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The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 111 No. 22

<https://carmelpinecone.com>

May 30-June 5, 2025

TRUSTED BY LOCALS AND LOVED BY VISITORS SINCE 1915

Don't keep coyotes as pets and don't sell raccoons

■ Expert: Let wildlife be wild

By KELLY NIX

A GOOD Samaritan who last week rescued what he believed was a Chihuahua puppy that was being attacked



PHOTO/DAN BURTON

A baby coyote was mistaken for a puppy by a passerby who took him home as a pet, and five baby raccoons had to be rescued from an attic after the homeowner relocated their mom.

by more than a half-dozen feral cats got quite a surprise the next day.

On May 20 in Greenfield, a man on his way home spotted about seven feral felines attacking another animal, which he at first thought was a rabbit. When he got closer to scare the cats away, he realized it was a puppy, likely a Chihuahua mix. The do-gooder brought it home, and he and his family cared for the slightly injured animal, which eventually got comfortable enough to eat from their hands.

"They bathed it, combed it, gave it a flea treatment and decided to keep it as their family dog," Urban Trapping Wildlife Control owner Dan Burton told The Pine Cone Tuesday. "The following day a neighbor came over to see their new puppy and thought something was off about it."

The neighbor told them that what they believed was a dog was probably a coyote. The man "did admit it was more aggressive than most puppies, but he figured it was because it was scared," Burton explained.

Monterey County-based Urban Trapping Wildlife Control was

See WILDLIFE page 154

PG&E will restart battery storage Sunday

By KELLY NIX

DESPITE REQUESTS from Monterey County officials not to, utility giant PG&E will reactivate its battery storage operation in Moss Landing this weekend, the company told The Pine Cone this week.

The county earlier this month urged PG&E to wait to restore power to its lithium-ion storage facility until the cause of a Jan. 16 fire at the adjacent Vistra Energy battery storage plant has been determined and emergency response plans finalized. PG&E voluntarily shut down its facility after the large Vistra fire, which forced the evacuation of about 1,200 people, some of whom complained of health issues related to the smoke.

'Critical facility'

On Wednesday, though, PG&E said it's planning to restore service to its Elkhorn Battery Storage Facility — which it called a "critical facility to the region and state's energy reliability" — by Sunday, June 1, as it had planned.

"We understand that the safety and well-being of our community is of utmost importance," a company spokeswoman said in a statement to The Pine Cone. "PG&E is deeply committed to providing safe, clean and reliable energy for all, and this includes the safe operation of PG&E's Elkhorn Battery Energy Storage Facility."

The utility said it's taken "extensive actions and implemented numerous measures to ensure the safe operation"

See BATTERIES page 144

City prepares to send new housing plan to state

■ Plenty of water for projects, too

By MARY SCHLEY

FOLLOWING WIDESPREAD outcry over the possibility two city-owned parking lots would be turned into 149 units of affordable housing, a group of Carmel residents and public officials has developed an alternative plan that moves the housing onto private property throughout the city.

While the locations of all that housing are to be determined, the city will have plenty of water to offer people to build it, planning commissioners and city councilmembers learned at a joint meeting last Tuesday to weigh in on revisions to the city's housing plan, which was adopted in April 2024. The changes are set to be submitted to the state for a "friendly review" by the end of the month.

The plan approved more than a year ago identifies how the city will facilitate the development of a state-mandated

349 housing units — including 231 in "affordable" categories — over an eight-year period. A group called Affordable Housing Alternatives has spent the last 10 months developing and researching ideas for how to do that without building on the Sunset Center and Vista Lobos parking lots. Instead, hotel owners, developers, churches, downtown landlords and residential property owners could provide the housing.

Selling hotel rooms

The proposed changes to the housing plan, which will have to be approved by the California Department of Housing and Community Development, outline five programs designed to facilitate affordable housing: transforming underperforming hotels into lodging and selling the room rights to other innkeepers, encouraging residents to rent out their accessory dwelling units at affordable rates, developing mixed-income housing in the business districts, converting commercial spaces to live-work uses,

See HOUSING page 124



PHOTO/MIKE BUFFO, HOUSE OF 8 MEDIA

The open-air PG&E Moss Landing battery storage facility (top left), which will be restarted Sunday, was undamaged in the Jan. 16 fire that destroyed Vistra Energy's indoor plant (bottom right).

Backcountry rescue at Garland Park



PHOTO/POLLY OSBORNE

It took a fair bit of coordination, a wheeled contraption and a lot of people, but firefighters and medics from Monterey County Regional Fire managed to get a stricken hiker to an ambulance in Garland Ranch Regional Park. See page 9A.

Scenic Road view lot for sale, very cheap

By MARY SCHLEY

NEVER HAS a real estate listing by broker Lance Monosoff generated so many calls.

"My phone pretty much doesn't stop ringing," he said Tuesday. "Half the people are intrigued, and half the people burst into laughter."

The source of their curiosity is a small Scenic Road lot just south of Carmel Beach, listed for sale by Central Coast Properties, that offers unobstructed views of the bay, Pebble Beach and beyond.

The asking price is \$100,000 — and the land can't be developed in any way, not even with a fence or a bench, according to deed restrictions recorded in April 1924.

'Little piece of heaven'

"Oceanfront Carmel lot for the person who has everything," his sales flier begins. "This lot is not buildable due to deed restrictions, size and other limitations. However, this little piece of heaven could be yours forever — bring a folding chair and enjoy spectacular sunsets."

"They can watch the ice plant grow or have a picnic there," Monosoff said. "It's a very, very curious piece of property."

Located just south of the Frank Lloyd Wright House, the lot is owned by Beverly Sue Bell and Barbara Diane Hutchinson, who have held it since 1999, according to Monterey County property records. The assessed value is \$11,494.

No camping

Monosoff said the owners' attorney called and asked if he'd be willing to list it.

The agent's research revealed the parcels along that stretch of Scenic between the road and the sea were drawn by the Carmel Development Company — owned by the city's founding fathers, J. Franklin Devendorf and Frank Powers — in 1910.

In a January 1923 "indenture," Carmel Development Co. sold the lot to Margaret McIntyre for \$10, with the express restriction that it remain undeveloped and open to pedestrians who might want to reach the small beach below. She included that "certain strip of land lying between the Scenic Road and the Pacific Ocean" when she subsequently sold two buildable lots across the street from it to Lily White, also for \$10, in March 1924. The

See SCENIC page 164



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Sandy Claws

Reciprocal rescue

She was certain that rescuing a dog one month after putting down her previous pup was not going to help her heart. Until she met a 4-year-old poodle-terrier mix who seemed sadder than she was.

Surrendered with a sibling twice his size who, she surmised, had been hoarding their food, he was scared, shaved down and starving, and when his brother was adopted, he stopped eating.

"I told my friends if I got another dog, he needed to be a healthy little scrapper," she said. "They said I needed a dog who needed me."

Once she got to the SPCA, she took one look at that little dog and started sobbing.

"I couldn't believe someone could let his health get that bad," she said. "He was wasted from the inside




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By Lisa Crawford Watson



out. Even though he was starving, he put his little feet on the windowsill and wagged his tail. After our visit, I went to hand him back and realized I couldn't. If I did, I wouldn't be able to sleep, wondering what had become of him."

She named him Peri, a play on the Farsi or Hindi word for "fairy" or "angel."

"I was holding him on my lap, and he was falling asleep," she said. "When I looked down and said, 'You're just a little angel,' I knew his name was Peri."

At first, Peri wouldn't eat out of a bowl, so his person fed him from the palm of her hand. He drank water or broth from a syringe. Soon, he sipped from a table-spoon and, after six months, he ate from a bowl, as long as his person held it for him.

Today, Peri has put on nearly 4 pounds. He walks confidently through his community near Toro Park, where he has been voted "most beloved dog" by the neighborhood children.

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ICE nabs man who took child bride

By KELLY NIX

A MEXICAN immigrant detained by federal immigration agents in Greenfield last week was arrested in 2009 for sexual abuse of a minor after paying a 14-year-old girl’s father cash, alcohol, soda and meat so he could marry the teen, police said.

On May 22, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials’ arrest of Margarito Galindo outside his home as he was about to take his child to school drew anger from local immigrant advocates.

“How is ripping a man from his family, outside of his home, terrorizing his children, considered ‘compassionate?’” said a statement from a group, the Solidarity Network, in response to a police account of the ICE arrest.

‘Financial arrangement’

This week, though, Greenfield Police Chief Guillermo Mixer told The Pine Cone that Galindo — now in his mid-30s — was arrested in 2009 for sexual abuse, statutory rape and domestic violence after agreeing to buy the 14-year-old girl for \$16,000 cash, 150 cases of beer, two cases of wine, six cases of meat and several cases of soda and Gatorade. The arrest of Galindo and the girl’s father, Marcelino Martinez, also from Mexico, made national news.

“With the criminal history he has, [Galindo] is not somebody that we want within our community,” Mixer told KSBW television.

Galindo is being held in an ICE detention center in California, and the agency has not commented publicly on his arrest.

Monterey County Superior Court documents show that Martinez in December 2008 reported to Greenfield Police that his daughter had run away with Galindo. But three days later, Galindo’s father and other family members worked out the financial arrangement whereby Martinez would allow his daughter “to remain living with Galindo and would no longer involve the

police,” court records indicate.

Then-Greenfield Police Chief Joe Grebmeier told CNN that Galindo and Martinez were from the state of Oaxaca, and that in the Oaxacan community, marrying someone who is 14 is not unusual and an agreement to pay a father for his daughter is “normal and honorable.” It is illegal everywhere in the United States, however.

“The 14-year-old juvenile moved in with Galindo, and when payments were not received,” the father called Greenfield P.D. to “bring back the daughter,” according to a written police statement.

Martinez, now in his early 50s, was charged with multiple felonies and faced three years in prison. However, in 2009, he pleaded guilty to felony causing great bodily harm and was sentenced to four years of probation.

Rigid terms

In the court form Martinez used to plead guilty to the felony, he ticked the box that stated, “I understand that if I am not a citizen of the United States, a plea of guilty/no contest will result in deportation, exclusion from admission to this country, denial of naturalization and/or denial of reentry into this country.”

It’s not clear if Martinez was ever deported to his home country.

A 2009 letter from Martinez’s friend to the court said Martinez is part of the Triqui culture, an indigenous group of people who live in Western Oaxaca. He had a Triqui interpreter during court hearings.

Court records show that Galindo in April 2009 pleaded guilty to unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor, a misdemeanor. He was ordered to pay victim restitution, take an AIDS test and serve 45 days in jail, though he was credited for time already served.

He was arrested again in 2018 for drunk driving and in 2020 for drunk driving, driving without a license and possessing an open container of alcohol.



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Police & Sheriff's Log

What if annoying texts escalate?

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 9

Pacific Grove: Juvenile on Forest Lodge Road was placed on a mental evaluation hold.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found bracelet at Monte Verde and Ocean.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found coin purse at Ocean and Dolores.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Outside-jurisdiction assist with a bank robbery at Carmel Center Place.
Pacific Grove: Property was found near the Asilomar turnout.
Pacific Grove: Report of a domestic violence incident on Lighthouse Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Report of a past-tense vandalism on Grove Acre Avenue.
Pacific Grove: Anonymous report of an abandoned vehicle at Spruce and Grand.
Carmel area: Deputies responded to a report of an individual loitering on Rio Road that led to a misdemeanor warrant arrest.
Carmel Valley: A 49-year-old male was arrested on Chaparral Road for domestic violence.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Hit-and-run traffic collision report on San Carlos Street.
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found necklace at Scenic and Santa Lucia Avenue.

*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 21 — Judge Andrew G. Liu sentenced Jaime Palconit Astilla, 49, of Seaside, to four years in state prison for committing an act of violence while violating a domestic violence restraining order.

On Jan. 27, Seaside Police officers were dispatched to a report of an assault. Officers arrived and met with Astilla's mother. She told officers that her son was upset and yelling at her. During the argument, Astilla took his mother's purse and threw it across the yard. When she stood up from a chair to retrieve it, he confronted her and shoved her from behind. At the time, there was a restraining order preventing Astilla from being at his mother's house or coming within 100 yards of her.

Astilla has seven prior convictions for violating restraining orders in the last seven years. He received a two-year prison sentence, which was doubled to four years because he had a prior strike conviction within

the meaning of California's three strikes law. This case was investigated by Seaside Police officer Jonathan Moore.

March 28 — A jury found Kevin Durrant Hart, 47, of Patterson, guilty of first-degree murder for killing Jackie Robinson, 65, in her Seaside home in 2023. The jury also found that he personally used a deadly weapon in the commission of the murder. Hart faces a sentence of 26 years to life in prison.

On May 5, 2023, Hart became enraged about imagined infidelity by his girlfriend. He chose to take his anger out on Robinson, his girlfriend's mother. He entered Robinson's home and brutally beat her to death. Seaside Police found him in the home, covered in blood. Efforts to save Robinson's life were not successful.

This case was investigated by the Seaside Police Department.

*See **GAVEL** page 46A*

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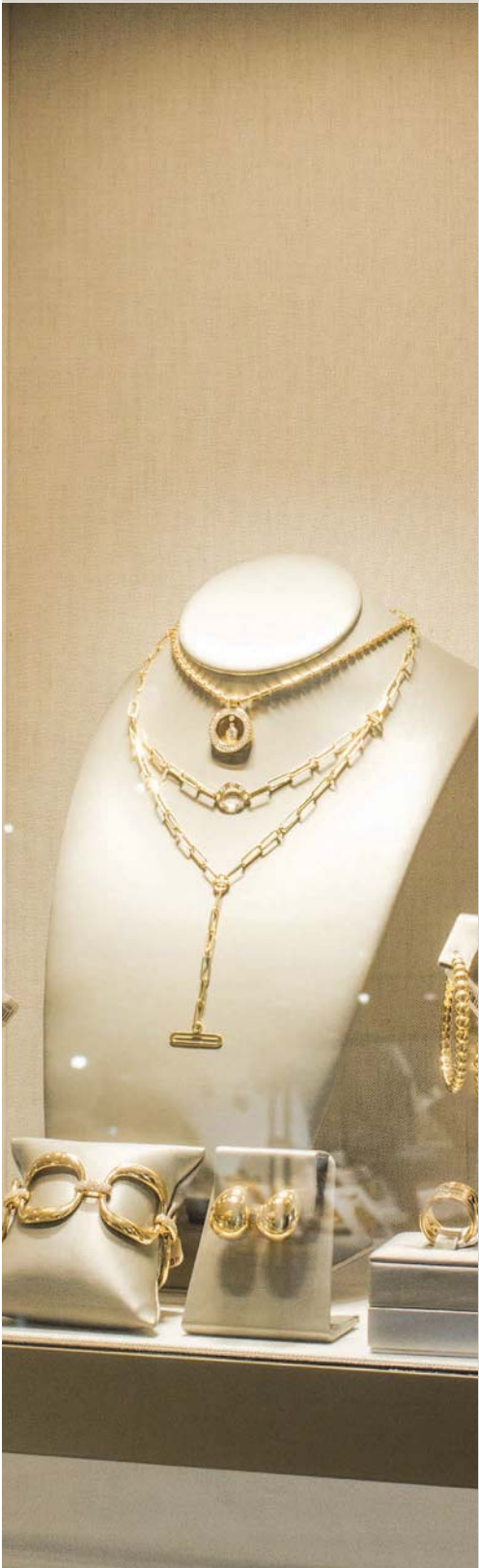
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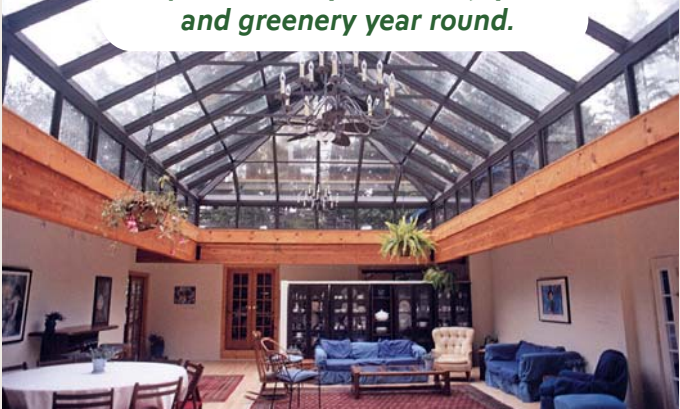
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New commander brings big-city experience without big-city mindset

By MARY SCHLEY

LIFELONG SAN Jose resident Todd Trayer thought he was retiring when he wrapped up his lengthy career with San Jose Police Department last year. But the chance to become the new commander — second in charge, after the chief — at Carmel P.D. changed all that.

Trayer, 51, joined the department five months ago and said he won't be hanging up the handcuffs anytime soon.

"I plan to stay here a long time," he said.

While Trayer is new to the city's payroll, he's not new to Carmel. Nor is his affection for the town.

"When I was in high school, I was dating this really cute blonde, and I would bring her here," Trayer said. "She's my wife."

Trayer was in college when he tested to become a police officer and joined the San Jose department at the age of 21. Over the years and decades that followed, he worked in 16 divisions, covering everything from investigating serial rapists to operating undercover in vice.

"I worked patrol, which is still the backbone of every police department," he said.

A different name

His three years as a sexual-assault detective taught him a lot about investigating as he helped bring down two serial criminals who are still behind bars.

"I worked internal affairs," he continued. "That was brutal, but it was powerful."

He worked with the gang unit for a while, and his five years in vice and intelligence included undercover stints during which he'd frequent bars, underground nightclubs and sideshows. "It's no secret anymore, so I can tell you that," he said. "I even had a different name."

In that capacity, Trayer and his fellow

officers were able to "shut down entities that were causing people to get hurt or killed." Trayer served as part of one of the nation's early crisis intervention teams, which SJPd established to handle calls involving people with mental health issues.

Coffee shops

Following all that, he was preparing to retire from law enforcement when a colleague told him about the opening at Carmel P.D. The department hadn't had a commander since Jeff Watkins left the post to be acting chief and then chief during the period between Alan Ward's departure and Paul Tomasi's return.

"I did a tremendous amount of research before coming here," he said, including

See **TRAYER** page 28A



PHOTO/COURTESY TODD TRAYER

Cmdr. Todd Trayer says he is excited to be in Carmel and to "work with such a fantastic team."



