

## September Ranch project inches forward

By CHRIS COUNTS

LOCATED ON an iconic Carmel Valley property known as September Ranch, the One Carmel development — with 73 luxury homes, 22 affordable units and 89 acres of open space — was a hot-button topic in the early 2000s when local slow-growth advocates unsuccessfully rallied against it. Approved 15 years ago, the project has been inching forward ever since. With many locals curious about what’s happening there, project managers Ari Erfani and Katie Bipes gave The Pine Cone an update.

**Infrastructure**

According to the pair, the work — at least for now — is focused on putting in roads, electricity, gas and water for 36 homes that are part of the project’s first phase. The contractor is the Don Chapin Company. Several videos posted on social media in the past year show workers digging trenches and installing water lines.

Erfani told the newspaper those projects should be done by early 2026.

Monterey County officials also offered

an update on the construction that’s been granted permits. According to spokesperson Maia Carroll, the builder is “working on an active grading permit for the roadways and utility trenching on Phase I of the subdivision and has

See **RANCH** page 13A



PHOTO/DON CHAPIN CO.

Earthmoving equipment prepares roads at September Ranch, which has been approved for 73 luxury homes and 22 affordable units.

## Big Sur section of state coastal trail takes shape

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE LENGTHY effort to determine where the California Coastal Trail will go as it passes through Big Sur has been settled, and State Sen. John Laird is calling for action to keep the ambitious project moving. The senator spoke about it at the Big Sur Multi-Agency Council meeting last month, and he recently met with local groups and volunteers with a stake in the trail. Laird’s perspective is that during his last term in the senate — he’ll be term-limited out in 2028 — he wants to “make meaningful progress on the coastal trail,” his senior policy advisor, Kara Woodruff, told The Pine Cone.

**Border to border?**

While the trail, which is intended to follow the California coastline from Oregon to Mexico, is still a long way from becoming reality, the alignment of its Big Sur segment has been agreed upon. Nearly the entire route will follow existing trails on public land. That decision comes after more than a decade of talks and planning, with more than 70 locals volunteering their time and energy.

According to several of those volunteers, it will only run directly along the coast near Pacific Valley about a dozen miles north of the Monterey/San Luis Obispo county

line. It will also veer toward the coast near Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, giving hikers an opportunity to stock up on supplies in Big Sur Valley. But much of it will travel deep into the backcountry, where dozens of primitive campsites offer rustic places to rest for the evening, although several more will likely be needed along the northern section of the Big Sur route.

**Property conflicts**

While state officials once lobbied to run the trail next to the highway, locals argued against it due to private-property conflicts and the complications of sharing a narrow and crowded transportation corridor with thousands of vehicles.

State officials also agreed to keep the route off the all-dirt Coast Ridge Road — which features great views and moderate grades — instead limiting it to trails that offer hikers a longer and more challenging journey.

See **TRAIL** page 12A

## City might be in market for Scenic Road strip

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CITY of Carmel could be in competition to buy a strip of Scenic Road land being offered for \$100,000.

While the price sounds great for coveted real estate in one of the most beautiful places in the world, the small lot — and no one knows exactly how small — next to the Frank Lloyd Wright House can’t be developed, not even with a fence or a bench, according to deed restrictions recorded in April 1924.

Central Coast Properties broker Lance Monosoff is marketing the land as an “oceanfront Carmel lot for the person who has everything.”

“This lot is not buildable due to deed restrictions, size and other limitations,” his flier says. “However, this little piece of heaven could be yours forever — bring a folding chair and enjoy spectacular sunsets.”

See **STRIP** page 15A

## Dems worry about gas prices, push back on clean-air regs

By CAITLIN CONRAD

DEMOCRATIC LAWMAKERS in Sacramento gave climate-change policymakers a grilling last week, bemoaning how industry regulations have impacted gas prices while doing little to solve the environmental crisis.

“I know what climate leadership looks like, and it isn’t



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Prices at the pump have come down a bit this year, but drivers in California still pay more than in any other state — even Hawaii.

## Does the county protect illegals? Feds say yes.

■ ‘Welcoming’ vs. ‘sanctuary’

By KELLY NIX

MONTEREY COUNTY landed on a list of hundreds of “sanctuary” jurisdictions the federal government says obstruct immigration enforcement. The county maintains it’s not a haven for illegal immigrants but is merely “welcoming.”

Last week, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security included Monterey County and the City of Salinas on the sanctuary list of more than 100 California counties and cities and many other jurisdictions across the country that assist undocumented people and offer resources to help shield them from immigration agents.

“These sanctuary city politicians are endangering Americans and our law enforcement in order to protect violent criminal illegal aliens,” according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

In response to President Donald Trump’s promise to deport mass numbers of illegal immigrants, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors in January reestablished the county as “welcoming” for “immigrants and refugees” and declared it “a place of trust and safety for immigrants.”

**‘We deeply value the contributions of our immigrant workers’**

**Distinction or difference?**

While there doesn’t seem to be a universal definition for “sanctuary” jurisdictions, District 1 county supervisor Luis Alejo offered the reason for the county’s “welcoming” title.

“Some cities and counties declare themselves sanctuaries,” Alejo said. “Monterey County is a welcoming county. Monterey County deeply values the contributions of our immigrant workers and families that strengthen our local communities and economy. We remain committed to being a welcoming and inclusive place for all.”

See **IMMIGRANTS** page 18A

\$10 gas,” Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris told the heads of the California Energy Commission and California Air Resources Board Wednesday.

The Irvine Democrat led the dressing-down, which happened during an Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee oversight hearing on the transportation fuels market and transition plan. Committee members questioned whether the state’s clean-energy transition plan is working and if the regulations are worth the increased costs to consumers.

California Air Resources Board Chair Lian Randolph, California Energy Commission Vice Chair Siva Gunda and Division of Petroleum Market Oversight director Tai Milder found themselves in the hot seat during the meeting.

**Refinery closures**

Concerns over the looming closures of two oil refineries in the state took up much of the three-hour hearing as lawmakers demanded answers on how they would impact prices at the pump.

“I am extremely concerned with the closure of the refinery. We are potentially looking at an incredible amount of volatility because we are down to so few refineries,” said Thousand Oaks Democrat Jaqui Irwin.

Irwin was speaking about Phillips 66’s plan to close

See **GAS** page 16A





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# Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

## Finding forever family

They don't have children and they didn't have pets. As full as their life had been together, they sensed it wasn't complete. Until one day, when they looked out onto the deck of their High Meadow home and saw a little dog drinking from their fountain.

She wasn't lost; she was found.  
Her DNA test said she is mostly a shih tzu. Her im-  
planted chip said her name is Maya. It also said she'd  
been "released."

"Maya is the most loving, precious, adorable dog,"  
her new person said. "We believe she was released so  
she could find her rightful forever family in us."

It's like a Disney film: "Homeward Bound" meets "A  
Dog's Way Home."

"I don't know how anyone could get rid of Maya,"  
her person said. "Clearly she came from the Universe  
and was aware that we needed her."

To better understand her little dog, Maya's per-  
son engaged a psychic who told them she'd lived in a  
household where the residents were unkind to her. Yet  
she is responding very well to the warmth she receives  
from her new family, her person said.

"My husband stays home a lot, and she's very lov-  
ing to him," she said. "When I come home, she turns to  
give her attention to me. She has an equal-opportunity



heart."  
Maya has never been to the beach — she's so low  
to the ground, she'd get a face full of sand — but she's  
been above it, wandering down the strand along Scenic  
Road, overlooking the bay.  
"Every morning, I awaken to this little body stretched  
alongside mine, and she looks at me with those big,  
brown eyes, communicating the attention she needs,"  
her person said. "She's so adorable. Somehow we were  
given this little dog. There's no doubt — she's a gift."



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# Cops propose 16 more stop signs

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CONFUSING intersection at San Carlos and Fifth, where east-west traffic doesn’t stop and the single block in front of the post office is one-way, should be a four-way stop, Carmel Police Chief Paul Tomasi said at a meeting of the traffic safety commission last Wednesday. That troublesome interchange has been the topic of debate and complaints for more than 20 years, but past decision-makers opted not to change it, worrying that vehicles on the steep incline, if required to stop, would roll back and that the acceleration required to start moving again would make too much noise — especially from trucks.

In the interest of making walking, cycling and driving safer, overall, Tomasi recommended changes to seven intersections that would add 16 stop signs downtown. Doing so would leave the commercial area bordered by Monte Verde, Junipero, Fifth and Eighth with just a pair of intersections with two-way stops: Mission and Sixth and San Carlos and Sixth, which the fire department needs to remain as they are to prevent backups in front of its station.

### Study resurrected

Tomasi explained at the May 28 meeting of the committee, which also includes planning director Anna Ginette, public works superintendent Rob Culver and new public works director Ken Wysocki, that the topic has been under discussion since the city commissioned a study 22 years ago by Higgins Associates traffic engineer Barbara VanHeerden.

