the most treats," her person said.

Recently, Lucy's people met two gentlemen on the



beach stairs who said of Lucy, "She looks just like Pal," whose portrait by one man's grandfather, legendary cartoonist Bill Bates, hangs in City Hall.

Reportedly born in 1929, Pal, a cross between an American bulldog and an Alaskan husky, was known as "Carmel's dog," and was fed and fostered by the kindness of local residents.

"The resemblance we noticed as we later read the legend of Pal and studied his portrait, is that Lucy conjures up the same energy," her person said, "so he lives on through her."

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# Short hearing a dream come true

By MARY SCHLEY

DURING WHAT might have been one of the shortest public meetings in the history of the world, the Carmel Historic Resources Board on Monday afternoon approved a minor facelift for a new Carmel Plaza tenant, clothing store Brunello Cucinelli. The board had to weigh in on the proposed changes because the store faces Ocean Avenue and is part of the Downtown Conservation District.

At the May 19 HRB meeting — which ran eight minutes 55 seconds from start to finish — associate planner Jacob Olander presented plans for modifications to the exterior of the large space, part of which faces Ocean and part of which faces the main walkway into the Plaza.

### Outside only

“The changes to the interior and exterior storefronts include installation of new doors, windows and siding, and new signage above the doors,” he explained. New windows and doors will be installed in the same locations as existing openings, but with slight expansions of the sidelights and windows. Replacing the white painted brick and stucco will be “rough sand travertine broken up by burnished brass,” he said.

Although Carmel Plaza is not designated historic, the HRB had to sign off on the proposal because that area is part

of the Downtown Conservation District. “While alterations are proposed to both the interior and exterior storefronts, only those alterations proposed to the exterior storefront require review by the board,” he explained. The Carmel Plaza also has its own “specific plan” that guides exterior changes to storefronts throughout the shopping center. “This review shall be limited to advising the decision-making body on the project’s

See **FACELIFT** page 28A



PHOTOS/MARY SCHLEY (TOP), CITY OF CARMEL

Carmel Plaza space formerly occupied by Kate Spade and another clothing company (top) will be upgraded for an upscale Italian retailer, as shown in a rendering (above).



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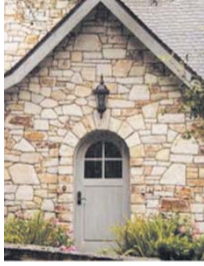
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# Police & Sheriff's Log

## Was she distracted by great food?

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

### FRIDAY, MAY 2

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Physical domestic altercation reported in a local business parking lot at Junipero and Sixth. A 45-year-old male was determined to be the dominant aggressor and was arrested. He was booked into Monterey County Jail for spousal battery and possession of unlawful paraphernalia and held on \$5,000 bail.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Report taken for a passport lost while the owner was visiting Carmel. Report taken to assist with providing the Canadian embassy the necessary documentation to complete travel arrangements.

**Pacific Grove:** Driver involved in a hit-and-run collision on Junipero was later de-

termined to be driving under the influence of alcohol, which was in violation of his probation terms. The 56-year-old male was arrested and booked into Monterey County Jail for probation violation, hit-and-run with property damage, and driving under the influence with a prior conviction.

**Pacific Grove:** Vehicle on Gibson was marked for 72-hour parking.

### SATURDAY, MAY 3

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Traffic stop at Highway 1 and Carpenter led to the arrest, cite and release of a 28-year-old male for an outstanding warrant.

**Pebble Beach:** Deputies responded to a physical altercation among family members on Matador Road. Upon further investigation, a subject was placed on a 72-hour hold.

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 19** — Daniel Riggs, 34, of Monterey, was sentenced to eight years and eight months in state prison for conspiracy to commit theft, grand theft from an elder, and grand theft.

On Feb. 17, 2024, officers responded to a report of fraudulent activity at the Home Depot on Canyon Del Rey Boulevard in Seaside. Responding police officers were notified by the on-duty Home Depot loss prevention officer that Riggs and his co-conspirator had made fraudulent transactions in the store on Feb. 12 and 16. The two men entered the store and filled shopping carts with several cases of flooring and used an old receipt from a December, 2024 purchase to obtain a fraudulent refund for cash. In total, Riggs and his co-conspirator stole \$1,572.40.

On Nov. 21, 2023, officers responded to a call regarding the fraudulent purchase of

a vehicle from the Dodge dealership in Seaside. The victim, Jane Doe, age 86, reported that a Dodge Charger, valued at \$38,000, had been purchased fraudulently under her name. Officers contacted the dealership and learned that Riggs had purchased the vehicle using Doe's personal identifying information. Doe knew nothing about the vehicle or the purchase and did not give Riggs consent to purchase a vehicle.

On Nov. 2, 2023, officers responded to a call regarding fraudulent use of a stolen credit card. The victim, John Doe, stated that he had recently requested a new credit card from Discover.

While the card was in transit, it was intercepted and used at the Best Buy in Marina without his consent. Officers responded to

See **GAVEL** page 55A

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### CULINARY SHOWDOWN

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# DA clamps down on illegal food

By KELLY NIX

AS PART of an effort to crack down on unlawful food vendors, a Monterey County enforcement team earlier this month shut down several operations, including a makeshift taco stand adjacent to a highway.

On May 7, the Monterey County District Attorney's Office, county environmental health department and health inspectors stopped vendors without permits from selling food in areas north of Salinas and in the Castroville area.

The crackdown was intended to help keep the public from getting sick by eating tainted or undercooked meals offered by unlicensed sellers, prosecutors said.

"Often these unpermitted vendors do not hold food at safe temperatures, which can lead to food-borne illnesses," a press release by the DA's office said.

### Underdone

For example, one vendor operating a taco stand off Highway 183 near Castroville was selling marinated pork that was at 62 degrees Fahrenheit and did not appear

to be fully cooked.

A photograph provided by the DA's office showed a thermometer stuck into the meat, which was on a rotating spit with corn tortillas and other meats cooking on a griddle nearby. The roadside operation resembled a food stand at a fair.

### Penalties

Monterey County Chief Deputy District Attorney Emily Hickok suggested that other areas of the county will also be targeted.

"We are investigating this issue throughout the county and are planning further enforcement operations," Hickok told The Pine Cone.

Like the other vendors who do not have permits, the taco operator had his food and equipment seized by health inspectors, which is allowed under the state's health and safety code.

The county's environmental health department has the authority to issue administrative citations to unlawful food vendors, while the DA's office can pursue civil and/or criminal penalties and fines for violations.

Eating at food stands like this one, which was not permitted by the county, can be dangerous because operators sometimes don't adhere to food safety laws, prosecutors said.

PHOTO/DA'S OFFICE



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# Vistra prepares for careful removal of batteries from burned building

By KELLY NIX

A SPOKESMAN for the company responsible for the Jan. 16 battery fire at the Moss Landing Power Plant said workers are preparing to safely remove undamaged batteries from the building that burned.

David Yeager with Vistra Energy told news reporters Wednesday that the company has been working closely with the Environmental Protection Agency and other

From there, the batteries will be sent to a recycling facility under standards set by the Department of Transportation and EPA. Vistra is working on hiring a contractor to haul the batteries away.

The company estimates it will take several months to remove the bulk of the undamaged batteries.

The batteries damaged in the fire are still on the property. Removing them is an entirely different process that can be done only after the heavily damaged building has been stabilized. They may not be recyclable and could be

See **BATTERIES** page 13A



PHOTO/MIKE BUFFO, HOUSE OF 8 MEDIA

An overhead photograph of the Vistra Energy battery storage facility in Moss Landing shows the devastation to the building after a January fire. The company is in the process of cleaning it all up.

regulators to develop a plan to remove any stored electricity from the batteries, take them out and haul them away.

“We’ve been working over the last few months to design a battery removal procedure which prioritizes worker safety, community needs, environmental protection and battery stability,” Yeager said.

#### ‘Several months’

Vistra employees have been trained to remove the batteries, and its employees will “conduct physical run-throughs of that work process next week,” he added.

“We expect to incrementally remove the batteries that were not affected by the fire, discharge and eventually drain them, and transport them offsite this summer,” Yeager said, adding that they are believed to be stable for transport.

## JOIN US

### Board of Supervisors to consider Groundwater Monitoring Program Regulatory Fees for the Salinas Valley Basin

 Tuesday, June 3

 Hearing time 1:30 p.m



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The Agency is seeking Board adoption of a proposed regulatory fee to fund groundwater monitoring, ensuring compliance with state groundwater sustainability laws and preventing the need for a separate program or state intervention.

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# Panetta cracks down on accessible drug

By KELLY NIX

A DRUG known as “gas station heroin,” which authorities say is addictive and dangerous but is readily available at gas stations and elsewhere in California, should not be allowed for sale without a prescription, a bill by Democratic Rep. Jimmy Panetta proposes.

The Stand Against Emerging Opioids Act, reintroduced by Panetta and Republican Rep. August Pfluger from Texas, proposes to crack down on the unregulated sale of tianeptine, which the lawmakers say is dangerous. The bipartisan legislation would classify tianeptine as a Schedule III substance under the Controlled Substances Act, which would make it illegal to sell without a prescription. Existing federal law allows unrestricted sales of the substance, even to minors.

Panetta said the legislation would give federal law enforcement entities the tools they need to clamp down on the sale of the drug, help prevent abuse and protect consumers.

“Tianeptine is a dangerous addictive substance being sold on store shelves right next to energy drinks and snacks,” he said. “The FDA has been clear about the

health risks, but the reality is that tianeptine remains widely accessible and largely unregulated.”

While the FDA has not approved it for use as a drug, and it’s banned in some states, such as Florida, Alabama, Kentucky and Indiana, it’s still being sold in California.

A spokeswoman for Montage Health, the parent company of Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, told The Pine Cone this week that none of its facilities have reported a “prevalence of patients with known adverse health effects from tianeptine use.”

### ‘Brand names’

Ingested orally, the drug mimics opioids and can cause euphoria. It also leads to “dependence, withdrawal symptoms, and potentially fatal overdoses,” Panetta said. It’s sold in convenience stores, smoke shops, and online under brand names including Tianaa, Zaza, Neptune’s Fix Elixir, Pegasus and TD Red.

Though some countries permit tianeptine to be used to treat depression and anxiety, “it is not approved by the FDA for

See DRUG page 23A



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# State opposes plans for 17 homes

BY CHRIS COUNTS

A CALIFORNIA wildlife official warned the Monterey County Board of Supervisors Tuesday that a plan to build 17 luxury homes on 344 acres near the intersection of Highway 68 and San Benancio Canyon Road could put local wildlife at risk by blocking a critical corridor, but the applicant insisted they have gone to great lengths to address concerns, and there’s little more they can do.

The project — which has been in the works for 25 years — is alternately known as the Encina Hills project and the Harper Canyon subdivision. Plans call for cutting down 79 coast live oaks that are at least 6 inches in diameter to make way for road and driveway construction. The work includes building on slopes greater than 30 percent and installing a water system.

Tuesday’s hearing ended without the supervisors making a decision. Instead, after urging the parties to reach a compromise, they agreed to revisit the topic next month.

### Official issues warning

At the hearing, Jeremy Pohlman of California Fish and Wildlife told supervisors that the housing risks fragmenting and isolating wildlife populations, ultimately making it more difficult for them to survive. Pohlman urged others to recognize “the importance of this wildlife corridor,” and he noted that “state agencies and local and nonprofit entities are actively implementing conservation and remediation projects to ensure this corridor stays intact.”

“The project as currently proposed does not reduce connectivity impacts to the extent feasible and would permanently disrupt wildlife movement in the most viable remaining habitat linkage,” Pohlman testified.

The official suggested the isolation could result in “less resilient populations”

of wildlife — and ultimately lead to more conflicts between humans and animals, particularly mountain lions.

Pohlman noted that wildlife corridors are becoming an important topic, not just here, but in many places. “Increasingly, we’re seeing this habitat fragmentation is causing adverse inbreeding effects and local losses of wildlife — some of the most prominent examples are the Santa Monica and Santa Ana mountains in Southern California,” he added.

### Abundant open space planned

In response, attorney Matt Francois, representing applicant Harper Canyon Realty LLC, noted that 90 percent of the project’s land will remain undeveloped.

“It’s a very light development footprint,” Francois suggested. “There will be minimal grading and tree removal.”

Francois suggested there’s enough room on the land for homes and the movement of wildlife.

“I don’t think we’re at risk of cutting off populations,” he added. “It’s 17 lots on 344 acres.”

During the hearing, 5th District Supervisor Kate Daniels conceded that she and her colleagues were facing a difficult choice. She noted the property serves as a critical pathway for animals to move between two distinct habitats.

“If we remove the linkage, we’re impacting the ability of those two habitats to succeed,” Daniels said.

But she also noted that the property has long been zoned for housing and expressed sympathy for the builder. “I understand any pain you may be feeling,” she continued.

Second District Supervisor Glenn Church agreed he and his colleagues have to make a difficult choice.

“The concern here is that if we don’t do this right, we isolate a large population” of wildlife, said Church, who also wondered

See **WILDLIFE** page 23A

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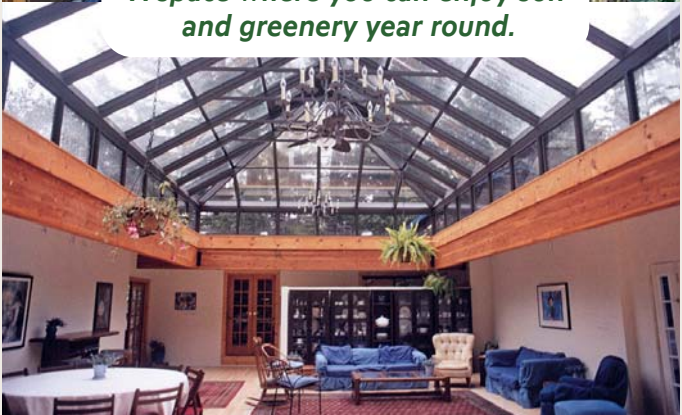
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# Water main ruptures next to school

By KELLY NIX

A WATER main break in front of Pacific Grove High School May 12 forced the closure of nearby roads for part of the day.

The California American Water break occurred after noon in the bus parking zone — which parents also use to drop off and pick-up their kids — on Sunset Avenue. Pacific Grove Unified informed parents via voicemail message, text and email to pick their children up at the lot off Forest Lodge Road.

“As a precaution, the fire department closed Sunset Drive between Forest Avenue and 19th Street in front of PGHS,” the district said at about 1:45 p.m. “Please avoid the area and use alternate routes until further notice. Updates will be provided as

the situation develops.”

City manager Matt Mogensen said that a city public works crew immediately notified Cal Am and asked police to close the road, which is part of Highway 68.

“Because Highway 68 is a state highway, they also notified Caltrans and the CHP,” Mogensen told The Pine Cone. “I was there at 2 p.m., and the public works staff was still providing traffic control and was going to turn it over to CHP when they arrived.”

Former P.G. City Councilman Dan Miller said that about two years ago — before Mogensen was city manager — he complained to city officials about a significant bulge in the pavement in front of the high school, but nothing was done about it. The pavement bulge turned out to be where the water main-break occurred.

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COMPASS



# City considers ‘inclusive crosswalks’

## ■ Legality questioned

By KELLY NIX

THE CITY of Monterey has proposed transforming one or more of its crosswalks in rainbow colors to express support for the LGBTQ+ community.

At a special city council meeting Friday, council members will discuss four locations in the city that are being considered for the colorful, themed crosswalks, including at the entrance to Alvarado Street, where the city’s annual Pride parade begins. The report to the council outlines the reasons for the idea.

“The City of Monterey is home to a diverse group of residents and visitors alike and is proud to support the LGBTQ+ community and all groups of people who have been impacted by hatred and bigotry,” the report said. “The establishment of a rainbow crosswalk at a prominent location in the city signifies this support and furthers the city’s commitment to public art. In the spirit of Pride month in June, the city council may consider the approval of one location for a rainbow crosswalk in Monterey.”

### Permanent?

Costs for installation range from \$5,000 to \$15,000 per crosswalk, depending on design complexity and materials. If the panel approves the idea, city crews will start installing the crosswalks next month, using oil-based paint.

“The crosswalk markings will fade over time and when scheduled to be refreshed, the crosswalk could be converted back to the high-contrast standard white color,” the report says.

However, the council also has the option of making the rainbow crosswalks permanent, which would cost more and take more time to install.

“If council desires a permanent rainbow crosswalk installation the markings could be installed with preformed

thermoplastic,” the report says. “The permanent installation, would need to be contracted out and would take a few months to implement. Increased maintenance funding would need to be identified for permanent installation.”

### Safety issues

A 2011 Federal Highway Administration ruling on the application of colored pavement determined that crosswalk art “degrades the contrast of the white transverse lines against the composition of the pavement beneath it,” and that “the use of crosswalk art is actually contrary to the goal of increased safety and most likely could be a contributing factor to a false sense of security for both motorists and pedestrians.”

But Monterey public works director Andrea Renny pointed to “refined” federal guidelines on decorative crosswalks.

“The Federal Highway Administration position has always been and continues to be that subdued-colored aesthetic treatments between the legally marked transverse crosswalk lines are permissible provided that they are devoid of retroreflective properties and that they do not diminish the effectiveness of the legally required white transverse pavement markings used to establish the crosswalk,” the report said.

In any case, Renny told The Pine Cone Thursday that Monterey city staff will follow design guidelines published in California’s Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, which is issued by the Federal Highway Administration.

“While the manual does not explicitly ban decorative crosswalks, it emphasizes that such treatments must not reduce the visibility of crosswalk markings or distract or mislead road users,” Renny said.

Decorative crosswalks, according to the manual, must “preserve the required standard crosswalk markings, such as parallel

See CROSSWALKS page 29A



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# SAILBOATS RACE INTO MONTEREY BAY SATURDAY

By KELLY NIX

IF YOU look toward Monterey Bay at just the right time and place this weekend, you'll see dozens of sailboats finishing the first leg of what organizers say is one of the state's most popular offshore racing events.

On Saturday, the Spinnaker Cup, the first race of California Offshore Race Week, starts in San Francisco and finishes in Monterey Harbor. More than 300 sailors will compete on 47 boats between 25 and 65 feet long.

The sailboats can travel about 90 miles — the distance from San Francisco to Monterey — in less than seven hours, depending on wind conditions. The racers will start to appear in Monterey Harbor at about 6 p.m., but the best time for onlookers to see them complete the leg will be between 8 and 9 p.m., organizers said. Fisherman's Wharf, Breakwater Cove, and Wharf No. 2 are good locations to watch.

Several boats in the race are based on the Monterey

Peninsula, including Heretic, a 27-foot Seascope skippered by Daniel Emerson of Carmel. The boat has two 15-year-old sailors, June and Rosie, who are members of the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club's junior sailing program.

Jeff Kise from Pacific Grove is skippering Calphurnia, a 28-foot Schumacher, while Mark Chaffey from Monterey is on Loca Motion, a 37-foot Express. Robert Jones from Carmel is competing on a 40-foot J/120.

**Smooth sailing**


The second leg, called the Coastal Cup, will start in Monterey Monday and head to Santa Barbara. The third leg, the SoCal 300, starts there and continues to San Diego.

The name of the race to Monterey, the Spinnaker Cup, refers to downwind sailing under a spinnaker sail, which is flown forward of the main sail. Prevailing winds along the Northern California coast tend to be northwesterly and are ideal conditions to race under a spinnaker, which can help the boats go more than 20 mph, organizers said.



PHOTO/MONTEREY PENINSULA YACHT CLUB

Racing sailboats like these will be in Monterey Bay Saturday, but will depart Monday for another leg of an annual race.



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# HIGHWAY

From page 1A

slope immediately above the project area,” Caltrans said. “Repairs to Regent’s Slide are now expected to keep Highway 1 in this area closed through summer 2025.”

To help stabilize the site, workers are installing dozens of 60-foot-long steel bars, called shear dowels, into the slope above the work area. The strategy appears to be working, but slowly.

“These shear dowels are drilled into the slope and grouted in place in a 10-foot by 10-foot grid fashion,” Kevin Drabinski of Caltrans explained. “Shear dowels were previously installed in the slope immediately north of the area now exhibiting movement and have been successful there in limiting further slide activity.”

Drabinski said crews are working “long hours, seven days a week.” He also said they’ve brought in an outside professional geotechnical consulting firm to aid the effort. Located about four miles south of Esalen Institute, the

# BATTERIES

From page 7A

sent out of state for disposal, Yeager said.

In the aftermath of the fire, he said the air and water sampling efforts led by Vistra and the county’s environmental health bureau, “continue to show no threats to public health or agriculture.” However, Vistra is launching a second phase of the community sampling plan, which will include two natural areas near the power plant which were not accessible during the first phase of testing.

The company is erecting new fencing around the facility and is continuing to test water.

“It’s important to note that all water from the building has been collected, isolated, held in contained areas on the property and disposed of appropriately by licensed waste and disposal service transport,” Yeager explained.

While nobody was killed in the fire, it prompted the evacuation of about 1,500 residents and the nearby closure of businesses, amid concerns over environmental damage and health effects.

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slide has frustrated workers. Last August, cracks in the slide emerged, slowing the pace of repairs, and forcing crews to work above the slide and employ remote-controlled bulldozers due to dangerous conditions.

### Still lots to see

Aside from minor delays at Rocky Creek, where a viaduct is being built and a one-way signal regulates traffic, motorists can drive all the way south to Esalen Institute,

and visit most of Big Sur’s many resorts, inns, galleries and parks. But it’s been more than two years since they’ve been able to drive all the way to Cambria.