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Just Sold | 2872 Rancho Road, Pebble Beach

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LandWatch criticizes plan for 3,500-home subdivision in Gonzales

By CHRIS COUNTS

A PROPOSED subdivision called Vista Lucia would add thousands of homes to the Salinas Valley city of Gonzales, which had a population of 8,200 in the 2020 Census and could double in size after the new homes are built.

The development, covering 700 acres just east of the city, calls for building 3,498 single-family and multifamily residential units.

There will also be “two commercial/residential mixed-use centers, elementary school sites, a middle school site, and recreational facilities, including parks, athletic fields, trails, plazas, community gardens and neighborhood squares.”

Price tag too high?

The builder is Pembroke Development, and if all goes according to plan, construction could start next year. But a slow-growth group wants Monterey County to step in and force the city to make the project denser — thereby making the homes more affordable.

In a letter to supporters, executive director Mike DeLapa of LandWatch Monterey County warned that the homes would be

too expensive for those who live and work in Gonzales, Salinas and the surrounding areas.

“The household median income in Gonzales is \$74,000 and its workforce is primarily low wage,” DeLapa wrote. “None of Gonzales’ moderate-income or low-income families would be able to purchase any of the Vista Lucia units as the project is now planned.”

In a letter he sent to the Gonzalez Planning Commission March 3, DeLapa contends the sale price of homes will be between \$555,000 and \$650,000 — which he suggested is far more than most residents can afford.

While the development would bring much-needed housing to the county, DeLapa said an alternative described in the project’s environmental impact report would “use a smaller footprint, thereby preserving agricultural land” while offering more affordable homes.

According to DeLapa, since the property for Vista Lucia hasn’t yet been incorporated into the City of Gonzales, the county has the leverage to push the builder to make the homes cost less.

“A 2014 memorandum of agreement between the county and the city requires

the city to avoid urban sprawl, postpone conversion of agricultural land, and maintain a positive jobs-housing balance,” he said. “As currently proposed, Vista Lucia violates the agreement. The county can demand that Gonzales approve a better project.”

DeLapa called for the county “to enforce its agreement,” and demand a better project.” “The county can demand that Gonzales” “because it can refuse the city’s request for a tax-sharing agreement if the project does not adhere to the 2014 agreement,” he said.

Responding to LandWatch’s concerns, the Gonzales community development director, Taven Brown, told The Pine Cone that the project will offer a mix of housing that many of the city’s residents will be able to afford, including single-family houses on smaller lots, townhouses and apartments, with some units deemed affordable.

“There will be a spectrum of housing types,” Brown explained. “There will be six different price points.”

‘We need to grow’

The official said the city has a critical shortage of housing. He noted that when oung people return after graduating from college, they often must move back in with their parents because they have no other options.

“We are built out,” he said. “We are looking into the cracks to build new homes — we haven’t had a subdivision built for



CITY OF GONZALES

An architect’s rendering shows what the town center at the Vista Lucia development in the City of Gonzales will look like.

15 years. We need to grow, and we need to grow somewhere.”

Brown insisted the demand for new homes exists, with hundreds of people expressing interest. “Folks want new roofs,” he suggested. “Many have down payments ready — people want this.”

The official also pushed back against the notion that the city is creating sprawl.

“It’s being done in a concerted and thoughtful manner,” he said. “We’re giving up development interests on the north, west and south sides of the city where the supreme agricultural lands are.”

Brown said no public hearing is set but will be soon. The Gonzales City Council plans to host one more hearing on the plan, and if it signs off on the project and its EIR, the Local Agency Formation Commission will rule then on the proposed incorporation of the Vista Lucia site into Gonzales.

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from your taxes.

For the future, you may be able to help control your debts by building an emergency fund, with the money held in a liquid account, to pay for unexpected expenses.

On the investing side, if your employer offers a 401(k) with a match, contribute enough to earn the match. It’s effectively free money.

However, you manage investing and debt, taking small, incremental steps is key to helping you get to where you want to go.

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Stricken hiker rescued in Garland Park

By MARY SCHLEY

A WOMAN got an unusual ride down the narrow, twisty and occasionally steep Waterfall Trail in Garland Ranch Regional Park Sunday afternoon after suffering a medical emergency while hiking, according to Monterey County Regional Fire and a bystander.

Carmel Valley resident Polly Osborne said she was walking in the park near the base of the Waterfall Trail May 25 when an ambulance and other emergency equipment rolled up. She asked what was going on and was told someone up the trail needed medical help.

“She was above the waterfall at the top of the steps,” Osborne said, referring to a section of the trail.

Monterey County Regional Fire Division Chief Scott Anderson said his agency brought the ambulance and a John Deere ATV equipped for off-road rescues in the back country. He also asked the Monterey County Sheriff’s Urban Search and Rescue Team to help.

“Given the location — she was about 2 1/2 miles in — we wanted to have more people than we needed, so if crews got tired on the walk out, we could switch them out,” he explained. “We didn’t use them, but they were there as a backup plan.”

‘Like a champ’

A team went up in search of the stricken hiker, who was conscious, breathing and talking when they reached her, according to Anderson.

“Once our folks got up there, they were able to provide patient care and get her packaged in a Stokes basket,” he

said, describing the stretcher in which the patient was secured. The contraption has “a big wheel in the middle, so instead of carrying it, you’re wheeling, so you just have to keep the four corners balanced.”

The Stokes basket was necessary, Anderson said, since the woman was



PHOTO/POLLY OSBORNE

A woman who needed medical care while on a hike was brought down the trail in a Stokes basket with a giant center wheel.

“nowhere you can get a pickup truck or even a rescue vehicle to.”

The crew made it to the waiting ambulance at the bottom of the hill and loaded her in for the ride to the hospital, where she was evaluated, according to Anderson.

He didn’t have any information on her condition and wouldn’t disclose her age, city of residence, the type of medical problem or any other details, citing privacy laws.

Osborne said the incident appeared to have been heart-related and that the woman seemed to be doing well when she was loaded into the ambulance.

“She looked fit and outdoorsy. I think she’ll be fine,” she said. “And the rescue stretcher is a very cool contraption. It took the Waterfall Trail like a champ.”

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SACRAMENTO AXES HUNDREDS OF BILLS AS IT FACES \$12 BILLION DEFICIT

By CAITLIN CONRAD

IN AN effort to save time and money, lawmakers rejected hundreds of bills in Sacramento Friday during a biannual meeting known as the “suspense file.” The hearing is an opportunity for the chairs of the Assembly and Senate Appropriations Committees to quickly kill bills that may be unpopular or, in years like this, too costly.

California is facing a \$12 billion deficit, and Friday was a chance to table bills that would add to the state’s budget woes. However, none of the decisions were made during the hearing itself.

“All of these measures have already had a hearing with this committee, with an opportunity for public testimony,” said committee chair, Sen. Anna Caballero, a Merced

Democrat.

She made the announcement before voting got started and, as promised, there was no testimony or discussion Friday. Instead, the committee axed 29 percent of the 432 Senate bills on its list in just under two hours. The Assembly hearing was a similar story, as lawmakers voted down 35 percent of the 666 bills from its chamber.

Quick work

“We are in a very difficult budget environment this year, so many good bills are going to fall by the wayside today,” said Oakland Democrat and chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee Buffy Wicks.

Legislation on the chopping block included bills to expand Medi-Cal benefits and offer free healthcare to a

greater number of undocumented immigrants. The cuts fall in line with Gov. Gavin Newsom’s May budget revision.

Earlier this month, Newsom unveiled a \$322 billion spending plan with deep cuts to Medi-Cal, the state’s version of Medicare, walking back his promise to provide healthcare for the undocumented. California has spent \$11 billion on healthcare for undocumented immigrants this fiscal year, almost double the \$6 billion it initially planned for. Newsom’s budget revision calls for ending free healthcare to undocumented people who are 18 or older starting in 2026.

‘We are in a difficult budget environment this year’

New acronym

Unsurprisingly, a bill that would have allowed higher-earning undocumented immigrants to purchase health insurance through a subsidized state program, Covered California, was killed Friday. Another piece of legislation that would have allowed housing services to be added to the list of Medi-Cal benefits was also shot down. Wicks authored the bill, which was expected to add \$40 million in spending.

Monterey Peninsula Assemblymember Dawn Addis has introduced 18 bills this year, and more than half are still standing after last week’s winnowing.

“Ten of my bills have moved forward in the legislative process, advancing priorities like healthcare access,

See **BUDGET** page 28A



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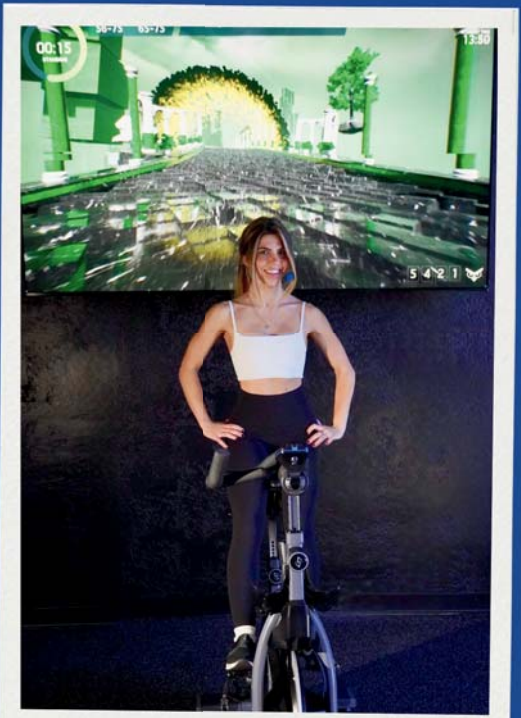
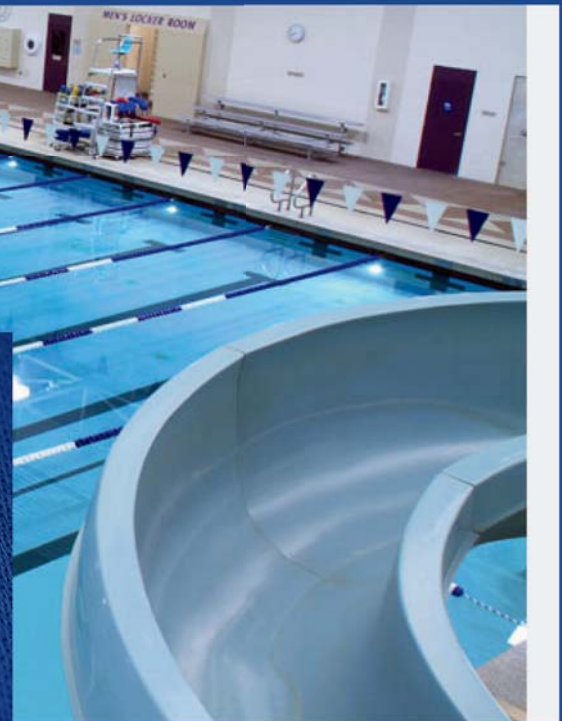
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THE CITY OF
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HOUSING

From page 1A

and helping churches build housing.

Carmel Residents Association board member Tim Twomey, a member of the housing alternatives group, explained that 161 units could be created, 75 percent of them affordable, by turning “underperforming” hotels into apartment buildings.

In this scenario, a hotel owner could turn the property into apartments or sell it to a developer who would. Part of a hotel’s value are its room rights — referred to as “keys” in the lodging industry — that could be sold for use in a new hotel or to expand one. Twomey said keys are valuable because the city caps the number of hotel rooms at 948, and he predicted a significant return on investment. Additional incentives would include discounted permit fees, streamlining, city-provided water credits and increased density.

“When we ran this by the state housing department, they really liked it and thought it was a creative program,” Twomey said.

Councilman Hans Buder, a member of the housing alternatives group, said mixed-income housing could be provided in compact complexes in the commercial districts, citing The Carmel Foundation’s

Trevvett Court on Dolores as an example. The group identified Su Vecino Court, the former Cottage restaurant — which is owned by Patrice Pastor — and the former bank building occupied by the GBG clothing store as possible sites.

Developers would be allowed to build more units than the code permits, could receive city water, and get other incentives. Such projects would be profitable, since they would include market-rate units, and he estimated the program could generate 27 new units, nine of them affordable.

Work/live

Buder also said he and other volunteers canvassed the commercial district for underused off-street storefronts and offices with space upstairs or in the rear that could be converted into live/work units. “It’s something any downtown property owner could opt into if they’re interested in creating housing,” he said.

The group focused on 14 properties with the greatest potential and said as many as 116 units, but more likely somewhere around 85, could be converted.

CRA board member Nancy Twomey talked about the potential of renting accessory dwelling units to very low-, low- and moderate-income tenants. With the state paving the way for ADUs by stripping local jurisdictions of most of their controls,

they have become increasingly popular and common — 24 were built in the city last year, nearly double the number built in 2023 — and owners should be incentivized to offer affordable rents.

While many owners are reluctant to commit to deed-restricted low-cost housing, the city needs to find a way to document affordable ADUs so the state will credit them toward its housing obligation, according to the group. The program also calls for providing amnesty for units that were built without permits so they can be documented. Twomey estimated 77 ADUs will be built during the eight-year cycle, with 90 percent in the affordable range.

Under state legislation that removes many of the barriers for building 100 percent affordable housing on land owned by religious institutions, churches are a viable area of development, former councilwoman Victoria Beach said.

In fact, three — Church of the Wayfarer, the Christian Science church and All Saints’ — are already exploring options. State law exempts such projects from environmental review and local parking requirements, density limits and design approvals, she said, and the city could further incentivize churches by offering water, expedited permit processing and reduced fees. The group estimated the program could yield 65 affordable units.

“Every program is self-financing,” she pointed out.

While many have asked how the state could order the city to accommodate more housing when there’s a moratorium on new water hookups and the Peninsula has been mired in a regulatory drought for decades, planning commissioner Stephanie Locke, who works for the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, said at a May 14 planning commission meeting that a new allocation of 14 acre-feet from the Pure Water Monterey reclamation project will ensure there’s plenty to go around.

She also said there are work-arounds for the meter moratorium. “Property owners with meters are able to move forward with

residential projects during the moratorium by using inline or submeters,” she said, so “the only properties that are constrained are properties that don’t have a meter.”

Housing a go

Multifamily complexes and affordable units can permanently submeter, “so there’s no requirement to put in a Cal Am meter when the moratorium is lifted,” she said, and ADUs can use submeters, too.

“There’s no reason most of the housing proposals should not be able to literally begin tomorrow,” she said. “I strongly urge the city to move forward with releasing water for projects that will take time to complete,” since the new water won’t be available until the end of the year.

Locke reiterated those points at the joint meeting. “Water should not be held hostage for affordable housing,” she said.

Following public comment, including sentiment from former councilwoman Karen Ferlito that city-owned sites should still be considered viable because the city would have control over the projects, councilmembers and planning commissioners shared their views and generally offered support for the housing group’s ideas.

Councilwoman Alissandra Dramov suggested Carmel Plaza be considered for potential live/work spaces, and while the city’s meager water supply in the past has been earmarked for affordable housing, councilman Jeff Baron said he’d hate that to be an impediment to market-rate units that might otherwise be part of a project.

Recalling the outcry from Monte Verde Street residents several years ago after the Christian Science church floated the idea of a residential complex on its spacious property, he speculated churches won’t be eager to proceed if their neighbors object.

Buder said the programs could bring a more diverse and younger population to town, and councilman Bob Delves said he is “in full support of all five strategies.”

Planning commission chair Michael LePage said the city has to have “political and legal strategies that will get this done.”

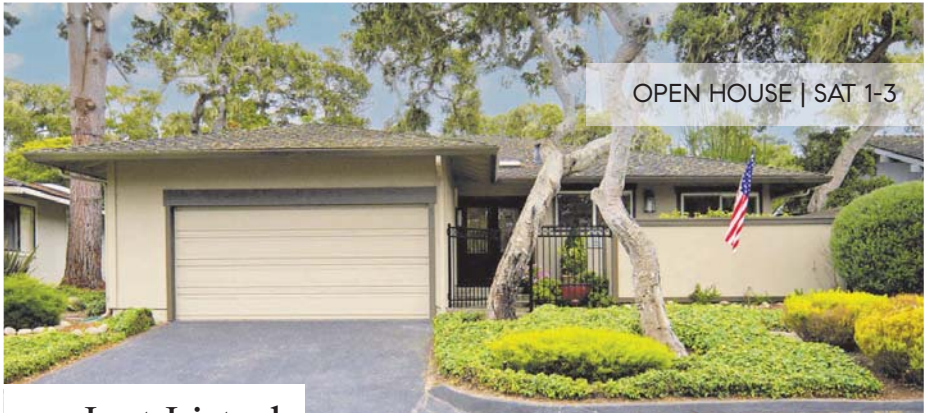


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COMPASS

Another garbage rate hike, budget, parking on council agendas

By MARY SCHLEY

FOR DECADES, Carmel’s decision makers have struggled with how to handle parking congestion — and perhaps make money off it like other cities do — but they’ve generally reverted to the norm. Studies have been conducted, consultants have been paid to seek public input and develop plans, and hours of staff time have been spent on researching the topic, but other than a short-lived experiment with paid parking downtown a decade ago, nothing much has changed.

At a special city council meeting Monday afternoon, Mayor Dale Byrne plans to “lead a presentation and discussion about parking management options within the city,” according to the June 2 agenda. The mayor contributed a column to this week’s Pine Cone outlining some of his ideas to solve the perennial problem of not enough parking in downtown Carmel (see page 27A).

At Monday’s meeting, “following questions and public comments, council will be asked to provide feedback and direction.”

An hour is allocated for the topic, which follows the ratification of appointments to the community activities commission (Ellen Martin, Jeff Meachum, Judy Refuerzo, Maria Ruess and Katie Enea), Harrison Memorial Library Board of Trustees (Billy Farina and Donna Jett), the historic resources board (Bobbie Voris) and the forest and beach commission (Harry Ross), and discussion of changes to city council policies on conducting meetings and setting agendas, a topic also initiated by Byrne.

Ocean Ave. potholes

Monday’s meeting will include the consent calendar of items of routine city business like monthly reports and contracts — among them a proposed \$400,000 cost-sharing agreement between the city and Monterey County to repave the pothole-plagued stretch of Ocean Avenue between Highway 1 and Carpenter Street, which is the city’s eastern boundary.