She evaluated traffic flows and accident data and recommended converting 15 intersections, which would put stop signs at every downtown crossing. The

then-called community traffic safety commission agreed with changes to a dozen intersections, but not near the fire station or the post office.

In the years that followed, six of those intersections were changed according to VanHeerden’s recommendations, with those along Seventh at Lincoln, Dolores and San Carlos turned from two-way to four-way stops, and all-way stops on Mission at Fifth and Eighth and at Dolores and Fifth. In addition, single stop signs were placed on Fifth and Sixth avenues at Monte Verde Street — intersections that were previously uncontrolled.

### Things change

Regarding the intersection near the post office, Tomasi explained that he disagrees with the former commission’s decision to leave it alone.

“Maybe 20 years ago I would have agreed with it, but a lot of trucks now are automatic, so we don’t get the rollback problem,” he said. In addition, they aren’t as loud when they rev to get moving uphill, and many

people are driving electric vehicles. Converting the intersection to a four-way stop would improve safety, especially for pedestrians, according to Tomasi.

“Over the last couple of months, the commander and I have been driving through it and looking at this problem, and it is very confusing to get through that intersection,” he said. “The best thing we can do is make it a four-way stop, along with the other streets that were already agreed upon by the council that we haven’t done yet.”

The conversion at San Carlos and Fifth should please former city councilwoman Karen Ferlito, who has long argued for

Drivers should prepare for a lot more stopping and starting

See STOP page 31A



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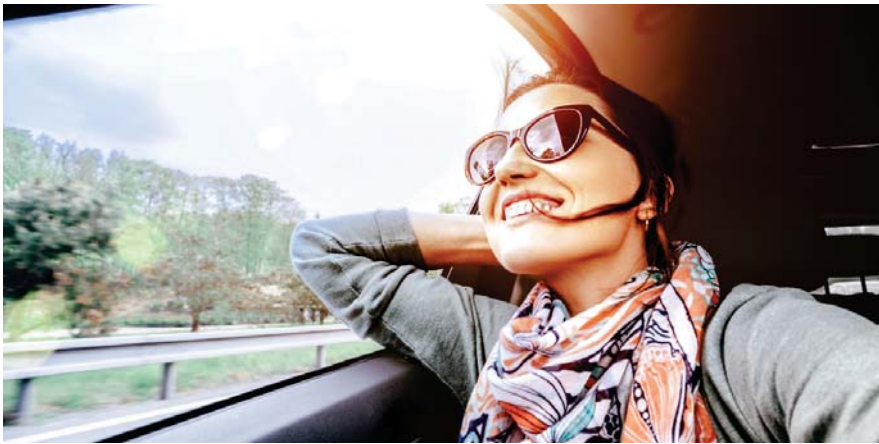
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# Police & Sheriff's Log

## Money disappears, thief does not

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

TUESDAY, MAY 20

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** A cell phone was found at Ocean and Del Mar and turned in to CPD for safekeeping.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Civil matter at Fourth and Carpenter. A white 2023 Polestar vehicle was repossessed.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** A 54-year-old male Mill Valley resident went to a construction site at San Antonio and Fourth and began to yell at the workers. He then picked up rocks and started throwing them at the workers and vehicles. There was some damage to the construction workers' vehicles, but they did not want to prosecute. A records check for warrants and probation showed the male had an

outstanding warrant for methamphetamine out of San Bruno. He was lodged at Monterey County Jail for the warrant.

**Pacific Grove:** Subject on 17 Mile Drive was placed on a mental health hold.

**Pacific Grove:** At approximately 1500 hours, an APS report regarding a Second Street resident was reviewed.

**Pacific Grove:** Vehicle at Congress and Pine was marked for a 72-hour parking violation.

**Carmel area:** Report of financial abuse involving a subject on Rio Road.

**Carmel Valley:** Report of financial abuse involving a Garzas Road resident.

**Carmel area:** Report of stolen checks on Via Nona Marie.

**Carmel Valley:** Child endangerment report on Wawona Road regarding a 42-year-old male suspect and a 12-year-old female victim.

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

**April 10** — Judge Andrew Liu sentenced Jeremy Michael Betancourt, 33, of Salinas, to a term of six years and eight months in state prison for felony child abuse causing injury, felony domestic violence, witness intimidation, and possession of obscene matter depicting persons under age 18 engaged in lewd conduct.

At the time of his offenses, Betancourt was on probation for prior allegations of domestic violence. One of the charges, dissuading a witness, is a strike for purposes of California's three strikes law.

On Nov. 11, 2023, Salinas police officers responded to Jane Doe's residence where Doe reported that during an argument her ex-boyfriend, Betancourt, pushed her up against the wall while she was holding her 2-year-old son. As a result, her child hit his

head against the wall and had visible swelling to his head. When Doe placed the boy down to prevent further injury, Betancourt attempted to smother her to prevent her from screaming.

While Doe attempted to summon help, Betancourt forcefully removed her cell phone from her possession and fled. At around this same time, Salinas police detectives were pursuing leads provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children which had received a tip from an online service provider that Betancourt had accessed obscene material involving images which depicted minors engaged in lewd acts. Charges were filed and a warrant was issued for Betancourt's arrest.

See **GAVEL** page 50A

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- June 25<sup>th</sup> 2-3pm **Hand painted name painting on canvas**
- July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2-3pm **Rainbow candle making with Johnny Wicks**
- July 9<sup>th</sup> 2-3pm **Happy Birds - Live Bird Show**
- July 17<sup>th</sup> 4-4:45pm **Tony Duncan - Hoop Dancer - Flutist & Storyteller at Devendorf Park**
- July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2-3pm **Design your own Teddy Bear**
- July 30<sup>th</sup> 2-3pm **Mini Floral Arrangements with Jessica Bunn**

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- June 18<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm **Dungeons & Dragons with Adam Satur, registration required**
- June 25<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm **Zine Making with John Isaacson, registration required**
- July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1-3pm **Little crochet rainbows with Ms. Sierra**
- July 9<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm **Flower crowns with Jessica Bunn, registration required**
- July 16<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm **Dungeons & Dragons with Adam Satur, registration required**
- July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1-3pm **Dungeons & Dragons with Adam Satur, registration required**
- July 30<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm **Rainbow Sea Shells with Ms. Sierra**

## HARRISON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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- June 4<sup>th</sup> 4-5pm **Nature Journaling**
- June 12<sup>th</sup> 4-5pm **Tor House Presentation with Elliot Ruchowitz Roberts**
- June 19<sup>th</sup> 4-5pm **Music in the Library - Steve Carter Trio**
- June 26<sup>th</sup> 2-3:30pm **Paint & Sip with Local Artist Jessica Ansberry, registration required, 13 years and up**
- July 2<sup>nd</sup> 5:30-6:30pm **Carmel Bach Festival Community Concert, registration required**
- July 3<sup>rd</sup> 4-5pm **Craft Program - DIY**
- July 10<sup>th</sup> 4-5pm **Music in the Library - Charged Particles**
- July 24<sup>th</sup> 4-5pm **Ice Cream Social**
- July 31<sup>st</sup> 4-5pm **Bad Art Night**

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# GOP tries to shut down drag storytime

By KELLY NIX

A DRAG queen book event for children and adults sponsored by the Monterey Public Library and a pride group has raised the hackles of the local Republican party, which is demanding it be canceled.

On June 11 from 7 to 8 p.m., the library is hosting “drag queen storytime” with drag performer Saint Sallos at Oscar’s Playground, an arcade and escape room business on Cannery Row. The library is organizing it with Monterey Peninsula Pride, an LGBTQ group cofounded by Monterey Mayor Tyller Williamson.

“We’ll be reading ‘C is for Country’ by Lil Nas X and “Twas the Night Before Pride’ by Joanna McClintick,” a Monterey Public Library press release said. “The event is the perfect opportunity to connect, celebrate and embrace

our vibrant community.”

“Join us for fun and creative expression in a welcoming, inclusive environment,” the library added, noting that the free event is intended for “adults, kids, teens.”