“Visitors can access more than 100 miles of Highway 1 between Cambria and Carmel, except for the 6.8-mile segment from one mile south of the Esalen Institute to two miles north of Lucia,” Drabinski added. “Caltrans will continue to provide regular updates on progress on these slide repairs and an estimated reopening date.”



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(Top left picture) Rachelle Escamilla, Monterey County Poet Laureate and Mya Pop, Monterey County Youth Poet Laureate.

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# WARRANTS

From page 1A

began May 10.

Essayli explained to Fox News this week that as soon as an illegal immigrant is booked into a county jail, “we’re reviewing their file. And if they meet the elements of illegal reentry, which is a federal crime, we are filing a complaint and getting an arrest warrant issued before they’re released from state custody.”

“The days of giving criminal illegal aliens a free pass are over,” he said Monday. “While California may be presently disregarding detainees, it cannot ignore federal arrest warrants.”

President Joe Biden’s administration largely did not enforce the felony reentry law, and Essayli said his predecessor only filed 17 such cases in two years.

While Operation Guardian Angel is only in effect in Southern California, Essayli’s office said if the task force is a success, it could be used in other jurisdictions that protect undocumented people from federal immigration authorities.

The Pine Cone asked the U.S. Attorney’s Office Northern District of California, which represents Monterey County, if it’s considering adopting a similar operation, but a spokesperson for the agency declined to comment.

**No resistance**

If a similar task force starts up in this county, Monterey County Sheriff Cmdr. Andy Rosas said his agency would not resist the enforcement effort.

“The Monterey County Sheriff’s Office follows all laws, state and federal,” Rosas explained Wednesday. “If presented with a criminal arrest warrant from the federal government for an incarcerated person in

our jail, we would follow legal processes just as we would with any other county or state that issues a valid arrest warrant for an incarcerated person. The Monterey County Sheriff’s Office will follow the law.”

In late 2017, after Trump was elected to his first term, then-Monterey County Sheriff Steve Bernal announced he was getting rid of the ICE agent who for years had a desk in the county jail. Bernal said the move was due to concerns from immigrants’ rights advocates and a state law that went into effect Jan. 1, 2018, declaring California a sanctuary state.

Supervisors in January reestablished Monterey County as a “welcoming county for immigrants and refugees” and a “place of trust and safety for immigrants.” Supervisors made a similar declaration in 2017.

A supervisor in December claimed on social media that more than one in five residents in Monterey County — which has about 430,000 people — are undocumented.

The Operation Guardian Angel task force is made up of officials from ICE, FBI, DEA, Border Patrol and Homeland Security Investigations, and it aligns with the Trump administration’s campaign promise to deport undocumented immigrants, which during Biden’s term were allowed to stream across the southern border into the U.S., often with the assistance of federal authorities.

A Republican, Essayli was the first

Muslim elected to the California State Assembly, where he served from 2022 until his appointment as U.S. Attorney.

**Even killers**

Essayli said California’s sanctuary policies led to the release of José Cristian Saravia-Sánchez, 30, an El Salvador national who authorities say shot and killed an Inglewood man trying to stop him and another thief from stealing a catalytic converter.

“Despite the fact Saravia-Sánchez was an illegal alien who had been convicted of vehicle theft, was removed from the United States in 2013, and had been arrested 11 times between June 2022 and August 2024, local law enforcement was prevented by state law from complying with an immigration detainer request,” Essayli said. The suspect is now in U.S. custody facing murder charges.

On Feb. 27, the county joined a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court Northern District by more than a dozen California cities and counties to block the Trump administration’s efforts to stop the distribution of federal tax dollars to sanctuary jurisdictions. The county estimates it received a half-billion dollars in taxpayer dollars from the feds in the last two years.

On April 24, though, United States District Judge William H. Orrick issued a preliminary injunction preventing Trump from withholding the federal tax money.

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# SISTERS

From page 1A

Among other demands, opponents insisted that the three new homes all be single story and designed in a “traditional,” not contemporary, style. Petition signers also said garages should be set back from the street and demanded environmental review to gauge the impacts of “three modern homes in a row clashing with the surrounding traditionally designed homes.”

They also protested potential negative effects on neighbors’ views and privacy, and went so far as to claim cumulative impacts due to future projects, including the approved demolition and rebuild of the Hofsas House hotel, Patrice Pastor’s mixed-use complexes, the 349 units called for in the city’s housing element, and the replacement of the sewer main on Scenic Road. Several opponents sent separate letters.

While planning commissioners granted conceptual approval to two of the three proposals last fall, they requested changes and held a couple more hearings on the third, seeking modifications each time. Among the more significant revisions, Dyar dropped its height by 6 feet, reduced the size, shifted its location on the lot, and made the front door and windows smaller. He also held two community meetings to discuss project, dubbed Mission Sisters, with the neighbors and other critics.

### Nothing but flattery

Last week, the planning commission considered the final design details for all three houses, and not one person objected at the meeting or in writing.

Associate planner Jacob Olander noted one home will have cedar shiplap siding, Carmel stone cladding below the windows and a synthetic slate roof, while the second will have vertical grey-stained wood siding, Douglas Fir doors, Carmel stone cladding, wood windows, and a synthetic tile roof. The third will be clad in cedar board-and-batten siding and will have coated aluminum windows and a gravel roof. Two of the houses will also have partially landscaped roofs. He recommended approval without requiring any changes.

At the May 14 meeting, historical consultant Kent Seavey noted that clusters of development like the Mission Sisters are not uncommon in Carmel. Most recently, architect Thomas Hood designed three houses on Casanova in a complex called Pine Trees. Builders Hugh Comstock and Jon Konigshofer and architect Henry Hill designed small groups of homes, as well.

Seavey called the Mission Sisters “absolutely stunning.”

Hood said he hasn’t often observed a project subjected to so much scrutiny. Dyar is “creating a cohesive language of three buildings that all play off each other,” he said.

“It’s nice to see the excellence that Erik has put forward for all of us,” added former planning commissioner Gail Lehman, who predicted that “anyone who’s had an objection to anything in a contemporary vein will be won over by this.”

Lifelong resident Cindy Lloyd and former planning commissioners Ian Martin and Don Goodhue also praised the plans, and several others submitted supportive comments in writing.

“Each home has a distinct design, enhanced by cohesive landscaping. This kind of diversity in architecture strengthens the character of Carmel,” wrote Jacquelyn Woodward, who lives in a modern home designed by the late George Brook-Kothlow. “Visitors often remark on the natural light, energy efficiency and simple beauty. My own experience reflects that contemporary design can complement more traditional surroundings while offering

sustainable and forward-thinking solutions.”

She urged commissioners to approve the Mission Sisters. “Carmel can’t be stuck in a design rut,” she said. “This project shows how modern architecture, with natural materials and efficient energy use, can honor the past while looking ahead.”

Commissioners favored the project, too, with Stephanie Locke saying she is “100 percent behind it,” and Stefan Karapetkov praising the extensive landscape plan that ties the three together.

He said the three homes will be “a great contribution to the village of Carmel.”

“This project will not only enhance this city, but I think it’s going to have a profound effect on all the lucky people who have the good fortune to live in these homes,” commissioner Mel Ahlborn said.

“This has been quite a journey,” agreed chair Michael LePage. “I almost like the landscaping as much as the houses.”

They unanimously voted to approve all three. Dyar has said a coordinated plan for their construction will have all three built in a year.



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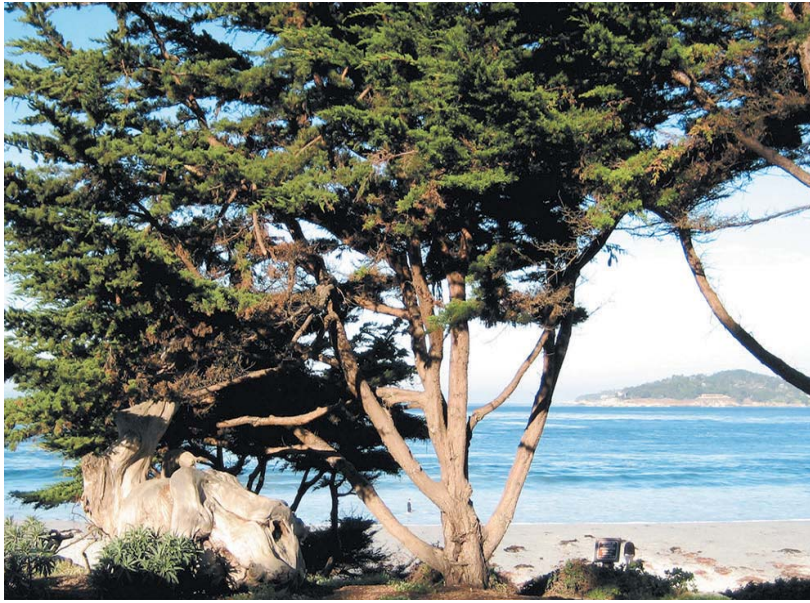
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## SCHOOLS

From page 1A

costs burden for each unit of new housing. New development also triggers hefty property taxes. Carmel Unified is a basic aid district and operates primarily on property taxes, because that revenue exceeds funding it would otherwise get from the state. For the 2024-25 fiscal year, the district's first budget report projected \$73 million in total revenue from property taxes.

The developer fee increase by CUSD is expected to generate at least an additional \$420,000 per year, which the SchoolWorks study deemed necessary to modernize and expand facilities at district schools.

"We were way behind. It just made sense to go ahead and increase the fees," said CUSD's chief business official, Yvonne Perez, who presented the study for the board's consideration.

CUSD's new fee of \$3.78 is still less than the \$5.17 per square foot — the current legal limit for school district fees, per state law — enacted by Monterey and Pacific Grove school districts last year.

Schools can also tax commercial and industrial developers, up to \$0.84 per square foot, but only if a study determines that residential developer fees aren't sufficient to address facility needs.

### "Usually not controversial"

According to SchoolWorks the CUSD had an influx of 57 new housing units per year over the past four years. During that time, the study says 80.7 percent of new housing units within the district were single family homes, containing an average 2,247 square feet and generating an average of .23 new students per household.

Perez said her office and SchoolWorks

had taken "extra precautions" in preparing the study and were "expecting some feedback" because of the huge increase.

She later shared that she had coordinated many developer fee studies prior to her employment at CUSD and that she "never would have thought to do community outreach on an every-two-year study" because they're usually not that controversial.

"Generally, you do the study, you present it to the board, and it's just a slam dunk," Perez added.

"I've conducted these studies for 40 years, and in all that time we've never had a study challenged," said Reynolds, responding to questions from the board and a woman whose lengthy public comment mirrored a

recent post on the Carmel Residents Association Facebook page, calling on residents to attend the meeting and contact school leadership to express their concerns about the startling increase.

### No community outreach

A woman who spoke at the school board meeting, identifying herself only as "F.P.L.," complained about a "lack of transparency," speculating that the stadium improvement project at Carmel High School was to blame for the sudden proposed fee increase.

She alleged that there had been "no outreach to homeowners' associations, no direct communication with builders or realtors, no town halls."

"Someone who wants to do a new house, that's 2,500 square feet, will have an additional \$10K in fees added to them," she said. "This will impact homeowners who are building ADUs, remodels, or any new construction. That directly affects affordable housing in our region."

Perez explained that the district had

See FEES page 18A

## Community Wildfire Preparedness Forum



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**May 28, 2025, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM** for an informative evening focused on community wildfire preparation. Topics will include **Firesafe strategies, Defensible Space, Home Hardening, Evacuation Planning,** and more.

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Monterey County  
Sheriff's Sergeant  
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# When paws are better than people

## ■ DA’s office, victims mourn loss of Odie the Lab

By MARY SCHLEY

ODIE, THE black Labrador who comforted thousands of crime victims, many of them children, and emboldened witnesses during a decade of service with the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office, died Tuesday following a recent diagnosis of advanced bone cancer, according to Chief District Attorney Investigator Ryan McGuirk, who was also one of her handlers.

Formally named Odile the Black Swan after a character in “Swan Lake,” she was given to the DA’s office in November 2014 by Canine Companions, a nonprofit that donates highly trained service and facility dogs to people with disabilities, veterans with PTSD, and professionals who serve victims of violent crimes and children who have suffered sexual abuse, neglect and other grievous harm. She did yeoman’s work during her 10-plus years with the DA’s office.

### One command

“While her name may have originated from a dramatic role, only good characters exist in our office, and Odie was nothing but good,” McGuirk said. “A graceful black Labrador with a touch of golden retriever, she carried herself with wisdom, gentleness and courage that left a lasting impression on everyone she encountered.”

He observed that Odie understood 50 commands, but “the only one she truly ever needed was, ‘Visit.’”

“Upon hearing it, Odie would approach victims, many in crisis or at their most vulnerable, and offer the silent strength and reassurance only a canine can provide,” he

said. “Her calm, intuitive presence brought peace in the most difficult courtroom settings: child forensic interviews, domestic violence hearings, sexual assault trials, and even sentencing and verdict readings.”

She worked her final case just days before she was diagnosed with bone cancer, according to McGuirk, after appearing



PHOTO/COURTESY NICHOLE REED

A familiar face at the courthouse, Odie helped thousands of traumatized victims and witnesses — and even lawyers.

in court hundreds of times over the course of her career and comforting more than 1,000 people.

“Whether resting her chin on a trembling leg or curling gently into the lap of a sobbing child, Odie made people feel safe, seen and not alone,” he said. “Even the most stoic trial attorneys could be found curled up on the floor with ‘Odie girl’ after

See **ODIE** page 23A

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### May is National Speech-Language-Hearing Month.

National Speech-Language-Hearing Month encourages people to seek treatment for hearing loss—particularly the 37.5 million adults who report trouble hearing.<sup>1</sup> Audiologists play a pivotal role in diagnosing, managing and treating hearing and balance disorders.

At Emerald Hill Audiology, we use a medical model approach to hearing healthcare, which results in effective management strategies and treatments that can significantly improve one’s quality of life.

Untreated hearing loss may cause more than just missed conversations with loved ones. It can also contribute to several

serious health issues, including: cognitive decline, depression, anxiety, loneliness and falling.<sup>2</sup>

Scheduling a hearing evaluation with Cheri Taylor, Doctor of Audiology at Emerald Hill Audiology is a simple yet critical way to ensure optimal hearing health and overall well-being.

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## RIDDLE OF THE MONTH:

I don’t speak, but I give you the news. Sometimes I hum,  
and sometimes I sing the blues. What am I?

1 National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. (2024). Quick statistics about hearing, balance and dizziness. <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/statistics/quick-statistics-hearing#>:  
2 Elham Mahmoudi, Tanima Basu, Kenneth Langa, Michael M. McKee, Philip Zazove, Neil Alexander, Neil Kamdar. Can Hearing Aids Delay Time to Diagnosis of Dementia, Depression, or Falls in Older Adults? Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, 2019; DOI: 10.1111/jgs.16109





# FEES

From page 16A

placed two newspaper ads as per legal requirements, inviting the public to the May 14 meeting. She said “only one person” reached out in response.

Board member Rita Patel and board clerk Jake Odello revealed that they had spoken with district residents, local realtors and contractors on their own time. Both wanted to know why the district and SchoolWorks hadn’t conducted more extensive outreach within the district.

Patel said a primary question she’d gotten was why CUSD needs more funding, and for what projects exactly. Perez answered that the increase in developer fees will



## DONNA BRISENDINE MCDOWELL

It is with great sadness that the family of Donna Brisendine McDowell announces her passing on May 12, 2025, at the age of 77.

Donna was born on February 18, 1948, in Fresno, California, and was the first member of her family to receive a college education. Upon graduating, Donna received magna cum laude honors.

Over her lifetime, she completed multiple degrees including a bachelor of arts in English literature, fine arts and teaching; minored in psychology and sociology, and received additional special education certifications and licensed massage therapist credentials.

Donna retired in 2008 after 26 years of teaching with her final years dedicated to Monterey Peninsula Unified School District.

Upon retiring, she continued her love of arts through learning glass sculpture, creating unique and modern pieces currently on display at several locations in the community; and continuing to create mixed media paintings, some of which were featured at the Robert Talbott store in Carmel, California.

Donna supported many charities including sponsoring students at CSUMB and other nonprofit agencies such as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Monterey County and Interim, Inc.

Donna’s generous spirit and kindness touched the lives of many. She will be remembered for her willingness to help others, her love of art, her garden, travel, and faith in the Lord.

She is survived by her husband. Frank McDowell; her children. Amanda Bloomer, Katrina Adams, and Aaron Ford; her grandchildren, Shayla McKinney, Kaylee Jesse, Charles Rector III and Tyler Ford; and her great-grandchildren, Hope Bishop, Jamison and Jackson McKinney.

Memories can be shared at: [www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/pacific-grove-ca/donna-brisendine-mcdowell-12376403](http://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/pacific-grove-ca/donna-brisendine-mcdowell-12376403)

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Monterey County: [www.bgca.org](http://www.bgca.org). After clicking on the donate link, please select the checkbox for “dedicate this donation” and enter her name, Donna Brisendine McDowell.

take pressure off the district’s general fund and address the “delayed” Facilities Master Plan, which was completed in 2019. The study listed examples of priority facilities upgrades in the district’s schools, including kitchen relocation and replacement, repairs to portable classrooms, restroom modernization, technical education facility upgrades, and expansion to the Carmel Middle School gym.

**Pay before permit**

“I got the same question Trustee Patel received as well, which is what are you going to use the money for? But after I explained the direct impact on students and the increased life span of our facilities, the people I spoke to were very in favor, and very curious why we have not done this earlier,” said Odello.

“A lot of my realtor friends also reminded me that there is no better investment, as a property owner, than in your local school district and students.

It’s important to recognize that the school district

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## BRAD ANDREW JOHNSON

Jan. 20, 1953 – Jan. 23, 2025

There will be a paddle-out for Brad ahead of the annual Surfabout on Carmel Beach at 11th Avenue at 4 p.m. Thursday, June 5. Brad’s celebration of life begins at 5 p.m. Friday, June 6, on Carmel Beach at 11th Avenue. There will be a paddle-out in Ventura on July 19. His complete obituary appears in the April 4 Carmel Pine Cone.

contributes to a strong housing market and property values here,” he added.

Odello then followed up on the question of affordable housing projects.

With the exception of senior housing and construction under 500 square feet, all residential construction within the perimeter of CUSD is newly subject to the \$3.78 per square foot tax, including accessory dwelling units, or ADUs, and affordable housing, generally defined as units that cost no more than 30 percent of household gross income.

Developer fees are a checklist item prior to the issuance of a building permit, and many school districts require in-person payment or by-mail payment, with project documentation, to their office.

Patel said there was time yet to decide on the \$3.78 fee recommendation and asked if it was worth gathering additional comments from residents and developers.

“I wouldn’t recommend it,” said Perez.

A motion to approve the fee justification study was made by board president Jason Remynse. The resolution was adopted with one dissenting vote from Patel, who expressed that she “would have liked more community engagement” and an option for smaller fee increases over a period of several years.

The fee increase will go into effect on July 13, 2025.

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# BUDGET

From page 1A

cuts to Planned Parenthood and for health-care for the undocumented.

California is facing a \$12 billion deficit in the 2025-206 budget and the multibillion-dollar problem has been brought on largely by massive social services spending. Newsom, however, also blamed what he’s dubbed the “Trump Slump,” pointing the finger at tariffs as the reason California is forecasting billions of dollars in reduced tax revenues next year.

“California is under assault. The United States of America in many respects is under assault, because we have a president that’s been reckless in terms of assaulting those growth engines and has created a climate of deep uncertainty,” said Newsom.

The newly announced \$12 billion deficit is in addition to \$27 billion worth of fiscal remedies already made to the 2025-2026 budget this spring. Those remedies included \$11.2 billion in cuts and a \$7.1 billion withdrawal from California’s rainy-day fund.

**Undocumented healthcare**

One of the biggest cuts comes in the form of ending free healthcare for undocumented adults, a major policy reversal for the governor. Roughly 15 million Californians rely on Medi-Cal for free healthcare, including dental and vision, and about 1.6 million of them are immigrants who entered the country illegally. California has spent \$11 billion on healthcare for undocumented people this fiscal year, far more

than the \$6 billion it initially budgeted.

The new plan calls for ending these benefits to low-income undocumented people 18 or older. Starting on Jan. 1, 2026, they would be required to pay \$100 a month for healthcare. California’s Latino Caucus has already come out in opposition to the proposed cuts.

“We must push back. Now more than ever, we must protect access to critical resources like healthcare for all. As the Latino Caucus, we are committed to doing everything in our power to mitigate the impact of these reckless federal actions and ensure California’s budget reflects our values,” the group wrote in response to the May budget revision.

California 30th District Representative Dawn Addis, who represents a large swath of Monterey County and San Luis Obispo and chairs the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Health, led a hearing Tuesday to review the administration’s proposed changes to MediCal and she opposes the cuts.

“I’ve seen how critical Medi-Cal funding is, not just for access to care, but for the stability of California’s entire healthcare system. Cutting healthcare for undocumented Californians would have a cascading effect,” said Addis.

The San Luis Obispo Democrat said preventive care would take a major hit, and delayed access may lead to more emergency room use for those who lose coverage.

In an effort to find more cost savings in the Medi-Cal budget, the governor also wants to reinstate an asset test, rather than just income, for seniors and the disabled to qualify for Medi-Cal and in-home support

services. Starting last year, more people became eligible when the state stopped counting cars, homes, and savings when deciding how needy someone was. Newsom’s proposed budget would reverse those changes.