And prior to getting down to business in city hall, councilmembers at 3:30 p.m. will visit the property on Dolores south of Seventh where owner Patrice Pastor has long sought to build a mixed-use complex. After finally

receiving approval from the planning commission in April, the project was appealed by a group of opponents, putting its fate in the hands of the council. Although they will be touring the site, the appeal is not scheduled for a hearing at either of next week’s meetings.

Budget, garbage

The regular council meeting June 3 will focus on the adoption of the proposed \$39,829,800 2025-2026 budget,

which anticipates revenues of \$34,915,081 and using \$4,914,791 in savings from prior years in order to balance. More than \$7.8 million is allocated for capital projects and equipment, including \$2.4 million for forest/beach/parks projects, \$1.1 million for fixing streets and sidewalks, \$1.7 million for work on city facilities, \$350,000 for drainage projects, \$90,000 for IT and \$1.1 million for new vehicles,

See **AGENDA** page 20A

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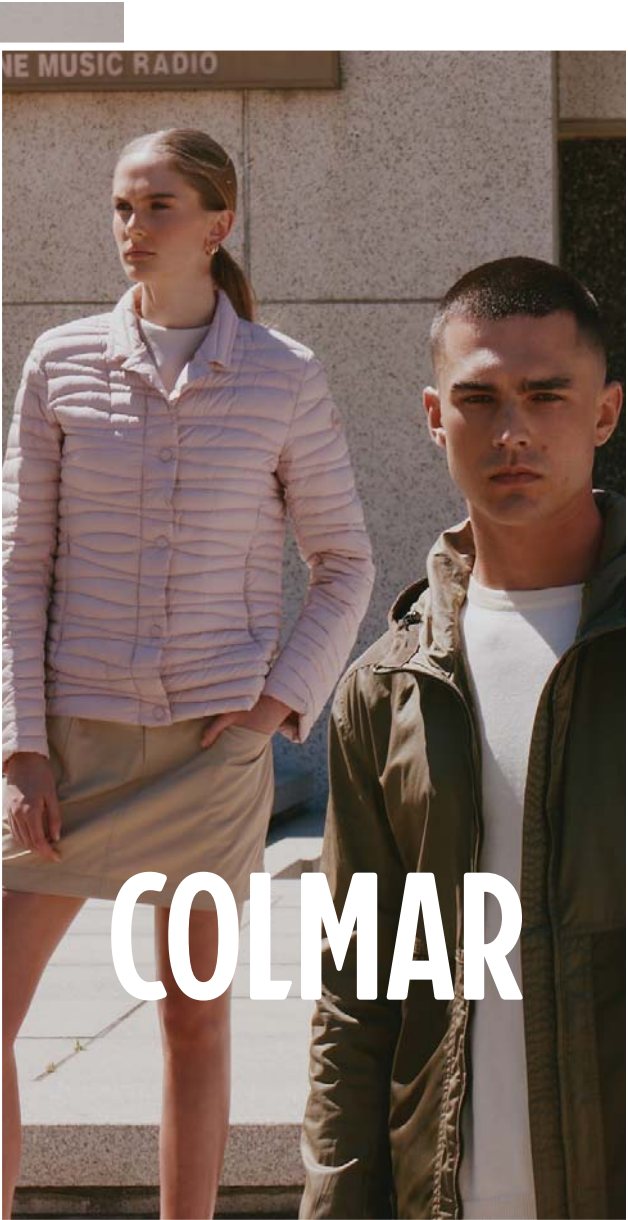
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BATTERIES

From page 1A

of the facility, including updating, sharing and publishing its emergency action plan and pre-fire plan, “conducting emergency response training for site personnel, coordinating joint training efforts and participating in exercises with North County Fire and the California Office of Emergency Services.

PG&E also said it’s created an air dispersion model for the facility in partnership with Tesla — which provided the batteries for the operation — installed a continuous air monitoring system in consultation with the EPA, and formed an incident management team, which the company said has been certified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, “to mobilize and respond to large-scale incidents and coordinate with first responders.”

Peak hours

The PG&E facility, like Vistra’s, is designed to store energy during low-demand periods and release it during peak demand. The storage facilities are seen by California legislators as a critical component of the state’s plan to curtail the use of fossil fuels.

PG&E went on to say that the company and Tesla have “performed extensive inspection and cleanup at the Elkhorn Facility within the Moss Landing Substation necessitated by the Vistra fire and the subsequent distribution of particulates” from the fire.

“This included disassembly, inspection and vacuum cleaning of the interior of each battery megapack,” said the utility, adding that it coordinated with Monterey County “to inspect the Elkhorn Facility to ensure the site was safe prior to having personnel return.”

With summer and warmer weather approaching, PG&E said restarting the facility would help strengthen the reliability of the state’s power grid and protect its customers from power limitations.

An emergency action plan developed by the company in July 2024, and revised in January, identifies steps to take to engage with first responders during an emergency.

“Accordingly, PG&E believes it is appropriate to return Elkhorn to service by June 1 to support grid reliability and that it is safe to do so,” PG&E said.

PG&E told the Monterey County Board of Supervisors that a fire at its facility in 2022 was caused by water leaking onto one of the Tesla batteries. The problem has been fixed, the utility said, with software designed to stop energy flow to the batteries when alarms are detected.

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WILDLIFE

From page 1A

contacted and confirmed the animal is a coyote.

“We arrived in South Monterey County to pick it up for transport to a wildlife rehabilitation facility,” Burton explained. “We gave the little coyote a quick inspection to make sure she had no significant injuries.”

She had some minor cuts on her neck from the cat attack. Burton said the coyote will be with other pups in the rehab facility.

Fawn kept in house

Burton has heard plenty of tales involving well-meaning people who try to help wild animals but end up inadvertently harming them. One occurred in Pacific Grove earlier this month.

On May 15, a P.G. resident was hosting a house party when a small fawn got one of its legs caught in his fence. While the homeowner was able to get the animal unstuck, he didn’t want it on his property, so he gave it to a neighbor, who kept it inside his house.

“Unfortunately, by doing so they separated the mother and fawn for a long period of time, which can result in a more difficult time trying to reunite them,” Burton said. “It also causes extreme stress to the fawn, which can kill it.”

By the time Burton arrived, the fawn had been inside the neighbor’s house for several hours.

“We tried to reunite the fawn and mother that night but had no success,” he said. “The following morning it had to be picked and brought to a wildlife rehabilitation facility.”

Two days before that, Burton was called to a home near Pajaro where a homeowner reported hearing raccoon noises from the attic. The owner wanted what turned out to be a family of raccoons, including babies,

removed. But Burton said he prefers to make noise and do other things to disturb the animals so they will leave on their own and find another place to live.

“That’s when the homeowner informed us that he had trapped the mother raccoon the day before and released her a few miles away,” Burton said. “This is illegal.”

Because the mom was no longer around, Urban Trapping Wildlife Control had to cut into the ceiling to remove the babies, which were so young they still had their eyes shut.

“This was a completely preventable situation,” Burton said, adding that they are now orphans and will have to be raised by a wildlife rehabilitation organization.

In yet another incident, a contractor found three baby raccoons in a building he was demolishing in the Prunedale area. Instead of placing them in a box near where they were found so the mother could retrieve them later, which Burton recommends, the contractor took them and drove around trying to give them away.

“Ultimately these raccoons ended up on Facebook for sale, which is illegal,” he said. “Only one has been found, and it was handed over to the SPCA. We’ve been in communication with Department of Fish and Wildlife, and an investigation is underway.”

Right and wrong ways

Burton said the “common theme in all the incidents is humans interfering with juvenile wild animals.”

“There’s a right way and wrong way to handle juvenile wildlife,” he said. “Ultimately you should always contact a wildlife specialist, regardless of whether it’s fish and wildlife, SPCA Monterey County or Urban Trapping Wildlife Control. We can all walk you through what you’re supposed to do it and what’s illegal.”

Burton can be reached at (831) 809-2441 and urbantrappingwildlifecontrol@gmail.com.

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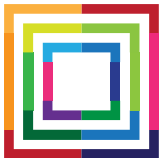
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SCENIC

From page 1A

transactions and restrictions were recorded on April 22, 2024, at the request of the Bank of Carmel.

Specifically, the document reads, “Reserving, however, for the perpetual benefit of the pedestrian public, and none other, the following rights and privileges, but none other, namely: to enter upon and pass over and across said property for the purposes, or any of them, but not otherwise, of sight-seeing, fishing, sketching or picnicking; provided, however, that said public rights and privileges shall not be construed to include camping or the setting up or maintaining of tents or other shelters.”

Further, the owner “agrees not to build or allow to be built any buildings or

improvements of any kind or character on the said described property, but to keep the same in its natural condition. If not so kept, said property is to revert to and become the property of the Carmel Development Company.”

Unique listing

Monosoff said the property is “probably the most interesting” listing he’s had during his career.

“I’ve never sold a property you can’t do anything with,” he said.

He said he came up with the \$100,000 asking price based on the \$10,000 sale of an equally unusable piece of property in Palo Colorado.

“There’s absolutely no comparable for it,” he explained.

But the house just to the north of it sold for \$22 million in February 2023, so maybe it’s a bargain.



PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

This small Scenic Road property — no one knows exactly how small, according to the broker, because the boundaries are unclear — is looking for just the right buyer with just the right lawn chair.



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2025 CITY EVENTS

JUNE

- May 30, Fri. - June 7, Fri. **Carmel Culinary Week**
- June 7-8, Sat.-Sun. **Carmel Surfabout**
- June 19, Thurs. **Farmers' Market Third Thursday**
- June 21, Sat. **Carmel Prepares - Community Safety Series**

JULY

- July 4, Fri. **Monterey Pops! Concert**
- July 19, Thurs. **Farmers' Market Third Thursday**

AUGUST

CAR WEEK

- Aug. 12, Tues. **Concours for a Cause**
- Aug. 13, Wed. **Astons on the Avenue**
- Aug. 14, Thurs. **Prancing Ponies Womens Car Show**
- Aug. 14, Thurs. **Ferrari Owners' Concours Carmel**
- Aug. 28, Wed. **Homecrafters' Jurying**

SEPT.

- Sept. 6, Sat. **Carmel Prepares Community Safety Series**
- TBD Fri. **Carmel High School Homecoming Parade**
- TBD Sat. **Sandcastle Contest**
- Sept. 18, Thurs. **Farmers' Market Third Thursday & Community Day**

OCT.

- TBD **Challenged Athletes**
- Oct. 11, Sat. **Meet the Makers**
- Oct. 16, Thurs. **Farmers' Market Third Thursday**
- Oct. 25, Sat. **Pumpkin Roll**
- Oct. 31, Fri. **Halloween Parade**

NOV. & DEC.

- Nov. 11, Mon. **Veterans' Day Ceremony**
- Nov. 16, Sat. **Carmel Prepares - Community Safety Series**
- Nov. 23, Sat. **54th Annual Homecrafters' Marketplace**
- Dec. 5, Fri. **Holiday Celebration**

For more information
call: 831-620-2020



Or Visit
ci.carmel.ca.us/upcoming-events



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Nightly Sips & Sunsets at The Patio at Lucia

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Live music featured Tuesday and Wednesday from 6pm to 9pm.

Sunday Brunch | 11am-2:30pm

Chef Christian's brunch menu features classic eggs benedict, huevos rancheros, brick oven pizzas & beyond. Enjoy live music and 15% off all bottles of champagne make the weekend worthy of a toast!

Brunch menu is available on Saturday, too.

Mahjong Monday | 3pm-8pm

Join us Monday afternoons for community, connection, and celebration around the Mahjong tables on the Lucia patio.

Burgers & Bubbles Tuesday | 5pm-9pm

Enjoy a Bernardus Burger and a glass of Champagne on the patio.

Wine Country Wednesday | All Day

Explore the amazing wine from our cellar with 15% off all 750ml bottles and an opportunity to uncover something new.

As an extra, between 5pm - 7pm Chef Christian & team offer oyster shucking on the patio, beginning \$20 for a half-dozen.



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Effort begun to repeal P.G. council raise

By KELLY NIX

A GROUP of residents opposed to the Pacific Grove City Council's decision last week to give itself an immediate 130 percent pay raise is hoping to overturn the idea by putting it to a vote of the people.

The council on May 21 passed an ordinance to increase their monthly pay from \$420 to \$966, and from \$700 to \$1,610 for the mayor. Councilmembers Lori McDonnell and Paul Walkingstick voted against the pay hike.

In response, a group calling itself Transparent Pacific Grove filed referendum paperwork with the city clerk May 23. Former city councilman Luke Coletti filed the documents for the group.

Referendum organizers have a tight deadline. City attorney Brian Pierik — who recommended the city council give itself the raise — has 10 business days to approve the group's referendum summary. Once that's been done, Transparent Pacific Grove has 30 days to collect about 1,000 signatures from registered voters.

Can't afford it?

If the group is successful in getting them, the city council has the option of putting the referendum on the ballot or repealing the pay raise.

Most of the 20 or so P.G. residents who commented on the raise at a May 7 meeting were opposed to it, though several residents wrote letters supporting the idea.

Transparent Pacific Grove's message to

the council and voters is that the city can't afford the pay raise and possible medical benefits, which the council is also considering giving itself. City council positions are part time.

During an April 16 meeting, city finance director Fred Marsh told the council that Pacific Grove is facing a \$55 million unfunded pension liability, a 30 percent

increase in liability insurance, and a projected deficit over the next several years.

"Councilmember Tina Rau emphasized the need to prepare for upcoming economic headwinds," Transparent Pacific Grove said in a press release. "Councilmember Cynthia Garfield acknowledged that Pacific Grove and Carmel have some of the worst pension

liabilities in the region."

Despite their budget concerns, three weeks later, the city council, including Rau and Garfield, voted to increase councilmembers' pay.

While the raise will cost P.G. taxpayers an extra \$50,232 annually, if the councilmembers also give themselves healthcare coverage, the total cost could be about \$93,000. That figure would increase to more than \$179,000 with family healthcare coverage, Transparent Pacific Grove maintains.

Taxpayers would also be on the hook for pension costs, which councilmembers are entitled to receive.

"Increasing their salary increases the potential pension benefit," the group said.

See **COUNCIL** page 20A

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20250967
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **STUDIO DEMARIA**, 8750 Carmel Valley Rd., Carmel, CA 93923.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
Registered Owner(s): JUSTIN DEMARIA, P.O. Box 22192. Carmel, CA 93922.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on May 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/Justin Demaria
Date signed: May 23, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 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 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2025 (PC 578)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 25CV002710
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, MARITESS TORREBLANCA WICKLIFF, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
A. Present name: MARITESS TORREBLANCA WICKLIFF
Proposed name: MARITESS TORREBLANCA
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 15, 2025
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
DEPT: 15
The address of the court is 1200 Aquajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: The Carmel Pine Cone.
(s) Thomas W. Wills
Judge of the Superior Court
Date filed: May 23, 2025
Publication Dates: May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2025. (PC 580)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250905
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **ADVOCATES OF THE UN-**

DERGROWTH, 160 18th Street, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: **ADVOCATES OF THE UNDERGROWTH 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 May 13, 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/Bryan Sands, CEO
Date: 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 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2025. (PC 581)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO LEVY AND COLLECT ANNUAL CARMEL VALLEY RECREATION AND PARK MAINTENANCE DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on June 11, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, the Board of Directors of the Carmel Valley Recreation and Park District will hold a Public Hearing to consider levying and ordering the collection of the assessments for the Carmel Valley Recreation and Park Maintenance District for Fiscal Year 2025-26. The Board will accept public comments and questions, and consider ordering the maintenance of improvements, confirming diagrams and assessments and the levying and collection of assessments.

This hearing will be held at 29 Ford Road, Carmel Valley, California, 93924.

A Resolution of Intention to Levy and Collect Assessments for the above referenced Park Maintenance Assessment District was approved by the Board of Directors of the Carmel Valley Recreation and Park District on May 14, 2025, by Resolution No. 2025-02. The Fiscal Year 2025-26 assessments shall be levied and increased by 2.76% over that which was levied in the prior fiscal year.

Information regarding the Engineer's Report for the Park Maintenance Assessment District may be obtained from the Carmel Valley Recreation and Park District by calling (831) 659-7275. The Engineer's Report may be viewed on the Carmel Valley Recreation and Park District's website at cvrpd.specialdistrict.org.

Any interested person may file a written protest with the Board of Directors prior to the conclusion of the Public Hearing, or having previously filed a protest may file a written withdrawal of that protest. A written protest shall state all grounds of objection, and a protest by a property owner shall contain a description sufficient to identify the property owned by such property owner. At the Public Hearing all interested persons shall be afforded the opportunity to hear and be heard. The address to file a written protest is P.O. Box 334, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.

Published: May 30, 2025
Posted: May 30, 2025

Motorcyclist, 39, dies in collision with tree

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A MAN was killed Monday when he crashed his motorcycle into a tree near Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. The incident happened around 5 p.m.

The deceased was identified as 39-year-old Michael Brandon Harrison of Merced. He may have been living in Big Sur at the time of the accident.

According to the California Highway Patrol, he was riding his Harley Davidson in the northbound lane of Highway 1 when he veered left, crossed the southbound lane, and collided with a tree, sustaining fatal injuries.

The cause of the accident remains under investigation.



Erika Annemarie Ofer DeSerpa

Erika Annemarie Ofer was born on Nov. 30, 1947, and passed away on May 18, 2025, at Madonna Gardens in Salinas. She was raised in the Rhineland Palatinate region of Central Germany and educated through German school systems in Ludwigshafen Am Rhein. Fluent in German and English, she immigrated to the United States in 1975 where she met and married Jay DeSerpa. She received her U.S. citizenship in 1978.

Erika’s professional career included experience in police and legal administration in Germany and finance and accounting systems with auto dealerships and hotels on the Central Coast. More recently she was involved in real estate projects with DeSerpa Investments LP. Civically Erika was active with the California International Airshow, the National Steinbeck Center, Meals on Wheels of the Salinas Valley and the CSUMB Pay It Forward Program. She is a member of both The Club at Pasadera and Corral de Tierra Country Club.

Recreationally she enjoyed swimming, golf, tennis, skiing, cruising and fishing. With Jay she traveled throughout the U.S.A., Europe, Asia, Mexico, South America and Canada. A beautiful woman with a gracious manner and vivacious personality, she most enjoyed entertaining family and friends at home.