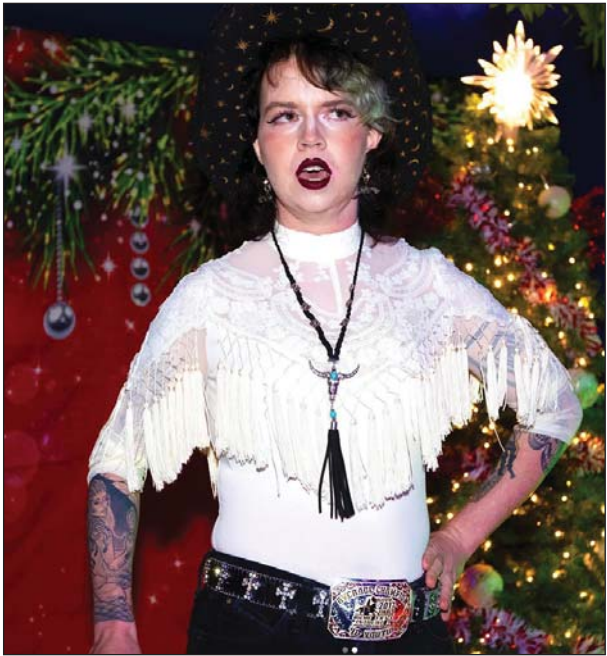
“Bring your friends, your energy and your pride!” the library said.

### GOP outrage

The Monterey County Republican Party responded to the announcement with a strongly worded press notice that included a demand it be nixed.

“Let us be clear: this is not about diversity, education, or acceptance,” the GOP group said. “This is about grooming children for ideological and sexual confusion under the authority of a taxpayer-funded institution.”

The party went on to say that the books to be read



PHOTO/INSTAGRAM

Drag performer Saint Sallos will be reading books as part of Monterey Public Library’s drag queen storytime next week.

are not age appropriate and are “blatant vehicles for indoctrination.”

“We demand that our civic spaces be free from political manipulation and safeguarded against those who seek to sexualize childhood under the pretense of equity,” the Republicans said, adding that libraries have a “duty to remain neutral.”

A library official said no tax money is being spent and that the Cannery Row business waived its rental fee and Monterey Peninsula Pride selected the storyteller.

“There is no cost to the library for the event — we aren’t paying for the room or the performer,” Monterey’s librarian and museums director Brian Edwards told The Pine Cone Tuesday. “The books are already in our collection.”

### Disclaimer?

The City of Monterey — which has recognized June as Pride Month for the last four years — is promoting the drag queen event while distancing itself from it. Much of Monday’s city press release reads like a disclaimer.

Monterey, “acting through its city council, has not

See DRAG page 28A

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# State changes rules for trans athletes

By CAITLIN CONRAD

TRANSGENDER TRACK athlete AB Hernandez placed first in the girls’ high jump and triple jump at the State Track and Field State Championship on Saturday in Clovis. The transgender girl from Jurupa Valley also finished second in the long jump, losing to Long Beach teen Loren Webster of Woodrow Wilson High School, the only biological female to outscore the trans athlete.

Female competitors who finished behind Hernandez still received first- and second-place medals, thanks to a rule change announced last week. The California Interscholastic Federation made the change to ensure girls were not displaced from winning medals by transgender competitors. At the championship last week, biological females who would have earned podium placement, but lost to Hernandez, received a medal for that place as well. So, in the high jump and triple jump, there were two recorded winners, Hernandez and the girls who scored second to her.

### National attention

The change to the medaling process was part of a new entry process for the track and field championships. The new rules allowed any biological female athlete who may have lost out to a transgender athlete earlier in the season to compete at the meet in Clovis.

“The California Interscholastic Federation believes this pilot entry process achieves the participation opportunities we seek to afford our student-athletes,” wrote the CIF in a statement ahead of the championship.

The issue of transgender athletes competing in girls sports in California has drawn national attention. On Monday, the

U.S. Department of Justice sent letters to California Attorney General Rob Bonta, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, Jurupa Unified School District and the California Interscholastic Federation, stating it has opened an investigation to determine whether California is violating Title IX. The DOJ is asserting allowing transgender athletes to participate

in female sports teams at state schools may be a violation of the landmark civil rights law.

### Just hours

The letters came following threats made online by President Donald Trump to withhold federal funding if California continued to defy an executive order,

“Keeping Men Out of Women’s Sports,” he signed in February. The order makes it federal policy to rescind all funds from educational programs that deprive women and girls of fair athletic opportunities and opposes male competitive participation in women’s sports.

Trump made the threats in a Truth Social post just hours before the California Interscholastic Federation announced the pilot entry program. In it, The president expressed outrage that a transgender athlete was poised to become a girls state track and field champion, but never named Hernandez.

“This week a transitioned male athlete, at a major event won everything, and is now qualified to compete in the state finals next weekend. As a male he was a less-than-average competitor. As a female this transitioned person is practically unbeatable. This is not fair and totally demeaning to women and girls,” wrote the president.

Trump also said he planned to call Gov. Gavin Newsom about the issue, noting

See TRANS page 20A

## Drawing national attention and getting new entry rules

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# Family of dead tourist sues P.B. Co.

By KELLY NIX

THE FAMILY of a Chinese national who got too close to the Pacific Ocean during a powerful storm in December 2024 and was swept off the rocks by a wave blames the Pebble Beach Company for his death, according to a lawsuit filed last week.

On Dec. 23, 2024, Guoqiang Deng, 72, was visiting Pebble Beach with his son, Xue Deng, and his wife and daughter, who live in the East Bay. At about 1:30 p.m., the Dengs paid the \$12.25 entrance fee to Pebble Beach and eventually made their way to the China Rock lookout area along 17 Mile Drive.

The complaint claims Deng and his family got out of the car and “stood on the dirt and grassy area near the rocks to view the ocean.”

At about 2 p.m., “a large wave crashed over the rocks and hit them,” according to the lawsuit filed by Xue Deng in Monterey County Superior Court. Deng grabbed his daughter and wife and moved them back toward the parking lot away from danger.

“When Xue Deng turned around, his father was gone,” the lawsuit says. When the family “looked out to the ocean, they saw Guoqiang Deng struggling in the water as he was swept away by the waves.”

Because of the “treacherous waters,” first responders used a drone and helicopter to search for the elderly man, but they did not find him, the suit says. “To date, Guoqiang Deng’s body has not been recovered, and he is presumed dead.”

Pebble Beach Company CEO David Stivers told The Pine Cone that the company doesn’t comment on litigation.

**‘No warning’**

While the family alleges that a P.B. Co. gate guard failed to warn them of the weather danger and there were no posted warning signs, it would have been apparent to most people that the ocean can be very dangerous. Nevertheless, the company is liable, according to the suit, which notes that the National Weather Service issued three emergency alerts for the possibility of coastal flooding and high surf in Monterey County, one of them about 30 minutes before the family says Deng was swept off the rocks. The family said they “were not

See SUE page 21A



The aftermath of a powerful storm in December 2024 in Pebble Beach left large rocks, tree limbs and other debris on the roadways and in parking lots.

PHOTO/TONY SETON

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# Council split over library appointee

By MARY SCHLEY

IN AN unusual move, three Carmel City Council members derailed the appointment of retired longtime Cox executive Billy Farina to the Harrison Memorial Library Board of Trustees Monday, arguing that an incumbent should retain his seat. Farina was one of the nine people selected by Mayor Dale Byrne and Mayor Pro Tem Bob Delves after they combed through 17 applications and interviewed candidates interested in filling vacancies on the city’s various boards and commissions.

“The exceptional quality of applicants made the selection process by the ad hoc committee highly competitive,” city clerk Nova Romero explained in her June 2 report.

Byrne and Delves recommended Farina and former community activities commissioner Donna Jett for the library board, but councilman Hans Buder wondered if it was a mistake to not reappoint member Jonathan Krisher, a 31-year resident, longtime library user and the most recent president of the board. “I’ve seen him at the Park Branch reading every past set of board minutes going back to 1926,” he said. “He’s very dedicated to the library.”

### Doubts

Further, Buder argued, Krisher helped negotiate the complex contract between the city, the library board and the nonprofit Carmel Public Library Foundation for the planned interior renovation of the library.

“We wound up with a better situation for the city — that protected the city better,” Buder said. “I appreciate people who have that kind of backbone.”

He asked Byrne and Delves to reconsider their recommendation to appoint Farina instead of Krisher.

Councilwoman Alissandra Dramov said she felt similarly but that it seemed difficult to go against the suggested appointments, since they’d already been made public. She thanked Krisher for his years of service.

Councilman Jeff Baron was rankled that Krisher — “who has dedicated so much time to this library” — was “passed over for somebody who does not live in the city,” he said. The library board can have two members who live in the city’s “sphere of influence” outside its official limits.

And to Dramov’s comment that it was too late to change anything, if that’s true, he asked, why bother having a public hearing at all?

“It’s not too late. This is the avenue that we have been provided to comment on these things, and if we’re not prepared as councilmembers to comment or act on things on the agenda, then we should just not do this,” he said. “I think our input is valuable.”

### ‘Most impressive’

Delves explained that he and Byrne generally opted in favor of newcomers over incumbents in order to prepare more residents for potential service on the Carmel City Council. While Farina lives outside the city limits and would therefore not be eligible for the council, “I found him to be one of the most impressive candidates I interviewed,” Delves said.