The governor is also proposing cuts to Medi-Cal coverage for weight-loss drugs like Ozempic and Wegovy, which can cost \$1,000 a month. The savings are expected to be about \$85 million for the current budget and up to \$680 million by fiscal year 2028-29.

**Planned Parenthood**

Supporters of abortion rights were shocked by Newsom’s proposed cuts to Planned Parenthood, which stands to lose about a third of its funding under the plan.

“At a time when reproductive health care is under attack, I’m standing strong with Planned Parenthood and communities across California to protect access to care,” said Addis about the cuts, “As chair of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Health, I know what’s at stake — and I won’t back down.”

During committee hearing Tuesday, Addis emphasized the need to preserve funding for Planned Parenthood to continue to provide free and low-cost abortions.

President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California Jodi Hicks said Newsom’s cuts would effectively defund the organization in the state, calling them “plain cruel.”

More than 80 percent of patients who visit Planned Parenthood health centers in California rely on Medi-Cal and one in four people has received care from the clinics, according to the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Health. According to the Guttmacher Institute, 178,400 abortions were performed in California in 2023.

Not everyone is seeing red in the May revision. Hollywood is poised to see a big increase in tax credits for film and television production in the state. If passed, Sacramento would allocate up to \$750 million in tax credits annually to bring productions back to California and revive the floundering industry.

“It’s on life support, we need to step things up, and this is all part and parcel of economic recovery, economic growth,” Newsom told reporters last week.

Hollywood has yet to recover from the combined impacts of Covid-19 lockdowns, a writers strike and devastating fires, not to mention high crime and other quality-of-life problems in Los Angeles.

The industry has also had trouble competing in California, where production costs are higher than other states and



Gavin Newsom



Dawn Addis

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*Nadira Adatia Gularte*

Nadira was a vibrant soul — creative, focused, witty, energetic, determined, and always prepared.

She loved her children passionately and was devoted to her Carmel and Ismaili Muslim communities.

Nadira’s shining trait was her organization skills. She served extremely demanding roles as a project manager at Amazon Lab 126, heading the software and hardware finance department, and later with Meta, combining the knowledge from her biomedical science masters with her project manager skills in their bio-toxicology department.

Nadira had a fondness for live music and an affinity for the Sinatra era. Her tastes extended to Indian cuisine, a cultural link to her mother and beloved grandmother, especially when it came to butter chicken, and her family was careful not to leave a good piece of fudge or chocolate cake unattended.

She was room parent for both her children who attend Carmelo Child Development Center and Carmel River School. As an avid reader, Nadira was passionate and excited about the book clubs she participated in locally. She found energy in her exercise and socializing at Carmel Valley Ranch and enjoyed the freedom and beauty of the cliffside trails of Garrapata State Park with her family.

She is survived by her two children, Anissa and Elaria; her husband, Nicholas; sister, Tahira; mother, Karima; father, Alnasir; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

**Nadira’s celebration of life is set for 10 a.m. to noon on Monday, May 26, at River School’s lower field and garden.**

For those wishing to honor Nadira’s memory, the family suggests contributions to the Big Sur Land Trust or the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) in place of floral tributes.

*Obituary Notices*

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Note that the 4th character after the slash is an L, lower case, not a number!



PUBLIC NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE  
FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Case No. 25CV002078  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, JESUS MANUEL DUARTE JIMENEZ, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
**A Present name:** JESUS MANUEL DUARTE JIMENEZ  
**Proposed name:** JESSE MANUEL JIMENEZ  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

**NOTICE OF HEARING:**  
DATE: June 10, 2025  
TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
DEPT: 15  
The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.  
Date filed: April 21, 2025  
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: *The Carmel Pine Cone*.  
(s) Thomas W. Wills  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Date: April 21, 2025  
Publication Dates: May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025. (PC 501)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE  
FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Case No. 25CV001984  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, GIANNA ROSE MALFITANO, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
**A Present name:** GIANNA ROSE MALFITANO  
**Proposed name:** GIANNA ROSE  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

**NOTICE OF HEARING:**  
DATE: June 17, 2025  
TIME: 11:00 a.m.  
DEPT: 13A  
The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.  
Date filed: April 14, 2025  
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: *The Carmel Pine Cone*.  
(s) Thomas W. Wills  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Date: April 13, 2025  
Publication Dates: May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025. (PC 502)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250605  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **VALLEY PRO DIESEL, 645 Cordoba St., Soledad, CA 93960.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): JULIO AARON ESTRADA.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Dec. 4, 2019.  
**BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.** A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).  
S/Julio Aaron Estrada  
Date signed: March 27, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 27, 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: May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025 (PC 504)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250609  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CYPRESS VACATION RENTALS, 350 Elba Cir., Marina, CA 93933.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: CYPRESS VACATION HOMES LLC.  
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA  
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 28, 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/Sean McDonald, Managing Member  
Date: March 28, 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: May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025. (PC 506)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250608  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **PACIFIC GROVE SPEECH THER-APY, 3785 Via Nana Marie, Suite 108 #1041, Carmel, CA 93923.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): WENDY ANN McDONALD.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 17, 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 the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).  
S/Wendy McDonald  
Date signed: March 28, 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: May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025 (PC 507)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250674  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CAFFÉ BY ROSINE'S, 2160 California Avenue, Suite A, Sand City, CA 93955.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: DOWNTOWN DESSERT COMPANY, INC., 434 Alvarado Street, Monterey, CA 93940.  
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: California  
This business is conducted by a corporation.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 17, 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/James V. Culcasi, President  
Date: March 21, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on April 7, 2025.  
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Publication Dates: May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025. (PC 508)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250763  
Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
1. JHW  
2. JACOBOWSKY HAWKINS WALKER ARCHITECTS  
299 Cannery Row, Suite H, Monterey, CA 93940.  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: JHW ARCHITECTS, INC., 299 Cannery

Row, Suite H, Monterey, CA 93940.  
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 May 1, 2015.  
**BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.** A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor 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/Douglas G. Roberts, President  
Date: April 18, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on April 21, 2025.  
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Publication Dates: May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025. (PC 509)

CASE NUMBER 25CV000394  
SUMMONS (CIVIL HARASSMENT  
RESTRAINING ORDER)

1. Person asking for protection: SILVESTRE MONTEJANO-VILLA.  
2. Notice to: JOSE ALVARADO TAPIA.  
The person in "1" is asking for a Civil Harassment Restraining Order against you.  
3. You have a court date  
Date: June 3, 2025  
Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Dept. 16A  
Room: \_\_\_\_\_  
The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.  
**What if I don't go to my court date?**  
If you do not go to your court date, the judge can grant a restraining order that limits your contact with the person in "1". Having a restraining order against you may impact your life in other ways, including preventing you from having guns and ammunition. If you do not go to your court date, the judge could grant everything that the person in "1" asked the judge to order.  
This statement was filed by Superior Court of California, County of Monterey on April 23, 2025.  
Publication Dates: May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025. (PC 513)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250800  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **COASTAL ROUTE HOME WATCH, 649 Jewell Ave, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.**  
Registered Owner(s): MARILYN JEAN SCHULTZ, 649 Jewell Ave, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 17, 2015  
**BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.** A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).  
S/Marilyn J. Schultz  
Date signed: April 29, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on April 29, 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: May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025 (PC 514)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250731  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **REDWOOD GOODS CO., 679 Redwood Ave, Suite F, Sand City, CA 93955.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: BELLECI MEDIA PRODUCTIONS LLC, 679 Redwood Ave., Suite F, Sand City, CA 93955.  
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 April 8, 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/Salvatore Belleci, Member  
Date: April 16, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on April 16, 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: May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025. (PC 515)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250727  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MASTERPIECE CONSTRUCTION, 13365 Taft Cir., Salinas, CA 93906.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: MASTERPIECE CONSTRUCTION INC-CORPORATED.  
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 1, 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/Mayra Cardenas Dorado, C.F.O.  
Date: April 15, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on April 15, 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: May 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025. (PC 516)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT  
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS  
BUSINESS NAME

File No. 20250789  
Filing type: ABANDONMENT:  
County of Filing: Monterey  
Date of Original Filing: Nov. 24, 2021  
File No.: 20212592  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **ANDY'S AUTO SPORT, 1100 Presidio Rd., Pebble Beach, CA 93953.**  
Name of Corporation of as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: INTEGRATED STRATEGIC RESOURCES INC, 1100 Presidio Rd., Pebble Beach, CA 93953.  
County of Principal Place of Business: Monterey  
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA  
This business is conducted by a corporation.  
S/Eric Ferguson, President  
April 25, 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).*  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on April 25, 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: May 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025. (PC517)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250815  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **PC EXPERTS, 1920 Constitution Blvd. #23, Salinas, CA 93905.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): ROJAN DAYAO FRANCISCO.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Dec. 1, 2002.  
**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 the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).  
S/Rojan Francisco  
Date signed: April 30, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on April 30, 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: May 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025 (PC 518)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250570  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **JNM CREATIONS, 1051 Alameda St., Monterey, CA 93940.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): JANE MARIE MITCHEL, 1051 Alameda St., Monterey, CA 93940.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 24, 2025.  
**BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.** A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).  
S/Jane Mitchel  
Date signed: March 24, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 24, 2025.  
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Publication Dates: May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025 (PC 519)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250753  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **ARTISAN CAPITAL PARTNERS, 11835 W. Olympic Blvd. #1155 E., Los Angeles, CA 90064.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: LOS ANGELES  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: NWF ADVISORY GROUP LLC.  
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA  
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on April 9, 2015.  
**BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.** A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor 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/Heather Scully, Chief Operations Officer  
Date: April 9, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on April 18, 2025.  
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Publication Dates: May 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025. (PC 520)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250788  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **GREY SKYE ENTERPRISES, 266 RESERVATION RD, STE F, MARINA, CA 93933,** County of MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): GREY SKE ENTERPRISES LLC, CA 266 RESERVATION RD, STE F, MARINA, CA 93933  
This business is conducted by A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name

listed above on 09/20/2024  
S/ DIANA ALLISON POUND GREY, MEMBER  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 04/25/2025  
5/9, 5/16, 5/23, 5/30/25  
**CNS-3899658#**  
**CARMEL PINE CONE**  
Publication Dates: May 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025. (PC 521)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250786  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **RENTAL DEPOT, 2200 DEL MONTE AVE, MONTEREY, CA 93940,** County of MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): RENTAL DEPOT, INC., 2200 DEL MONTE AVE MONTEREY, CA 93940; CA  
This business is conducted by A CORPORATION  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 04/01/2002  
S/ NICOLE KIRK SAULNIER, PRESIDENT  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 04/24/2025  
5/9, 5/16, 5/23, 5/30/25  
**CNS-3922658#**  
**CARMEL PINE CONE**  
Publication Dates: May 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025. (PC 522)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250776  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **COASTAL INK TATTOO, 11637 Del Monte Blvd. #B, Seaside, CA 93955.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: COASTAL INK L.L.C., P.O. Box 271, Marina, CA 93933.  
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/Rudy Canchola, Managing Member  
Date: April 21, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on April 23, 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: May 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025. (PC 524)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE  
FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Case No. 25CV002266  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, LIAM CONNOR SHOFF, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
**A Present name:** LIAM CONNOR SHOFF  
**Proposed name:** LIAM CONNOR VAN DEN BERG  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

**NOTICE OF HEARING:**  
DATE: June 24, 2025  
TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
DEPT: 14  
The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.  
Date filed: April 30, 2025  
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: *The Carmel Pine Cone*.  
(s) Thomas W. Wills  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Date: April 30, 2025  
Publication Dates: May 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025. (PC 525)

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# ODIE

From page 17A

a difficult day in court.”

The impressions she made extended beyond the courtroom, according to McGuirk, who recalled one young girl who returned after trial to donate a box of stuffed animals resembling Odie “so that others could ‘take her home.’” The concept took on a life of its own when another victim funded the purchase what became known as “Stuffed Odies” — “tokens of strength and comfort” given to survivors, he said.

Odie was co-handled by McGuirk and the DA’s office’s victims services manager, Alma Sanchez.

“Alma and I often joked that we shared 50/50 custody of Odie — she spent her nights at my house and her days in Alma’s office for a good 10 years,” McGuirk told The Pine Cone. “Over the past year, she started staying more frequently with Alma, enjoying the pampering of being treated as an only ‘child.’”

McGuirk shared that after his daughter turned 1, she said “Odie” before she said “Dad.”

“For years, my daughter was in charge of feeding her, and Odie came to associate the voice of a small child with love and food,” he said. “No matter who was in the room, if a child spoke, Odie would focus all her attention on them. It was one of the many endearing qualities that

made her so special to all of us.”

Odie was quickly embraced and adored by the entire criminal justice community, according to McGuirk.

“We are grateful to our partners in law enforcement and especially to the Superior Courts of Monterey County, whose judges and staff welcomed her presence in courtrooms with open arms, recognizing her as an essential part of trauma-informed justice,” he said.

Her canine colleagues, Armani, Norma Jeane and Namaste (now retired), followed her down her path of service, according to McGuirk.

## Odes to Odie

But they have big pawprints to fill. “She was more than a facility dog — she was a true victim advocate, a silent crime fighter and a trusted partner,” he said.

McGuirk also provided comments from some of the many kids and survivors Odie comforted and supported.

“Dear Odie, I enjoy spending time with you. When you were with me today at trial, I felt really calmed and secured,” wrote one. “I was less nervous than I expected to be. Thank you for being with me today. Hope to see you again.”

“I love Odie so much,” said another. “I like how calm she can be and how energetic she can be at the same time. She’s so amazing. She deserves the most love and hugs.”

“Dear Odie, you are the best service dog I ever knew. Thank you for always being there for me,” wrote a survivor. “It is hard for me to leave you, girl, but I have to. I

will miss you, and I don’t want to leave you, but you have to help other girls and boys. I love you so much!”

Those were among the many tributes and praises people sent to the DA’s office in gratitude for Odie and her help comforting them in times of extreme stress, anxiety and fear in the courtroom, in attorneys’ offices, and beyond.

To learn more about Canine Companions — which, incidentally, was featured in a “Saturday Night Live” skit during the May 10 show — visit canine.org.

# DRUG

From page 8A

any medical use, is not generally recognized as safe for use in food and does not meet the statutory definition of a dietary ingredient. Nevertheless, tianeptine is being marketed as a “research chemical,” a “nootropic” cognitive enhancer, or a “dietary supplement,” the FDA said.

Panetta and Pfluger’s bill would also maintain FDA authority to OK legitimate medical uses of tianeptine and help close regulatory loopholes for sales.

# WILDLIFE

From page 9A

“what kind of precedent this would set” for the rest of the county’s wildlife corridors.

It was unclear if the project would have been approved had there been a vote — Daniels urged the two parties to work out some kind of compromise, and the supervisors unanimously agreed to continue the hearing, which was scheduled for June 17.

The project has a long and convoluted history. A development application was first submitted in 2000. Five years later, the Monterey County Planning Commission recommended that an environmental impact report be required. The EIR was released in 2008 and later revised.

In 2010, a group called the Highway 68 Coalition filed a complaint with the California Public Utilities Commission alleging that water from the Ambler Park water

system was restricted to existing customers and couldn’t be used for the subdivision. But the CPUC sided with Cal Am, the water utility for the area. The planning commission voted against the project in 2014, but it was appealed to the supervisors, who approved it and its EIR in 2015.

In 2018, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Thomas Wills ruled that the county violated CEQA when it approved the subdivision’s EIR. Wills said the analysis of groundwater resources and hydrogeology “was so fundamentally and basically inadequate that meaningful public review and comment were precluded.”

In 2021, the Sixth District Court of Appeals upheld the analysis of groundwater resources but invalidated the EIR due to impacts on wildlife corridors, and in turn, supervisors rescinded their approval.

Since then, the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom, recognizing a dire housing shortage in California, enacted laws to make it easier to get new housing approved, and in March 2024, a supplemental EIR was released to address the wildlife-corridor issues for the Harper Canyon project.

## Petite Pico

At 7 pounds, this 16-year-old tuxedo cat is a little ball of affection. His foster mom said that after only a couple of days he already loves cuddling before bed and isn't afraid to ask for attention. Pico enjoys being picked up and carried and being brushed and combed. And for "Me Time," he enjoys sitting in windowsills, using his scratching post, and playing with toy mice. The boy is a joy! He even travels well in the car! Wouldn't you love hanging out with sweet Pico?

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# Stevenson, CHS baseball squads head to postseason with high hopes

THE CARMEL Padres and Stevenson Pirates are the top-seeded teams in their separate divisions of the Central Coast Section baseball playoffs, which open Saturday at the home venues of the higher-seeded teams.

Carmel, 17-10 overall, is the No. 1 seed in the CCS Division 3 bracket, and will host No. 8 Santa Cruz (15-11).

Stevenson (16-8), seeded No. 1 in Division 6, faces No. 8 Design Tech (13-8) in the opening round. Both games will be played at noon on Saturday.

Carmel tied Hollister for second place in the Pacific Coast Athletic League's Gabilan Division. Both have 12-6 league records.

The Padres have qualified for CCS seven consecutive years, excluding the Covid-truncated 2020 season. The Padres won the D-3 crown in 2023, when two current players — Matt Maxon and Ty Arnold — were on the

playoff roster.

Stevenson won the PCAL Mission Division championship, going 12-2 against division opponents.

Maxon, a junior, led Carmel in batting (.461) and slugging (.853), with 41 hits, two triples, nine home runs, 39 runs, 32 RBI, and 13 stolen bases in 25 games.

Carr, a senior second baseman, was his closest pursuer on offense, batting .409 and slugging .380, with 26 RBI, five doubles, six home runs, and 12 stolen bases. He led all CHS starters with 19 walks and a .526 on-base percentage.

John Beretti, a junior, was another force at the plate, batting .343 and slugging .429, with 24 hits, 30 RBI, and a .430 on-base average.

Other full-time players with lofty numbers included Alex Hirschfield (.325, five doubles, 11 RBI), Bo Lewis (.315, a team-best six doubles, .441 on-base) and Scott Brown (.418 on-base percentage).



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Second baseman Sean Carr was a defensive standout and batted .409 with five doubles and six home runs for Carmel this year.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Junior Matt Maxon led Carmel with a .461 batting average, including nine homers, and figures to be a pitcher at Stanford. He is 8-1 with a 1.00 ERA for the Padres.

## Deep, talented pitching

Maxon was the Padres' top pitcher with an 8-1 record and a 1.00 ERA while holding opponents to a .174 batting average. With a team-leading 56 innings, he allowed 36 hits, struck out 73 and walked 17.

Maxon, a right-hander with a 93 mph fastball, has committed to pitch for Stanford two years from now.

Freshman Kenny Sanchez led the team with 14 appearances, compiling a 3-3 record and a 2.58 ERA, striking out 31 and walking 11 in 35.1 innings.

Lucas Rocha, a sophomore, was second on the team with 38.2 innings pitched and a 3.98 ERA in 12 games, compiling a 3-2 win-loss record with two saves.

Arnold, a bullpen ace, had a 1.75 ERA in eight games.

Carr, who plays second base, and Arnold, the shortstop, are defensive standouts, with seven double plays each, along with first basemen Maxon, who committed one error in 108 chances, Sanchez, who had two errors in 67 chances, Michael Melnick, one error in 48 chances, with five double plays, plus freshman catcher Dean Briant, who had one error in 149 chances.

Stevenson brought eight varsity

veterans into the 2025 season, including a formidable three-man starting rotation on the mound.

Phinn Thomas, a junior, led the Pirates with an 8-1 record, plus two saves and a 1.51 ERA in 41.2 innings, allowing 22 hits to opponents who batted just .151 against him. He struck out 52.

Flint Dickson, a senior, went 4-3 with a 2.64 ERA, holding foes to a .236 average, and sophomore J.J. Hall had a team-leading 0.82 ERA in seven appearances, going 3-0 with one save. Opponents batted .177 against Hall.

Juniors Soren Hillman (11.1 innings) and Jack Dalhamer (9.2) added depth to the staff.

## Three .400 hitters

An explosive offense for the Pirates included five starters who batted .315 or better, led by shortstop Reggie Bell's .449 average, which included 28 hits — seven for extra bases — for a team-leading .768 slugging percentage. His four triples and three homers also led the team. In addition, he walked 15 times and was hit by five pitches to top the Pirates with a .567 on-base average.

Thomas, a versatile infielder, amassed 28 hits, including

See **SPORTS** next page

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# SPORTS

From previous page

three doubles, two triples and two homers, driving in a team-best 38 runs while batting .418.

Hall, who can play outfield or third base, batted .405, leading the Pirates in hits with 30, doubles with seven, and home runs with three, tying Bell.

Stolen base leaders on a swift Stevenson roster included Bell (26), Thomas (16), Hall (13), Borgomini (12), and junior outfielder Brady Mungan (7).

Senior catcher Jack Bucich committed just one error.

Stevenson's .300 club included outfielder Tono Borgomini (.338, 16 RBI) and first-year baseball player Henry Blaxter (.315, 6 doubles.)

Six Pirates had a fielding percentage of .944 or better.

## ■ Postseason updates

**Pair of No. 1 qualifiers:** Carmel's Mack Aldi and Stevenson's Kekoa Williams, both seniors, were No. 1 qualifiers in their events May 17 at the Central Coast Section track and field preliminaries at Gilroy High School and will be top seeds Saturday in the CCS finals at the same venue.

Aldi won the 800-meter run at the qualifier with a time of 1 minute 43.81 seconds, breaking the tape 1.6 seconds ahead of his nearest pursuer, Palo Alto senior Tristan Kippes.