Erika was predeceased by her parents, Otto and Maria Ofer. She is survived by her husband, Jay; two sons, Mike (Cindy) and Jim (Megan) Sayer; and stepchildren, Rick (Kelley) and Kristi DeSerpa; and a brother, Dietmar Ofer (Marylou) of Germany. She also leaves eight grandchildren: Corey, Chad and Ethan Sayer, Erin, Nikki and Katie DeSerpa and Makena and Hayden Stone.

At her direction no services will be held. Memorial donations may be sent to the Central Coast Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice, 5 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Monterey, CA 93940.

Funeral arrangements by Struve and Laporte Funeral Home.

Online condolences to www.struveandlaporte.com

In Loving Memory GREGORY NIELSEN

Gregory Nielsen passed away peacefully, leaving behind a life marked by adventure. Greg grew up on the beaches of Carmel-by-the-Sea, one of four siblings, two older sisters and one younger.

His father owned the beloved Nielsen Brothers Market, which he and his brother founded in 1930, and where Greg worked part-time during the summers. Greg spent his junior year of high school abroad in Italy, living with a family outside Rome.

Upon returning to Carmel for his senior year, Greg soon left to join the U.S. Navy. He was stationed at Honolulu on a nuclear submarine. Upon fulfilling his two year requirement, he extended for another year so he could return to Japan. After some time in college, Greg returned to Hawaii, teaching and running the farm in Hilo.

He will be remembered for his generous heart, his easy laugh, his kitty Speedo, and a life lived entirely on his own terms.

He is survived by his sister, Penny Kweder; her two children, Matthew Kweder and Heather Joy; and his deceased sister’s children, Daphne Lewis and Christian Sutton.



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IN LOVING MEMORY



JOHN DENNIS WEST

August 19, 1939 - April 4, 2025

His kindness, wisdom and bright smile will be missed by all. Big Sur has lost a friendly and devoted resident of 45 years. He cared deeply for the community and Mule Canyon as a riparian habitat for birds and native species.

John was a talented tile setter and stone mason who built his own house in Coastlands. No challenge too great – he had a dream and the vision to create from the ground up.

John was a voracious reader with a surfer style plus a great appreciation and knowledge of music. A Renaissance Man.

John will live on in our hearts always.

**Memorial and Celebration
of John’s Life to be held
Saturday, June 21st,
from 1 to 4 p.m.
Potluck at the Big Sur Grange**

May 30, 2025



Carmel Youth Center
4th Ave. & Torres St.
Carmel-By-The-Sea, CA

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Carmel, CA . 93921

Contact:
831.624.3285
www.carmelyouth.org

Dear Friends of Carmel Youth Center,

Patti and I have dropped by the Carmel Youth Center several times recently to visit with Keith Padgett, the new CEO and to tour the facility and were very impressed. Part of our tour was the Jefferey Raymond Theater and we realized it had been seventeen years since Jefferey’s passing. In writing his obituary, in lieu of flowers, we asked for a donation to the Carmel Youth Center. We were overwhelmed that total donations exceeded \$55,000. With the Board’s permission we changed the downstairs area into a theater in Jefferey’s name. We are thrilled with the direction the center is headed. We donated a 98” screen TV so the children can watch TV and movies in the theater. It is a beautiful space now and warms our hearts to know Jefferey’s memory is still being honored in such a notable way.



During our visit last week, we noticed that 24 theater seats with wooden armrests have not been dedicated. The other 25 seats have engraved names of persons or family, who donated \$500 per seat at the time of construction in 2009, and we thank you so very much for your past support.

Patti and I are asking our friends to please consider helping us finish the seat sponsorship by donating \$500 to the Youth Center to have your name(s) engraved on a remaining seat.

In June or July, the Center will have a grand reopening of the theater, featuring Clint Eastwood’s documentary, ‘Don’t Pave Main Street’. It will be an exclusive for all of the new donors. Refreshments, popcorn and wine will be served.

As stated above, there are only 24 armrests available so if you would like to participate it will be on a first come basis. Please print exactly what you wish to have engraved.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you at the opening.

Warm Regards,

Merv Sutton & Patti Alhona

Merv Sutton & Patti Alhona

Worship

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PACIFIC GROVE ~ PEBBLE BEACH ~ SEASIDE

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WORSHIP 11 A.M. SUNDAYS

Sermon title:
'JESUS GIVES US A NEW VISION
OF GOD AND GOD'S KINGDOM'

Pastor Paul Wrightman

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St. Anselm's Anglican Church

SCRIPTURE-BASED WORSHIP
FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Worship Every
Sunday 9:30 am

Meeting at:
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All Saints' Episcopal Church



SUNDAYS 10 A.M.
SW Corner of Dolores & 9th
Carmel-by-the-Sea

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

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info@allsaintscarmel.org



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TRADITIONAL

11:00am

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Corner of Ocean & Junipero
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video

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• 10 a.m.
• 12:30 p.m. (Single adults)

QUESTIONS?
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ComeUntoChrist.org

1024 Noche Buena St., Seaside
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• 1 pm (Tongan)

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
MONTEREY STAKE



Email

Anne@carmelpinecone.com
to be included in this directory

Pancakes with police

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE CARMEL Police Department is hosting a free pancake breakfast at the Carmel Youth Center May 31 from 9 to 11 a.m., when officers, dispatchers and volunteers will be available for casual conversations with locals over a tasty meal.

“The pancake breakfast is a ‘no-agenda’ community gathering for Carmel,” new CPD Cmdr. Todd Trayer said. “It’s my goal to build more trust between the community and officers. I already see it happening. This is one important step.”

Trayer said he expects to make brief introductions of any public officials who attend and will have members of the police department seated at each table to chat with guests about whatever subjects they want.

“This builds real trust and legitimacy,” he said, and “gives people a voice on things that are on their minds, good and bad, and lets us know what we can do to make it better.”

In addition to pancakes, breakfast will include eggs, bacon, coffee and juice. It’s all free, but Trayer is asking people to RSVP at tinyurl.com/4peudujb. The youth center is located on Fourth Avenue at Torres Street next to the police department.

COUNCIL

From page 18A

“Both Mayor Nick Smith and Councilmember Chaps Poduri are enrolled in the city’s pension program.”

‘More diverse’

While state law also allows voters to decide how much city council members should be paid, P.G. city attorney Brian Pierik — who recommended the raise — did not include the information in his report to the council, something the group notes.

It also took issue with the council’s decision to give itself an immediate pay increase instead of following state law, which calls for pay hikes to take effect after the next election.

“The mayor and council used our charter city status to bypass this state law in order to give themselves an immediate 130 percent salary increase,” the group said.

However, the council hasn’t had a raise in more than 25 years, and Smith, some of the council members and others contend the increase was reasonable and not as high as other cities, including Marina and Monterey.

A pay hike would also make the council more “diverse,” others have suggested, by allowing lower-income citizens to run for office.

Being a council member, Poduri argued earlier this month, involves a lot of work, and he noted that he sometimes spends many hours in meetings.

Besides Smith and Poduri, councilmembers Joe Amelio, Cynthia Garfield and Tina Rau voted to increase their pay.

AGENDA

From page 13A

among them an ambulance, a loader and two EV trucks for public works, two patrol cars and a forestry bucket truck.

“As part of the staff presentation on June 3, council will receive the same list of CIP projects, with a handful of them highlighted” for potential cuts, if desired, according to the staff report.

Councilmembers will revisit the recently released fire hazard severity zone map, which must be adopted by early July, and consider an ordinance amending the Carmel Municipal Code to incorporate it, and will then vote on the introduction of paid parental leave for employees. That ordinance would provide up to six weeks of paid leave per year for the birth, adoption or foster placement of a child.

Finally, the council will be asked to OK a 4.19 percent rate increase sought by GreenWaste. Since the company replaced Waste Management as the city’s trash hauler a decade ago, residential customers have seen their rates nearly double, from about \$80 per period to around \$145.

Each meeting will be held in person in city hall on Monte Verde south of Ocean and online via Zoom with a 4:30 p.m. start time. For more information, including full agenda packets, visit ci.carmel.ca.us.

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Esselen Tribe set to receive 1,700 acres in Upper Carmel Valley

By CHRIS COUNTS

USING MONEY from taxpayers to give land to the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County, the Wildlands Conservancy Thursday announced that the tribe is “poised to reclaim 1,720 acres of culturally and ecologically significant lands along Tularcitos Creek in the Upper Carmel Valley.” The Wildlands Conservancy bought the Tularcitos Creek parcels in 2023 “with the goal of returning the land to its original stewards.”

“Today’s milestone brings that vision closer to reality,” the group announced.

According to Frazier Haney, executive director of the Wildlands Conservancy, the deal “ensures this extraordinary landscape is protected, restored and cared for with the cultural knowledge and connection that only the original stewards of the land can bring.”

‘Who we are’

It’s uncertain how much the deal will cost taxpayers, but the Wildlands Conservancy noted that funding was “secured from the California Wildlife Conservation Board and the California Coastal Conservancy.” The group didn’t respond to a request for more details.

It also noted that the land features oak savanna, riparian corridors and an array of cultural assets, including the site of an ancient village, along with bedrock mortars.

Tom Little Bear Nason, tribal chairman of the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County, said he is grateful to the three groups for their work in making the deal possible.

“This land is part of who we are,” Nason said. “Returning it to Esselen stewardship is an act of healing — for our people, for the land itself and for the broader community.”

The Pine Cone has been a member of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce for more than 100 years.

The transaction also conserves the land, along with its flora and fauna.

“The acquisition will permanently protect the property from subdivision and development into luxury estates, safeguarding critical wildlife corridors and sensitive habitats for species such as steelhead trout, California red-legged frog, California condor and many others,” the conservancy reported.

State Sen. John Laird celebrated the news of the deal.

“Protecting this land and returning it to the care of the Esselen Tribe is a meaningful step in preserving California’s natural and cultural heritage,” said Laird. “It reflects how we can work together — state agencies, conservation partners and tribal nations — to protect important places for future generations.”

The transaction comes five years after taxpayers paid \$4.5 million for the 1,200-acre Adler Ranch in the Palo Colorado area, which was given to the tribe.



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Continues on next page

Police Log: Carmel-by-the-Sea, July 15, 16

A male was reported to be utilizing an alley off San Carlos as a restroom.

The suspect was contacted and advised of legitimate restroom options.

Letter received from a female stating she was being drugged by acquaintances.

She has a history of similar writing(s). Unfounded.

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Continues from previous page

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Shining on diamonds, staying out of the rough, clearing the bar

STEVENSON SCHOOL qualified its entire golf team to compete in Tuesday’s California State Championships, rallying from seventh place after to first nine holes to a second-place finish at the NorCal Regionals in El Cerrito. The Pirates recorded four birdies and three eagles to

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

shoot 368 — eight over par — at Berkeley Country Club, finishing two strokes behind team champion De La Salle, and two strokes better than third-place Palo Alto.

Stevenson’s top five golfers were 14 over par at the turn, then went six under par on the back nine.

Luke Brandler led the Pirates, shooting a 2-under par, two strokes behind Will Chang of Oakland College Prep and Josh Kim of De La Salle, who tied for the lead at 68. Chang defeated Kim in a sudden-death playoff to win the first-place medal.

Brandler and Carmel’s Julien Cho — an individual qualifying for the tournament — tied for third place.

Stevenson’s Steven Lai birdied two of his final three



PHOTO/COURTESY STEVENSON SCHOOL

The Stevenson Pirates, in seventh place after nine holes, staged a furious rally to grab the second-place team trophy at Tuesday’s NorCal golf championships. From left are coach Justin Bates, Zac Hawkins, Steven Lai, Johsh Chadha, Calvin Etcheverry, Marc Sasetia and Luke Brandler, who tied for third individually at 2 under par.

holes to finish 1 over, followed by teammates Zac Hawkins (2 over), Calvin Etcheverry (3 over, including a birdie on 18), and Marc Sasetia (4 over after a strong back nine). Stevenson’s sixth golfer, Johsh Chadha, finished 5 over par.

Carmel’s Cho and all six Pirates will compete Tuesday on familiar terrain — Poppy Hills Golf Course in Pebble Beach — at the California State Championships, which begin at 7:30 a.m.

■ CCS baseball

CHS, RLS in finals: Carmel and Stevenson advanced to the Central Coast Section championship earlier this week in their respective divisions.

Stevenson’s victory in Tuesday’s Division 6 semifinals propelled the top-seeded Pirates (18-8) into the finals Thursday against South San Francisco (23-5), the No. 2 seed.

Semifinal highlights: Carmel defeated Santa Cruz in the Division 3 quarterfinals on Saturday, then won a 2-0 thriller over Christopher on Wednesday in the semifinal round at Sollecito Park in Monterey.

Those victories put the Padres, 19-10 and seeded No. 1, in Friday’s 7 p.m. title game against No. 3 Willow Glen (23-6), at Santa Clara University.

The conquest of Christopher was the second straight shutout victory for the Padres, who beat Santa Cruz 7-0 in the opening round.

Wednesday’s pitching heroes were freshman Kenny Sanchez, who whitewashed the Cougars through the first five innings, and Ty Arnold, who threw the final two innings to get the save.

The Padres scored single runs in the first and fifth innings, powered by Matt Maxon and Sean Carr, who provided four of Carmel’s five hits.

Maxon contributed a single and a double, and scored a run, and Carr got a single and an RBI-triple.

Michael Melnick drove in the other Carmel run with a single in his only at-bat.

Stevenson scored all 12 of its runs in the first three innings — 7 in the second — then held on for a 12-8 victory over Sobrato in the Division 6 semifinals.

The Pirates’ 10-hit attack was led by Phinn Thomas, who knocked in three runs with a double and two singles. Thomas, who reached base a fourth time when he was hit by a pitch, scored three runs.

Other offensive highlights included two hits, two



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Carmel’s Julien Cho, an individual qualifier, shot a 2-under-par 70 Tuesday at Berkeley Country Club in El Cerrito, tying Stevenson’s Luke Brandler for third place overall at the NorCal Golf Championships.

runs and an RBI from Jacob Hall, and one hit apiece from Soren Hillman, Tono Borgomini, Reggie Bell, Henry Blaxter, Brady Mugan and Alex Wang, who knocked in a pair of runs.

Winning pitcher Thomas struck out seven and walked two in 5.2 innings. Wang pitched the final 1 1/3 innings, allowing one hit, no runs, and striking out three.

Quarterfinal highlights: The Pirates defeated No. 8 Design Tech 7-3 in the D-6 quarterfinal round, using a strong pitching performance by senior Flint Dickson, and a 10-hit attack — two each by Thomas, Jack Bucich, Hall, and Reggie Bell.

Thomas, Hall, and Wang drove in two runs each, and Bell stole two bases.

The Pirates defeated Design Tech 7-3 in Saturday’s D-6 quarterfinals, erupting for four runs in the third inning, then adding a run in the fourth and two in the fifth.

In the D-3 quarterfinals, Carmel defeated Santa Cruz, 7-0, powered by sophomore Lucas Rocha’s 2-hit shutout,

Continues next page

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SPORTS

From page 24A

Maxon’s 10th home run of the year, two hits from Arnold, two RBI each from Sean Carr and John Beretti, and one from Dean Brient.

■ CCS track and field

Mack Aldi, a senior at Carmel High, placed second in the boys 800-meter run at Saturday’s Central Coast Section Track and Field Championships, crossing the finish line 0.6 seconds behind Bellarmine’s Shrev Chettiar in the finals.

Chettiar, also a senior, broke the tape in 1:54.81, a stride ahead of Aldi, who was clocked at 1:55.41.

Aldi was the No. 1 seed after running 1:54.82 in the preliminaries, a race in which Scotts Valley junior Aaron Weiss (1:54.95) was his closest pursuer. Weiss placed fifth in the finals

Carmel junior Bodhi Melton (1:58.03) placed eighth in the finals.

Stevenson senior Kekoa Williams placed fourth in the boys high jump, clearing 6 feet, 6 inches — the same height as champion Ryan Shen of Monte Vista, runner-up Anik Singh of Leigh, and third-place Joshua Haven of Bellarmine, who had fewer misses.

Senior Siobhan Ong was the top performer among Stevenson’s girls, placing fifth in the girls pole vault with a height of 10-3, 3 inches below her preliminary vault.

Burlingame’s Avery Boyse won the event, and Leigh’s Quinlyn Abel placed second, both with vaults of 11-9. Boyse

earned the top spot on the podium with fewer misses.

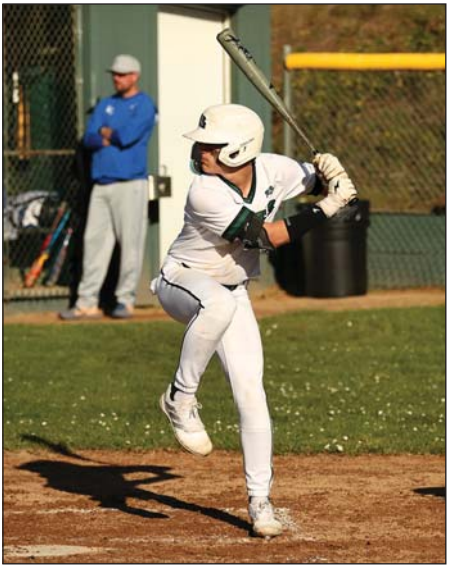
Anna Kosmont, a senior at Stevenson, placed sixth in the finals of the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.82 seconds.

The winning time, 11.78, was recorded by Ellie McCuskey-Hay, a junior from St. Ignatius.

Another Stevenson finalist, senior Vicky Darko, placed 11th in the discus.

Carmel’s Aldi and Stevenson’s Williams qualified for the CIF state meet, which takes place Friday and Saturday at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Clovis.

Friday’s preliminaries begin with field events at 3 p.m. track at 5 p.m. Saturday’s



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Stevenson senior Phinn Thomas belted two singles and a double, scored three times and was the winning pitcher in the Pirates’ 12-8 CCS semi-finals victory over Sobrato on Tuesday.

finals start at 4:30 p.m. for field, 5:45 p.m. for track.

■ CCS boys tennis

Doubles teams representing Stevenson and Carmel were eliminated in the opening round of the CCS boys tennis championships, losing in straight sets.

Stevenson’s Daniya Alvi and Cameron Page were defeated 6-4, 6-1 by Harker’s Rithvik Navad and Vyong Vidyarthi.

Carmel’s Grayson Walton and Georges Guerree lost 6-3, 6-1 to Branham’s Ian Kwon and Brian Liu.

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

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“You look like a local. How do we get to Eastwood’s breath?”