In his application, Farina noted that he spent more than three decades with Cox Communications, starting as an account executive and working his way up to become president of Cox Media Group. “During my 30-plus year career, I learned from every perspective of business,” he said. “Each role was an education in leadership, problem solving and understanding

See **LIBRARY** page 31A

## Battle brews over veteran CEO vs. board incumbent

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PG&E delays Moss Landing battery restart

By KELLY NIX

PLANS BY Pacific Gas & Electric to reactivate its battery storage operation in Moss Landing last weekend were halted when workers discovered technical failures.

Though Monterey County officials last 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 Vistra Energy battery storage plant next door has been found and emergency response plans completed, a spokesperson for the utility said last week it intended to restart its operation last Sunday. That did not happen.

“On June 1, we began methodically returning the batteries to service as a part of the planned return to service, and in the process, a clamp failure and coolant leak were identified in one of the 256 megapacks onsite,” PG&E told The Pine Cone Monday. “We are working to remediate the issue, and out of an abundance of caution, we are deferring the facility’s return to

service until a later date.” The company said it’s taking a “conservative testing approach” to restarting the system to identify operational issues and ensure the operation continues to be safe. It does not have an estimated timeline on when it will be reactivated.

Strong support

PG&E’s Elkhorn battery facility automatically disconnected from the electrical grid when its infrared fire detection system detected flames from the Vistra fire and has been disconnected since then.

Despite the issues, PG&E said it’s fully behind battery storage, which strengthens the reliability of the state’s power grid, especially during summer months.

“Battery energy storage plays a key role in supporting grid reliability while providing cost savings for electric customers and helping to support the state’s decarbonization goals to integrate more renewable resources into PG&E’s power mix,” the company said.

Alzheimer’s subject of free talk

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE LATEST research provides insight into “how to optimize our physical and cognitive health as we age,” according to the Alzheimer’s Association, which will present an educational program in The Carmel Foundation’s Diment Hall at Lincoln and Eighth Wednesday, June 11, at 2:30 p.m.

“For centuries, we’ve known that the health of the brain and the body are connected,” but advances in science have illuminated just how true that is, according

to organizers. During “Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body,” attendees will learn about research in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement, and how to use “hands-on tools to help you incorporate these recommendations into a plan for healthy aging.”

The talk, which is hosted by the non-profit foundation, is free and open to all. The Carmel Foundation serves members aged 55 and older by providing low-cost meals and housing, a library, activities and more than 60 weekly classes and activities. To learn more, visit [carmelfoundation.org](http://carmelfoundation.org).

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# TEACHER PUTS OUT LITHIUM-ION FIRE

By KELLY NIX

A SMALL fire inside a Pacific Grove classroom Thursday morning caused by a lithium-ion-powered battery was prevented from spreading after a quick-thinking teacher used sand her students play with to put it out, the Monterey Fire Department said.

Firefighters were dispatched to Forest Grove Elementary School just before 10 a.m., while summer school was in session. Division Chief Justin Cooper said the origin of the fire was a portable voice amplifier, a device teachers use to boost their voices in the classroom. Students were in class at the time, but nobody was injured.

“What we found was as lithium-ion battery in a portable speaker that had caught fire,” Cooper told The Pine Cone. “The teacher was quick-reacting and used some kinetic sand in the classroom to put over the battery” and extinguish it. Kinetic sand is a colorful sand coated with silicone oil,

so it can be manipulated into shapes. “It was very lucky that the fire happened when the classroom was occupied,” he said. “If the fire had happened at night, we probably would have had a different outcome.” A school staff member activated the fire alarm and teachers escorted students out onto the blacktop. Nobody was injured.

### ‘Worried’

Cooper said his department will investigate the made-in-China device that caught fire, which he said is a Pyle Portable PA Speaker Voice Amplifier. Amazon sells them for about \$37.

Peggy Miller pulled up to the school at about 10:15 to pick up her granddaughter and came across the emergency.

“I came a little early to pick up my granddaughter from summer school, and there were police cars, the fire department and a meter maid,” Miller told a Pine Cone reporter. “I was just a little worried.”

# California celebrates parks

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

CALIFORNIA STATE Parks Week June 11-15 will spotlight the state’s natural and cultural heritage with special events across its 280 parks. In Monterey, visitors can enjoy free tours and hands-on activities at the downtown State Historic Park.

Garden tours will be offered at 12:30 p.m. on June 11, 13 and 15, featuring the Casa Soberanes and Memory gardens with a focus on local history and the symbolism of native plants.

Arts and literature tours are scheduled for June 12 and 14, also at 12:30 p.m.,

highlighting the park’s influence on artists and writers and featuring readings and art displays at Casa Soberanes.

A community craft day takes place June 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Pacific House Museum, where guests can learn traditional candle-making and take home a beeswax candle.

Meanwhile, Casa Gutierrez will showcase student art and historic portraits on June 14 and 15.

For more details, including starting points and tour check-in information, visit the park’s main locations at Custom House Plaza and Calle Principal.

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# TRAIL

From page 1A

Ultimately, after years of talks with elected officials and locals, the California Coastal Commission and California Coastal Conservancy signed off on the idea of placing the trail mostly in the backcountry.

### Institutional knowledge

One of the project’s volunteer planners, resident Rachel Goldberger, complimented state officials for letting locals put their institutional knowledge to work in the alignment of the trail.

“One of the biggest takeaways for me is that, in true Big Sur spirit, this trail alignment wasn’t shaped by top-down mandates, but by a fiercely dedicated community with a vision grounded in local knowledge, lived experience, and deep care for this extraordinary place,” Goldberger said. “That vision was ultimately respected by state agencies — and it shows just how powerful true collaboration can be.”

Throughout the state, the California Coastal Trail has slowly been taking shape — at least on paper. In Big Sur, where both topography and private property rights slowed the best of efforts to determine precisely where the lengthy walking route

will go, progress has been at a snail’s pace. Not everybody in Big Sur is on board with the idea. Marcus Foster of Keep Big Sur Wild contends the Big Sur Land Use Plan restricts what can be done to create recreational opportunities. “The Big Sur LUP makes clear that passive recreational use is welcome — but only when it does not require new services or development,” Foster said. “Formalizing a trail and then declaring that it needs infrastructure to support the crowds it invites is putting the cart before the horse.” Foster noted that there’s been a rise in rescues in Big Sur, and this route will only lead to more. “Big Sur was never meant to accommodate the volume of visitors that trails like the Pacific Crest Trail now attract, with their booming cottage industries, media buzz and search-and-rescue costs,” he said. Foster suggested that potential impacts need to be better studied. “The push to formalize trails under the Coastal Trail brand — without any clear analysis of how many new users this would bring, or how it aligns with our existing land use protections — is reckless,” he said. “No public report I’ve seen answers the most basic question: How many people do you expect this trail to attract? And what is the carrying capacity of the land?” Foster also mentioned the risk of wildfires as another reason to be wary of increasing recreation potential in the


backcountry. Patte Kronlund, executive director of the Community Association of Big Sur, told The Pine Cone she decided to get involved in the effort to create the trail not because she believed it was necessary, but because its arrival was inevitable and she wanted a say in how and where it was created. It was mandated by voters in 1972. “This trail was going to happen regardless of our participation,” she explained. “We didn’t have a choice.” While much remains uncertain about the details and timelines, it could become one of the world’s most famous hiking routes. “It will be on everyone’s bucket list,” added Kronlund, who also conceded that she and other trail planning volunteers might no longer be alive when that day arrives.

### Next steps

So, now that the question over the alignment has been settled, what comes next? Laird told The Pine Cone that the focus will turn to a 4.5-mile section of the trail that’s located on U.S. Forest Service land near Pacific Valley and Sand Dollar

Beach. It will be the one part of the Big Sur coastal trail that actually runs directly along the coast. “It is one section where there was substantial agreement” among those who planned the trail, he explained. “Let’s just start where there do not appear to be major issues,” Laird said. He is asking the California Coastal Conservancy to do a feasibility study on the Pacific Valley section. “Hopefully, when that’s done, I can get money to develop the trail.” For the senator, time is of the essence. “It took 20 years to negotiate the actual footprint of the trail,” he observed. “I’m concerned because I term-limit-out in four years. I’m determined to do as much as I can to bring resources to bear.” Will the lengthy route be worth the wait? “We have these incredibly beautiful locations on the Central Coast, and it’s our opportunity to make sure people across California can appreciate them for all time,” he added. “Big Sur is one piece if it. We’re finally moving ahead — this is no longer debate over where trail goes. Now it’s the challenge of implementing it.”

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# RANCH

From page 1A

started the process to add the inclusionary housing.”

Carroll reported the applicant recently informed county staff that “they are seeking the design approval of the affordable units first.”

Carroll said the county anticipates it will soon receive an application for the design of some units, which will be reviewed by the Carmel Valley Land Use Advisory Committee.