Aldi's clocking also crushed his own school record — 1:52.64 — set April 12 at the Arcadia invitational.

Teammate Bodhi Melton, a junior, also qualified for Saturday's CCS finals with a fifth-place finish in the 800, finishing with a career-best time of 1:57.44.

Williams — whose school-record high jump of 6 feet 8 inches April 19 at the CCS Top 8 Invitational is the best in the CCS this year — cleared 6-0 at the CCS preliminaries to finish in a three-way tie for first. Derek Johnson of St. Francis (Mountain View) and Joshua Haven of

Bellarmine, both juniors, cleared the same height with an equal number of misses.

**Three RLS girls qualify:** Three Stevenson girls — all seniors — also qualified for Saturday's CCS track and field finals.

Vicky Darko placed sixth in the discus with a throw of 123-10, beating her own school record, set April 17, by 5 feet 5 inches.

Pole vaulter Siobhan Ong cleared 10-6 in the pole vault, qualifying in seventh place. The six vaulters who placed ahead of her cleared the same height but ranked higher due to fewer misses. Ong's best vault — 10-9 at last year's CCS finals — is a Stevenson record.

And Anna Kosmont qualified for the finals with the eighth-fastest time in the 100-meter dash, crossing the finish line in 12.47 seconds — 0.1 second slower than her season best.

Field events in Saturday's CCS Championships begin at 3 p.m., with track finals starting at 4:45 p.m.

The state championships are scheduled May 30-31 at Buchanan High School in Clovis.

**Softball:** Carmel High won the final five regular-season games to finish in a second-place tie with Alisal in the PCAL's Mission Division, earning a chance to qualify for the CCS bracket via a pre-tournament play-in game.

With an 18-girl roster populated by eight freshmen, three sophomores, two juniors and five seniors, the Padres saw their season end on May 16 with a 16-3 loss to Watsonville in the play-in game.

Carmel finished with a 13-3 division record, 19-6 overall, led by senior outfielders Nicole Tapson (.533 batting, .643 on-base, and 21 stolen bases — all team-bests) and Chloe LeMaster (.433 batting, .500 on-base, team-best 30 RBI), senior pitcher Ava Mangiopane (14-6 record, .368, 11 extra-base hits, 27 RBI), freshman shortstop Lily Beals (.527 batting, .567 on-base, 28 RBI, 19 stolen bases), and sophomore outfielder Delilah Herro (.354 batting, 28 RBI).

**Boys tennis:** Stevenson's Ben Smith won his first-round match in the CCS singles tournament, defeating

See **MORE SPORTS** page 53A



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

Shortstop Reggie Bell (left) led Stevenson with a .449 batting average, including seven extra-base hits, and was an aggressive base-runner who swiped 26 bases. Senior Phinn Thomas (right) was Stevenson's top pitcher with an 8-1 record and 1.51 ERA, as well as an explosive hitter who batted .418 with 38 RBI.

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# Editorial

## Give the kids a break

IF YOU got a raise every year equal to the increase in the value of real estate in Monterey County, you’d have to consider yourself very well off.

According to data from local school districts, homes and land in the county that were worth \$48 billion in 2010 are worth about \$92 billion today — an increase of 92 percent in 15 years. That’s impressive. And in wealthy communities like Carmel, Pebble Beach, and Carmel Valley, the increases have been even greater.

About 1.1 percent of the county’s \$92 billion property valuation, or about \$1 billion per year, is collected in property taxes, and 61 percent of that pile of money goes to the public schools, so you’d have to believe that our schools are not only very well funded, they get a handsome annual increase, right?

That’s not the impression you’d have gotten from the Carmel school board’s discussion last week about increasing the fee they levy on new residential construction, from 49 cents per square foot, to \$3.78 (see story on page one). Surely, they’d only support such a big increase if the schools were in dire straits.

We say that not just because the members of the school board, like all public officials with the power of the purse, are surely cognizant of their obligation to be careful with their constituents’ money. No dollar should ever be taxed that doesn’t have to be, and no dollar should ever be spent except to provide vital public services. These are cardinal principles of how all levels of government should operate.

In this case, the obligation to be careful with the taxpayers’ money is even more acute, because when you increase a tax on new construction, you not only take money from hardworking taxpayers, you make building new homes more difficult and expensive, which adds to one of Monterey County’s and California’s biggest problems: the lack of affordable housing. The government — state and local — is indisputably the biggest culprit in creating the housing shortage, through a combination of policies, regulations and fiscal mechanisms.

While many development rules aim to address legitimate concerns like protecting the environment and preserving community character, they often increase development costs, restrict supply, and drive up prices, not only through the imposition of strict general plan rules, zoning regulations and building codes, along with high developer fees and lengthy permit processes, but also by requiring that builders provide things like subsidized housing and lavish community amenities.

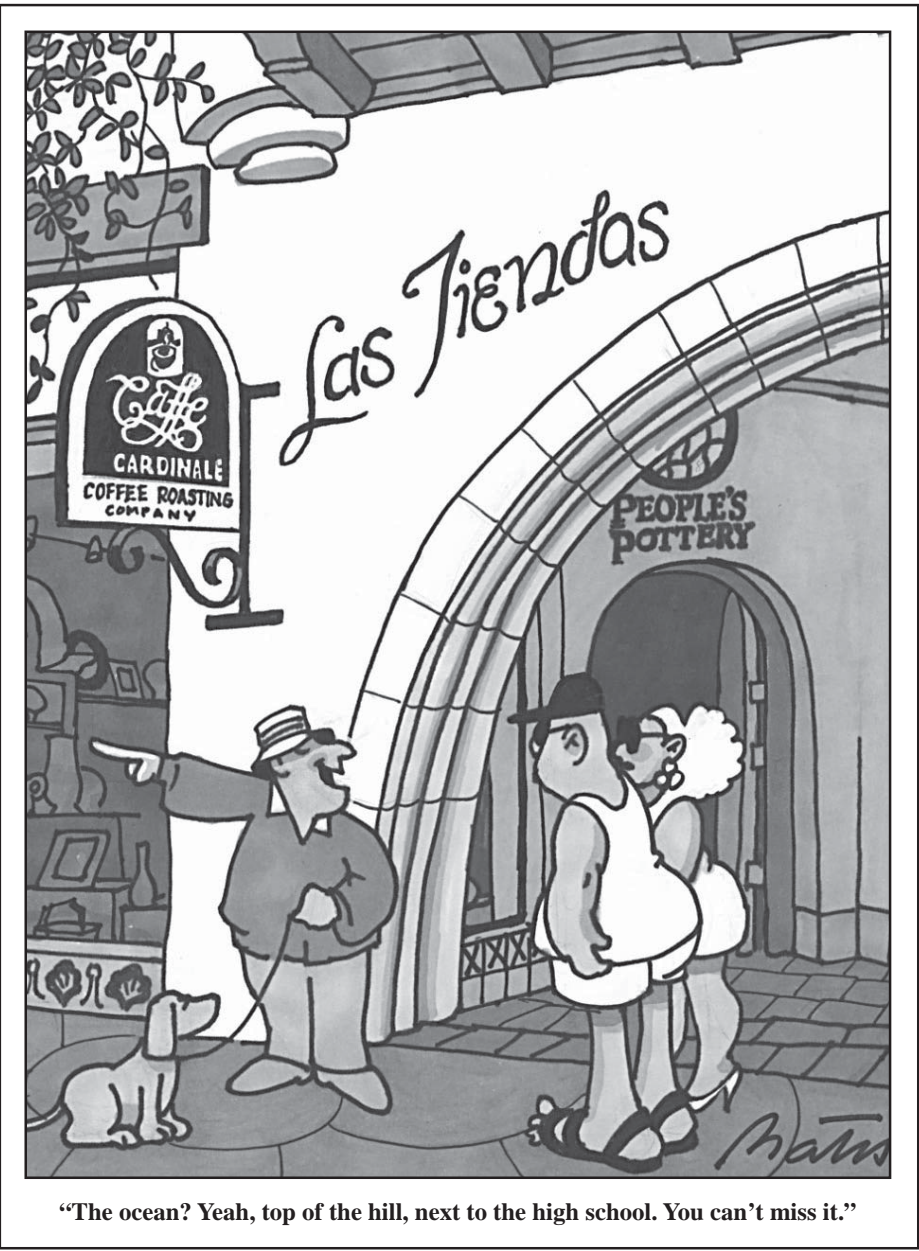
On top of everything else that makes new housing expensive is the fact that new homeowners pay much higher property taxes, in some cases 10 or 20 times higher, than their established — and usually more wealthy — neighbors.

As young families try to build stable lives and plan for their futures, one of the things that can make it difficult — if not impossible — is for them to try to live along the coast of California, which is where the Carmel Unified School District is located. And since only young families have young children, they are the very group the schools are supposed to serve.

So, instead of increasing the developer fee to \$3.78 per square foot of new housing, here’s an idea: Get rid of the fee altogether.

That would really be doing something for the children.

## BEST of BATES



## 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)**

### Addis raising gas prices

**Dear Editor,**

When reading “Jane Fonda lends star power to assemblymembers’ new climate bill” (May 2), I thought I was stuck in a theater of the absurd where the characters babble incoherently to each other. While Chevron, Phillips 66 and Valero are exiting California and closing refineries because of the California Legislature’s assault on energy-producing companies, Assemblymember Dawn Addis’ AB 1243 would retroactively fine oil companies billions of dollars for the crime of producing refined oil products from 1990 to 2024. Playwright Samuel Beckett couldn’t have written a better script than to have Jane Fonda, noted expert in plastic surgery from head to toe, acting with Lily Tomlin, and posing on a North Vietnamese AA gun that shot down our brave military pilots, advising Addis on energy markets and climate science.

Our Joan of Arc assemblymember

bravely proclaims, “Believe me, I know it is not easy to go up against Big Oil.” Really? Demagogues are a dime a dozen, but statesmen are rare. It is economically illiterate and cruel to working people and fixed-income seniors for a state with a “California only” gasoline mandate to drive oil companies out of the state. She blames oil companies for wildfires and flooding as if they simply pumped greenhouse gases into the air for no reason. Californians buy the products of oil companies to drive their cars, heat their homes and run their companies? Taxpayers pay for her flights to Sacramento each week, her state car, her flat, and her big carbon footprint, so she’s immune to the big energy bills she imposes on us.

I have a practical suggestion. Since wildfires emit 30 to 49 percent of greenhouse gas emissions each year in California, often swamping the state’s climate efforts, maybe she should lift her pinky finger and cut regulations to allow property owners in Monterey County to reduce excess wood fuel and thus prevent catastrophic fires. That would lower greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, and ease rising fire insurance premiums. But that would be the work of a working statesman, not an actor posing as a legislator.

**Kevin Hanley, Pacific Grove**

### Not the trees’ fault.

**Dear Editor,**

Trees don’t start fires, and they really are not the major contributors to the spread of fire or the major contributors to the loss

See **LETTERS** page 29A

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■ For complete contact info: .....	Sharron Smith (274-2767)
	Anne Papineau (274-8654)
	Eunice Romero (274-8593)
	Scott MacDonald (261-6110)
	<a href="https://carmelpinecone.com/contact.html">https://carmelpinecone.com/contact.html</a>

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U.S. Mail: P.O. Box G-1, Carmel CA 93921

**Deliveries:** 734 Lighthouse Ave.,  
Pacific Grove CA 93950

**Telephone:** (831) 274-8593

**Email:** [mail@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:mail@carmelpinecone.com)  
or [firstname@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:firstname@carmelpinecone.com)

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# Becoming Arlina — a story of crossing the gender divide

IN ARLINA A.’s memoir, the ordinary stuff of a young American’s mid-century life — music, movies and military service abroad — is offered alongside a torturous search for acceptance and peace. It’s like opening a kitchen drawer and finding a hand grenade among the spoons. A long-

## Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

time 12-step group member, the Monterey resident asked that her last name not be used.

Until age 30, Arlina, now retired from the U.S. Postal Service, lived as a man.

She had gender-affirming surgery — then called sex-change surgery — in 1973 and has written “A Letter to Pawtone” about her life. The two-volume memoir is presented in painstaking detail, with remarkable openness and, occasionally, biting humor.

### Didn’t surprise Mom

Arlina started the memoir in 1986, working from memory, photos, correspondence, scrapbooks and journals. She wanted to finish it and add her story to the conversation about trans people that has emerged in recent years.

She explained that “Pawtone” is a phonetic spelling of Patón (“clumsy-footed”), her mother’s nickname for Arlina’s best friend from high school. The title initially seems an

odd choice — Patón’s reaction to his long-time friend’s decision to have surgery was a 16-page handwritten, vitriol-laced letter (reproduced in full) declaring she was “a stupid ass,” “feeble-minded,” and perverted. He compared her to the antichrist.

They reconciled decades later, shortly before he died, however.

In the same tone of voice you might use to say you mistakenly bought Coke instead of Pepsi, Arlina told The Pine Cone she always knew she was born in the wrong body. In fact, her mother seemed unsurprised when Arlina broke that news.

Some friends and family, strangers, crushes and romantic partners embraced her, while others rejected her with varying degrees of hostility.

See LIVES page 31A



PHOTO/ELAINE HESSER

Arlina A. in front of her Monterey home. She moved to the Peninsula to start over after she had gender-affirming surgery in 1973.

From the mayor’s desk —

## ‘A Community That Leans In’

By DALE BYRNE

OVER THE past few weeks, something remarkable happened — quietly, without ceremony, but deeply meaningful for our city. We sent out invitations for nine open seats across four city boards and commissions: historic resources, forest and beach, library, and community activities. These aren’t ceremonial roles — they’re essential to how we operate. Volunteers in these seats thoughtfully deliberate, provide critical guidance and help us balance preservation, progress and quality of life.

We weren’t sure how much interest we’d receive. These volunteer roles require time, effort and the patience to work through complex, often contentious issues. But we received 17 applications — nearly twice as many as there were seats.

### Community builders

What stood out even more than the

number was the spirit behind the applications. Mayor Pro Tem Bob Delves and I had the privilege of interviewing every one of these public-servants-in-waiting. These weren’t just names on a list — they were people with deep professional expertise, fresh ideas and, most importantly, a passion for Carmel. Some had served before, but most were stepping forward for the first time. Nearly every person said some version of, “Even if I’m not selected, I still want to help.” That kind of spirit isn’t common — but in Carmel, it’s becoming commonplace.

### ■ Why this matters

At a time when civic engagement is declining in many places, and public trust in government is often shaky, this moment reminded us of something essential:

See MAYOR next page

## IN SEARCH OF THEIR ELUSIVE MUSE

THE MUSE is a moody, enigmatic, tempestuous character that wanders in and out of the subconscious of a creative mind, usually without deigning to explain where it’s been, where it’s going, or when it might be back.

models in black-and-white and color. She has a talent for capturing facial expressions and body language in ways that invoke a thoughtful mystery: What might they be thinking?

Prominent on a living room wall is a portrait of her mother, grandmother and great-grandfather captured from three old photographs.

“I thought that was an excellent idea,” said her husband and biggest fan

“We all have these old family photographs, and for Mary Liz to put three of them together in an artistic way tells part of the family story in a meaningful way.”

### Small-town girl

Mary Liz grew up in the small town of Fairfax, 3 miles northwest of San Rafael, attended Saint Rita’s parochial school and then Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep, a San Francisco-based high school that serves four counties.

As a sixth grader, she was chosen to create religious-themed posters for the school, and after graduation, she found part-time work while studying art at College of Marin.

She was married but in the process of getting a divorce when mutual friends brought her together with Jeff.

He recalled, “I’d be hanging out with my roommate and his girlfriend, and they’d say, ‘Oh, Mary Liz, why don’t you join us?’ So, it basically was a series of de facto blind dates.”

There were no lightning bolts, no sparks, no fireworks at first.

“He wasn’t my type. I liked the long-haired hippie types, and he was too straight for me,” she remembered. “And he wasn’t interested in me at all.”

The rest, of course, is history. They were married in 1981 and have two happily married daughters. Sara is a therapist who teaches autistic adults and is the mother of a 9-year-old daughter and an infant son, born in April.

Heather works in the hospitality industry, teaches cello, plays in a trio, and has a 7-year-old son.

### Landscaper

Mary Liz worked part time for 25 years at Marin General Hospital — “mostly paperwork,” she said — while raising their daughters and taking art classes at the community

See ARTIST page 30A

By DENNIS TAYLOR

Its absence can be saddening and maddening. Its return, rejuvenating.

Mary Liz Houseman, an acrylic and pastel painter, grouses that she’s seen hers infrequently in recent weeks, since she and her husband, Jeffrey, moved out of a charming, 1930s-vintage Carmel cottage they loved over the previous 17 years.

“This isn’t my kind of house,” she said of her new domain, which is much larger, but not nearly as cute as the fairytale home they left behind April 15, after their long-time landlady passed away.

“I feel like this is a grown-up house, and I’m just visiting,” she said.

And Jeff, her husband of 44 years, has been missing his regular Wednesday-night ceramics class in the basement of Sunset Center because he is babysitting his adorable 1-month-old grandson in San Francisco.

“Why did it have to be Wednesday nights?” he complained with a laugh.

Meanwhile, their absentee muse taunts them from every wall, table and shelf of their new digs, an 1,800-square-foot townhome in Carmel Valley.

### Penny for their thoughts

Mary Liz paints impressionist-style still lifes, luminous landscapes and — her specialty — figures rendered from live



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

Mary Liz and Jeffrey Houseman, married 44 years, are an artistic couple who recently moved from Carmel to Carmel Valley. She creates impressionistic paintings and sketches live models; he specializes in ceramics.

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# FACELIFT

From page 3A

consistency with the established design context of Ocean Avenue and the surrounding commercial area, and identifying any potential impacts on nearby historic resources,” Olander explained.

He recommended the board find the alterations consistent with the district because they will not have any adverse impacts on the closest historic resources — Devendorf Park, the Doud Building at southwest Ocean and Mission, the Reardon Building at northwest Ocean and Mission, and the Petit Pali hotel, formerly the Carmel Village Inn, at Ocean and Junipero.

“The change in siding, doors, windows and signage will not have an adverse impact on the Doud Building, Devendorf Park or any other of the surrounding historic

resources because the proposed remodel will meet all standards and guidelines of the Downtown Conservation District and Carmel Plaza Design Guidelines,” he said. “The change in exterior materials will not diminish the character of the building” or the nearby historic resources.

### ‘Elegant design’

No one disagreed. No one from the Plaza or the business — an upscale Italian clothing company named for its founder, who started it in 1978 and still holds the controlling interest — commented at the meeting, nor did anyone from the public, and board members had no objections, either.

After offering a few words of praise for the upgrades, the board unanimously voted to support it.

“It looks like an elegant design,” commented HRB member Erik Dyar. “I look forward to seeing it built near my office, and I hope I can afford to buy clothes there someday.”

# MAYOR

From previous page

People *do* want to help. They just need to be invited in and shown that their efforts will matter.

Our commissions are where democracy plays out on a human scale. They’re made up of neighbors working through policies that shape our everyday lives — reviewing plans, balancing competing values, and doing it all out of care for our community. We are looking for action-oriented, team-first contributors — and Carmel is showing up.

This week, I called every applicant. To those that we’ll be recommending for council approval in June, we say, “Thank you. You’re joining a long tradition of residents who’ve quietly helped keep Carmel exceptional. Your role may be advisory, but your impact will be real.”

To those not selected this time, we thank you just as much. Your willingness to serve is exactly what every healthy city needs — and we’ll look for ways to harness your energy. Good things are happening in Carmel with resident workgroups, a major library project, planning and beautification initiatives, and a large number of volunteer organizations providing many ways to contribute. We especially thank those who have served before.

### ■ A community that moves together

The challenges ahead — wildfire preparedness, infrastructure, parking, housing, managing tourism — are complex. This moment made us feel that this complexity becomes much more manageable when we approach it together. When people lean in, not with rigid opinions, but with open minds and steady hands, we build trust, uncover creative solutions and make progress. If you’re reading this and wondering whether there’s a role for you in your city, there is. Reach out to city council members or commissioners. Volunteer. Attend meetings. Join a workgroup. Every contribution, large or small, moves us forward because Carmel will thrive when the whole town speaks up, steps in and steps up.

This process proved that civic engagement is alive and well in Carmel-by-the-Sea. To everyone who continues to show up for this community, thank you. Your commitment is what keeps our village the special place we all cherish.

To hear a podcast generated from this column, visit [cli.re/leanin](#).

*Dale Byrne is Mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea. His email is [dbyrne@cbts.us](#)*



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# LETTERS

From page 26A

of structures during fires. We could cut down all the trees within a 5-mile radius and still not eliminate the threats. And trees are a naturally occurring carbon-capture system.

There is much discussion about “defensible space,” but what if this is not practical or desirable? Vegetation and tree and forest maintenance are valuable and should be completed on a routine basis, but I also believe an important part of the multifaceted puzzle is water. And even more effective is water hybridized with a biodegradable, non-hazardous foaming agent. This mixture can be applied with a sprinkler system preemptively onto the structure, surrounding vegetation and other combustibles such as fencing, decking and trees without any detriment to living organic matter or need to be cleaned off.

When administered correctly with the correct ratios, it can provide preventative value against wildfires, and particularly embers, for up to four days. Depending on the intricacies involved with each home and lot, 10 strategically placed heads should use less than 40 gpm, and 10 minutes should be sufficient time for a thorough soaking with a total of 400 gallons of mixture.