Letters to the Editor

What of the profound loss endured by the neighbors watching their neighborhood

See LETTERS page 29A

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Fifty years, famous mentors and a rich gospel heritage of hope

CHOIR DIRECTOR John L. Nash Jr. knows that music has tremendous power to inspire and lift people’s spirits. He still remembers a gentleman who said he awoke one Sunday morning feeling as if he wanted to take his life, but decided — at least for the moment — to come to a choral concert and listen to some gospel music.

“After hearing our music of hope, he said he knew he wanted to live,” said Nash. “We were just sharing what we do, and he found there was hope among us and decided to live. This motivates me to do what I do. I don’t take anything for granted. Ever.”

A lot of kids grow up in the fellowship of a church community, introduced to the Bible and lifted by the religious expression of a church choir, but Nash, a Seaside

native, took it further than most. His mother was a singer and pianist, and his immersion in those musical traditions, soulful rhythms, and the power of gospel music inspired him, at age 9, to start directing the children’s choir at Greater Victory

Great Lives

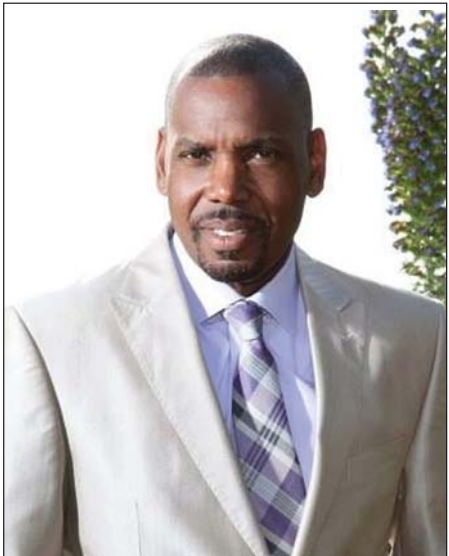
By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

Temple in his hometown. Some 50 years later, he serves as the minister of music for that congregation. He also directs the Monterey Peninsula Gospel Community Choir, an all-volunteer touring group founded in 2007 that has been all over the Peninsula and beyond in California, as well as to the United Kingdom, South Africa and Sweden — and that’s just since 2018.

Supportive mother

Nash is known for leading his singers with energy and joy that inspire unity and purpose, a force that lifts voices above and beyond technical skill, infusing them with sacred resonance to create a collective spiritual experience. “When I was a boy, our church encouraged young people to find something to get involved in,” Nash said. “I had some natural talent from being around gospel music at home, so when they started looking for someone to direct the children’s choir, I stepped out. They said I had a gift to do it.” From that point on, Nash’s mother fostered her son’s talent by enrolling him in music classes, workshops and seminars all over the country. It wasn’t confidence he

See LIVES page 30A



PHOTO/COURTESY JOHN NASH

Gospel choir director John Nash has been leading music since he was 9 years old.

From the mayor’s desk — It’s time to go all-in on parking

By DALE BYRNE

OVER THE past few months, I’ve spoken out about the need for an “all-in” approach to solve Carmel’s parking problems. This need has become urgent. What was once a persistent frustration has become a civic problem threatening our safety, economy, and the experience of residents and visitors.

Carmel is under severe pressure. Our quaint streets and limited parking are overwhelmed by vehicles circling endlessly, making risky, mid-block U-turns, and pedestrians navigating around distracted drivers at intersections. The problem has grown beyond inconvenience — it’s potentially dangerous. In recent years, our only response has been to remove spaces due to state mandates, and parking isn’t even a current council priority.

■ The high cost of inaction

The lack of parking is also expensive. We estimate that poor parking management is reducing local business revenue by at least 10 percent, meaning over \$1 million annually in lost revenue for the city.

But beyond the dollars, we’re hearing troubling stories. People are cutting visits short or avoiding town because they can’t find parking. Some say they won’t come back. That erosion of goodwill is just as damaging and harder to recover.

We can’t let this continue. That’s why I’m calling for immediate action. The “all-in parking strategy” is the product of months of review, business and resident feedback, traffic analysis, and practical thinking. It’s not a one-size-fits-all solution. They are layered, locally tailored concepts that prioritize safety, simplicity and fiscal responsibility.

1. Valet parking downtown: Through a no-risk trial with a private partner, we can offer valet service in congested zones, easing pressure and making parking easier for visitors using city and private off-street options. It’s a fast way to improve flow and reduce frustration at no cost to the city.

2. Smarter daylighting compliance: AB 413 mandated daylighting at intersections, and our interpretation of it cost us at least 40 parking spots. This California law allows flexibility where we can now apply.

See MAYOR page 30A



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NO LIFE of nearly 73 years can be perfect, but the prolific portfolio of a new member of the Carmel Art Association gives nary a hint that his was anything but idyllic.

The artist, r. mike nichols — who signs his work in lowercase letters — finds inspiration for his slice-of-Americana-style paintings in old photographs of the mother and father he adored and a grandfather he wishes he’d known better, his life partner of almost 27 years, their mostly immobile 13-year-old French bulldog, Quorra, and random Norman Rockwell-type moments that remind him life is good.

“I was a late-life baby — my mother was almost 42, my father was 36, and my half-sister, Joann, was 16 when I was born,” said Nichols, a Salinas resident. “My parents, by then, were past their party days — they had sown their wild oats and just wanted to be a happy couple, which is

rendering of five grade-school-age kids, visibly nervous as they wait their turns onstage alongside a confident-looking classmate who is speaking into a microphone.

‘Playin’ possum’

“The Supervisors” features an elderly man in a wide-brimmed hat, grilling food on a brick barbecue as his white-haired wife and small dog monitor his every move.

“Scratching in Public” depicts two aging friends sitting on a park bench scratching their lottery tickets while a Jack Russell terrier scratches an itch on the adjacent walkway.

“Mollie” portrays of Nichols’ grandmother reclining peacefully on a front-yard lawn chair. She’s wearing a bright yellow dress and matching sun bonnet as wild birds frolic around her.

“Playin’ Possum” recreates a family photo of the artist as a barefoot toddler napping peacefully with his father on a 1950s-vintage sofa.

“Grandpa Roscoe” observes from behind as a well-dressed grandfather walks across an open field — head bowed, hands in pockets — alongside a young Nichols. Superimposed over the scene is a semi-transparent portrait of Grandpa Roscoe’s stern, aged face.

“I painted that one from a photo that was taken in New Hampshire, where my dad grew up, when I was about 5 years old,” Nichols said. “My only memories from that trip are through old photos. That one reminds me of Andy and Opie walking together on the dirt road,” he said, referring to the opening of “The Andy Griffith Show.”

“I never had much interaction with Grandpa Roscoe after that, and I wish I had known him better,” he said. “But I’ve always loved that photo, which probably was taken the first day he met me.”

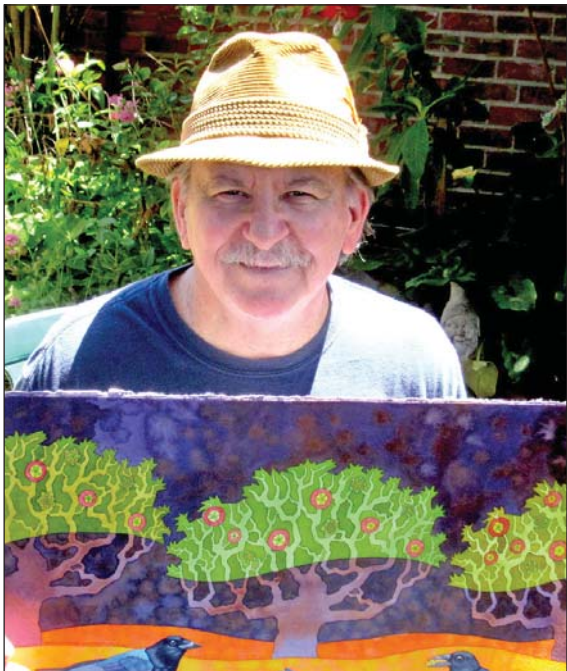
The bright, vivid colors in Nichols’ paintings can be attributed to his preferred medium — transparent watercolors — which allow light to penetrate the paint layers, revealing the paper underneath. The effect is luminous.

Red pajamas

A highlight of Nichols’ lengthy curriculum vitae came earlier this year when a piece entitled “Watching TV” was juried into the 158th annual International American Watercolor Society Exhibition. It won an award and was selected for the society’s national tour.

“I’ve been entering that show every year and finally got in on my 13th try,” he said.

“Watching TV” depicts Nichols’ life partner, Michael Mazgai, reclining sleepily on a couch in red pajamas, blue



PHOTO/MICHAEL MAZGAI

Watercolorist Mike Nichols specializes in Americana-style pieces, many of which are autobiographical.

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BUDGET

From page 10A

worker protections, special education funding and equity for historically underserved communities,” said Addis.

Those that made the cut included two new pieces of healthcare legislation, AB 1487 and AB 1419.

New acronym

AB 1487 is aimed at strengthening the Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund and renaming it the 2TGI Wellness and Equity Fund. The acronym 2TGI stands for Two-Spirit, Transgender, Gender Nonconforming and Intersex. AB 1487 would also broaden the definition of healthcare to include mental healthcare and extend grant eligibility to support programs, including social integration programs for 2TGI immigrants and diversion programs for transitional-age 2TGI youth.

“We are grateful for the leadership and support from Assemblymember Dawn Addis, for understanding the importance of supporting organizations that provide services to 2TGI people, particularly in this political climate which is denying the ability for them to be able to thrive,” said Bamby Salcedo, president and CEO of TransLatin Coalition, one of the bill’s sponsors.

The general fund costs for AB 1487 are estimated to be about \$15 million in one-time spending to expand grant offerings the California Department of Public Health will administer.

Addis’ other healthcare bill, AB 1419, the Seamless Care Act, will cost about \$500,000 to initiate. The legislation would expand automatic enrollment in Covered

California to people who are eligible under county health programs. The money will be used for software modifications and outreach efforts to educate automatically enrolled consumers on their coverage.

TRAYER

From page 6A

spending time in coffee shops talking to visitors and locals, meeting business owners and getting to know the community so he could determine whether he would be a good fit. He also wanted to learn how locals feel about the department. His wife, Amy, joined him on some occasions.

“I may have even played pickleball — on a day it was allowed,” he said.

Different level

Trayer learned residents and others care about the department and appreciate the service they receive.

“It’s a different level of service than what’s usually expected,” from police departments, he said. Officers will respond with care and concern, and without hesitation, to calls like the proverbial cat stuck in a tree. If a resident leaves for the weekend and forgot to put the trashcans away, someone from the police department can take care of it.

“And the officers don’t complain about that,” he said. “They are respectful of the authority they get” from the public.

But there’s room for improvement when it comes to making the town safer, which is what motivated Trayer to

The bills that made it through the last week’s suspense process still face a number of hurdles before they become law, including passage in the chamber where they were introduced.

take the job, and he’s already embarked on some efforts.

A form on the city website allows residents to share concerns about traffic issues, such as speeding on Carpenter or rolling stop signs on San Carlos, and he’s received more than two dozen so far. Trayer said he’s pleased that officers are stepping up to address them without his having to ask. “That’s the type of service I am grateful to be able to give,” he said.

‘People have lost houses’

He’s developing a program to check on and assist shut-ins during emergencies and has offered talks on fraud prevention, including speaking to a group of care providers.

“I’ve done four presentations, now, to probably 400 people,” said Trayer, who also wants to meet with bank officials, since they are a big part of the equation. “Some terrible things have happened here — people have lost their houses because they were victims of fraud.”

He’s also organizing more outreach efforts like the May 31 pancake breakfast at the Carmel Youth Center to connect with community members and hear their thoughts, concerns and opinions on an open, fun and casual level.

And he said he’s probably “met every dog in Carmel.”

“The dogs are great, but I get to hear people’s stories, which I’m addicted to,” he said. “This town is full of great people.”

Family guy

Other areas he wants to focus on include staffing, with an effort to bring additional highly qualified people on board, and updating the department’s technology.

“Community and crime prevention are my two biggest things,” he summarized.

Trayer makes sure to attend the briefings and debriefings that start and end officers’ shifts, and as someone who enjoys baking, he frequently brings cookies or caramels to share with the rest of the department.

Trayer’s children, 19-year-old twins, have inherited his career passion. His daughter is at Boise State studying law enforcement — “She has the right temperament, and she is very strong, physically and mentally, like her mom,” he said — and his son is at Texas A&M pursuing a degree in forensics, after which he’s committed to a five-year Navy stint.

“I’m proud of them — they’re wonderful,” he said, adding that his wife is “a saint.”

“She’s way better than me,” he said. “Cops aren’t successful in this career without that kind of support. I feel very lucky to have her in my world.”



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LETTERS

From page 26A

coastal armor accelerated after the storms of 1982–1983, and other adaptation strategies are now under review — some aiming to better preserve the sand beach, others to better protect bluff-top homes.

The cost of maintaining our open spaces and infrastructure far exceeds what we’ve been willing — or able — to fund, and transparency on this issue has been limited. To their credit, City Council and staff have recently brought more attention to this challenge. At the May 21 budget workshop, the city estimated \$33 to \$60 million in deferred maintenance — an amount that would drain current savings, or reserves, in the first year of a modeled 10-year catch-up plan.

Deferred maintenance isn’t the only funding gap. Other emerging costs that require savings include additional coastal adaptation strategies, wildfire mitigation, and the need for a financial cushion in the event of a natural disaster.

Transparency is a prerequisite for understanding the scope of the challenge and the options for a viable response. A next step could be to include a simple summary of the situation — such as that outlined above — in the city budget narrative. Let’s support the city’s effort and prepare to make difficult trade-offs to restore fiscal stability and preserve the unique character of Carmel.

Scott Lonergan, Carmel

Rainbow crosswalks

Dear Editor,

Identity politics has no place in local government. Our elected officials, regardless of their personal affiliations and beliefs, must represent all constituents and do what is best for our city, not themselves. Painting crosswalks in Monterey using rainbow colors is to single out a specific ideology as worthy of preferential recognition.

While the gay community worldwide has most certainly suffered its share of abuse and discrimination over the years, so have many other ethnic, religious and ideological groups. It is the responsibility of private citizen organizations to spearhead awareness activities so that individuals can choose to join in, commemorate or celebrate without a government entity forcing it on residents.

Monterey’s city council has veered off course. Is this really what they should be spending time on? There are real problems

to solve in our beautiful city without causing intentional controversy. If the sanctimonious posturing by politicians could just stop, imagine what they could get done to truly address the needs of the public they were elected to serve.

Lauren Cohen, Monterey

Giving rich people a break?

Dear Editor,

Your May 24 editorial opposing an increase in developer fees for local schools offers a distorted view of the housing crisis and the role of public education.

First, quality public education isn’t a luxury — it’s the bedrock of a healthy, prosperous society. Schools prepare our future workforce, support local families, and make communities desirable places to live. To argue that schools don’t deserve even a modest increase in developer fees — let alone to eliminate them — is a disservice to the next generation.

Second, the proposed increase, from 49 cents to \$3.78 per square foot, amounts to about \$7,500 for a 2,000-square-foot home. That’s less than 0.4 percent of the cost of a typical Central Coast home, which often exceeds \$2 million. This is not what’s making housing unaffordable.

In fact, high-quality schools like those in Carmel Unified actually boost property values. Studies consistently show that homes in top-performing school districts carry at least a 10 percent to 20 percent premium. Even developers who dislike taxes should recognize that fees supporting great schools offer a solid return on investment.

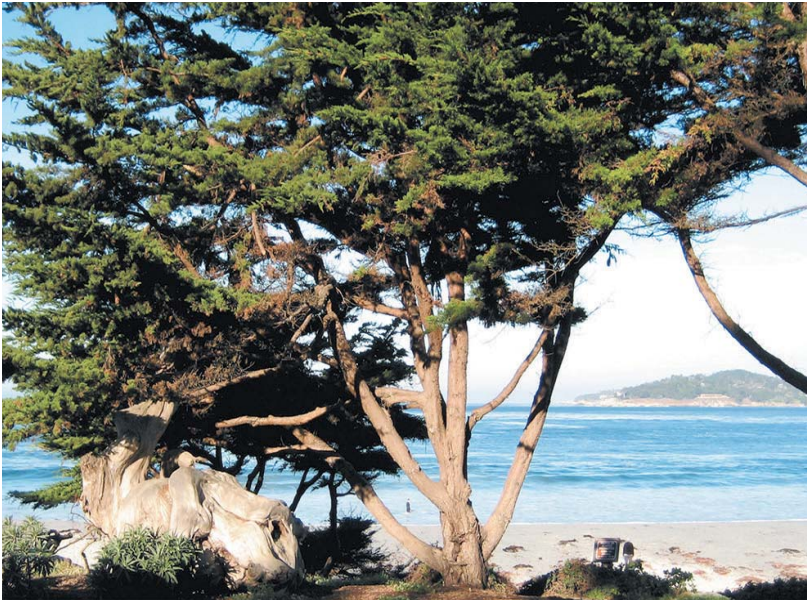
Finally, the real source of tax inequity isn’t developer fees — it’s Proposition 13. That 1978 measure freezes property taxes for longtime owners, shifting the burden to new buyers and younger families. If we want fairness, let’s address that, starting with exempting commercial properties from Prop 13 tax shelters that were never intended for them.

If we’re serious about helping young families, let’s stop pretending that modest school fees are the problem. Let’s ask those of us fortunate enough to live in coastal enclaves to pay our fair share toward education. It’s an investment that pays back many times over. And let’s work together to lower the overall cost of housing — including through public housing funds that help teachers and essential workers afford to live in the communities they serve.

Giving kids a break means investing in their future — not giving millionaires one more.

Vinz Koller, Carmel

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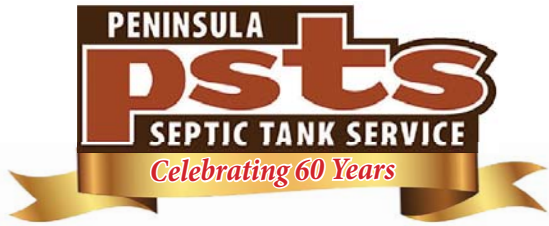
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LIVES

From page 27A

needed, but continued growth.

“In particular, I trained under the late gospel choir director, Mattie Moss Clark, mother of the renowned Clark Sisters, multi-Grammy Award winners” he said. “After singing as a family for close to 60 years, they are still renowned as the ‘first ladies of gospel,’ performing all over the world.” They are also the highest-selling female gospel group in history.