Located on the north side of Carmel Valley Road, near the Quail Lodge golf course, the subdivision was OK’d by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors in 2010 — along with 190 conditions of approval.

**Progress report offered**

In a video posted online five months ago, One Carmel’s Victor Ai Kuiyu gives a progress report.

“Our infrastructure development is proceeding steadily,” Kuiyu said. “From laying water pipelines, to preparing main facilities, every step is carefully planned to ensure a strong foundation for the community.”

Kuiyu said the company is “committed” to the “preservation and restoration” of the ranch’s historic equestrian operation that fronts Carmel Valley Road. “Over the past seven years, the team at One Carmel has poured an immense effort into the magical land,” he added.

**Derailed by lawsuit**

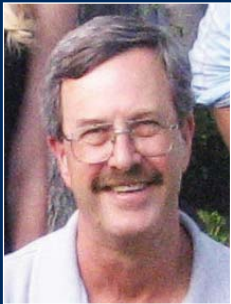
In 1995, Jim Morgens — who had owned the land for about three decades — applied to develop the ranch.

In the early 2000s, public hearings on the project drew overflow crowds, with some locals contending that the development lacked its own aquifer — in contrast to claims by the builder.

The subdivision was approved in 2006, but the permit was overturned after a lawsuit was filed by the Sierra Club and others. In 2008, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Susan Dauphine ruled that its EIR was inadequate.

In 2009, the project was cited by some residents as justification for the incorporation of Carmel Valley, which they contended would give the town more control over development, but incorporation failed at the ballot box.

In 2018, Morgens sold the land to DLC Capital Partners for \$19.25 million. It was acquired by a related company, DL Holdings, in June 2020.



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## Center will bring more tech to ag

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

PLANS FOR an agricultural robotics center in the Salinas Valley took a major step forward with the announcement Wednesday that an ag-tech nonprofit, Reservoir Farms, has signed a long-term lease for 40 acres of prime farmland for the development of what its CEO calls a “scalable, farmer-driven technology solutions incubator to connect Salinas farmland and Silicon Valley” — high-tech speak for the creation and testing of agricultural robots and the software that makes them go.

### Critical intersection

The farmland, owned by the Tanimura family, is at the corner of Highway 68 and Hitchcock Road and has long been cultivated for specialty crops like strawberries, leafy greens, and vegetables, “making it an ideal foundation for Reservoir Farms’ mission to innovate at the intersection of agriculture and technology,” according to an announcement from Danny Bernstein, the founder and CEO of The Reservoir.

His said his company is developing a

“new system for agricultural technology innovation.”

When the facility opens, 10 or 12 companies will use it for development of labor-saving ag projects, Bernstein said.

“On 2 acres we’ll be building our incubator space, including a temporary fabrication shop for them to build and design their machines,” he said. “And right out the door, there will be 10 acres of strawberries and vegetables and other crops to test them.”

He said his company has partnered with Tanimura & Antle for the development of the innovation center, “ensuring that Reservoir Farms will serve as the launchpad for the next generation of ag-tech — bringing together growers, technologists and the community to tackle the most pressing challenges facing our food system.”

One of those challenges is a long-term farmworker shortage that only promises to worsen under the Trump administration’s crackdown on illegal immigration.

“There is very broad support in the ag industry for this type of project,” Bernstein said.



Brian Antle from Tanimura & Antle and Danny Bernstein of Reservoir Farms at the 40-acre site on Highway 68 that will become a testing ground for agricultural robots.

PHOTO/RESERVOIR FARMS



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# STRIP

From page 1A

At Tuesday’s Carmel City Council meeting, councilwoman Alissandra Dramov raised the idea of using taxpayer funds to buy it and suggested debating the possibility as soon as possible, since “time is of the essence.”

“Last week in The Pine Cone, there was an item about a small strip of land with development restrictions, and several people have asked me, ‘Why doesn’t the city buy it?’” she said. “It could be something that the city maintains and maybe puts a bench up.”

Well, except for that last bit.

That’s because deed restrictions recorded with Monterey County in April 1924 state, “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 sightseeing, 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.”

Beverly Sue Bell and Barbara Diane Hutchinson have held the lot, which has an assessed value of \$11,494, since 1999, according to Monterey County property records. It is among the parcels on that stretch of Scenic between the road and the sea that were drawn by the Carmel Development Company, which was owned by the city’s founding fathers, J. Franklin Devendorf and Frank Powers, in 1910.

### On the list

In a January 1923 “indenture,” Carmel Development Co. sold the lot to Margaret McIntyre 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 in March 1924.

The transactions and restrictions were recorded at the request of the Bank of Carmel. Deeds in the era recorded the prices for most real estate transactions as \$10, but that

was just a formality to keep the actual price confidential.

At the June 3 meeting, Dramov queried her fellow councilmembers to gauge their interest and asked city attorney Brian Pierik what the process would be.

“The city can purchase property outside the city limits,” he confirmed. The terms would be negotiated in closed session, but any purchase agreement would have to be discussed and approved at an open meeting.

Pierik thwarted Dramov’s efforts to ask her colleagues whether they like the idea, since it wasn’t on the agenda, but the council agreed to add it to its list of future topics.

The quirky offer has sparked substantial curiosity and interest. Monosoff said last week that his phone started ringing as soon as he posted the listing and “for sale” sign.

A local land-sue attorney said he’s received inquiries from people wondering if the deed restrictions can be removed — which could be done with the consent of the current owner and whoever the successor to the original Carmel Development Co. might be.



PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

Could taxpayers end up owning this wee strip of land on Scenic Road at the edge of the sea? A councilwoman wants to consider it.



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## GAS

From page 1A

its Los Angeles-area refinery this October. The refinery is the seventh largest in the state and operations there make up more than 8 percent of the state's refining capacity.

Valero is considering shuttering its Benicia facility in April 2026. The announcement came six months after the Air Resources Board slapped the refinery with a record \$82 million fine for exceeding toxic emission standards.

Together the two refineries account for almost 20 percent of California's refining capacity and Gunda admitted the closures pose a significant supply problem.

"This is a very important challenge we need to solve almost immediately," Gunda told lawmakers.

The energy commission vice chair said there will be an immediate need for increases in imported oil to Southern California when Phillips 66 closes. Those supplies will come by ship, he said.

Assemblymember Mike Gipson, a Carson Democrat, pointed out that foreign supplies pose a number of problems that run contrary to California's climate goals.

Gipson said foreign oil often comes from places in the world with fewer environmental and labor regulations, and shipping oil means increased emissions.

"You are correct that additional marine traffic would implicate air quality issues beyond state waters that we do not regulate," admitted Randolph, the Air Resources Chair.

Gipson also expressed concerns over the impact refinery closures will have on the state's economy.

"I am concerned about what happens to the people and the tax dollars that these companies provide to the State of California, what happens to California once they leave California and go somewhere else," said Gipson.

### Increased regulation

Oil and gas companies have faced ever-tightening regulation in California over the years, specifically from the Air Resources Board. Late last year, the agency pushed ahead with amendments to its low-carbon fuel standard. The standard is complicated but essentially functions as a credit program that taxes fossil fuel producers and benefits companies making renewable energy.

*Continues next page*

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From previous page

The goal of the change was to help the state meet its lofty clean energy transition goals, including a ban on sales of new gas-powered cars by 2035 and a transition to 100 percent clean energy by 2045.

Petrie, who chairs the utilities and energy committee, expressed concerns about these goals, saying climate policy in the state has become little more than an echo chamber.

“The work we’re doing here in California matters if we are creating models and systems and technologies that other states and nations look at and want to replicate. If all we are doing here in California is reducing our emissions, which are like 1 percent of global emissions, it doesn’t matter a damn,” said Petrie.

Later in the hearing, Petrie went on to discuss how regulations have made it even hard for big oil to turn a profit in California. She pointed to Valero’s potential closure in Benicia as a prime example. The company said over the last 10 years it has made \$75 million in California, only to receive an \$82 million fine. To keep its facility in Northern California operating, Valero said the refinery needs hundreds of millions dollars in updates.

Before the hearing ended, Assemblymember Laura Davies, a Republican from Laguna Niguel, wanted to know if policymakers were predicting more refinery closures.

“The honest answer would be, we are evaluating and we do not exactly know the way to measure the exit risk,” said Gunda.

Refining capacity has been on the decline in California for decades. Gunda reported that in 2010, close to 70 percent of California’s gas came from California crude oil, while today only 25 percent comes from the Golden State.

**Price impacts**

Despite the knowledge that the refinery closures could account for a significant drop in gasoline production, none of the policymakers were able to answer questions about what drivers should expect to pay in the future.

“If we are going to adopt regulations with a massive impact on the cost of gasoline, we ought to know how much that is going to be per gallon,” said committee member Joe Patterson, a Rocklin Republican.