There were many “noncombustible” structures and even vehicles that burned recently in neighborhoods that did not contain many trees. Embers are the spreaders with the assistance of wind, not trees. And radiant heat was able to penetrate noncombustible materials like plaster walls and tile roofs and ignite the wood framing and sheathing underneath.

Vents definitely need to be ember resistant. I believe a crucial and effective strategy is cooling and wetting the environment during the approach of a potential wildfire. Sprinkler systems are not a new idea and do have a proven track record of success. With the addition of biodegradable foam, I

believe we can help protect both our homes and our community charm.

Let’s not vilify trees. I wish to offer hope and a voluntary solution, not fear and strict enforcement from a police state with drones.

**Matthew DeMars, Carmel**

**Move the fairgrounds**  
**Dear Editor,**

The Monterey Fairgrounds should be moved away from residential neighborhoods. Its current location would be better suited for an upscale hotel or housing.

The fairgrounds was built in 1936 when there were few, if any, nearby homes. Today, it is surrounded by homes and businesses. In addition to being an eyesore, the fairgrounds causes traffic congestion and is a source of noise pollution. It doesn’t belong where it is anymore.

With every event held there, traffic congestion becomes a huge problem, creating safety issues for emergency vehicles, pedestrians and motorists.

Inadequate parking for events forces some attendees to park in private business lots, paying exorbitant fees to do so. There have been reports of private property being littered or damaged by event goers who park in front of homes on city streets.

Noise from outdoor amplified musical entertainment, which usually goes on from early afternoon until 10 or 11 p.m., is too loud and disturbs nearby homeowners. More and more events are scheduled every year, many of which involve bands playing amplified music on an outdoor stage. Neither Monterey Police nor fairgrounds managers seem able or willing to do anything about the loud, thumping music. As everyone knows, amps are bigger and louder than ever before. The sound from them carries much farther than the fairgrounds. Those of us who live in the vicinity are tired of the traffic and pedestrian congestion and tired of having our days and evenings disrupted by unnecessarily loud, thumping music.

With the growing need for housing, the fairgrounds acreage could be used for

houses, condos or an upscale hotel. Any of those would be a welcome improvement.

The Monterey Fairgrounds in a new location could have the space it needs for events and parking. It would be more enjoyable for everyone.

**M.S. Maher, Monterey**

**Council salaries**  
**Dear Editor,**

I am writing to express my deep disappointment and concern regarding the recent placement of the Pacific Grove City Council compensation item on the consent agenda despite clear and widespread public opposition.

Is this what we can expect on future issues important to the residents? Ninety seconds of allotted discussion and then final approval without the consent of the people? This is what authoritarian government looks like.

In addition, I continue to be alarmed by the P.G. council’s persistent lack of accountability on critical financial issues. The \$55 million in unfunded pension liabilities, among other ongoing fiscal concerns, seem to be consistently swept under the rug, as they stay in denial-and-delusion world. These are not abstract numbers — they are real challenges that demand

attention and honest reckoning.

As for the justification based on the tired old DEI narrative such as childcare and/or other financial obstacles for future council members: While I understand the importance of removing barriers to civic participation, it’s important to distinguish between support and subsidy. Most jobs do not include such benefits, and effective service requires not just financial support, but time, commitment and competence. Compensation should reflect service, not serve as an incentive or entitlement.

It’s about having enough free time to be competent and effective. Money doesn’t buy you more time. Likewise, the decision to offer medical benefits for less than part-time work raises serious questions. On what basis does this make fiscal or ethical sense for our community?

Finally, just because something is mandated at the state level does not mean it is in the best interest of our city. As we’ve seen with the state’s housing mandates, not all top-down directives are practical — or beneficial — for cities like Pacific Grove. Local governance should not be about automatic compliance, but about advocating for what truly works for Pacific Grove.

**Christie Italiano-Thomas, Pacific Grove**

# CROSSWALKS

From page 11A

white lines or ladder-style bars, avoid colors or patterns that resemble official traffic control devices, and ensure designs do not confuse pedestrians, particularly those with visual impairments.”

At least one resident is not thrilled with the city’s proposal.

“While inclusivity is a noble civic aspiration, the use of taxpayer funds and public space for expressive, viewpoint-specific displays — particularly those tied to sexual identity or political ideology — raises serious legal red flags,” Rosemarie Barnard

wrote to members of the council on May 18.

Barnard cited a 2022 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that when cities allow non-governmental expression in the form of flag flying or symbolic displays, it may not discriminate based on viewpoint.

“If the City of Monterey permits the flying of the LGBTQ+ flag or paints rainbow crosswalks to honor sexual identity, then it opens a legal obligation to permit equivalent displays from other identity groups, including religious, political, or cultural communities — such as Christian or pro-family organizations,” Barnard explained. “A refusal to do so would amount to unlawful viewpoint discrimination.”

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# LIVES

From page 27A

She’s a devout Catholic and remembers that, in 1968, she told a priest she believed she was a woman trapped in a man’s body and asked whether she could take communion while dressed as a woman.

She was told: “The Church is only concerned with your soul. The body, or how you choose to adorn it, is of least importance.” Those words flooded her with relief.

## From Arizona to Compton

Born in 1942, Arlina was second-youngest of five surviving children in her family. Her mother, Lupe, had left Durango, Mexico for Arizona via mule-drawn wagons with her own parents and five siblings in 1920, fleeing political unrest.

Like other new arrivals in the Golden Gate Barrio outside Phoenix, they lived in tents until they earned enough money picking cotton to move to a small home.

When Arlina was 9 months old, the family relocated south of downtown Los Angeles to Compton, at the time a mixed-race working-class suburb.

Her father, an alcoholic given to violent outbursts, was frequently absent. Arlina’s mother raised the children alone for long periods, and, unable to afford a babysitter while the older kids were in school, for a time she sneaked her two youngest into the rag-picking factory where she worked. Arlina remembers hiding under the conveyor belt with her little brother.

She was raped at 7 by a stranger who literally lured her into his car with candy, but she didn’t grasp its impact for decades.

“Until I was 39, my recollection of the events that happened in that incident had always been in pieces,” she wrote. A series of circumstances brought everything back, and she was eventually able to work through it.

“Child molestation is the cruelest and most inhumane abomination of mankind,” she asserted.

Despite her attraction to men and unhappiness with her body, her high school and military life were fairly unremarkable. She got a job at the post office but was drafted in 1964. When she entered the Army, she was terrified that her seeming homosexuality would become public, although she said, she was naïve about sex.

She had romantic relationships with some other soldiers but managed to keep everything private until her honorable discharge in 1966, when she returned to her civil service job.

“I was everything everybody else wanted me to be, except myself,” she said.

## The edge of a cliff

Arlina wrote that by 1968, her misery was overwhelming. “I felt all the pain and had thoughts of taking my life, and I became more and more determined to finish the job. I felt so hopeless and didn’t seem to fit into any lifestyle.”

She planned to jump off a cliff into the ocean, but as her toes dangled over the edge in the late-night darkness, she was interrupted by a routine police patrol. She decided to go on living, but not as Arnold.

Arlina had her surgery, which cost \$4,000, in Yonkers, N.Y., one of the few places in the country it was performed in 1973. She had to see multiple psychiatrists, and she read extensively about the procedure.

She made the trip alone, finding support among a handful of patients undergoing the same procedure. Her descriptions of the process are graphic, harrowing and spiked with dark laughter.

Although her Southern California coworkers readily accepted Arlina when she returned to her post office job, even stopping work to applaud and cheer as they welcomed her, she requested a transfer to Monterey in the late 1970s, hoping to start over as a woman.

A few people in her new workplace were aware that she was, as she puts it, “a change,” and word eventually got out. Nevertheless, she stayed and lives a relatively quiet life, attending Al-Anon meetings and helping others when she can, something that’s been a habit since she was young.

Among other things, she learned American Sign Language while volunteering at a mental hospital in Southern California and later used it to interpret Mass for deaf parishioners.

## Second chances

She also reconciled with the father whose drinking drove a wedge between them. That process began in L.A. a year or so before her surgery, while she was taking hormones and regularly appearing in public as a woman.

One evening, dressed as Arlina, she got drunk for the first and only time in her life and was arrested. Having left her driver’s license behind, she gave the police her legal name, but they were unconvinced until they radioed it in and learned she had an outstanding warrant for a traffic ticket.

They took her to the men’s jail and forced her to strip in front of the other inmates, who jeered and yelled obscenities. A modest person by nature, Arlina

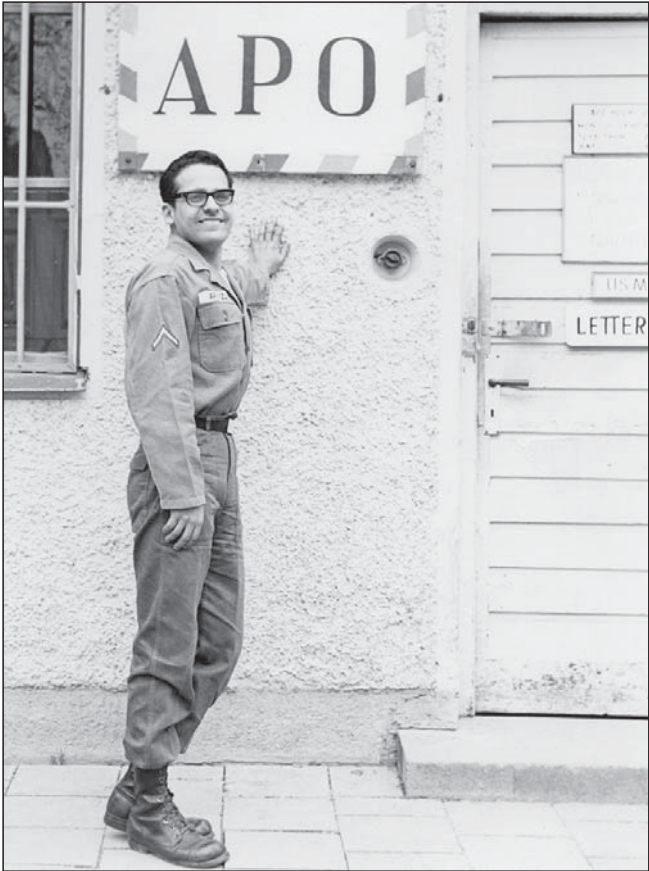
was mortified.

“If you were a cross dresser ... you had to pay the price by being humiliated. It was sport for them, and they enjoyed doing this to a person like me,” she recalled.

The next morning, her father rode several buses across L.A. to bail her out. Still traumatized, she walked beside him as they went to retrieve her car. She wondered what he was thinking, as he’d never seen her in women’s clothes.

“He broke his silence to say only one thing, ‘You look very nice as a woman,’” she wrote. “It was the nicest thing he had ever said to me.” Years later, she brought him to Monterey and cared for him in her home until he died.

As Arlina wrote, “The center of this book deals with forgiveness, and that is something I have found a lot of people can’t seem to accomplish in their lifetime.”



PHOTO/COURTESY ARLINA A.

Before Arlina A. transitioned to live as a woman, she was on active duty in the U.S. Army, where she was stationed in Europe and helped deliver mail to members of the military there.



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# PENINSULA BUSINESSES

## A century of selling ‘everything you need to build a home’

By LISA LAPIN

A WALL-SIZED 1910 map of Monterey and San Benito counties still hangs in the Carmel Valley offices of M.J. Murphy Lumber. It states the population of Monterey County was 58,705.

The map and historic photos that adorn the lumberyard offices are a testament to massive change since 1904, when builder M.J. Murphy launched his Carmel business to supply the growing region. Much remains the same — it’s a family-run, customer-first, service-oriented operation with its original motto, “We sell everything you need to build a home.”

Longevity is the hallmark of M.J. Murphy, evident today in the tenure of its employees, the paper-and-pencil way it does business, and the legacy it has created.

Name a local landmark built in the 20th century and it’s likely it was constructed by M.J. Murphy or built using materials he provided. The Pine Inn, Cypress Inn, Tickle Pink Inn, Highlands Inn, La Playa, Bixby Bridge. Robinson Jeffers’ Tor House and Hawk Tower. The Hacienda at Rancho San Carlos. The first homes in Pebble Beach. Much of Carmel’s Ocean Avenue business district. And, more recently, countless wineries and wine-tasting rooms.

How has M.J. Murphy Lumber stayed in business for more than 120 years?

“It’s simple. You take care of everyone that comes in,” said owner Tom Gladney, 80, the third generation to run the business. “Everyone knows everyone. You order quality materials. People come back. We get compliments all the time for the service we provide.”

Gladney says the business has at least 700 regular customers, including homeowners and contractors from as far away as Big Sur and Salinas. Some of them have been coming for more than 50 years, people Gladney has known since he started working for his uncle, Frank Murphy, in 1971. Gladney took over the operation in 1978



MURPHY *cont. page 40A*

Tom Gladney, 80, is the third generation to own M.J. Murphy Lumber, one of the Peninsula’s oldest businesses.

### CHARLES GRUWELL DESIGN STUDIO

Charles Gruwell is a national award-winning interior designer who has had a 45-year design career filled with prestigious design mentorships, 40 boutique hotels, luxury residential projects and extensive international world travel. Charles returned to his hometown on the Monterey Peninsula in 2020 and has reestablished himself as the Premier Luxury Residential & Hospitality Designer for Carmel, Pebble Beach and surrounding areas. He was mentored by some of the best designers in the world and has worked on projects in San Francisco, Bali Indonesia, Disney Resorts in Orlando Florida, Seattle Washington, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Hawaii, Sun Valley, Puerto Rico, and Hotels and Luxury homes here on the Peninsula and throughout California.



He is a Master in the Art of Design with a passion for Coastal Contemporary, Classical European, Rustic Ranch Style Elegance and Asian inspired projects. Charles has a DIVERSITY of Style and Flair that is second to none and has developed a Curated Home Furnishings Collection called CHARLESTYLE. He is known for his artistic prowess, meticulous attention to detail and exceptional design eye. He is available to collaborate with you on your next Luxury Residential or Hospitality commission.

CHARLES GRUWELL  
DESIGN STUDIO



charlesgruwelldesign.com  
charles@cgdstudio.net  
(702) 524-6222

Photo Credit: Randy Tunnell

Photo Credit: Robert Miller Photography



# Peninsula restaurants run on big brains and bigger hearts

By ELAINE HESSER

**YOU KNOW** you're in a small town when an old-timer's directions refer to something that's no longer there: "Turn left where Mike used to have his garage."

Around here, it's more likely someone going through three restaurant names before getting to the current occupant of a given location. But a few restaurateurs have made lasting impressions on the local scene. What's the secret?

"L-O-V-E," said Ted Balestreri, who, with Bert Cutino, has owned the Sardine Factory in Monterey since they opened it in 1968.

"We don't make you feel like you're at home," he said. "We make you feel better than at home. We don't offer 'home cooking,' we offer better-than-home cooking. Why else would you come here?"

The food is great, of course, but to Balestreri, that's practically a given.

"People are looking for experiences, and we treat them like they're the most important people in the world. It should be fun," he asserted, citing the Sardine Factory's trademark palate cleanser — a scoop of sorbet nestled between the wings of an ice swan lit from within by a tiny LED. Chocolate-dipped ice cream bonbons come to the table with dry ice. The server adds a little water, and dramatic plumes of fog pour forth.

Staying power requires more than passion and mist, however. Successful restaurateurs are usually deeply into numbers. Balestreri, for example, can tell you that 65 to 75 percent of the Peninsula's tourists are from California. Cannery Row gets about 6 million visitors annually and has had roughly 2.1 million so far this year.

Other critical numbers involve purchasing and preparing food to minimize waste.



Ted Balestreri says he and co-owner Bert Cutino's goal at the Sardine Factory is to have each customer treated like they're "the most important person in the world."



Unlike T-shirts and tchotchkes, meat and produce spoil. Fresh seafood — a staple at the restaurant — does so quickly.

Making sure every item on the menu is available while maintaining impeccable standards requires great attention to detail — something Balestreri and Cutino have made their specialty for decades.

### A 50-year love affair

Kevin Phillips' four restaurants are situated along his daily bike ride on the recreation trail between his native Pacific Grove and Rockfish Harbor Restaurant, his most recent endeavor at the very end of Old Fisherman's Wharf (where Rappa's used to

be) in Monterey. And he can easily tell you the number of seats in each eatery and how they can be configured for special events.

But it comes down to love for him, too. The P.G. High School graduate been in the business he adores — in a community he treasures — for 50 years, since he was a teenager at an A&W Root Beer joint.

He credits much of his success with Rockfish Harbor and Abalonetti on the Wharf, The Whaling Station near the Monterey Bay Aquarium and the Beach House at Lovers Point in Pacific Grove, to mentors. The late Pierre Bain, owner of Fandango in P.G., looms large among them. Phillips said that Bain, a "father figure,"

hired him for Club XIX (now The Bench) while working at the Lodge at Pebble Beach. The Frenchman was a consummate professional, the European-trained scion of a family of hoteliers with a centuries-long history. "His approval and acceptance drove me," said Phillips.

He also learned from his previous business partner, Jim Gilbert, and another former boss, John Pisto, the renowned Monterey entrepreneur who opened the Whaling Station in 1971, and a handful of other highly successful operations over the years.

DINING *cont.* page 47A

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# Keeping the personal touch in an era of smartphones and apps

By LILY PATTERSON

**THEY CAN** get you to the Acropolis in Athens or Machu Picchu in Peru five different ways, but Pacific Grove Travel is no relic. It is a little exotic, however, being the last storefront travel agency on the Monterey Peninsula.

At the urging of Kay Webster, his former St. Angela’s School teacher, owner Joe Shammass started out, age 22, at a travel agency in the Holman Building. He established P.G. Travel in 1979 on Fountain Avenue and moved it to 593 Lighthouse Ave. in 2001. All told, he and his agents have worked behind window displays of the fabulous and faraway for more than 20 years.

**Making lives easy**

Travel can be stressful. There’s that bit about needing a vacation from planning one, and like everything that’s funny, the joke contains a sizeable grain of truth. Some prefer traveling with manila folder in hand, including two printed copies of every ticket and identification document they could possibly need. Others — the DIY-ers — become veritable wizards of the web.

The entire world’s gone bookable, with more websites and package deals than there are destinations. Sellers are racing to meet travelers where they are — on their phones — with sleek apps and handy tools.

“There are cruise apps, flight apps, translators, currency converters, apps for finding hiking trails and apps for finding restaurants, and about a dozen more,” Shammass listed. But he wants to make his customers’ lives easy and make sure they don’t miss the real-life experience while staring at a screen. It’s his job to get all the info, from bookings to tickets, then provide

it in the traveler’s preferred format.

He’s grateful that his newest hire grew up with the internet. Nick Gonzalez joined the P.G. Travel team in January. Gonzalez has known Laura Lockett, a longtime P.G. Travel agent, since he was just old enough to sit in his own plane seat. His family were longtime clients, and Gonzalez kept in touch with Lockett and Shammass.

Late last year, the agency regained its pre-Covid momentum, but Shammass, 68, realized he liked the hours he’d adopted — 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays and by appointment on weekends — and one call got Gonzalez behind a desk, learning the ropes and taking up the slack.

“There’s definitely a generational difference in styles of travel. So many of my friends are getting their ideas off of social media,” Gonzalez said.

He spoke about Virgin Voyages, a new entrant into the cruise market that caters to an 18-and-over crowd with fresh destinations, a clubby on-board atmosphere, and included amenities like yoga and cycling classes, Michelin-star menus, entertainment and good WiFi.

He and Shammass have discussed offering workshops and classes to educate longtime customers on the brave new electronic world. P.G. Travel agents get their share of customers who feel overwhelmed and defeated trying to do everything themselves, but Shammass is optimistic about the possibilities of technology for travelers.

**Knowing by heart**

After three decades in the business, little eludes his internal timetable of international flight schedules and mental encyclopedia of bookings past. “I know almost all the flights by heart,” Shammass said.



(Left to right) Laura Lockett, Joe Shammass and Mary Potter bring a personal touch to travel.

“Artificial intelligence is going to be an amazing tool for agents,” he said, especially for questions that require esoteric local knowledge — say, the four best restaurants in Oslo’s Grünerløkka neighborhood, or great deals on bike rentals in Provence.

“Tool” is the operative term here. The internet offers a world of options and no guarantees. This is where travel agents can flex their expertise and use resources still inaccessible to most people, not least of

which is a broad and deep knowledge base.

Gonzalez said, “I equate it to using TurboTax versus hiring an accountant who knows who you are and understands your needs. There’s something to be said for having someone in your corner, especially someone who is professionally certified.”

As if on cue, two women arrived to ask about the best way to see Alaska — or perhaps Italy — with a friend who required

TRAVEL cont. page 45A



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# When you’re in a land of wonders, it helps to have a great guide

By ELAINE HESSER

**IMAGINE TRYING** to buy a home here as a new-comer. Why, you’d be like Dorothy landed in Oz. The technicolor scenery is strewn with unexpected pitfalls — issues of whether the toolshed in the backyard is historic or if you can legally trim the tree limb threatening your Porsche in your driveway. (Possibly yes, and probably no.)

If you’re going to buy property here, it helps to work with a real estate agent who’s been around for a spell, like Alex Brant of Compass Realty. The day he talked to The Pine Cone, the realtor was geeking out a bit — OK, a lot, actually — about a house he’d recently visited. Why? It overlooks John Steinbeck’s “Pastures of Heaven” in Corral de Tierra.

“I love the history of this area,” he said. Brant grew up in Carmel Valley, “playing by the river.” His family moved here in 1985 after years of vacationing in the area.