From there, Nash was introduced to the

ARTIST

From page 27A

bathrobe and white socks. The glow from a TV reflects off his forehead, while Quorra naps comfortably, using Mazgai’s thigh as a pillow.

Surprised by the CAA

The “crown jewel” of Nichols’ five-decade artistic odyssey was being blindsided early this year by news that he had been accepted into the legendary Carmel Art Association, one of the oldest nonprofit artist cooperatives in the United States. The CAA’s membership roster is a “Who’s Who” of many of California’s most celebrated artists.

“That one is just beginning to sink in,” said Nichols, who holds a bachelor’s degree in illustration and master’s in art from Cal State Long Beach. “I can’t even express how fortunate I feel to be juried into an organization like that one.”

Since 2009, when the Corona Art Association named him “Artist of the Year,” Nichols has been awarded signature memberships to more than a dozen associations, organizations, and societies at the state, national and international levels.

late Edwin Hawkins, best known for helming the Edwin Hawkins Singers and for his arrangement of “Oh Happy Day,” which became the standard for urban contemporary gospel music. Even if you’ve never set foot inside a church, you’d probably recognize it — it’s been in about a half-dozen movies, including “Sister Act II” and “Nuttty Professor II.”

Nash called Hawkins his “godbrother,” explaining that although they weren’t related, “in our culture, when there’s no bloodline but the relationship is so deep, we concoct endearing terms to acknowledge that.”

He was 14 when he learned to play

Over the past 16 years, his paintings have won nearly 200 awards, including 10 “Best of Show” honors and 33 first-place accolades.

“Painting is my anchor ... my guiding light. When I’m not doing it, something’s missing — I don’t feel that fulfillment and joy,” Nichols said. “I’ll come up with an idea, then start working through the steps that I need to take to create the painting I want it to be.”

“Those beginning stages can sometimes feel tedious, but when I start applying the watercolors to the paper, that’s when I feel the spark.”

Nichols’ paintings will be featured June 4-30 at the Carmel Art Association’s New Artist Members exhibition, which will also showcase the work of Heidi Alonzo, John Cromwell, Katrina Pura, Polly Osborne and Ethan Walsh.

The artist reception at Carmel Art Association (Dolores Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues) is scheduled for June 14 from 4 to 7 p.m., as part of Carmel’s monthly Second Saturday Art Walk.

Images of his art can be viewed at mnico.weebly.com and at the Carmel Art Association site at carmelart.org.

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

“Oh Happy Day” on the piano, and several years later, the gospel icon brought him into Edward Hawkins Music and Arts Seminars all over the country.

“I served as his main choir director for the San Francisco Bay area, which was clamoring with talent, like Tony! Toni! Toné!” Nash said, referring to an R&B and soul group known for its popular cover of the Albert Hammond and Mike Hazlewood hit, “It Never Rains in Southern California.”

Enduring faith and song

Through his work and connections with Hawkins, Nash became part of the James Cleveland Gospel Chorus of the Gospel Music Workshop of America. His career continued to grow, taking him and his talents all over the world.

“With so many influences and the musical gifts I had, fostered by my mother and so many others, my music spread, and I was commissioned to put together the first Monterey Peninsula Gospel Festival,” including assembling the group that

MAYOR

From page 27A

With new traffic and pedestrian studies supporting lower speed limits and visibility improvements, we hope to regain many lost spaces.

3. Add new parking spaces: We’ve modeled parking in the downtown core and, through adjusted striping, we could add up to 40 spots — quickly and at minimal cost. We also have a low-cost plan to add 30 spaces at the Forest Theater lot.

4. Pilot manual paid parking at the beach: At the Del Mar beach parking lot, we can try a manual, low-tech paid parking system that’s simple, functional, and revenue-generating. No kiosks, apps, or surveillance — just a person, a booth, and a fair system for visitors and residents.

5. Worker parking solutions: Many downtown workers park in prime areas all day. By identifying them and offering alternatives with shuttle support, we can free up valuable spaces during peak hours.

6. Flexible shuttle alternatives: We’ve used shuttles for Car Week and other events, and we will need to do this again this year. With interest from the Carmel

became the Monterey Peninsula Gospel Community Choir.

Later, when Nash went off to Howard University in Washington D.C. to earn a degree in psychology with a minor in sociology, Peter Silzer, Ph.D., a co-founder of the Monterey Peninsula Gospel Community Choir (and a speech-linguistics professor at the Defense Language Institute), stepped up to the podium to fill in.

Audiences and congregations have long appreciated Nash’s efforts, and the choir members are dedicated, too. He recalled the morning an ailing member was determined to sing gospel, so her son carried her into the church, and she took her place among her fellow choristers.

Nash continues to travel a lot for gospel music. The nonprofit Monterey Peninsula Gospel Community Choir accepts anyone who wants to sing — “believers and nonbelievers” — without an audition, and Nash provides instruction as they go. He said he keeps the choir going with grants and donations, community involvement, “and a whole lotta prayer.”

Chamber of Commerce and See Monterey, we’re exploring a trolley pilot program and smaller shuttles to move people year-round.

■ A smart path forward

We propose working with a private provider we’ve partnered with before — keeping programs low-risk and low-cost for the city. This isn’t about changing who we are — it’s about protecting what we love: a walkable village with welcoming shops and peaceful views. But to preserve that, we must act. We’ll need support from you to move this forward.

Over time, this can become a sustainable revenue source. Eventually, we’ll likely need to consider strategic paid parking and explore a satellite lot — possibly with a partner. But we can’t let long-term decisions delay immediate action.

The all-in parking concept is ready. Let’s move forward, test it, and refine it. Join us at the Monday, June 2, special city council meeting and become part of the solution.

For a podcast generated from this column go to cli.re/parking.

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

Have something important to say about a local controversy?

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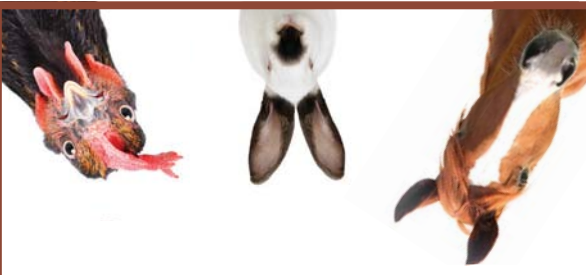
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HEALTH | NUTRITION | WISDOM | FAMILY | LIFE

HEALTHY *Lifestyles*

After a move, volunteering brought the gift of community

By ELAINE HESSER

IF YOU visit the gift shop at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, there's a fair chance you've run into volunteer Marilyn Bachik.

She has given more than 3,200 hours there over the last 11 years, since she and her husband, cardiologist Michael Bachik, retired and moved from Walnut Creek to Carmel.

"I knew the best way to make the transition and learn about my new community was to get involved," she said.

The social aspect of volunteering is an ongoing part of the allure. "I have met the most wonderful group of volunteers, so varied in age and background," she said, adding that she's formed "cherished bonds" with others.

"I guess you could say that I collect friendships," Bachik said.

Why the gift shop? "When I interviewed at CHOMP for the auxiliary, I asked which service area had the most need at the time. I do love my retail therapy, so it was a perfect fit," she said.

The store is filled with typical merchandise — a toothbrush, comb or comfort item for a patient, say — as well as art, textiles and a wide selection of gifts. Chocolates, orchids and greeting cards are good for anyone's soul, and employees don't have to worry about making an extra stop to pick up a birthday present on the way home.

"We've got such good stuff," she said.

Bachik is part of the auxiliary's 70-year history of serving the hospital and its patients. It's grown from what Montage Health's website describes as "eight community-minded women," to 250 men, women and high school students. Since its beginnings in 1955, volunteers have donated more than 4 million hours of service.

Being part of the team makes Bachik proud, especially since she once worked as a medical technologist. She said

when she was training at Montage — a process for which she had high praise — she learned more about how the hospital works and "how all the parts fit together in the 21st century."

Many of those parts are in constant motion, and, Bachik said of the Auxiliary, "Our roles may have changed over the years, but, to be the extra set of hands, feet, eyes, ears ... our care and compassion will always be what defines us." She listed some of the service areas and opportunities, including the emergency room, visitor services, patient companions, telecare phone calls, outpatient surgery, nutrition services and others.

Offering comfort

Starting when she was a youngster in Bergen County, N.J., Bachik's parents encouraged her to have "a balanced life." Education was of primary importance, she said, but faith, church and community were significant, too.

It's unsurprising, then, that she gives some of her time to the Carmel Mission, where she serves as part of the bereavement ministry, helping grieving families plan funerals and greeting the mourners at Masses. In 2019, she joined the Carmel Woman's Club, where she said she enjoys the "educational moments" and the opportunity to share part of her life with others.

Her interests at CHOMP have also stretched beyond the auxiliary to another of Montage's volunteer programs, Hospice of the Central Coast.

"I'm not uncomfortable with people in grief," she said, noting that she initially became involved with funeral Masses while part of St. Bonaventure parish in Walnut



Marilyn Bachik is a familiar figure at the CHOMP gift shop.

MONTAGE *con't. page 35A*

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HEALTHYLIFESTYLES

Helpers gonna help, on the job and off

By ELAINE HESSER

WITH A few notable exceptions — Mildred Ratched from “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” comes to mind — nurses are loved and respected. They’re valued members of medical teams and offer kindness and a human touch in difficult times.

Helping people is second nature to them, and it’s usually the reason they got into the profession. The atmosphere at Central Coast Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice’s offices in South Salinas reflects that nurturing approach. There’s a new sunflower mural on the patio, where potted plants and benches provide a park-like setting. Indoors, I met some healthcare employees who can’t seem to stop helping others, even when the workday ends.

Plumeria Gomes and Angela Velasco are registered nurses, and Loujeanne Patague-Aguon is an occupational therapist. Gomes is nursing director of hospice care, and Velasco uses her years of experience to make sure patient charts comply with various regulations — and, frequently, to help other nurses solve problems out in the field.

Meanwhile, Aguon said she frequently needs to explain what an occupational therapist does, especially for older clients.

“They say, ‘No, I don’t need a job. I’m 85 years old,’” she laughed.

Hospitality and food

Instead, the therapist said, “Think about how you occupy your time during the day,” listing tasks most people take for granted, like getting out of bed, showering, and feeding themselves — abilities that will help keep them independent.

Nearly everyone in Aguon’s family has worked in healthcare, but after becoming discouraged by the lack of openings in nursing classrooms — it’s one of the most competitive programs in California — she explored other options. There was a two-year wait for an occupational therapy program, but she could at least be guaranteed a seat.

Her days can include teaching family members to move a loved one out of bed or visiting someone’s home for the first time, “reading the vibe” of family and trying to understand the dynamics of each new situation.

The challenges are balanced by a big upside, which the



Occupational therapist Loujeanne Patague-Aguon (center) sits with registered nurses Angela Velasco (left) and Plumeria Gomes at the VNA & Hospice office.

women said includes appreciation, gratitude and, incidentally, meals. “They know we’re there are to help. We get fed all the time,” Aguon said, as the other two women nodded, adding they often became “part of the family” after a while.

Aguon surprised no one by divulging that she has trou-

ble saying “no” to requests for help in her off time. She’s volunteered with the Big Sur International Marathon as a parent-coordinator, supervising a team of volunteers from her child’s school who handed beverages to runners.

HELPERS *con’t. page 39A*



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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



HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

MONTAGE from page 33A

Creek. There, she said, she connected with some wonderful people at a local funeral home who wanted an “ambassador,” which she described as “one who greets families at a visitation or vigil service, or helps bring flowers to church and cemeteries, for example. I had wonderful mentors who modeled sensitivity and compassion.”

She does have a calming presence and the ability to maintain focus — even sitting and talking in Community Hospital’s busy atrium near the visitor check-in station, she’s got that unusual ability to make the person she’s with feel like the only one in the room.

She took some first steps into hospice work as a volunteer with a patient who wanted a weekly “friendly visitor.” She was surprised to learn that although the person wanted to listen, to hear about Bachik’s life and what was going on in “the outside world.”

Like most volunteers in the many charitable operations around here, Bachik believes she gets more than she gives. “Almost daily, people express their appreciation,” she said. “We don’t know what they’re going through,” whether they’re seeing life come into the world, dealing with a loved one’s chronic illness, or saying goodbye to someone dear. And that applies equally to the employees.

“Retail therapy,” it turns out, can be helpful. Bachik said she’s learned that the gift shop provides a break for hospital workers. “People are very appreciative for a respite space. They walk around, breathe and take in the colors.”



Marilyn Bachik (left) helps keep merchandise in order.

So many shoppers have visited the place that Bachik has more stories than she can recount. After some thought, however, she did lock onto one of many special moments among the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of small but meaningful connections she’s made.

“I was helping a women select something special from our jewelry line. I came to learn from her that she just had her last chemo treatment and she wanted to commemorate that,” she recalled. “That was a significant moment in my day.”

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HEALTHYLIFESTYLES

‘Extraordinary’ NMC employees receive plaudits from patients

By LILY PATTERSON

ON THE eve of Hospital Week at Natividad Medical Center, an awards ceremony recognized three “extraordinary nurses” for their impact on ordinary patients.

“Maya Angelou once said, ‘They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel.’ This quote is often used to talk about a patient’s relationship with their nurses, but I think it goes both ways,” ICU nurse Madison Sciacchitano told The Pine Cone. She’s approaching her 10th nursing anniversary, five years in the ICU and her second year at Natividad, while working toward her master’s degree to become a nurse practitioner. She’s one of three nurses at the Salinas hospital who were presented with DAISY Awards at the May 9 ceremony.

‘Incredible kindness’

The DAISY Foundation is an international nonprofit established in memory of J. Patrick Barnes of Glen Ellen. In 1999, Barnes was diagnosed with a terminal autoimmune disease and died that year at age 33. (DAISY stands for Diseases Attacking the Immune System.) According to the foundation’s website, over the last eight weeks of his life — which were spent in a hospital bed — his wife and family members “expected great clinical care, but did not expect the incredible kindness and compassion shown to Barnes and them every day. The nurses helped the family through the darkest hours of their lives.” The family would transform their grief into a greater good, establishing the award as “a recognition program to say ‘thank you’ to nurses everywhere.” According to the nonprofit’s website, the awards are granted annually to nurses

AWARDS cont. page 37A



Nursing awards from the DAISY Foundation were recently presented to (top row) Brenda Santana, Daniele Jorn and Madison Sciacchitano. Partners in Caring awards were given to (top right) Jennie Cobian and (bottom row) Maria Hernandez, Ruth Pacheco, Noel Puga and Isabel Rodriguez. All work at Natividad Medical Center in Salinas.



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CARMEL VALLEY MANOR

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

AWARDS *cont. from page 36A*

in more than 40 countries and territories. They can be nominated by their patients, families and colleagues. Natividad has partnered with the group since 2019, and this year’s award recipients include Sciacchitano, acute rehabilitation center nurse Brenda Santana, and Daniele Jorn, lead nurse in the hospital’s mental health center.

In a press release, Natividad CEO Dr. Chad Harris said “I’m always inspired by our team’s unwavering commitment to our mission of delivering compassionate, high-quality health care to everyone in Monterey County. Hospital Week allows us to pause and celebrate their remarkable work and the incredible difference they make in the lives of our patients and their

families.”

It’s hard to imagine a more prestigious award for nurses than one given by their own patients.

Nursing stations

A spokesperson for Natividad explained that handouts at nursing stations and information desks around the hospital invite patients to nominate a nurse at daisyfoundation.org.

The online form asks them to reflect on their experiences, and the hospital highlighted some of these heartfelt excerpts.

Santana was distinguished for her “joyful spirit.”

“Brenda was very professional and ac-

NATIVIDAD *cont. page 40A*



KATE MILLER M.A.

What steps would you take if you knew you could not fail?

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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Dr. Renee Lucero

Dr. Renee Lucero is a double board-certified dermatologist and Mohs surgeon, originally from the Central Coast of California. She is committed to providing exceptional and comprehensive dermatologic care to her patients including general, cosmetic, and surgical dermatology. She values collaborative relationships with her patients, striving to improve outcomes and developing lasting connections with them and their families.

Education:

- Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo
- Medical degree from Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Surgical internship at Maricopa Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ
- Dermatology residency at Prime West Consortium in Newport Beach, CA
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THE KITCHEN

Bison Soup, aka ‘Dodko’s Soup’

Courtesy Adriana Shuman

THIS BISON soup is simple and can be made in the slow cooker with minimal effort. Native to North America, bison yields meat that is rich in protein and known for its “sweet” flavor. It’s low in saturated fat, making it a healthy option for carnivores. The animals are primarily range-fed and eat grass, which makes the quality of their meat different from that of, say, corn-fed cattle on a feed lot.

According to WebMD, bison steaks and roasts have a lower index of atherogenicity (that is, a lower likelihood of producing plaque within blood vessel walls), which

means that they are associated with a lower risk of vascular disease.

The Meatery in Seaside often has bison. Shuman orders hers online directly from farmers but said swapping it out with lean, grass-fed beef steak could work in a pinch. “Lean” is the key word.

This recipe is from Shuman’s recently published book, “Live Well: Empowering Habits for Vibrant Health and Unstoppable Energy,” and is in memory of her late, beloved friend Joseph. His nickname was Dodko, and the recipe is named in his honor.



Chef Bio

ADRIANA SHUMAN is a certified nutritionist and functional medicine health and wellness strategist with more than 15 years of experience helping people improve their health. During her studies, Shuman said she recognized the limitations of conventional medicine as she witnessed the health struggles of her family and patients. She’s driven by a passion for holistic health and a mission to uncover the foundations of wellness.

Shuman is the author of a new book, “Live Well: Empowering Habits for Vibrant Health and Unstoppable Energy,” which can be ordered through her website, yourwellness-madesimple.com.



INGREDIENTS

(Serves 4-6)

- 1 16-ounce bison steak
- 1 large onion
- 4 garlic cloves
- 2 stalks celery, washed
- 1 celery root, pared
- 2 carrots
- 1 tablespoon dried rosemary
- 1 tablespoon dried sage

- 1 tablespoon dried thyme
- 1 tablespoon salt, to taste
- 6 cups water, enough to cover all the ingredients

DIRECTIONS

Cut the steak and vegetables into half-inch pieces. Place all ingredients in the pot of a slow cooker and cook on low for two hours. Serve hot.