But when specifically asked if leaders analyze the impacts of potential regulation on retail prices, the answer was no.

“We don’t analyze a retail cost, because we do analyze the cost of compliance and what the entities covered by the regulation, what their cost would be. What we don’t do is take that next step to try to extrapolate how that cost would flow through to the consumer,” said Randolph.

That answer has some Democrats now calling for her resignation as chair of the air resources board. Two days after the oversight hearing, Assemblymember Jasmeet Bains, a Delano Democrat, urged Randolph to step down.

“Everyone is for a transition to cleaner energy, but doing it off the backs of the poor, I have a problem with,” Bains told Sacramento television station KCRA.

Californians already pay \$1.60 more per gallon than the national average, according to AAA, and the state has made energy affordability a keystone of this legislative session.

The air resources board is unelected, with 12 of its 16 members appointed by the governor.

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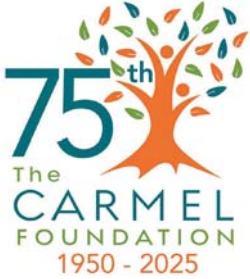


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# The Carmel Foundation Celebrates 75 Years of Community



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

### Senior Moments from The Carmel Foundation

#### The Power of Puttering

Because not all movement needs to be a marathon.

There’s a quiet kind of magic in puttering. You know—those days when you’re not rushing anywhere in particular, just tinkering, tidying, watering plants, tossing the ball for your dog, straightening a picture frame that’s been crooked since 2018. It’s not exactly exercise, and it’s not exactly rest. But it’s something.

Puttering has a rhythm all its own. You might start by emptying the dishwasher and suddenly find yourself organizing a drawer, folding a tea towel just so, or finally moving that one chair two inches to the left. There’s no pressure to finish anything big. The satisfaction comes from simply moving and choosing - and maybe even discovering that a long-for-

gotten item still sparks joy.

Research tells us that low-effort, purposeful movement helps keep both body and mind engaged. But even without the science, we know it just feels good. Puttering lets us tend to our surroundings and ourselves - in small but meaningful ways.

The Carmel Foundation is a perfect place for this kind of gentle momentum. Whether you’re browsing the library shelves, rearranging puzzle pieces, chatting in the café, or dropping by a class just to see what’s happening—it all counts.




So if you ever feel like you “did nothing today,” take another look. Chances are, you were puttering—and that counts.

Because sometimes the best senior moments happen between cups of tea and tidy sock drawers.

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IMMIGRANTS

From page 1A

Alejo went on to say that “while we fully comply with all applicable state and federal laws, immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility — not a local one.”

A Monterey County Sheriff’s Office spokesman previously told The Pine Cone that the department would comply with federal warrants from agents who are seeking custody of illegal immigrants being held in the Monterey County Jail.

‘Not a sanctuary’

By embracing its “welcoming” designation and rejecting the “sanctuary” title, the county is walking a fine line between upholding its resistance to the Trump administration and complying with federal law. At stake is a lot of money.

However, the county has taken numerous steps to help shield undocumented immigrants from federal agents, including those with criminal records.

It spent \$25,000 on TV and radio public service announcements for undocumented residents and made videos in six languages explaining how to avoid federal immigration authorities.

“If immigration agents come to your door, do not open the door unless they show a valid warrant,” according to one county-produced video. “Do not answer questions. You have the right to remain silent. Do not sign anything without speaking to a lawyer.”

The county printed and distributed “know your rights” cards and created a webpage with dozens of links to resources for undocumented residents, including information on how to get legal help and a warning to “never carry false documentation with you” because “it’s a crime.”

While Trump is targeting illegal immigrants for deportation, not legal ones, Monterey County does not make the distinction. Nor does it make any exceptions for unauthorized immigrants who have

committed major crimes.

In January 2018, the county sharply curtailed the access federal agents have to inmates in the Monterey County Jail to comply with state legislation that limits cooperation between local law enforcement and federal authorities. There was previously an immigration agent inside the jail.

The county is required by the state every year to comply with the 2017 Truth Act, which compels law enforcement agencies to inform inmates — before contact with immigration officials — that they can decline to participate.

The act also requires cities and counties to hold a public forum each year to disclose whether police or the sheriff allowed ICE access to any prisoners.

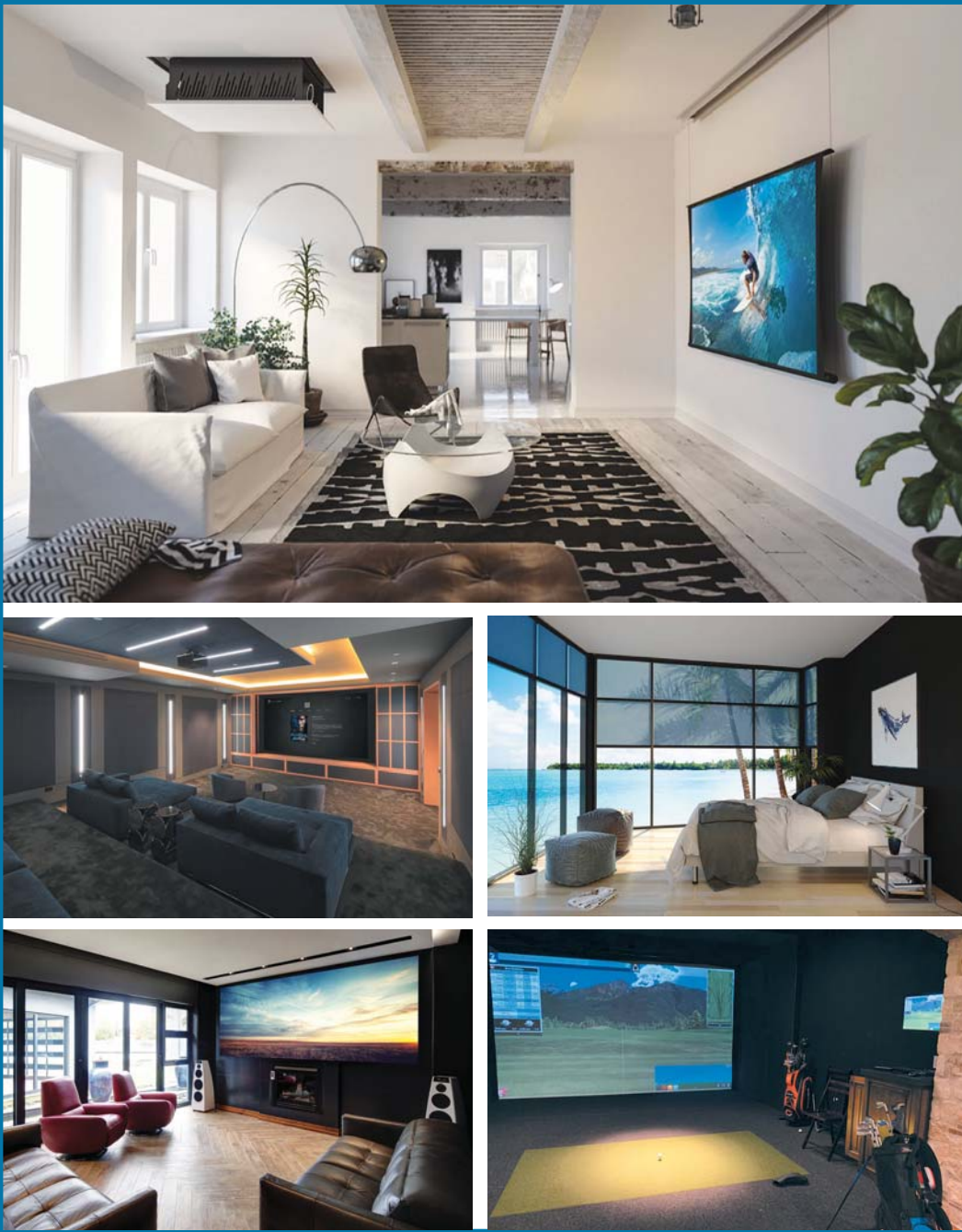
In January’s report, the Monterey County Sheriff’s office disclosed that last year it released 11 inmates into ICE custody who had been charged with sexual battery, robbery, attempted robbery, false imprisonment, transportation of methamphetamine, assault with a deadly weapon and other crimes.

While the U.S. Department of Homeland Security stopped publicizing the sanctuary list after some law enforcement agencies questioned why they were on it, the move puts Monterey County on notice that its actions have not gone unseen by the Trump administration’s watchful eye.

The county in February joined a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court Northern District by more than a dozen California cities and counties to block the Trump administration’s efforts to stop the distribution of federal tax dollars to sanctuary jurisdictions. The county estimates it received \$500 million in taxpayer dollars from the feds in the last two years.

On April 24, though, United States District Judge William H. Orrick issued a preliminary injunction preventing Trump from halting the flow of federal tax dollars.