### Bringing it home

According to his bio with the Carmel Valley Association, where Brant is a proud board member, “In 1998, his family bought a ranch at Mid Valley where he helped his parents to build the family home and other buildings on the property.”

After finishing All Saints Day School, Brant attended Stevenson School, then went to the University of Colorado Boulder, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in English.

A longtime hiker and backpacker, Brant said he thoroughly enjoyed the outdoors in Colorado. It fed his wanderlust, as did a college course called Beatniks, Hippies & Yuppies, in which he read Tom Wolfe’s “The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test,” “Trout Fishing in America” by Richard Brautigan — with its portrayals of the Pacific Northwest, San Francisco and Idaho — and the Jack Kerouac classic, “On the Road.”

His mother is from Australia, and Brant holds dual citizenship there, so after college, he spent a year “traveling all over the country.” Although he wanted to go into the Peace Corps, he said that when he graduated in 2009, the economic downturn had caused a swell in applications to the program. “It was very competitive — every Ivy League student was applying,” he recalled.

Instead, he joined an American-led program in a beach

town called Playa Samara in Costa Rica, where he became certified in and taught English as a foreign language.

After returning to the United States, Brant went to work selling solar systems in the San Francisco Bay area for five years, from 2011 to 2016. Although he said the city was great — especially for a younger person — the job, which kept him inside all day, wasn’t exactly what he’d been looking for.

Brant got his real estate license in 2012, and, four years later, he decided to move home. He now works with Compass real estate.

His “office” is mostly outdoors and beautiful, and it’s where he puts his knowledge of the Monterey Peninsula to work.

He said his first transaction was with “the nicest lady ever,” a woman from Morgan Hill who bought a house in Carmel Valley Village near the airport for \$810,000.

“The learning curve was steep,” he said of his early days in the business. “I was pretty stubborn. I wanted to do it all myself.”

### Norman, Wright, Stevenson

Working in real estate makes him happy. The need to keep learning is attractive, as are the challenges of problem-solving and matching the right client to the right property. And, “I’m a people person. I love working with people.”

Some of the knowledge he’s accumulated about the area helps, too. “I try to infuse a little history into my listings.”

For instance, he converses comfortably about the life and work of Big Sur artist Emile Norman and drops tidbits about Robert Louis Stevenson being found half-dead by a creek in Carmel Valley.

An unabashed devotee of mid-century modern architecture, Brant said that, believe it not, there’s a 76-acre 1961 Frank Lloyd Wright-designed ranch in Los Banos, which is certainly better known for almonds, duck hunting, and on-ramps for I-5. The property, restored with help from the architect’s grandson, Eric Lloyd Wright, was on the market for \$4 million in 2022.

At 40, Brant still enjoys backpacking, and as much as he loves the past, his present-day adventures include being



Alex Brant of Compass Realty has deep roots here.

a newlywed and dad.

After a long-distance relationship with a woman who was living in Livermore, the two had a quintessential

REALTOR *cont. page 45A*



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MURPHY from page 33A

when Frank died and has no plans to stop working.

“I’ll retire when a spade hits me in the face,” Gladney said. He has a succession plan in Robert Wells, the business manager who started there at 18 and has stayed for 37 years.

“It was going to be a temporary summer job. But I liked it so much, I stayed. We have a great team and it’s nice and rewarding to know we are helping the community,” said Wells.

It’s hard to find a newcomer among the 15-member staff. “It’s like a family. You are not coming to work, you are coming to your extended family. Everyone gets along, it’s crazy,” he added.

Lumber buyer Mark Spindler, 73, also began working in the lumberyard 48 years ago, after coming in as a customer and being offered a job.

“It’s a great place to work, Tom is a great guy to work for, and we are creating history. The history is a big one,” said Spindler, who, like almost all of the M.J. Murphy employees, lives within walking distance of the lumberyard. “You find a job you love, and you never have to work another day in your life,” he said.

Spindler said there are few jobs where he would have been given time to serve the community. He has been coaching JV football at Carmel High School for 40 years. And for 27 years, he has been a volunteer firefighter. “These are two important things that would not have happened had Tom not been so generous,” Spindler said.

Seth Vesper, specializing in contractor sales, has been there for 25 years. “I’m the new guy,” he said.

The employees work in a back office between the hardware store and lumberyard, taking calls on landline phones, hand-writing custom orders and dishing out expert advice. M.J. Murphy, indeed, has everything needed to build a home, from toilets to crown molding, wiring and pipes.

The best-selling item is bags of ready-mix concrete. Gladney said they sell at least four truckloads of it a month, which speaks volumes about the M.J. Murphy clientele.

“We serve a lot of rural areas where you can’t get a cement mixer in,” Gladney said. The company has a four-wheel drive truck to navigate narrow, winding roads. Deliveries to Big Sur every Tuesday and Thursday make it that area’s primary supplier of building materials, and it’s been that way for decades. M.J. Murphy supplied cement for the Bixby Bridge and much of Highway 1 in the 1920s and early 1930s.

**Renaissance builder**

The enterprise began when Michael J. Murphy built a house for himself at Ninth and Monte Verde. He stored lumber in a vacant lot next door, and “Carmel was really growing in 1904, and people kept asking him to sell material to them,” Gladney said. His business was born, and he operated at that corner for several decades.

Murphy bought land in Carmel Valley to store and dry lumber. He continued to sell homebuilding materials while also serving as a designer, planner and general contractor. In 1945, he moved everything to Carmel Valley.

Murphy’s son, Frank Murphy, took over the business when Michael died in 1959. Frank offered the opportunity to learn the business to his five nephews. Tom Gladney took him up on it.

“Uncle Frank stuck me behind the counter because I was good with customers,” Gladney said. “And now, here I am. I don’t plan on slowing down.”

The offices proudly display relics from the early days. There is the massive black safe straight out of an old Western film. There are black-and-white photos of a line of Murphys — especially their wives — who Gladney said have always been instrumental in keeping the business running, doing the books and managing the money. The perfectly polished office counter was cut from a single massive redwood log.

LUMBER cont. page 48A



Ty McFarland mans the counter at the M.J. Murphy store.





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PENINSULA BUSINESSES

Trust a local interiors specialist to show up for you

By LILY PATTERSON

**THEY SUPPORT** you, but do you really see them? Frank Flores does. He’s been studying fibers and grains since 1989, the year he started Carpet Caravan with a van filled with inventory purchased from a retiring salesman.

After 35 years in the flooring industry, Flores was surprised and delighted when his oldest daughter expressed interest in the family business. Then, Francesca’s three siblings — Jerry, Vince and Antonia — followed suit. “A total surprise,” he said, shaking his head.

“It’s genuinely exciting for me to be a part of the community. We’re so attuned

to new projects and changes taking place here,” countered Francesca, who oversees operations and accounting. The nerve center is a luminous 600 square-foot showroom in downtown Monterey, where the family discussed the latest trends in a very old industry.

What’s new in interior design— specifically flooring, finishes and treatments — is a layered question.

A slew of innovative materials and products enter the market seemingly monthly, reflecting trends in color and texture, and

INSIDE cont. page 44A



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DRE#01250803



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INSIDE from page 42A

the demands of increasingly eco- and energy-conscious consumers. Recyclable materials are making headway in a notoriously "dirty" industry. (Most carpeting is manufactured with poly and nylon yarns, both petroleum byproducts.) Luxury vinyl planks, meanwhile, look more wood-like than ever. As for colors, Frank's oldest son and Carpet Caravan's sales manager, Jerry, said blue, yellow and green are this year's frontrunners.

Needless to say, a family touch can offer homeowners a sense of comfort and quality assurance. That, and a free, in-person consultation.

Make it worthwhile

In Marina, Kathy Betts runs Budget Blinds of Monterey County with help from her sister, Joanna. Kathy spends mornings in her home office and 520 square-foot garage/mini-warehouse before hitting the road in the afternoon, driving up and down the Peninsula to offer free consultations and samples to prospective clients.

A former sales rep for Enlightened Style, which specializes in energy-efficient window treatments, Betts spent 14 years leading demos and staff training at big box and department stores.

"When I go to someone's home for a consultation, sometimes it feels like I'm training them. I don't like surprises, so I make them aware of features, benefits, if this or that won't work, and why," she said.

Occasionally, while drawing up a third or fourth proposal, she starts to question her free-consultation policy. But successful jobs make it worthwhile, Betts said, recalling one banner month last year — 11 new clients from referrals.

She gets excited about innovations, too.

"I love the honeycomb blinds. It sounds silly, but they make me happy when I look at them. I think my clients pick up on that," she effused. They look like basic blinds, but the accordion folds are actually hollowed cells that trap air coming and going.

"You can actually get a tax rebate for using them," Betts advised. "The insulation is so good, it cuts back on energy use."

The latest trends aren't limited to blinds

—clients also want the latest flooring and finishes, and they're finding inspiration in new places.

"My van is still my best advertisement," said Betts, but it's always a nice surprise when clients reference photos they find online of her past work.

Carpet Caravan's marketing is the product of a decades-long relationship between Frank and the late Burton "Bud" Stubbs, who spent 40 years in newspaper advertising. "He was a firm believer in paper," said Frank, who says that print and TV ads provide his biggest return on investment.

His youngest daughter, Antonia, agrees. She's been learning about advertising and was surprised that social media doesn't so much attract new clients as keep the business connected to longtime customers.

Managing "image versus reality" in the showroom can be a challenge, said Francesca. Clients and designers bring meticulously staged images they find online, but the plush possibilities of carpeting don't necessarily translate from the showroom, let alone a screen, to your space.

A professional can help you marry your aesthetic and everyday needs, whether you're a doting grandparent, a dog lover, or just a little clumsy after a glass of wine.

The founder of Collective Design studio, Kate McCloskey, is a Carmel-based interior consultant who has sourced flooring from Carpet Caravan for private and commercial clients. She prefers to work with local vendors, but uses online or out-of-town resources as a "last resort when local resources are limited" for, say, large furnishings or one-of-a-kind items.

"Nothing compares to face-to-face discussions in the space you're installing, to work through little kinks like transitions and seams," she explained. "Especially for carpet and custom finishes."

Betts advises customers to practice a little patience. "I'll often leave people with samples for a week, just so they can observe how the light changes throughout the day," she said.

Bedrooms, she added, are a unique challenge. Some people want sheer blinds that filter morning light. Others require blackout curtains to fall asleep.

And, Betts added, the right window treatment can prolong the life of floors and furniture. "During consultations, I pick up carpets and inspect the backs of couches and chairs, and you would not believe the fading I

BLINDS cont. page 47A



Kathy Betts



Flores and longtime mentor, Peter Lecce, in an early ad.

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PENINSULA BUSINESS

TRAVELfrom page 36A

wheelchair accommodations. Shammass readily advised them on the ADA-friendliest cruise lines.

“People are realizing dreams of seeing these places, and there’s responsibility in that. Especially with a lot of uncertainty in travel right now,” said Gonzalez. When they arrive each day, after checking phones and email, Shammass and his agents constantly monitor changes in visa requirements, travel advisories and new travel needs, like the Real I.D. program.

A job with perks

Would-be tourists should know, however, that solid travel plans can come with a premium.

“After destination, my first question is always ‘What’s your budget?’” said Mary Potter. She’s been with P.G. Travel since 2007, before that an agent with AAA. With more than 30 years of experience, she’s also a graduate of the College of Disney Knowledge.

Potter shared that she and her fellow agents work as much as possible for commissions paid by the services they book. Airlines cut commissions in the ’90s, a side effect of industry-wide deregulation. However, Potter retains a small-but-loyal base of commercial and private clients who want their air travel handled for them. In cases like that, a modest consultation fee ensures everyone is compensated for their time and expertise.



Nick Gonzalez

Cruises and tour companies still offer commissions, though the landscape is always changing. P.G. Travel books a lot of cruises — Potter says Alaska, Europe, Mexico and Hawaii are most popular with her clients.

Of course, every job has its perks, like “familiarization” trips. Crystal Luxury Cruises just invited Shammass and his team on a six-day industry-insider voyage to launch its newest ocean liner.

An agent also typically accompanies the group tours they book. Potter will soon leave for Alaska, where she’ll play host, social chair, and director of luggage logistics for a small group of cruisers.

Shammass says he remembers every trip he’s been on, including a 25-year run of yearly getaways with local radio personality Ed Dickinson and his gregarious wife,

Ann, hosting a group of lucky listeners who won an on-air promotion. He’ll never forget some of the people he met on those trips, including a survivor of the Bataan Death March, “the kindest person you can imagine,” Shammass recalled.

The sandy shores of Oahu and Mediterranean coastlines

provided the backdrop for memorable connections and unexpected friendships — some of the reasons he’s never doubted his vocation as a travel agent, and the effort of keeping a brick-and-mortar agency in business.

“I’ve never had a doubt, not once. I never wanted to do anything else,” Shammass smiled.

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REALTORfrom page 38A

Carmel Valley wedding in 2024 on the Brant family farm, with music by the Money Band and a taco truck for catering.

His wife, Ala, teaches Russian at DLI and they have a 3-year-old daughter. Ala also has a daughter, Alisa, from a previous marriage in Belarus. Brant said, “Since her daughter has been in my life, I’ve treated her as my own daughter and we’re very close.” She’s a sophomore at Carmel High School.

He said that his “reason for everything is family.” “I live next to my parents. I want to be there to help them — family is my overarching drive,” he added.



Alex Brant sold this spectacular 27-acre estate with a six-bedroom home near Rocky Point.



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Ryan and Bernadette Hansen bring over 15 years of professional experience in the laundry industry. Their journey began in 2009 with the purchase of their first laundromat in Fresno, and quickly grew into a portfolio of several laundromats and dry cleaners. Over the years, they’ve developed and operated laundry facilities across California, specializing in efficient, high-volume service and dependable operations.

In 2014, the Hansens relocated to Carmel to become part of the Monterey Peninsula community, where they later launched Del Monte Laundry. Built on their industry expertise and commitment to service, Del Monte Laundry was created to provide a premium, reliable solution for businesses and households that demand consistent quality. Today, Del Monte Laundry serves both commercial and residential clients—including hotels, restaurants, vacation rentals, and other high-volume operations. With the recent completion of a dedicated commercial laundry facility, the company is built to support demanding accounts with speed, consistency, and attention to detail. Ryan and Bernadette are fully involved in day-to-day operations and customer relationships, ensuring every client receives the responsive, high-quality service that sets Del Monte Laundry apart. Outside of the business, Ryan and Bernadette are active members of the community. Their two children graduated from Carmel High School, and they give their time to local causes including the Pebble Beach Junior Golf Association and All Dressed Up, a nonprofit that provides prom dresses to high school girls in need. For the Hansens, Del Monte Laundry is more than a business—it’s a way to serve the community they’re proud to call home.

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PENINSULA

BUSINESSES

# When the classroom isn’t enough, here are some places to get help

By SALLY BAHO

**THE IMPORTANCE** of education is immeasurable. Everyone knows that. But in a rapidly changing world — with AI and coding and who knows what else on the horizon — it’s important to give our children and grandchildren the skills to excel. Whether the little ones in your life love school or struggle in traditional learning settings, there are local programs to support their budding minds. The Pine Cone spoke to STEAM & Robotics @ 831 and Mathnasium, two local spots committed to helping children love to learn and excel academically. (STEAM is science, technology, engineering, arts and math.)

“STEAM & Robotics @ 831 provides after-school STEAM programs, Saturday academies, and summer camps focused on science, technology, engineering, art, math, coding and robotics for students in transitional kindergarten through 12th grade,” explained Sandra Varajic, Ed.D., the business’ co-owner.

Alternatively, “Mathnasium is a math-only learning center focused entirely on helping kids develop a deep understanding and love for math,” said Marzena Wisniewska, center director of the franchise’s Monterey branch. It provides supplemental math education tailored to each student’s unique learning needs, with offerings for children age 4 through high school. The youngest learners are enrolled in the Great Foundations program, designed to introduce early numeracy to kids in a fun and age-appropriate way. The classroom in Del Monte Center also started offering SAT/ACT test prep courses this year.

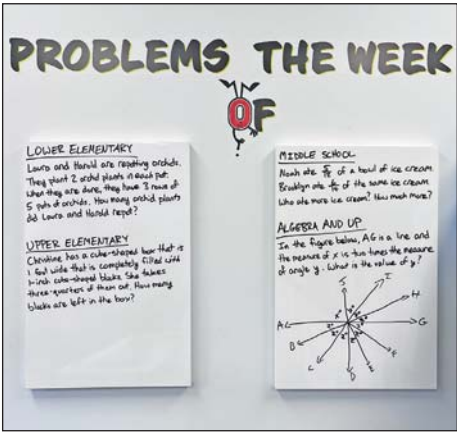
### Developing resilience

At STEAM & Robotics @ 831, the team believes in providing help as early as possible in a child’s learning journey and meeting the challenge of keeping pace with technology changes and industry-level standards to support students in their career aspirations.

Varajic said STEAM & Robotics @ 831 is unique in its flexibility to take into account each student’s interests and the school’s, district’s or community’s needs. The staff creates specialized programs to support student learning with “hands-on, high engagement and excitement for learning.”

Math is everywhere, from personal budgeting to

Mathnasium in Del Monte Center helps local students of various ages to grasp math concepts and encourages them to think of it as fun.



estimating the down payment on a dream home. Wisniewska explained that without confidence and competence in math, students can quickly become discouraged, fall behind, or even opt out of pursuing STEM opportunities altogether.

“In a world where technology, data and innovation are shaping every industry, helping kids develop strong math thinking, problem-solving skills, and resilience is no longer optional — it’s essential,” Wisniewska said. They endorse a long-term partnership, helping students gain confidence in math, providing them with the tools they need to think critically, solve problems, and stay resilient when things get challenging.

“What sets Mathnasium apart is that we don’t just help with homework — we rebuild math foundations so students can thrive. Nearly every child we assess has some learning gaps — often ranging from six months to several years behind. These gaps aren’t always obvious in school because teachers are under pressure to move quickly through the curriculum,” Wisniewska said. That’s where Mathnasium comes in, taking the time schools often can’t. Every student receives a personalized learning plan based on a thorough assessment with a goal of mastery, not memorization. Once students begin to understand math deeply, their confidence soars, Wisniewska explained.



“They stop saying ‘I’m bad at math’ and start believing ‘I can do this.’” That kind of transformation is powerful — and it extends far beyond the classroom, she said. It leads to better grades, stronger thinking skills, and a real path to future STEM success.

### Real-life math

With summer just around the corner, it’s a great time to consider an educational activity for your little learner. STEAM & Robotics @ 831 offers summer camps for K through 12th grades, collaborating with a few local school districts as well as All Saints Day School and the City of Pacific Grove. It’s currently working to create more partnerships — and provide more programming — in Carmel and throughout the Central Coast. Wisniewska explained that summer is critical for math development.

“Many students experience the ‘summer slide’ — a loss of math skills due to lack of regular practice. Mathnasium offers summer packages, both short and long term, to keep students engaged and progressing,” she said. This year, they are introducing financial literacy camps in early June and late July — a fun and practical way for students to apply math to real-life scenarios.

To learn more about Steam & Robotics @ 831 visit its Instagram page @steamandroboticsat831 or email hello@steamandroboticsat831.com. For more information about Mathnasium at Monterey, visit mathnasium.com/math-centers/monterey, call (831) 324-4785, or visit them in Del Monte Shopping Center next to Pizza My Heart.

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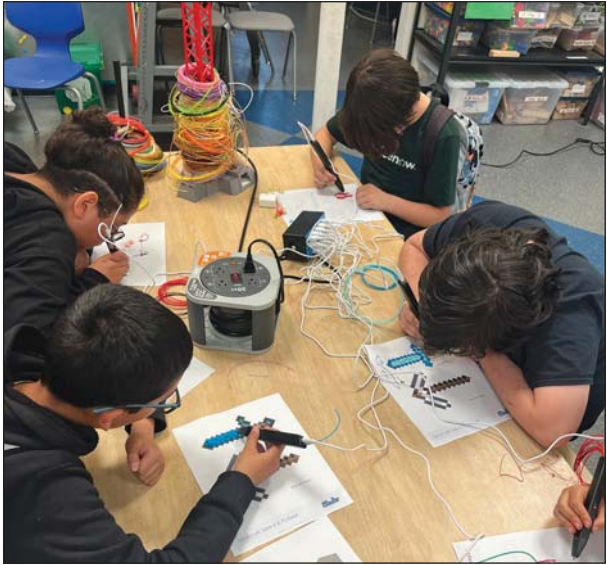
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STEAM & Robotics@831 believes in starting kids early, keeping up with tech, and supporting students’ career choices.



BLINDS from page 44A

see,” thanks to UV rays. If drapes or shades aren’t enough, she refers clients to a window-tinting service she trusts.

Carpet Caravan jobs start similarly, with a physical inspection of the space. Measurements are taken, light sources and transitions between flooring are noted. Jerry, often on-site for consultations, rattled off a list of questions for clients. Pets? Kids? Parties? Shoes on or off? And more.

Once the consultation is complete, the showroom at 414 Adams St. in downtown Monterey offers a vast assortment of carpets, hardwoods, vinyls and laminates in sample sizes, to bring to the space in question and get a feel for your options.

Gathering samples on a client’s behalf, McCloskey said, “I always consider whether there will be pets, kids, or heavy traffic in the space. I tend to gravitate toward carpet with a subtle pattern to hide imperfections. Even with the most bullet-proof carpet, life happens and the pattern helps distract your eye from any stains or blemishes. I also often opt for natural fibers, like 100 percent wool, which is durable and easily cleaned while providing a soft feel underfoot.”