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

HELPERS *cont. from page 34A*

Aguon’s also on the board of the Friends of the Marina Library, where she helps co-ordinate special events like “Dads Read.”

Another commitment: Buy Nothing Marina, a group of people whose mission is to, “Give, receive, lend, share, and show gratitude in hyper-local gift economies, where the true wealth is the connections between real neighbors.” In practical terms, it means they give stuff they don’t want to other group members to limit the need to shop for new things and to keep used items out of the landfill.

Taking a break, sort of

Gomes described her work with the dying as, “the most meaningful and rewarding avenue of nursing.” It has its own challenges, too. “Not getting involved” isn’t really practical when helping people and their loved ones face death. To process the inevitable grief, the VNA dedicates a portion of weekly staff meetings to a simple ceremony in which everyone can say goodbye and remember patients who have passed.

A onetime bartender and waitress, Gomes said she got into nursing to elevate her opportunities for compassion “to the next level,” moving from caring for hungry and thirsty customers to tending to the sick and injured.

“I was always a nurturer. As far back as I can remember, there were stray animals — pet snakes and lizards rescued from the cat’s mouth,” Gomes recalled.

Her off-duty time gives her plenty of opportunities to keep serving others. Gomes volunteers as a bartender during events at Laguna Seca, works on the Arthritis Research Coalition’s annual Run Rudolph Run 5K fundraiser in P.G., helps with Hospice Giving Foundation and has done park cleanups with various groups, as well.

She’s hoping to use her experience as a

registered nurse with Sun Street Centers’ recovery programs, as well.

She added that she helps provide medical care at “an out-of-state musical festival.” When pressed, she said she’d been volunteering with other healthcare professionals at Burning Man, the somewhat quirky weeklong annual creative event in Nevada’s Black Rock Desert, for seven or eight years.

Lots of variety

Velasco’s first experience with the VNA came at 16, when the group cared for her grandmother. “The nurse was so great that I said, ‘That’s what I want to do.’”

Although she’s no longer able to participate in the profession’s more physical aspects — hence, the office work — her empathy and expertise make her a valuable resource.

“I help educate new clinicians, nurses and therapists,” she explained. It can be “a nurse asking about patients, troubleshooting to help people pinpoint problems,” or putting a call in to a doctor.

She said that new nurses can be anxious as they’re “out there by themselves to drive to each house. I try to alleviate that.” And, she enjoys the opportunities for patient interaction.

When she’s not at work, she gives her time to various community groups. At the Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance, she’s one of the folks who greet people at the entrance and exchange their tickets for wristbands. She’s also assisted with park cleanups, and she’s worked with the Sea Otter Classic and the Arthritis Research Foundation.

“I like to be outside in the community, giving back,” she said.

As we wrapped up, I asked the group, “Are you too nice?”

“We all are,” said Gomes. “I like nurturing,” Aguon added.

“I’m OK with it,” said Velasco. And they all laughed in agreement.



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HEALTHYLIFESTYLES

NATIVIDAD *from page 37A*

tive in her work,” one patient shared. “She listens to your needs and finds solutions. She is very joyful and that joyfulness is transmitted to her patients.”

Santana has served in the acute rehabilitation unit since 2021, where she helps patients recovering from conditions and procedures that have severely limited their mental and physical abilities.

An alum of Hartnell College in Salinas, she worked at Windsor Monterey rehabilitation center while she worked toward earning her nursing degree from San Jose State. Michelle Toderick, director of the rehabilitation center at Natividad, shared in praising Santana.

“Brenda is one of our core nurses. You cannot help but smile when you see her because of her colorful attire, the smile and greeting she offers. She recognizes that this is a difficult time for her patients, and always takes a minute of her day to say something positive.”

Stay present

Sciacchitano was a traveling nurse — one of thousands of providers in the state who go where the need for them is greatest — before settling in Monterey, where her husband worked toward his Ph.D. in

mechanical engineering at the Naval Postgraduate School. She’s learned to navigate unexpected change with aplomb.

“There are so many things that happen on a daily basis that are outside of our realm of control. A resounding question my patients ask is, ‘Why me?’ They focus on what has happened, instead of focusing on the present. I try to reframe their mindset to the scope of things within their control,” she said.

Her effort hasn’t gone unnoticed.

“Best nurse I’ve had in my life of 66 years,” a patient shared on a nomination form. “The ICU is a busy place, but I felt Maddie went above and beyond in helping me. She was proactive to see how she could help with medications and comfort — and she is personable, and got along so well with my family.”

Upon his discharge from the mental health unit, a grateful former patient shared this about Jorn: “My nurse provided care at such a low point in my life. She always treated me with respect. She got down at my level when speaking to me, making me feel like we were equal. She was always willing to stop what she was doing and answer my questions.”

Jorn said she’s simply doing what she came to do, at a public hospital whose mission emphasizes commitment to patient

care “regardless of their ability to pay.”

“I came to Natividad for the opportunity to serve a diverse, underserved community. Many of our patients face barriers far beyond the hospital walls, and simply being present, listening and treating them with dignity can be just as healing as any medication or procedure,” she said.

Emotional burnout

More than 22 million Americans were employed as healthcare workers in 2024. Registered nurses represent 20 percent of that workforce, by far the largest profession, according to statistics cited by the CDC and Bureau of Health Workforce.

They may be the connective tissue between doctors, patients and their families, but they need support, too.

“Nurses often face emotional burnout and staffing challenges, while they’re still expected to be the constant presence and backbone of patient care,” said Jorn.

Going into her mental health services rotation during nursing school at Gavilan College in Gilroy, she wasn’t so much interested as intimidated by psychiatric nursing. Instead, she discovered her “calling.” The same reasons that compelled her to specialize — discovering “the deep emotional and psychological components involved in care and recovery” — propelled

her into a leadership role. Jorn is now six years into her career at Natividad and the lead nurse for her unit.

According to a representative from the medical center, Natividad has 400 healthcare providers, which include doctors, nurses and nurse practitioners with numerous specialties, such as emergency, ICU and trauma care, labor and delivery, mental health and acute rehabilitation.

It’s a collaborative effort — exhausting, frustrating, dizzying at times — and all that coordination is a job unto itself.

That’s why the May 9 ceremony also lauded recipients of the peer-nominated Partners in Caring Awards, given to “clinicians who exemplify exemplary teamwork and collaboration with the nursing staff.” They include cardiology unit clerk Maria Hernandez, surgical nursing assistant Jennie Cobian, healthcare technician Noel “Armando” Puga, emergency unit clerk Ruth Pacheco and Isabel Rodriguez, a licensed vocational nurse.

“What makes Natividad special is the sense of family among staff and the genuine connection to our patients,” said Jorn, who said she looks to senior colleagues and nursing leadership across various units for mentorship and support.

Visit natividad.com to learn more and natividad.com/daisy to nominate a nurse.





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Duo in free show at Sunset, four women play whole lotta Zeppelin at GS

BRINGING TOGETHER singer and multi-instrumentalist **Derek Bodkin** and singer and guitarist **Tommy Knowles**, **Hovering Breadbasket** plays a free concert outside Sunset Center Friday at 6 p.m. The show is the latest its Terrace Hour series.

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

“This festive duo does nearly everything — folk, rock, country, Irish drinking songs, sea shanties and more, in their own ‘Americana groove’ style,” Sunset Center announced. “They play a wonderful collection of unique

covers and thought-provoking originals, often featuring Derek’s world-champion whistling.”

Bodkin competed in an international whistling competition in 2017 and actually holds that title.

Food, drinks and dogs are allowed, but alcohol must be purchased on site. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. sunsetcenter.org

■ Zeppelin band visits Monterey

Paying tribute to one of the greatest of all rock ‘n’ roll bands, **Zepparella** plays music by Led Zeppelin Friday, 7 p.m., at the Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

With singer **Anna Kristina** playing the role of Robert Plant and **Gretchen Menn** stepping in for Jimmy Page, the San Francisco-based all-female band takes a tour through the Led Zeppelin catalog, serving up classics like “Whole Lotta Love,” “Ramble On,” “Kashmir,” “Rock ‘n’ Roll” and, of course, “Stairway to Heaven.”

Tickets start at \$41. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com.

■ Trio performs at Sand Box

Two-time Grammy Award-winning violinist **Mads Tolling** teams up with guitarist **Bruce Forman** and bassist **Dan Feiszli** Thursday, 7 p.m., at the Sand Box in Sand City.

Tolling earned Grammys with the Turtle



Grammy Award-winning violinist Mads Tolling takes the stage Thursday, 7 p.m., at the Sand Box in Sand City.

Island Quartet in 2006 and 2008, and as a solo artist, he was the winner of the Down Beat Critics Poll Rising Star Violin Award in 2016. He has a new album out, “Masters of Jazz Violin,” which serves as a “heartfelt tribute to the jazz violinists who shaped his musical journey.”

Tickets start at \$25. The Sand Box, sandboxsandcity.com is located at 440 Ortiz Ave.

■ Group unveils ’25-26 season

Chamber Music Monterey Bay this week announced its 2025-26 season, which kicks off Nov. 1 with a concert by **The Escher String Quartet**. The schedule also includes performances by **The Lysander Piano Trio** (Jan.

See **MUSIC** page 44A



The Transducers play rock and funk Friday, 7:30 p.m., at the Links Club in Carmel Plaza.



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Fundraisers for dogs and humans, sweet treats, and spot prawns

BERNARDUS WINERY’S March fundraiser benefiting World Central Kitchen, the nonprofit started by renowned chef José Andrés and his wife, Patricia, in 2010 to feed people in crisis, generated thousands of dollars in contributions. The event, a collaboration with Jerome’s Carmel Valley Market, was planned in support of those in hospitality industry who suffered personal and business losses due to the Southern California wildfires earlier this year.

Soup to Nuts

World Central Kitchen’s mission began with providing sustenance and support to Haitian earthquake victims and has expanded to include resilience programs and longer-term solutions. But providing for people devastated by disasters, war and disease remains their No. 1 goal — and it relies on a network of talented professional chefs and donors to do it.

“Food is essential to life every single day, all over the world, and it is more important than ever in a crisis,” the group says.

“Not only is a thoughtful, freshly prepared meal one fewer thing someone has to worry about in the wake of a disaster, it is a reminder that they are not alone,” it added.

The March 22 event, coupled with other contributions and activities that were part of the winery’s campaign to support World Central Kitchen, raised more than \$8,200, according to winery president Jeff Meier.

“We are constantly inspired by the work World Central Kitchen does locally and abroad,” he said. “This year, the entire Bernardus community came together to show its support and generate funds for this tremendous organization.”

■ It’s not just Swedish fish

Tiffany and Richard Bufkin received approval from the Carmel Planning Commission this month to open Sea Shack Candy Co., a store offering “coastal-inspired candy blends featuring Swedish sweets, nostalgic favorites, and joyful treats — crafted to spark smiles, sweet memories

and seaside magic,” according to the city.

The Bufkins’ candy store will add to the 1-square-mile city’s four other sweetshops when it opens in a 275-square-foot Carmel Square unit formerly occupied by an art gallery, and before that, a gift shop. “Sea Shack Candy Co. will be a retail candy store specializing in imported Scandinavian sweets, with a focus on pre-packaged candies from Sweden,” associate planner Katherine Wallace told the commission May 14 when she recommended approval.

“The name ‘Sea Shack’ holds deep meaning for our family, as it was the name we gave our first home in downtown Carmel back in 2001,” Tiffany Bufkin said in a letter to the planning commission. “We’ve raised our three children here and have strong roots in the community, which is why we’re so passionate about creating something joyful and lasting.”

She said Swedish candy is celebrated for its “vibrant flavors, chewy textures and emphasis on quality ingredients,” and Sea Shack will have an interior to match.

The business is inspired by the Swedish tradition of “Lördagsgodis,” which translates to “Saturday Candy.” The practice of limiting candy consumption to Saturdays was based on a 1959 government health recommendation that has become a tradition.

Bufkin says the new store’s hours will be from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends.

■ Spot prawns in season

Coastal Roots Hospitality’s restaurants — Montrio, Tarp’s and Rio Grill — are highlighting California spot prawns this spring.

Known for a tender texture and naturally sweet flavor, “these prawns offer an incredible balance of flavor and sustainability, and we’re proud to highlight them at each of our restaurants this season,” said Ken Donkersloot, the company’s CEO. The shellfish are one of several seasonal additions.



PHOTO/(TOP) JOSE ANDRES ON X, (ABOVE) WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN WEBSITE

Bernardus Winery and Jerome’s Market raised more than \$8,200 in March for World Central Kitchen, the nonprofit started by chef José Andrés (top) and his wife, Patricia, to feed people affected by natural disasters, disease and war.

At Rio Grill in the Crossroads shopping center, this means you can enjoy a fire-roasted garlic plate with whole roasted garlic (notable for its milder, nutty flavor), goat

See **FOOD** next page

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FOOD

From previous page

cheese, heirloom tomato jam, and artisan bread, or an heirloom tomato burrata salad with strawberries, baby arugula, red onions, roasted pine nuts, citrus basil vinaigrette and balsamic glaze, not to mention spot prawns plated up with a vegetable medley, sesame soy noodles, wasabi aioli, ginger, and crispy wontons.

At Montrio (414 Calle Principal, Monterey), the spot prawns are paired with uni (sea urchin) cream, fresh herbs, garlic, butter, and white wine over squid ink linguine, as well as steak tartare with egg jam (made with eggs, coconut milk, sugar, and aromatic tropical plant leaves), fried capers and grilled bread, and an heirloom tomato salad with burrata, basil pistachio pesto, balsamic vinegar and puffed quinoa.

Over by the Monterey Regional Airport, Tarpy's (2999 Highway 68), want you to start your spring splurge with fried artichoke hearts with dipping sauces, or perhaps heirloom tomato caprese with blood orange, mozzarella, basil, balsamic and crispy quinoa.

The spot prawns at Tarpy's are sauteed in garlic butter and come with truffle mashed potato, grilled asparagus, and lemon-chive mornay sauce.

Find the restaurants on your phone or other device at riogrill.com, montrio.com and tarpys.com.



PHOTOS/COURTESY COASTAL ROOTS HOSPITALITY

■ P.G. Chamber hustles

The Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce announced its Annual Installation Gala & James R. Hughes Citizen of the Year Awards dinner will be a disco-themed affair to be held Thursday, June 5, from 5 to 9 p.m. at Asilomar Conference Grounds.

“Break out your best disco attire — sequins, bell bottoms, platform shoes and all — and kick off the evening with a cocktail hour. After a delicious dinner and awards program, the party continues with live music by our DJ, plus blackjack and roulette tables to keep the good times rolling!” the chamber enthused. (And if a chamber doesn’t enthuse, what is it even doing?)

The event will honor four “remarkable individuals

Rio Grill in the Crossroads shopping center has some new menu additions for spring. One highlights Pacific spot prawns (left), with a vegetable medley, and another pairs ripe heirloom tomatoes with strawberries, burrata cheese and balsamic glaze.

whose contributions have made Pacific Grove a stronger, more connected community.” They are: Christine Gruber, who will receive the James R. Hughes Citizen of the Year Award, Martin Gonzalez, honored as Public Employee of the Year, Chamber Ambassador of the Year Joe Smith, and Community Champion Marcia Stearns. Restaurateur Pierre Bain will be celebrated with a posthumous Lifetime Achievement Award.

The event is open to the public and costs \$95 for P.G. Chamber members and \$110 for everyone else. Visit pacificgrove.org to purchase tickets.

■ Third generation of Shakes

Restaurateur Chris Shake and his wife, Lisa, are proud to announce that their son, Monterey native Austin Shake, has joined the family’s legacy of exceptional hospitality. Austin, whose new title is vice president of Chris Shake Enterprises, has been working alongside his father, and, the family says, “represents the next generation of leadership for the flagship restaurant, Old Fisherman’s Grotto, a

See CUISINE next page

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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FOOD & WINE

CUISINE

From previous page

business that has helped define the local dining experience for 75 years.”

Austin has been absorbing the ins and outs of hospitality since childhood, as happens when one grows up in a restaurant family responsible for multiple operations in this area and beyond.

After earning his degree in business management from the University of Arizona’s Eller College of Management, Austin began working in residential real estate in Southern California.

‘Incredibly fortunate’

The family said he’ll combine his education and experience with a commitment “to preserving the hallmark values of quality, service, and community engagement, while helping the restaurants evolve to meet the tastes of a new generation of guests.”

“I feel incredibly fortunate to return to the place that shaped who I am,” said the young Shake. “To have the opportunity to carry forward what my grandfather and father built, and to grow alongside my family, is both an honor and a responsibility I take to heart.”

Said his father, “Seeing Austin step into the business is one of the proudest moments of my life. He grew up in our restaurants, and now he’s bringing new ideas, energy, and a deep respect for our family’s legacy. Our guests and staff will benefit from his leadership, and I know he will help



guide us into a strong and successful future.”

Austin will work directly with his father, who has spent his life building and expanding the family’s hospitality footprint in Monterey and beyond.

Chris Shake began his career at the age 13 at Old Fisherman’s Grotto, the restaurant on the historic Fisherman’s Wharf founded by his parents, Isabella and the late Sabu



Austin Shake (left) is joining his father, Chris Shake, as vice president of Chris Shake Enterprises and “represents the next generation of leadership for the flagship restaurant, Old Fisherman’s Grotto,” (right) now in its 75th year, the family said. Austin began working in that restaurant when he was 13.

Shake Sr.

Said the Shakes, “Together, Chris and Austin Shake represent a powerful blend of legacy and vision — honoring the past while preparing for a bright future.”

To learn more, visit oldfishermansgrotto.com
Mary Schley and Elaine Hesser contributed to this week’s column.

MUSIC

From page 41A

10), **The Morgenstern Trio** (Feb. 28), **Dover Quartet** (March 28) and **Calidore String Quartet** (May 2).

According to the local music group, the upcoming season “promises unforgettable evenings of music that stir the soul.”

For more details, visit chambermusicmontereybay.org.

Live Music May 30-June 5

■ Big Sur

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

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

■ Carmel

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

Cypress Inn — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Friday at 7 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Lok-**

tionov and singer **Debbie Davis** (cabaret, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), **The Andrea Carter Trio** (jazz and pop, Sunday at 11 a.m.), guitarist **Richard Devinck** (classical, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh.

De Tierra Vineyards — singer and guitarist **Scott Gardner** (Sunday at 3 p.m.). Mission and Fifth.