In 2017, the Salinas City Council voted against calling itself a sanctuary for undocumented immigrants for fear of losing federal funds.



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# TRANS

From page 7A

that Newsom himself has called transgender athletes competing against biological girls “unfair.” Newsom has yet to comment on the rule change or the results, but earlier this year, he spoke about the issue of transgender athletes playing in girls’ sports on his podcast, “This is Gavin Newsom.”

“It is an issue of fairness. It is deeply unfair,” said Newsom.

State superintendent Tony Thurmond responded to the DOJ letter and in a written statement strongly defended California’s stance on transgender athletics. “California state law protects all students’ access to participate in athletics in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity. We will continue to follow the law and ensure the safety of all of our athletes,” he wrote.

In 2013 then-Gov. Jerry Brown signed AB 1266 into law allowing transgender athletes to compete on the teams of their choosing.

### Trans advocates unsure on rule change

Not many trans-rights organizations have had time to respond to the pilot entry program, and some are stressing that California’s rule change is only a pilot program.

“When it comes to whether this is good or bad, we are not sure yet, but again our main priority is that transgender youth are able to play with dignity,” said Jorge Reyes Salinas, the communications director for Equality California. Salinas said he was relieved Hernandez was allowed

to compete over the weekend, after fearing Trump’s threat might result in the trans athlete being barred from the championship.

The California Interscholastic Federation rule change appears to be an attempt to toe the line with the Trump Administration and California law.

“The CIF values all of our student-athletes, and we will continue to uphold our mission of providing students with the opportunity to belong, connect and compete while complying with California law,” said the federation.

The California pilot entry program applied only to track and field athletes, and only for the state championship.

### Activism

The issue remains heated. Over the weekend conflicting, protests took place outside Veterans Memorial Stadium in Clovis where the track and field event was held. Trans-rights activists were wielding signs and waving flags with their messaging. Meanwhile, another group, held up signs reading “Save Girls Sports,” and a video posted online showed a small plane flying over the stadium on Friday reading “No Boys in Girls Sports!”

The protests were not entirely peaceful. A pro-LGBTQ activist was arrested after assaulting a man who was in a car. Inside the stadium, anti-trans protestor Sophia Lorey was escorted out after she was caught handing out wristbands reading “Save Girls’ Sports” to spectators during the competition.

The California Interscholastic Federation has not indicated if it plans to extend the rule changes to other sports ahead of the fall season or if the pilot entry program was merely a response to Hernandez, excelling at track and field this spring.

# Woman’s Club celebrates century, scholarships

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

AS PART of its centennial celebration, the Carmel Woman’s Club announced last week that it is distributing \$18,075 to 13 new scholarship recipients. The gifts bring the nonprofit’s Women to Women Scholarship Program’s total contributions to \$108,675.

This year’s recipients “represent a range of academic fields, including business, nursing, computer science, dental hygiene, psychology, pharmacology, visual art and communications,” according to the organization, which was founded in 1925 with the mission of “fostering community, advancing education and promoting philanthropy.”

They include four students studying nursing — Kimia Meghdadi, Sara Boswell, Jemillianne Choi, Mary Kight and Rose Angela Suerto — and Nicole Hoffman (visual arts), Cassie Nicole Siegman (computer science), Genelle Ramirez (psychology), Nancy Daoud (pharmacology), Adrienne Ranansky (communications/psychology) and Stevie Ray Agamao (dental hygiene). Mayada Birkdar and Reviane Areola are seeking degrees in business.

“We are honored to celebrate a century of service and to recognize these outstanding students whose futures we are proud to support,” said Mary Luster the club’s philanthropy chair person.

For more information about the Carmel Woman’s Club, including its year-long celebration, visit [carmelwomans-clubca.org](http://carmelwomans-clubca.org).



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# SUE

From page 8A

within range” when the “weather alerts were issued.” The family also says that the P.B. Co. did not limit access to 17 Mile Drive despite the weather alerts.

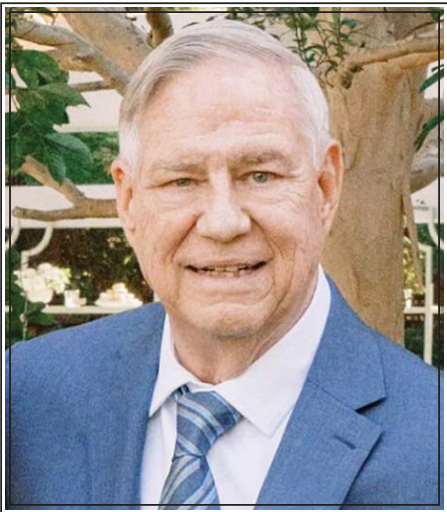
The company should have “recognized that safe or limited access to the 17 Mile Drive was needed to protect Deng, particularly when this rocky shoreline can be subjected to dangerous weather conditions including coastal flooding and large waves.”

The civil complaint, which claims wrongful death, negligence and loss of consortium, also seeks monetary damages for emotional distress for Deng and his wife and daughter for the trauma of witnessing their loved one disappear.

“As they saw the violent waves crash onto Guoqiang Deng and his body in the water, Xue Deng, Rui Li and Ruyun Deng were aware Deng was being injured but were powerless to help him as he was pulled farther out to sea,” according to the complaint filed by San Francisco attorney Andrea Posey.

Deng’s wife, Xiaoling Huang, who was not in Pebble Beach when he disappeared, is also listed as a plaintiff.

A witness told The Pine Cone at the time that there was a significant emergency response that included three fire trucks, four rescue trucks and several police vehicles. At least three responders went into the water to try to find the man while drones and a helicopter were also deployed.



DAVID V. MILLIGAN  
1940 – 2025

David Milligan passed away peacefully at his home in Monterey on May 9th at the age of 84. Born in Evanston, Illinois, he was the son of Robert and Alice Milligan and the brother of Warren and Bob, all of whom are deceased. After graduating from Evanston High School, Dave went on to earn his degree from Princeton University, graduating *summa cum laude* and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Dave earned an M.S. and Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Illinois with support from a NASA fellowship.

He began his impressive career at 3M in 1967 and later spent 17 years at Abbott Laboratories, retiring in 1996 as senior vice president and chief scientific officer. In retirement, he remained active in biotech and venture capital, serving on numerous boards and mentoring with passion.

Dave married his high school sweetheart, Sue, and they shared 64 wonderful years. They raised four children, John, Mary, Scott and Christine, and lived in Minnesota, New York, Libertyville, and Lake Forest, IL before settling in Monterey.

Dave lived with passion and purpose. Whether diving into his business ventures, growing his classic car collection, or satisfying his endless curiosity, he approached life with energy and joy. He is survived by Sue, their children, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. And yes, one cherished Mercedes SL55.

His love of education and gratitude for the support he received inspired him to give back by establishing a fellowship for graduate students in chemistry. To honor Dave, donations may be made to the Dr. David V. Milligan Fellowship Fund at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to Dr. Richard King and Tracy and Grace from InHome Care Services for their wonderful and supportive care.

His celebration of life will begin at 3 p.m. June 28 at The Club at Pasadera in Monterey.

## SHIRLEY LOIS BROOKS GARNER

March 26, 1931 – May 2, 2025

Shirley Lois Brooks Garner, 94, of Carmel Valley, passed away on May 2, 2025. Born in Tucson, AZ to Ernest and Annie Lois Brooks, she was the sole survivor of six siblings.

Shirley and her beloved husband of 72 years, Calvin G. Garner, settled in Carmel Valley in 1956, where they raised three children and built a thriving construction business.



She is survived by her children, Steven Garner (Seaside, CA), Kellie Garner-Mitchell (Chehalis, WA) and Brooks Garner (Vancouver, WA); along with six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and a large extended family.

A gracious hostess, Shirley was known for her Sunday dinners, holiday gatherings, and love of cookbooks, teapots and Noah’s Ark collectibles. She held leadership roles in Aglow International and traveled the world on mission trips, sharing her deep Christian faith.

A Celebration of Life will begin at 1 p.m. June 6 at Lighthouse Full Gospel Church, 1153 Hamilton Ave., Seaside.

Details available online at [dignitymemorial.com](https://dignitymemorial.com). In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Aglow International ([www.aglow.org](https://www.aglow.org)).



## EDWARD CARL LOWERY

Edward Carl Lowery, born Dec. 1, 1952, passed peacefully in his sleep at his home in Seaside, CA on April 18, 2025. He fought his illness as he led his life, with dignity, courage, steadfastness, fairness, humor and kindness. He loved his family and friends with all of his heart and soul.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Anna; sons, Terry Suchan (Meghan), Zeplen Ross (Nancy); sisters, Sharon Carey (Jim) and Karen Lowery; niece, Dawn Petersen and the light of our lives, grandchildren, Maverick and Mila Suchan.