Frank estimated that Carpet Caravan does 30 to 50 installs weekly, and success is a process of pairing a client with the right product and the right team to install it.

They offer repairs and refinishing, too, but care tips come free: “Vacuum every day. It’s the number one thing you can do for your floors, and the first question any

product warranty inspector would ask you,” urged Frank.

Betts has every client’s order shipped to her for a pre-install inspection and has relied on the same installation team for years. She prefers phone calls over texts, and follows up every job with a handwritten thank-you note and a check-in call.

“I guess we’re all in a rush, ” she granted. “But I just can’t understand why you wouldn’t follow up with a client, even after a small job.”

Betts purchased the Monterey franchise of Budget Blinds from a former colleague in 2018. Then the pandemic hit, but for her, people stuck at home created opportunities.

“My phone was ringing off the hook. I was working 12-14 hour days. I’d finish a day at 7:30 p.m., take what I called a nap, and get up around 1 a.m. to prepare quotes for the next day,” she said. Social distancing didn’t dampen her commitment to old-fashioned customer service.

At Carpet Caravan, follow-up is a family affair. Frank’s youngest son, Vince, trained as a construction engineer before he joined the business as a project manager.

In his first year, he’s overseen the sanding and refinishing of hardwood floors his dad installed more than 20 years ago.

The real challenge, the Floreses agreed, is keeping family life sacred. But Frank doesn’t harbor any doubts about the future.

“It’s amazing watching them grow, seeing how much faster and sharper they are. And I haven’t heard a negative comment yet — if anything, clients like working with them better than me.”

DINING from page 34A

Phillips said Pisto “developed a really positive culture, and people wanted to be part of that,” referring a particularly onerous parts of restaurant management — finding and keeping quality employees.

**Good people, good business**

Hiring people for food service is always a challenge. Balestreri noted that he used to

be able to look around the Sardine Factory and see folks who had worked there for decades, but that’s becoming less common.

Although labor costs have been steadily rising with the minimum wage, Phillips said he’s been able to make it work, and he doesn’t understand why employers complain about the quality of younger workers.

“I get inspired by them,” he said. Based

RESTAURANTS cont. page 49A



Bert Cutino and Ted Balestreri are shown in the early days of the Sardine Factory, which they famously opened “on the wrong side of the tracks,” in what Balestreri refers to as an “affordable” location.



‘Woven wood’ roller blinds are a popular choice for Peninsula homes and businesses, Betts said.

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Kate has been recognized throughout her career for helping others discover compassionate and effective solutions to life’s challenges, guiding both students and adults toward personal growth and success.

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PENINSULA BUSINESS

LUMBER from page 40A

The legacy of M.J. Murphy is a point of tremendous pride for the entire team. They have published a book and kept track of the many homes and businesses constructed by Murphy, as well as the suppliers they worked with over decades. Murphy homes have encompassed myriad styles: Spanish Revival, Mission, Tudor, and Art Deco.

Change has been constant. When Gladney started working for his uncle, “You wouldn’t pass a car on Carmel Valley Road, and you sometimes wouldn’t see a car in the village.”

Business has shifted somewhat, from primarily new construction to “more remodels today than anything,” Gladney said. And there’s been a demographic shift, too, from families, to primarily older residents, and now, back again to young families.

“For awhile, Carmel and Carmel Valley

were too expensive, too exclusive and too out of the way for families,” Gladney observed. “Now, we’ve got hundreds of kids again, all the schools are full and the parks and ballfields are busy. We’ve got second- and third-generation customers now.”

Gladney has watched Carmel Valley Village move from from horse owners to tourists and wine-tasting rooms. Bernardus, where people sip under the oak trees, is across the street. But Gladney says his whitewashed lumberyard and hardware store complex is staying put, just as it is.

And what about the impact of the internet and big box stores? “I really can’t tell there has been any change,” Gladney said. “We are a community business with personal service. You can’t get that kind of help online. And you can’t order lumber online. Our sales continue to just go up. We aren’t going anywhere.”



Buyer Mark Spindler and Robert Wells, business manager, work with computers — but there’s still a Rolodex. Both men were there well before the computers arrived.

PENINSULA BUSINESS PROFILES

NICK GONZALEZ  
PACIFIC GROVE TRAVEL



New to the team at Pacific Grove Travel, including Mary Potter and Laura Lockett is Nick Gonzalez. We are pleased to welcome Nick to the team.

“My name is Nicholas (Nick) Gonzalez, and I started working at Pacific Grove Travel in January 2025. My family and I are longtime clients, so I know the Agency intimately both as a happy client and now as its newest employee! I grew up on the Monterey Peninsula, graduating from Monterey High School before continuing onto Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, where I earned my degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Entrepreneurship in 2017. I spent the next few years working in business operations and project management for a local software company, before making the switch to freelance consulting and logistics services in 2023. I have had a passion for learning about cultures and exploring new places since childhood, so the opportunity to work under Joe Shammas and learn the ropes of the travel industry as a professional travel advisor was a natural fit for me. I look forward to helping Pacific Grove Travel expand its business as the Monterey Peninsula’s leader in premium and luxury leisure travel services.”

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JOE SHAMMAS  
PACIFIC GROVE TRAVEL



Joe Shammas, CTC was born and raised in Pacific Grove and has owned Pacific Grove Travel for 44 years. He and his colleagues, Laura Lockett, CTC and Mary Potter, CTC have built a reputation of great service and stellar business practices. In addition to individual travel planning, they also specialize in luxury cruises and tours and group travel.

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WENDI KIRBY  
MUSIC



Wendi Kirby is a pianist, composer, and educator. She has received national recognition for her contributions in music education. Wendi has released two albums of her own original music on Pastiche Records (Bloom and Wings) and performs on stages throughout the US and Europe. Wendi shares her passion for music and creativity with the community at her space at 550 Hartnell Street, Suite F in the heart of Old Monterey. This beautiful space hosts all things creative - concerts, events, celebrations, creative team building, music lessons and workshops for all ages. Space rental is available, please contact for more details.

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After more than a decade building my career at established companies, I launched Vivi Fenwick Consulting LLC to provide guidance, coaching and expertise across the full range of Human Resources disciplines. Whether a company needs an HR health-check, guidance/support/advice on employee relations issues, program & policy design and development, training or recruiting, my goal is to help you stay true to your organization’s culture, mission and values while navigating the local, state and federal requirements. I have more than 25 years of experience serving diverse small-to-medium sized business spanning non-profit and for-profit, from start-ups to established. Bottom line, I help you take care of your human assets so you can focus on your core business.

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La Mia Cucina is a little jewel in Pacific Grove serving authentic Italian dishes hand made from family recipes. From the original turn-of-the-century colorful European advertising posters to the hand-crafted entrees and desserts, everything about La Mia Cucina says fresh and original. Specializing in house made ravioli, sausage, sauces and dressings, we also follow in our fishing family heritage of offering fresh seafood and traditional family specials such as Sunday spaghetti meatballs, Friday lasagna and arancini. All dinners include bruschetta, fresh focaccia bread and a seasonal soup or salad. Enjoy a great bottle of wine from our extensive and well-priced list. We look forward to serving you soon at our home away from home.

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La Mia Cucina



PENINSULA BUSINESSES

RESTAURANTS from page 47A

on his experiences, he said, “You bring people in and support them. You don’t micromanage them.” He seems to believe strongly that the culture of good service is “caught” at least as much as it’s taught. He obviously cares — he can tell you where former employees went to college and what they’re doing now — even chuckling at his own seeming inability to tell apart identical twins who work at Abalonetti.

Balestreri emphasized training and knowledge along with friendly service. Servers have to understand the menu, and the Sardine Factory has sommeliers so the wine cellar’s offerings, in the thousands of bottles, don’t overwhelm customers.

He noted that in addition to an extensive selection of dishes, guests nowadays have dozens of preferences, sensitivities and allergies. Waitstaff have to know if a sauce is gluten-free or has dairy, and whether the steer was grass-fed.

Phillips, Balestreri and Cutino have family members involved their businesses, as well, making them multigenerational enterprises.

Live local, give local

They don’t brag about it — neither Balestreri nor Phillips raised the point — but they care deeply about local history and give generously to their wider communities. Their cumulative knowledge about Cannery Row (Balestreri) and the Wharf and Pacific Grove (Phillips) could keep a historian busy for a long time.

Phillips had quite a challenge when he set about opening The Beach House on the site of the iconic and elegant Old Bath House. Not only had it been a beloved local institution, but a major renovation that took a year longer than Phillips anticipated.

“I wanted it to resonate with local folks,” he said, so he lined the walls with historic photos of the area. The sunset locals menu, with its beloved firecracker



The Beach House at Lovers Point (top) offers great views and a nice plate of salmon.

shrimp, has been packing them in since the Beach House opened in 2013.

While redoing the restaurant, Phillips got involved with the adjacent Stillwell Children’s Pool at Lovers Point.

“We were four months from opening the Beach House when I read an article saying that the private funding for the pool had stalled,” he said. “My partner, Jim Gilbert, suggested that we donate \$10,000 to the pool project and issue a press release to attract attention to it.” Phillips took a giant check to city council to further publicize it. “Within a week, the Big Sur Marathon matched our donation and Richard Stillwell pledged to match every dollar up to \$100,000,” he said. “At that point, the pool was fully funded and opened one week before the Beach House in June of 2013.”

The Sardine Factory’s extensive list of local charities notably includes one 30



Lifelong local and restaurateur Kevin Phillips really does have that much fun running his local businesses. Abalonetti, one of his places on Old Fisherman’s Wharf, is a fixture.

miles away — Rancho Cielo, an alternative high school and trade school on the north end of Salinas, and its Drummond Culinary Academy, which trains the next

generation of chefs and restaurateurs. Love, experience, skills, generosity — it’s a nice menu, and the ingredients never spoil.

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July 14–18

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FOR MORE INFO + REGISTRATION  
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MONTEREY RECREATION



Food & Wine  
Galleries and Art

# This Week

Live Music,  
Clubs and Events

## BLUES LEGENDS SHARE THE STAGE, VIOLINIST OFFERS POP-UP PERFORMANCES

**BEST KNOWN** for his irresistible 1976 hit single, “Fooled Around and Fell in Love,” singer and guitarist **Elvin Bishop** teams up with blues singer and harmonica player **Charlie Musselwhite** Saturday, 7 p.m., at the Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

### On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

A member of the both the Rock ‘n’ Roll and Blues halls of fame, Bishop got his start with the Butterfield Blues Band, which helped revive Chicago blues in the mid-1960s. Besides the hit single he is well known for, Bishop

has toured with B.B. King and collaborated with the Allman Brothers, the Grateful Dead, John Lee Hooker, Bo Diddley and many others.

Musselwhite is a legendary blues vocalist and harpist who is often credited with being the inspiration for Elwood Blues — the character Dan Aykroyd portrayed in the movie, “The Blues Brothers.”

Tickets start at \$40. The theater is located at 415 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit [goldenstatetheatre.com](http://goldenstatetheatre.com).

### ■ Pop-ups offer preview

To help bring attention to her upcoming Sunkiss’d Mozart Summerfest, violinist **Tien-Hsin Cindy Wu** will play two free pop-up concerts Saturday — 2 p.m. at the Corral Wine Co. tasting room in Carmel Valley Village and at 5 p.m. at Joaquin Turner Gallery in Carmel.

The tasting room is located at 19 East Carmel Valley Road, while the gallery can be found in Su Vecino Court on Dolores Street between Fifth and Sixth. “I think of these free pop-up performances like a gift I offer to our community before each Summerfest,” the violinist said.

Summerfest is set for June 11-15 at various local venues. [skmozart.com/festival](http://skmozart.com/festival)

### ■ Sunset welcomes Yeobo

Sunset Center’s Terrace Hour series of free outside concerts continues Friday when **Yeobo** performs at 6 p.m.



Featuring guitarist **Kee Hyon Higgins**, Yeobo plays a free concert Friday at 6 p.m. outside Sunset Center.

Featuring guitarist **Kee Hyon Higgins**, bassist **Glenn Bell** and drummer **Jenn Cain**, Yeobo brings together indie rock, Latin percussion, disco and r&b.

“All are welcome, and no tickets or reservations are required,” Sunset Center announced. “Bring your friends, family, and fur babies.”

Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth.

### ■ Newlyweds join jazz jam

Embassy Suites in Seaside hosts its latest Jazz Jam Sunday starting at 1 p.m. There’s no cover charge, and professional musicians are encouraged to join in.

“Our opening set will showcase the talents of recent

See MUSIC page 54A



Blues greats Elvin Bishop and Charlie Musselwhite share the stage Saturday at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

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FOOD & WINE

# Culinary cruising, summer solstice and a bit of coffee heaven

‘THE ART of the Plate,” the 5th Annual Carmel-by-the-Sea Culinary Week set for May 30-June 7, has expanded to include five downtown events alongside the dozens of deals, special menus and other activities offered by the city’s restaurants. There are almost too many choices, but that’s a good problem to have.

The week, organized by tourism group Visit Carmel and Good Roots, which manages the weekly downtown farmers market, will kick off with the return of the Party at The Plaza. Other large-scale culinary celebrations include the Italian-focused La Dolce Vita June 3, Soirée by the Sea June 4, the Culinary Showdown competition at the farmers market June 5, and Boho Bites & Beats June 6.

On a smaller scale, the Pub Crawl costs \$99 and includes drinks and bites at Barmel, Flaherty’s, the Links Club and Vesuvio. Participants do the crawl at their own speed and have all week to visit the four stops.

## ‘Smashburger’ salmon

Several notable eateries will have curated menus in honor of the week. Brophy’s Tavern at San Carlos and Fourth, for instance, will have a \$30 set menu available for lunch and dinner with fish tacos, chips and salsa, and churros, while Cantinetta Luca on Dolores will offer a \$50 prix-fixe dinner with first-course choices of tricolore salad or little gem Caesar, a main dish of ravioli with ricotta, lemon and basil, and dessert options of tiramisu or cannoli.

## Soup to Nuts

Other prix-fixe dinner menus include elegant Foray (San Carlos and Fifth, \$95), Il Fornaio (Monte Verde and Ocean, \$75), Anton & Michel (Mission south of Ocean, \$69), The Pocket (Lincoln south of Fifth, \$125) and Bud’s at La Playa Hotel (Camino Real and Eighth, \$64).

Specials will be offered in honor of the week, too, like Toro sushi’s Japanese Wagyu beef-stuffed shishito peppers for \$20 and “smashburger” salmon nigiri for \$10, and



Casanova (left) and Foray are two of the restaurants that will be contributing to Carmel’s 5th Annual Culinary Week, May 30 to June 7. Five big events will celebrate different aspects of local food and wine, with dozens of deals, special menus and other activities available.



Cultura’s seafood trio of oysters, smoked trout tostada and seafood stew.

A few will pour a glass of wine gratis for guests who dine with them, including Yafa and The Grill on Ocean Avenue, while Sushi Heaven will provide complimentary tempura or a gyoza app with a wine purchase, El Bistro by the Sea will serve free chips and salsa with an entree purchase, and Enzo will provide dessert for the table with an entree purchase. Il Fornaio will have Happy Hour all week from 3 to 6 p.m., and Rise + Roam will give a 20 percent discount to customers ordering a pizza, soup or salad, and wine combo.

## Wait, there’s more

As for special events, El Bistro by the Sea will host a Brunch & Brush workshop with local artist Edi Matsumoto, Il Fornaio will have a pizza-making workshop, Stationery will host a class on aperitivos, and Il Tegamino will celebrate the grand opening of its new wine and snack bar, coincidentally named Aperitivo. And Casanova restaurant will celebrate its existence since 1977 by hosting free winetasting.

There’s more, as this writeup is by no means exhaustive. For additional information, including dates and times,

ticket prices and other details, go to [carmelcalifornia.com/carmel-by-the-sea-culinary-week](http://carmelcalifornia.com/carmel-by-the-sea-culinary-week).

## ■ No June gloom

Predicting a “sun-drenched celebration” despite the Peninsula’s recurrent summer fog, the organizers behind the annual Pebble Beach Food & Wine are hosting a Summer Solstice strolling dinner on the 3rd Fairway of the Pebble Beach Golf Links June 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. to mark the longest day of the year. The \$250-per-person event will feature “elevated coastal cuisine, premium wines, curated vendors and bespoke summer experiences — all framed by the stunning beauty of Pebble Beach.”

Those lined up to participate include several Pebble Beach Resorts chefs — Shane Cassidy from the Tap Room, Angela Herrera from Hay’s Place, Elias Lopez from the Beach & Tennis Club, Pablo Mellin from Roy’s and Christian Pulido from the Lodge — along with Mike Fischetti (The Pocket in Carmel), Todd Fisher (The Meatery in Seaside), Rudolfo Ponce (Rudolfo’s Eatery in Monterey) Michael Rotondo (Coastal Kitchen at The Monterey Plaza

See **FOOD** next page

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FOOD & WINE

FOOD

From previous page

Hotel), Mike Stoves (La Playa Hotel in Carmel) and Kent Torrey, owner of The Cheese Shop in Carmel Plaza.

Pick it Up, Pay it Forward program. Ten percent of proceeds for takeout orders during a specific two-month period are given to a local charity, and March and April’s recipient was the Monterey County Film Commission.

The commission, which “works to increase economic development through the film industry, and also to support locals through employment and education related to the film industry,” notes on its website that “each year an average of \$4 million comes to our area from film production.” Coastal Roots presented the commission with a check for \$10,649.62.

May and June donations will go to the Monterey Firefighters Community Foundation. Additional beneficiaries for 2025 will include Set Free Monterey Bay, which benefits survivors of sex trafficking, Habi-

tat for Humanity, and Salinas Valley Health Foundation.

■ Highway 68 fuel stop

Those of you who drive across 68 to Salinas regularly go right past Castle Rock Café & Mercantile, which is next to the longtime breakfast-and-lunch stop, Toro Place Café.

Although Castle Rock has been open since late 2016, its size and unassuming exterior — not to mention the frequently mystifying, helter-skelter parking patterns at the café — make it easy to zip right by without another thought.

Well, cut that out.

See WINE next page

“Summer Solstice will bring together 12 of the region’s most celebrated chefs for an open-air culinary experience under the California sky, paired with an eclectic mix of premium wines and spirited cocktails,” organizers say, offering a chance to “savor the flavors of the season, take in the coastal breeze, and toast to summer’s magic in one of the most breathtaking settings on Earth.”

For more information and tickets, visit [pebblebeachfoodandwine.com/event/summer-solstice](http://pebblebeachfoodandwine.com/event/summer-solstice).

■ Coastal Roots pays it forward

Coastal Roots Hospitality — the restaurant group that includes Rio Grill in the Crossroads shopping center and Tarp’s and Montrio in Monterey — continues its



Chef Pablo Mellin of Roy’s at the Inn at Spanish Bay will be one of 12 local chefs participating in the June 20 Summer Solstice strolling dinner on the 3rd Fairway of the Pebble Beach Golf Course.

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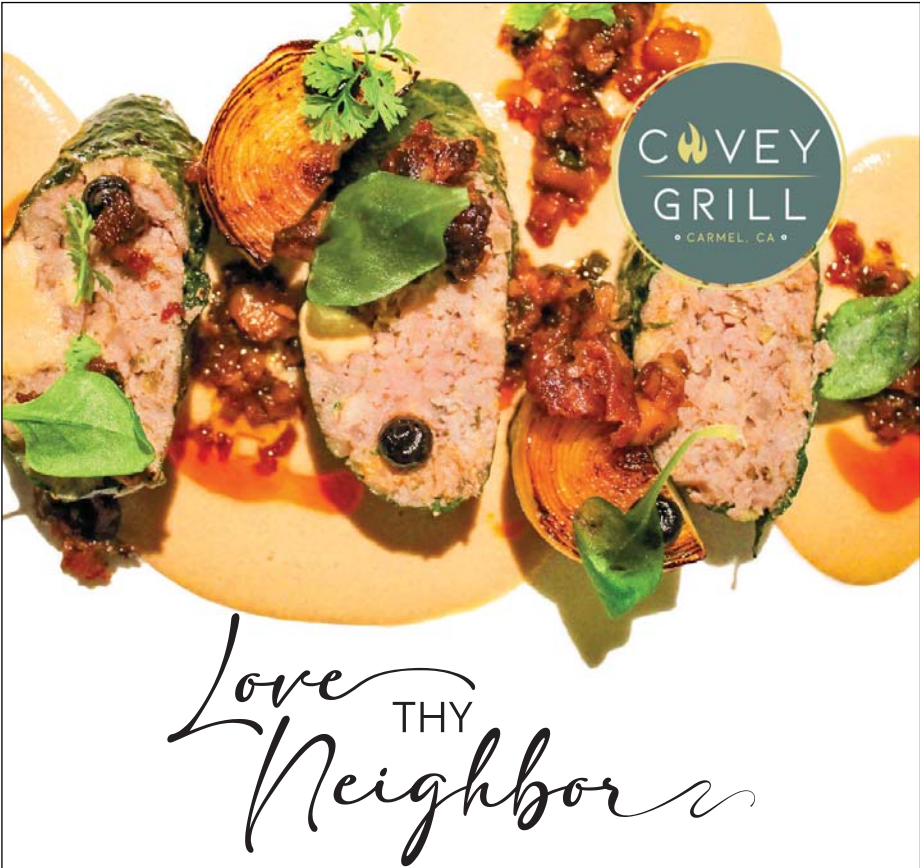
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ENTRÉE

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artichokes, preserved tomato

Short Rib  
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DESSERT

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FOOD & WINE

WINE

From previous page

Inspired by Steinbeck’s “The Pastures of Heaven,” the shop aims to “bring the community together, offering a place to enjoy a cup of coffee or shop the goods available from local merchants. A place to come, where everybody knows your name and you can say ‘hello’ to your neighbors.”