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

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

The Links Club — **The Transducers** (rock and funk, Friday at 7:30 p.m.), **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, 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 **Mathias Morris** (classical, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (Saturday at noon), singer and pianist **TJ Kuenster** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Sunday at noon). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Edgar’s Restaurant — singer and guitarist **Adrea Castiano** (Friday at 5 p.m.). 8205 Valley Greens Drive.

Folktales Winery — singer and guitarist **Jacob Chase** (Friday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Saturday at 2 p.m.), **Monterey Jazz Regional All-Star Combos** (Sunday at 11 a.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Rd.

Trailside Cafe — singer and guitarist **Dave “Nomad” Miller** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

See MORE MUSIC next page

CALENDAR

May 30-June 14 – Shop for Grads, Dads & Birthdays @ Baum & Blume and The Carriage House! Handmade jewelry, glassware, leather goods, western hats, cards, gourmet goods & more! Come and shop, stay for lunch. Open 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley. (831) 659-0400.

June 7 & 8 – Smuin Contemporary Ballet presents the world premier of Amy Seiwert’s “I Remember Now” and Trey McIntyre’s “Wild Sweet Love,” set to music by Queen, Mendelssohn and more. Also Michael Smuin’s “The Eternal Idol” and Rex Wheeler’s “Sinfonietta.” All are staged in Sunset Theater in Carmel. Tickets: smuinballet.org or call (415) 912-1899.

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MORE MUSIC

From previous page

■ 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, Wednes-



Hovering Breadbasket, featuring singer and singer and multi-instrumentalist Derek Bodkin, plays a free concert Friday, 6 p.m., at Sunset Center.

day at 7 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St.
Hyatt Regency Monterey — singer and guitarist **Adrea Castiano** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.
InterContinental Hotel — mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Saturday at 9 a.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Saturday at 7 p.m.), guitarist **Terrence Farrell** (Latin music, Sunday at 9 a.m.). 750 Cannery Row.

Midici Pizza — singer **Janice Perl**, keyboardist **Gary Meek**, bassist **Dennis Murphy**, drummer **Andy Weis** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer **Miranda Astrup** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

Monterey Plaza Hotel — pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday 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 — guitarist **Glenn Bell** (pop, rock and country, Friday at 6 p.m.). On Jack’s Terrace, 2 Portola Plaza.

Puma Road tasting room — singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Blaise DiGirolamo** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

Salty Seal Pub — singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 653 Cannery Row.

Sardine Factory — singer and guitarist **David Conley** (Tuesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m.). 701 Wave St.
Sly McFly’s — **The Money Band** (pop and rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **Duality** (dance music from the ’70s, ’80s & ’90s, Saturday at 9 p.m.), **Victory Lane** (classic rock, Monday at 8:30 p.m.), **Bazooka Jones** (classic rock, Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.), **5 Star** (rock and soul, Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.), **Bobby & Friends** (pop, soul and r&b, . 700 Cannery Row.

■ Pacific Grove

Asilomar Hotel and Conference Grounds — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Reija Massey** (pop, rock and country, Friday at 4 p.m.). Phoebe Hearst Hall, 800 Asilomar Ave.

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

PG’s Meetinghouse — **The Nathan Sadly Band** (neo-soul and alt-rock, Friday at 6:30 p.m.), **Paul Contos & The Young Lions** (jazz, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), guitarist **Cat Broz** (classical and Spanish, Sunday at 11 a.m.), **Open Mic** (Tuesday at 6



Zepparella, with guitarist Gretchen Menn, pays tribute to Led Zeppelin Friday at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

p.m., sign up by 5 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.

Pop & Hiss — **Haunted Like Human** (folk, Saturday at 7 p.m.), weekly bluegrass jam with **The Otter Opry** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 215 Forest Ave.

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

Laguna Grande Park hosts Palenke Arts Festival Saturday

A MULTIFACETED gathering focused on culture and creativity, the 9th annual Palenke Arts Festival is set for Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Laguna Grande Park in Seaside.

“This free family-friendly event will feature our multitalented student groups, a live art demonstration by Paul Richmond, art activities for all ages, artisan booths, delicious food vendors and community booths,” said Palenke Arts, which is based in Seaside and was founded in 2015.

Besides food and art, there will be live music by singer Pher and Banda Tierra Menguareense, along with dancing by Calpulli Ocelocihuatl. “Bring your family, friends, lawn chairs, and dancing shoes and join us for a multi-cultural celebration,” the group said.

The park is on Canyon Del Rey Boulevard in Seaside.

■ Pleased to meet you

Opening Wednesday at the Carmel Art Association is a show that welcomes six new members, including Heidi Alonzo, John Cromwell, Katrina Pura, R. Mike Nichols, Polly Osborne and Ethan Walsh. “Ranging in style and mediums, the six artists bring an exciting addition to the gallery’s nearly century-long tradition of artistic excellence,” according to the CAA, which is located on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth.

Also opening this week is painter Mark Farina’s exhibit, “Pathways,” which features his latest work.

“Mark is first and foremost a plein air painter,” said the gallery’s Lili Mendez. “He’s most at home with an easel under the open sky, surrounded by the beauty of nature. His process often takes him down quiet footpaths and scenic roadways, many of which naturally find their way into his compositions — his paintings reflect decades of

dedication to capturing the landscape.”

■ ‘Hidden Gems’ in P.G.

Four shows are on display at the Pacific Grove Art Center through June 26, including a group exhibit — titled “Hidden Gems” — by members of the Monterey Bay Plein Air Painters Association.

Founded in 2005, the Carmel-based group has more than 80 members, and many of them have art in the display. The

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

group’s mission is focused on offering opportunities for its members “to grow creatively and professionally,” and making it possible for them “to become recognized regionally as dedicated plein air artists.” “We aim to foster an appreciation of the art of plein air painting in our communities,” the group said.

Also at the art center are shows by the Monterey Peninsula College Printmakers (“Making Impressions”) and painter Norman Muhl (“In Plain Sight”).

The art center is located at 568 Lighthouse Ave.



Sculptor Chris Sawyer’s “Repose” is on display in June at the Carmel Art Association. Sawyer and painter Robin Sawyer have teamed up to present a show that features “harmonious yet distinct bodies of work, each shaped by their own creative lens.”

“MESMERIZING.
Makes a viewer want to push the rewind
button and take it in all over again!”
– SF Chronicle

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GAVEL

From page 4A

April 10 — Judge Rafael Vazquez sentenced Leonardo Pena, 49 and a resident of Los Banos, to a term of 10 years in state prison for rape of a minor over age 14 and assault with force likely to cause great bodily injury. These constitute Pena’s first criminal convictions. Pena will be required to register as a sex offender for the remainder of his life.

On Nov. 28, 2022, Jane Doe’s mother contacted the Monterey County Sheriff’s Department to report that Doe, a minor, had disclosed that she had been previously sexually assaulted by Pena, a relative. Monterey County Sheriff’s detectives were assigned and arranged for Doe to be interviewed. During a forensic interview, Doe bravely disclosed the details of the one-time forcible sexual assault by Pena, who had taken advantage of his position in the family and access to Doe while at a family gathering in Monterey County.

This case was investigated by Monterey County Sheriff’s Sargeant Rosio Silva. Doe was assisted by district attorney victim witness program manager Alma Sanchez.

April 10 — Stephen Earl Guice, 51 and a resident of Sea-side, was sentenced to 29 years to life in prison, after being convicted by a jury of the crimes of forcible rape and false imprisonment. Judge Pamela Butler presided over the trial.

On April 4, 2024, Jane Doe went to a sports pub in Mon-

terey with two of her friends, where they met the defendant, Guice. The defendant offered Doe and one of her friends illicit drugs, which he provided in the fully enclosed hand-icapped stall of the women’s bathroom. Once they were in the bathroom with him, the girls had second thoughts, but the defendant would not let them leave the bathroom without consuming the drugs. Once Doe’s friend consumed some of the drugs, the defendant allowed her to leave and closed and locked the door, trapping Doe inside with him, where he pro-ceeded to sexually assault her.

When the defendant exited the bathroom, Doe’s friends immediately entered and found their friend sobbing on the bathroom floor, with bruises forming on her shoulders. Doe’s friends took her to Community Hospital of the Monterey Pen-insula, where she was treated in the emergency room, and then referred to the sexual assault response team for evidence collection. The defendant’s DNA was found when evidence samples were tested. The defendant has two prior strike con-victions under California’s three strikes law, which increased the sentence for the forcible rape charge to 25 years to life.

This case was investigated by Monterey Police Officers Lidio Soriano and Cameron Burwell as well as Monterey County District Attorney Investigator Rachel Maldona-do. The victim and her mother were supported by victim wit-ness program manager Alma Sanchez and victim advocate Kristen Peterson.

District attorney court facility support dog Armani provid-ed Doe with support during her trial testimony.

MAY 2025

NEW MEMBERS

CORK & VOWS
corkandvows.com

LIGHTHOUSE WELLNESS STUDIO
lighthousecarmel.com

PAWSH PORTRIATS CARMEL
pawshportraitscarmel.com

PURELY PILATES & BODY BASICS STUDIO
purelypilatessac.com

STEWART TITLE
stewart.com

SEA SHACK CANDY CO.
seashackcandyco.com

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Carmel Plaza

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Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting

5:00pm-7:00pm

8th Ave btwn San Carlos & Mission

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DOGS OF CARMEL
TAIL TRAIL REVEAL TOUR



DOGS OF CARMEL
TAIL TRAIL REVEAL TOUR

All Photos: Michael Troutman DMT IMAGING



PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250733
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **VALLEY FRAMERS**, 465 Brockmann Dr., Gonzales, CA 93926.
Registered Owner(s): CRISTOBAL MEDINA, P.O. Box 1211, Gonzales, CA 93926.
This business is conducted by an individual.
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 the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Cristobal Medina
Date signed: 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 16, 23, 30, June 6, 2025 (PC 558)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250883
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
EL DORADO WESTERN, 662 NORTHRIDGE MALL SALINAS, CA 93906, County of MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s): DORADO FASHIONS INC., 500 MAIN ST WATSONVILLE, CA 95076; CALIFORNIA
This business is conducted by A CORPORATION
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/07/2024
S/ JORGE ESTRADA, PRESIDENT
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 05/08/2025
5/23, 5/30, 6/6, 6/13/25
CNS-3923571#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 2025. (PC 559)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 25CV002443
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, HEATHER JOAN BOWERS, VICTOR MARTINEZ, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
A. Present name:
AVAH GRACE MARTINEZ
Proposed name:
AVAH LYDIA MARTINEZ
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 1, 2025
TIME: 11:00 a.m.
DEPT: 13A
The address of the court is 1200 Agujito 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 12, 2025
Publication Dates: May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 2025. (PC 560)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250879
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **DREAMYDAYESTHETICS**, 1283 N. Main St. #105, Salinas, CA 93906.
Registered Owner(s): ARIES LYNNE MARTINEZ, 1283 N. Main St. #105, Salinas, CA 93906.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on May 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 the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Aries Martinez
Date signed: May 8, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 8, 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 561)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250872
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **HOLISTIC SMILES OF MONTEREY**, 519 Harnell St., Suite A, Monterey, CA 93940.
Registered Owner(s): DOMENICA D. T. GOLF, 304 Carmel Ave. #63, Marina, CA 93933.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on May 5, 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/Domenica Golf
Date signed: May 7, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 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 23, 30, June 6, 13, 2025 (PC 563)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250919
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **IFLOWER**, 138 Dunecrest Ave., Monterey, CA 93940.
Registered Owner(s): LEZLIE DARLEEN JOHNSON, P.O. Box 989, Seaside, CA 93955.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on May 15, 2025.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
S/Lezlie Johnson
Date signed: May 15, 2025
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 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 23, 30, June 6, 13, 2025 (PC 564)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250917
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **PRIME FLOORING CO., 6 Rossi Cir. Ste. C, Salinas, CA 93907-2308**, County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: JMLVV PRIME SURFACES CO.
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 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)

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/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)

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 Agujito 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. 20250924
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **FRESH BIN, 21183 Ord Ave, Marina, CA 93933**, County of MONTEREY
Registrant(s): ZAYAS DISTRIBUTION LLC, 21183 Ord Ave, Marina, CA 93933
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.
ZAYAS DISTRIBUTION LLC
S/ MARTIN ZAYAS, MANAGING MEMBER,
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 05/15/2025.
5/30, 6/6, 6/13, 6/20/25

CNS-3924761#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2025. (PC 568)

ABANDONED PROPERTY AUCTION
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned intends to sell the abandoned personal property described below pursuant to Sections 1983 and 1988 of the California Civil Code.
The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on JUNE 13 2025 at 12:00 p.m. on the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at Leonard's Lockers Self Storage, 816 Elwee Dr., Salinas, Ca 93901, the following described goods:
RICHARD SALAZAR - F179 - Misc. Goods
Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is where is and must be removed at the time of sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.
5/30, 6/6/25
CNS-3929351#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: May 30, June 6, 2025. (PC 569)

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. 20250906
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CUTE-ICLE NAIL BAR**, 75 San Miguel Ave., Unit 3, Salinas, CA 93901.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
Registered Owner(s): JOVANA MENDOZA, 606 Rusconi Dr., 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/Jovana Mendoza
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 577)


FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250906
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CUTE-ICLE NAIL BAR**, 75 San Miguel Ave., Unit 3, Salinas, CA 93901.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
Registered Owner(s): JOVANA MENDOZA, 606 Rusconi Dr., 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/Jovana Mendoza
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 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, CCA 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)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250803
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
MARIA'S BAR & GRILL, 10830 MERRITT ST, CASTROVILLE, CA 95012, County of MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s): OLIVIA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT INC, 10830 MERRITT ST #1, CASTROVILLE, CA 95012
This business is conducted by A CORPORATION
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 04/29/2025
S/ CELIA MADRIZ
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 04/29/2025
5/30, 6/6, 6/13, 6/20/25
CNS-3930185#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2025. (PC 575)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the Estate of Robert Gary Kiskadden (aka Robert Gary Bechtel)
Notice is hereby given that Robert Gary Kiskadden, late of 4000 Rio Road #67, Carmel, CA 93923, passed away on April 12, 2025. All persons having claims against the estate of the deceased are hereby required to submit their claims, along with supporting documentation, to the undersigned personal representative at the address provided below within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Claims must be sent to: Catherine Bechtel, Executor and Trustee, 595 Middlebury Drive Sunnyvale, CA 94087 Cathybechtel8@gmail.com May 26, 2025 Catherine Bechtel, Executor/Administrator of the Estate of Robert Gary Kiskadden (aka Robert Gary Bechtel) Publication dates: May 30, June 6, 2025. (PC576)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20250906
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CUTE-ICLE NAIL BAR**, 75 San Miguel Ave., Unit 3, Salinas, CA 93901.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
Registered Owner(s): JOVANA MENDOZA, 606 Rusconi Dr., 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/Jovana Mendoza
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 577)



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible. Immediately prior to the Public Hearing, the Commission will visit some or all the project sites in person as part of a Tour of Inspection. Interested members of the public are invited to attend both the Tour and the Hearing.

This meeting will be held via teleconference and in person in the City Council Chambers at City Hall located on Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues. To participate via teleconference, use this link: <https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/85075274055?pwd=xjGuf1VHPManTYPLVc94aalwt24Tld.1>. **To participate via phone, dial +1 (669) 444-9171.** Webinar ID: 850 7527 4055. Passcode: 001916.

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

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

Citywide
Capital Improvement Program (CIP) General Plan Consistency

Roofing Materials
Citywide
Discussion and direction from the Planning Commission to staff on roofing materials, including but not limited to metal roofs

DS 24289 (Your Golden Key No 1 LLC)
Claudio Ortiz, Architect
13th Avenue 2 southeast of Mission Street
Block 141, Lot 1, 3, 6, & 8
APN: 010-161-018-000
Consideration of a Final Design Study (DS 24289) and associated Coastal Development Permit for the demolition of an existing approximately 1800-square-foot, one-story single-family residence, inclusive of a 200-square-foot garage, and the construction of a 2435-square-foot, two-story single-family residence, inclusive of a 200-square-foot attached garage, located on 13th Avenue 2 southeast of Mission Street in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-161-018-000

DS 25017 (Hobbs)
Adam Jeselnick, Architect
Santa Rita Street 3 northeast of 1st Avenue Block 4, Lot 2
APN 009-146-029-000
Consideration of a Concept Design Study (DS 25017) for the demolition of an existing 1,111-square-foot one-story single-family residence, and construction of a new 1,795-square-foot one-story single-family residence inclusive of a 224-square-foot detached garage located at Santa Rita Street 3 northeast of 1st Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 009-146-029-000

DS 24298 (Gonzales)
Adam Jeselnick, Architect
Southeast Corner Santa Fe Street & 5th Avenue
Block 61, Lot 2
APN 010-038-017
Consideration of a Concept Design Study (DS 24298) for a 134-square-foot addition to an existing 1,244-square-foot one-story single-family residence, as well as a 457-square-foot second story Accessory Dwelling Unit addition located at the southeast corner of 5th Avenue and Santa Fe Street in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-038-017-000

DS 25071 (Morsello)
RiAnne Johnson, Agent
Northeast corner of Santa Fe Street & 8th Avenue
Block: 86, Lot 11 & 12
APN: 010-044-007-000
Consideration of a Track 1 Design Study (DS 25071) referral for the replacement of the existing wood windows with 100 Series Fibrex windows on a single-family residence located at the northeast corner of Santa Fe Street & 8th Avenue in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-044-007-000

DS 24083 (Dyas)
Jennifer Cordoza, Agent
Southwest corner of Santa Fe Street & 5th Avenue
Block: 60 Lot: ALL LOT 1
APN: 010-092-001-000
Consideration of a Track 1 Design Study (DS 24083) referral for the after-the-fact replacement of the existing wood windows with 100 Series Fibrex windows on a single-family residence located at the southwest corner of 5th Avenue and Santa Fe Street in the Single-Family Residential (R-1) District. APN: 010-092-001-000

City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Anna Ginette, Director of Community Planning & Building

Publication dates: May 30, 2025 (PC582)

Auto,

Home & Garden

The Auto, Home & Garden Section is Published Every Other Week



Meena Lewellen (831) 274-8655 meena@carmelpinecone.com

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LEXUS
Monterey Peninsula

CALL. 831-661-9931 **TEXT.** 831-228-5534

CLICK. [LexusMontereyPeninsula.com](https://www.LexusMontereyPeninsula.com) 

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