And you won’t believe what they pack into that small space. There’s Acme Coffee, a full line of espresso drinks, matcha concoctions, assorted high-end teas, and snacks from Nece’s Gluten-Free in Monterey and other local food purveyors. There are savory options if you’re looking for something more substantial, too.

Castle Rock also features a rotating assortment of seasonal holiday and “just because” gifts nicely organized on corner shelves. There are a few seats if you want to visit with a friend for a bit (but no public restroom). If you need an address for

your GPS, it’s 667 Highway 68. Castle Rock is open from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday — perfect if you want an early start on the Fort Ord trail across the road — and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday.

■ Beets, beats and beer

Everyone’s Harvest, the folks behind the farmers markets on Sunday in Marina, Monday in Pacific Grove and Thursday at Laguna Grande Park in Seaside (near City Hall on Canyon Del Rey), announced the launch of Seaside Summer Sessions.

The third Thursday of each month from 3 to 7 p.m., shoppers at the Laguna Grande market will find free entertainment for the whole family. Live music, a beer garden hosted by Post No Bills, and kids’



The casual vibe at Castle Rock Café and Mercantile along Highway 68 near Corral de Tierra includes outdoor dining and whimsical gift options. However, they’re serious about the beverages and good eats, like a coffee-cake muffin from Nece’s Gluten-Free in Monterey.

MORE SPORTS

From page 25A

Michael Shukhman of Mountain View, 6-1, 6-2, but was eliminated in the quarterfinals, 6-3, 6-0, in the quarterfinals. Both rounds were played Tuesday at Imperial Courts Tennis Club in Aptos.

Another Stevenson player, Lyke Yoon, lost in the first round to Sacred Heart Prep’s Kyle Chai, 6-1, 6-1.

The first round and quarterfinals of the CCS doubles championships were scheduled to be played Wednesday at Imperial Courts, with Stevenson’s Daniyal Alvi and Cameron Page facing Harker’s Rithvik Navad and Vyon Vidyarthi, and Carmel’s Grayson Walton and Georges Guerree playing Brahnam’s Ian Kwon and Brian Liu.

**Boys golf:** The Stevenson Pirates won their third consecutive CCS boys golf

championship on May 13, qualifying their entire team for Tuesday’s NorCal Regional Championship at Berkeley Country Club in El Cerrito.

Representing Stevenson at NorCals will be seniors Luke Brandler, Marc Sasetia, Steven Lai, and Johsh Chadha, and sophomores Calvin Etcheverry and Zac Hawkins.

Etcheverry shot 68 — 3-under-par — to tie for second overall at CCS, while Hawkins, Brandler, and Carmel junior Julien Cho — the Padres’ only individual qualifier — tied for fourth place at 69.

The deep and talented lineup makes Stevenson a strong contender for the team championship at NorCals, which begin at 7:30 a.m.

The state tournament will be played June 3 at Poppy Hills Golf Course in Pebble Beach.

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

activities will await those who stop to pick up some fresh veggies and delicious summer fruit.

“Seaside Summer Sessions is a way to enhance what we already do at the Seaside farmers market — bringing people

together around healthy food, local vendors, and community connection,” said Hester Parker, executive director of Everyone’s Harvest.

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

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MUSIC

From page 50A

newlyweds — brilliant guitarist **Adam Astrup** and phenomenal vocalist **Miranda Perl Astrup**,” said singer and host **Lee Durley**. “They’ll be joined by **Bob Phillips** on piano, **Dennis Murphy** on bass and **Jim Vanderzwaan** on drums. Embassy



Violinist Tien-Hsin Cindy Wu plays free pop-up shows Saturday in Carmel and Carmel Valley.

Suites is located at 1441 Canyon Del Rey Blvd.

Live Music May 23-29

■ Big Sur

**Big Sur River Inn** — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (folk, Saturday at 12:30 p.m.), **James Henry & Hands on Fire** (world music, Sunday at 1 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Victor Veysey** and bassist **Kemen Waddell** (Thursday at 6 p.m., funk, jazz and country). 46800 Highway 1.

**Fernwood Resort** — **Edge of the West** (rock, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

■ Carmel

**Barmel** — singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (Sunday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Tony Burciaga** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). In Carmel Square on San Carlos north of Seventh.

**Carmel Mission Inn** — **Scarlet** (dance hits from all genres and eras, Saturday at 7 p.m.). In Shearwater Tavern, 3665 Rio Rd.

**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 Edge Band** (rock, Friday at 7:30 p.m.), **The Pacific Jack Band** (classic 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.

■ Carmel Valley

**Bernardus Lodge** — pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Saturday at noon), singer and pianist **TJ Kuenster** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Reija Massey** (pop, rock and country, Tuesday at 5 p.m.), guitarist **Richard DeVinck** (classical, Wednesday at 5 p.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

**Folktale Winery** — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Friday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kris Angelis** (Saturday at 2 p.m.), **The Paul Contos Trio** (jazz, Sunday at 11 a.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Rd.

**Trailside Cafe** — singer and guitarist **Cisco Jim** (cowboy music, Friday at 6 p.m.), **The Better Together Duo** (Americana, 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** and pianist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Tuesday at 7 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz and swing, Wednesday at 7 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St.

**Colton Hall** — **Heartstrings Mon-**



Bollywood meets the blues when singer and harmonica player Aki Kumar performs Saturday, 5 p.m., at Deja Blue in Seaside.

**terey, The Soquel High School Jazz Singers** and **The Monterey County Pops Orchestra** present a free **Memorial Day concert** (Monday at 12:45 p.m.). 570 Pacific St.

**Hyatt Regency Monterey** — singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.

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

**Midici Pizza** — **The Lauri Hofer-Romero Trio** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), **The Zach Westfall Trio** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

**Monterey Plaza Hotel** — pianist **Martan Mann** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Steve Mann** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Tamas Marius** (jazz, Monday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (Tuesday and Wednesday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Adrea Castiano** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

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

**Portola Hotel & Spa** — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Reija Massey** (pop, rock and country, Friday at 6 p.m.). On Jack’s Terrace, 2 Portola Plaza.

See LIVE next page

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St. Mary's is pleased to host the pure drop sound of **Tradmill**, three of the west coasts' finest exponents of traditional music. Tradmill features Dublin IR button accordion player **Johnny B. Connolly**, Carmel CA fiddle player **John Weed**, and Portland OR guitar wizard/vocalist **Cary Novotny** are uniting for a limited run of fall shows in the California Bay Area and Central Coast. The concert will intertwine driving sets of jigs and reels, rhythmic old time tunes highlighting the interplay between squeezebox and fiddle, and Americana ballads that'll delight the soul.

Sunday, May 25th, 3:00PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WWW.CELTICSOCIETY.ORG

\$30 ADVANCE / \$35 DOOR

\$12 CHILD ADVANCE / \$15 CHILD DOOR

Member discount \$3

For additional information,  
Call or text 831-224-3819 for more info.  
www.stmarysbythesea.org

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# LIVE

From previous page

**Puma Road** tasting room — singer and guitarist **Joyce Sampson** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Adam Behan** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

**Salty Seal Pub** — **Sixth Street Alternative** (rock, Friday at 8 p.m.). 653 Cannery Row.

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

**Sly McFly’s** — **Samba Da** (“a collision of rock, funk, soul and samba,” Friday at 9 p.m.), **The Brigit Marie Band** (pop and r&b, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

## ■ Pacific Grove

**Asilomar Hotel and Conference Grounds** — singer

# GAVEL

From page 4A

the Best Buy to identify the person who used the credit card. Through video surveillance, officers learned that Riggs had used the credit card to purchase a drone valued at \$1,549.

Judge Rafael Vazquez sentenced Riggs to 3 years in prison on his elder theft case, and 8 months on both his conspiracy to commit theft and grand theft cases. Each of these terms are doubled and will run consecutively because Riggs had two prior strike convictions under California’s three strikes law.

These cases were investigated by Seaside Police Officers Jeffrey Salmon and Isaiah Madolora, and Marina Police Officer Eduardo Gamboa.

**March 20** — Hon. Jennifer O’Keefe sentenced Robert John Lanoue, 72, of Reno, Nevada, to 25 years to life in prison plus 31 additional years. On Feb. 20, Lanoue pleaded guilty to first-degree murder, kidnapping, committing a forcible lewd act on a child under 14, forcible rape and forcible sodomy for the January 1982 abduction and murder of 5-year-old Anne Pham of Seaside. These offenses constitute five strikes pursuant to California’s three strikes law. Lanoue was also ordered to register as a sex offender for life.

Pham disappeared while walking to her kindergarten class at Highland Elementary School on Jan. 21, 1982. She was never seen alive again. On Jan. 23, 1982, her remains were discovered on the former Fort Ord. She had been sexually

and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Saturday at 4 p.m.). In the Phoebe Hearst Social Hall, 800 Asilomar Ave.

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

**PG’s Meetinghouse** — **Squidbrain** (“bubble grunge,” Friday at 6:30 p.m.), **The Stu Reynolds Saxtet** (jazz, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), **Hurd, Chelew and Garland** (Americana, Sunday at 11 a.m.), **Open Mic** (Tuesday at 6 p.m., sign up by 5 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.

**St. Mary’s by the Sea** — **Tradmill** (Celtic, Sunday at 3 p.m.). Tickets are \$35 at the door for general admission, and \$12 for kids. 137 13th St.

## ■ Seaside

**Deja Blue** — singer **Aki Kumar** (“Bollywood meets the blues,” Saturday at 5 p.m.). 500 Broadway.

To update these listings, email [chris@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:chris@carmelpinecone.com).



James Henry and Hands on Fire bring the beat to the Big Sur River Inn Sunday.

assaulted and strangled to death. The initial investigation did not result in any arrests, and Pham’s murder went unsolved for more than 40 years.

In 2020, investigators with the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office Cold Case Task Force worked collaboratively with Seaside Police Department to reopen Pham’s case and submit items of evidence from the case for DNA testing. Lanoue was identified as a suspect after DNA testing was performed on a rootless pubic hair found on Pham’s remains. Astrea Forensics of Santa Cruz performed whole-genome sequencing on the hair that resulted in a DNA profile capable of being used to search genetic genealogical databases. A forensic genetic genealogist with Parabon NanoLabs identified “Lanoue” as a possible last name of the suspect. Further research by members of the Cold Case Task Force identified Robert John Lanoue as the likely suspect.

Lanoue was 29 years old at the time of the homicide. He was in the United States Army and was stationed at Fort Ord, where Pham’s body was found. Lanoue lived on Luzern Street in Seaside, which was .1 mile away from the Pham family residence. One of Lanoue’s children also attended Highland Elementary School along with Pham, though there

is no indication that the families knew each other.

When interviewed by an investigator with the Cold Case Task Force on July 6, 2022, Lanoue admitted to picking up Pham as she was walking to school.

He claimed not to remember killing her, but he acknowledged that he may have blocked it out of his memory to protect himself. He admitted that he had a history of sexually assaulting young girls.

Further analysis by Dr. Richard Green of UC Santa Cruz and Parabon NanoLabs provided strong evidentiary support that Lanoue was the source of the hair found on Pham’s body.

The case was investigated by the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office Cold Case Task Force, the Seaside Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division, with the valuable assistance of Astrea Forensics, Dr. Richard Green of UC Santa Cruz, Parabon NanoLabs, the Serological Research Institute, the Nevada State Police Division of Parole and Probation, the Reno Police Department, and the Regional Sex Offender Notification Unit.

Funding from the U.S. Department of Justice enabled the Cold Case Task Force to seek justice in Pham’s case.

**Memorial Day Weekend**

# ESTATE SALE

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# CALENDAR

**May 25 – St. Mary’s, 146 12th Street and Central Avenue, Pacific Grove, is pleased to host the pure drop sound of Tradmill**, three of the West Coast’s finest exponents of traditional music. The 3 p.m. concert will intertwine driving sets of jigs and reels, rhythmic old time tunes highlighting the interplay between squeezebox and fiddle, and Americana ballads that’ll delight the soul. Tickets available at [www.celticsociety.org](http://www.celticsociety.org)

**May 26 – Monterey County Pops! Memorial Day Concert on the Lawn at Colton Hall downtown Monterey on Pacific Street.** Show time 12:45 Heartstrings; 1:15 Soquel Jazz Singers; 2 p.m. MCP! 40 piece orchestra Directed by Dr. Carl Christensen. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic baskets. Join us in Making a

Difference Through Music!

**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](http://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

To advertise, email [anne@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:anne@carmelpinecone.com) \$0.50 per word (\$25 min. charge)

• Add a photo for your event for only \$25 •



# ‘Facing Seaside’ opens Thursday, museum offers a tempting perk

A CREATIVE collaboration between photography students and Seaside business owners, the 4th annual “Facing Seaside” exhibit opens Thursday at the Weston Collective.

Located at 1713 Broadway in the heart of Seaside, the gallery hosts a public reception starting at 6 p.m.

Besides improving their own photographic skills through instruction, the students captured images that “reflect the unique character of Seaside’s local businesses.” The students attend local elementary and middle schools.

According to the Weston Collective, the “hands-on approach” not only helped enhance a student’s technical skills, but fostered “a deeper connection between the students and their community.”

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

## County gives \$\$ to artists

Nineteen local artists received taxpayer-funded grants totaling nearly \$100,000, the Arts Council for Monterey County announced last week. The artists included photographer Rachael Short, who owns Exposed Gallery, and Lillian Barbeito, who is the founder of the Carmel Dance Festival and the artistic director of Ballare Carmel.

Funded by Monterey County, the grants were awarded to both emerging artists, who received \$5,000 each, and

established artists, who received \$10,000 each. According to the arts council, the grants help make it possible for artists to thrive.

“Our local artists inspire, challenge and connect us in ways that strengthen our community,” executive director Jacquie Atchison said.

“By investing in their work, we recognize that artistic endeavors are real work, cultivate innovation across diverse disciplines, celebrate diversity, and enhance cultural experiences for residents and visitors alike,” she added.

## Painters present Q&A

Painters Heidi Hybl and Dennis Peak will talk about their work Saturday, 2 p.m., at Carmel Art Association. The two have an exhibit, “Motion and Stillness,” on display at the downtown gallery through the end of the month.

“The conversation will be followed by an open Q&A, offering the chance to connect more deeply with the artists and their creative processes,” according to the gallery. “No ticket or RSVP is required — just stop by and enjoy the conversation.”

The event is free and the gallery is located on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth.

## Free on Sundays

Showcasing the talents of 122 local artists, the Monterey Museum of Art’s first Monterey Biennial Exhibit is on display through Aug. 31 — and you can see it for free on Sundays. “To

celebrate the inaugural Monterey Biennial, the museum is providing free museum admission every Sunday through the run of the exhibit,” it announced.

The show includes more than 800 pieces of art — all created by artists living in Kern, King, Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo counties.



“Momentum No. 2” by painter Dennis Peak is on display at the Carmel Art Association. Peak and painter Heidi Hybl present a free talk Saturday.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250910  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **LULU'S HOUSECLEANING**, 1900 Hwy 1, Spc. 104, Moss Landing, CA 95039.  
Registered Owner(s): MARIA LOURDES GONZALES.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 2007.  
**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 the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).  
S/Maria Lourdes Gonzales  
Date signed: May 13, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 13, 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: May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 2025 (PC 565)

LEGALS DEADLINE:  
Tuesday 3:00 pm  
[legals@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:legals@carmelpinecone.com)

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY**  
**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
Case No. 25CV002532  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, MARIE ELENA VACA GARCIA, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
**A. Present name:** MARIA ELENA VACA GARCIA  
**Proposed name:** MARIA ELENA GARCIA  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
NOTICE OF HEARING:  
DATE: July 8, 2025  
TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
DEPT: 15  
The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.  
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: The Carmel Pine Cone.  
(s) Thomas W. Willis  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Date filed: May 15, 2025  
Publication Dates: May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 2025. (PC 566)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250740  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **NORCAL FC 911**, 1140 Monarch Lane, Unit 112, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.

Registered Owner(s): JASON FRANCISCO GARCIA.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 1, 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 the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).  
S/Jason Garcia  
Date signed: April 17, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on April 17, 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: May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 2025 (PC 570)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250707  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **PILAR ASPECTS BARBERSHOP**, 167 Main #E, Soledad, CA 93960.  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Registered Owner(s): ERIC PEREZ GARCIA, 507 Tomasini St., Soledad, CA 93960.

This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.  
**BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.** A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).  
S/Eric Perez Garcia  
Date signed: April 11, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on April 11, 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: May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 2025 (PC 572)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250718  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **831 FRANKENSTEIN CUSTOMS**, 14485 Russo Rd., Castroville, CA 95012.  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Registered Owner(s): ADAN FLORES OCAMPO, 14485 Russo Rd., Castroville, CA 95012.  
CYNTHIA MANRIQUEZ LARA,, 14485

Russo Rd., Castroville, CCA 95012.  
This business is conducted by co-partners.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 14, 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 the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).  
S/Adan Flores Ocampo  
Date signed: April 14, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on April 14, 2025.  
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision

(a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Publication Dates: May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 2025 (PC 573)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on **Thursday, June 5, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.**, the City Council of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will hold a Public Hearing via teleconference and in person at the City Hall Council Chambers located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea.

**Subject of Public Hearings:**

**APP 25115 (Esperanza Carmel Commercial - JB Pastor Building)**  
Krista Ostoich, Agent for Appellants  
Dolores Street 2 southeast of 7th Avenue  
Block 91; Lots 6, 8, and 10  
APNs: 010-145-023-000, 010-145-024-000, and 010-145-012-000

Consideration of an Appeal (APP 25115, Esperanza Carmel Commercial - JB Pastor Building) filed by Krista Ostoich on behalf of Mike Brown, Mike Cate, Don Goodhue, Steve Hillyard, Vinz Koller, Courtney Kramer, Cindy Lloyd, Ian Martin, Rich Pepe, Kristi Reimer, and Julie Wendt of the Planning Commission’s approval (Resolution No. 2025-020-PC) of Design Review, DR 23-140 (Esperanza Carmel Commercial - JB Pastor Building), Use Permit, UP 21-113 (Esperanza Carmel Commercial - JB Pastor Building), Lot Merger, LM 20-394 (Esperanza Carmel Commercial - JB Pastor Building), and associated environmental determination for the JB Pastor Building located at Dolores Street 2 southeast of 7th Avenue in the Service Commercial (SC) District at Lots 6, 8, and 10 of Block 91. APNs: 010-145-023-000, 010-145-024-000, and 010-145-012-000

**Public Participation:** This meeting will be held via teleconference and in person (“hybrid”) in the City Council Chambers at City Hall located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea. The public is welcome to attend the meeting in person or remotely via Zoom, however, the meeting will proceed as normal even if there are technical difficulties accessing Zoom. The City will do its best to resolve any technical issues as quickly as possible. To participate via teleconference, click the following link to attend via Zoom (or copy and paste the link into your browser):  
  
<https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/87633907035>  
Webinar ID: 876 3390 7035  
Passcode: 700319  
Dial in: (253) 215-8782

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>. The Council meeting will be televised live on the City’s website and archived there after the meeting. For more information regarding City Council meetings, please contact the City Clerk’s office at (831) 620-2016.

All interested persons 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 City Clerk 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 email [cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us) prior to the meeting. With respect to written comments, please submit them at least 2 hours before the meeting in order 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.

If you challenge the nature of the proposed action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the city council at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Nova Romero, MMC  
City Clerk

Dated: 5/14/2025  
Publish Date: 5/23/2025

Publication dates:  
May 23, 2025  
(PC574)

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF INGRID WEKERLE CASE NO. 23PR000192**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of INGRID WEKERLE.

AN AMENDED PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by THERESE ADAMS in the Superior Court of California, County of MONTEREY.

THE AMENDED PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that THERESE ADAMS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE AMENDED PETITION requests the decedent’s WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE AMENDED PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 07/02/25 at 9:00AM in Dept. 13 located at 1200 AGUAJITO ROAD, MONTEREY, CA 93940

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be

in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner  
ROBIN L. KLOMPARENS -  
SBN 127966  
JENNI L. HARMON -  
SBN 271411  
FENNEMORE WKBKY  
10640 MATHER BOULEVARD,  
SUITE 200  
MATHER CA 95655  
Telephone (916) 920-5286  
5/9, 5/16, 5/23/25  
**CNS-3921590#**  
**CARMEL PINE CONE**  
Publication dates: May 9, 16, 23, 2025. (PC510)

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE BRIAN G. WILSON CASE NO. 25PR000269**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of BRIAN G. WILSON.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JENNIFER BOVEY in the Superior Court of California, County of MONTEREY.

The Petition for Probate requests that UZA HORVATH be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent’s will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. [This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.] The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

**A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:**  
Date: July 2, 2025  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Dept.: 13  
Address: Superior Court of California, County of Monterey, 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the

hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. **Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.**

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:  
KENNETH S. KLEINKOPF  
FENTON & KELLER, PC  
P.O. Box 791,  
Monterey, CA 93942  
(831) 373-1241

This statement was filed by Superior Court of California, County of Monterey on May 20, 2025.

Publication dates: Publication dates: May 23, 30, June 6, 2025. (PC571)

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Continues on next page

**Police Log: Carmel-by-the-Sea, Feb. 22**

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Continues from previous page

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