He was a legendary carpenter and his work will live on throughout Monterey County. Per his wishes there will be no service.

A donation to the SPCA of Monterey County would honor his memory.

Everybody reads The Pine Cone

## JANET LOUISE HILL

August 15, 1944 – May 6, 2025

Janet Louise Hill, a lifelong resident of Visalia, California, passed away peacefully on May 6, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

Born on August 15, 1944, in Visalia to Lester and Beulah Brown, Janet lived a life defined by compassion, curiosity and community. She attended Mt. Whitney High School and earned her bachelor of arts in education from San Jose State University, where she was a proud member of the Kappa Delta Sorority.

While teaching in Mexico, Janet met and fell in love with Noel Flynn. They married in 1967 and began their life together in San Francisco. During this time, Noel attended the University of the Pacific Dental School while Janet taught at John McLaren Elementary School. In 1971, the couple returned to Janet’s hometown of Visalia, where they built a dental practice and started a family. Janet continued her teaching career at Washington Elementary School, where she nurtured and inspired her third-grade students.

Janet and Noel raised two sons — Michael Patrick, born in 1973, and Trevor Ryan, born in 1976. The Flynn family enjoyed a deep love of the outdoors, spending summers camping at Mineral King and traveling to possibly every state park in California. They were also passionate skiers, and Janet brought a sense of adventure wherever she went. She often fondly recalled her daring attempts to sneak into the Union Pacific Club atop Nob Hill in San Francisco — just one of many stories that reflected her spirited nature. (In 2005, Janet was invited to dinner at the club!)

Janet was deeply involved in her community. She was an active member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the Daughters of the American Revolution, local wine and book clubs, and served on the PTA at Conyer Elementary and Divisadero Middle School.

In 1992, Janet experienced the heartbreaking loss of her husband, Noel, to cancer. Years later, she found joy and companionship again when she married Clarence Hill, also of Visalia. Together, Janet and Clarence lived life to the fullest, splitting their time between Visalia and Pebble Beach. They were devoted members of both the Visalia Country Club and the Monterey Peninsula Country Club. They also traveled the world together — visiting places such as Africa, the Black Sea, Hong Kong, and, most memorably, Paris, where Janet received private cooking lessons from a renowned chef.

Janet was a gracious hostess, an exceptional cook and a gifted decorator. Her home was a warm and elegant reflection of her personality — each detail thoughtfully curated. Entertaining was one of her great joys, and she made every guest feel special.

Janet is survived by her beloved husband, Clarence; sons, Michael (Melodi) and Trevor; stepchildren, Bart and Susan (Brendan); grandchildren, Laird and Charlotte; and step-grandchildren Elizabeth, Paige and Mara. She also leaves behind many cousins, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; her first husband, Dr. Noel Flynn; her brother, Bob Brown; and stepdaughter-in-law, Napier Hill.

A service celebrating Janet’s life will begin at 10 a.m. on June 28, 2025, at First Presbyterian Church in Visalia, California.

Janet’s life was a testament to love, family, friendship and the joy of living fully. She will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew her.





PUBLIC NOTICES

**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.

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE**  
**BRIAN G. WILSON**  
**CASE NO. 25PRO00269**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of BRIAN G. WILSON.  
**A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JENNIFER BOVEY** in the Superior Court of California, County of MONTEREY.  
The Petition for Probate requests that LIZA HORVATH be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.  
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
**A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:**  
Date: July 2, 2025  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Dept.: 13  
Address: Superior Court of California, County of Monterey, 1200 Agujaito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.  
**If you object** to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the

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 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2025 (PC 577)

**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, MARITRESS TORREBLANCA WICKLIFF, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
**A. Present name:** MARITRESS TORREBLANCA WICKLIFF  
**Proposed name:** MARITRESS 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 Agujaito 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 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 UNDERGROWTH, 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 UNDERGOWTH 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 or punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).  
*I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).*  
S/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)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250761  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **SOMETHING BORROWED FLORAL & DECOR**, 16915 Forrest Lane, Royal Oaks, CA 95076.  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Registered Owner(s): MICHAEL DAVID CHANDLER.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on April 20, 2025.  
**BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.** A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).  
S/Michael D. Chandler  
Date signed: April 21, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on April 21, 2025.  
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Publication Dates: June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025 (PC 603)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250933  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MY ORGANIC FARM INC., 154 N. Madeira Ave., Unit D, Salinas, CA 93905**.  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: MY ORGANIC FARM INC.  
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: California  
This business is conducted by a corporation.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on april 27, 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/Margarita Castro Cruz, President  
Date: May 13, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 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: June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025. (PC 608)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250956  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **RANGER & RAVEN, 6800 SHADOW DR., SALINAS CA 93907**, County of MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): ESSENTIAL OFFERINGS L.L.C., 6800 SHADOW DR., SALINAS CA 93907  
This business is conducted by A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on NOT APPLICABLE  
S/ RAMY BORCHARD, MANAGING MEMBER  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 5/22/2025  
6/6, 6/13, 6/20, 6/27/25  
**CNS-3932236#**  
**CARMEL PINE CONE**  
Publication Dates: June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025. (PC 604)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250780  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **FERNANDO'S CLEANING COMPANY**, 1791 Napa St., Seaside, CA 93955.  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: DE

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Registered Owner(s): FERNANDO MIGUEL MACHADO.  
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/Fernando Miguel Machado  
Date signed: April 24, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on April 24, 2025.  
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Publication Dates: June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025 (PC 605)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250976  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **PHIL'S QUALITY REPAIRS, 7 Via Cimarron Ave., Monterey, CA 93940**.  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Registered Owner(s): PHILLIP JAMES DERING, 7 Via Cimarron Ave., Monterey, CA 93940 .  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 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/Phillip Dering  
Date signed: May 27, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 27, 2025.  
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Publication Dates: June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025 (PC 606)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250933  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MY ORGANIC FARM INC., 154 N. Madeira Ave., Unit D, Salinas, CA 93905**.  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: MY ORGANIC FARM INC.  
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: California  
This business is conducted by a corporation.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on april 27, 2025.  
**BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.** A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).  
S/Margarita Castro Cruz, President  
Date: May 13, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 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: June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025. (PC 608)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250941  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **QXO, 12328 CHRISTENSEN RD., SALINAS, CA 93907**, County of MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): BEACON SALES ACQUISITION, INC., 505 HUNTMAR PARK DRIVE, SUITE 300, HERNDON, VA 20170; State of Inc./Org./Reg.: DE

This business is conducted by A CORPORATION  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 05/01/2025  
S/ CHUCK GARTLAND, VICE PRESIDENT  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 05/19/2025  
6/6, 6/13, 6/20, 6/27/25  
**CNS-3931008#**  
**CARMEL PINE CONE**  
Publication Dates: June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025. (PC 609)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250864  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **RAYITO DEL SOL**, 11141 Rico St., Castroville, CA 95012.  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Registered Owner(s): ANGELITA SALDIVAR-BRAVO.  
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/Angelita Saldivar-Bravo  
Date signed: May 6, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 6, 2025.  
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Publication Dates: June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025 (PC 607)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251005  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **PILAR ASPECTS BARBERSHOP**, 167 Main #E, Soledad, California 93960.  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Registered Owner(s): ERIC PEREZ GARCIA, 507 Tomasini St., Soledad, California 93960.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on April 11, 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/Eric Perez Garcia  
Date signed: May 30, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 30, 2025.  
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Publication Dates: June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025 (PC 610)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250957  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **ROSIE RED RANCH, 1656 15TH ST, LOS OSOS, CA 93402**, County of MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s): ANGELA A. ARMSTRONG  
This business is conducted by AN INDIVIDUAL  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on NOT APPLICABLE  
S/ ANGELA A. ARMSTRONG  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 05/22/2025  
6/6, 6/13, 6/20, 6/27/25  
**CNS-3933057#**  
**CARMEL PINE CONE**  
Publication Dates: June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025. (PC 612)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251011  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **PENINSULA POTTERS, 2078 Sunset Dr., 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.:

PENINSULA POTTERS LLC, 2078 Sunset Dr., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.  
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 23, 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/Margaret Alonas-Kool, Managing Member  
Date: June 2, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 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: June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025. (PC 613)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250979  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **SUNSHINE MESSAGE THERAPY SPA**, 31 Soledad Dr., Ste. B, Monterey, CA 93940.  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Registered Owner(s): YI YANG, 31 Soledad Dr., Ste. B, Monterey, CA 93940.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on May 27, 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/Yi Yang  
Date signed: May 28, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 28, 2025.  
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Publication Dates: June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025 (PC 614)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250938  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **DULEE'S TOBACCO 1 INC., 53 Porter Drive, Royal Oaks, CA 95076**.  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: DULEE'S TOBACCO 1 INC., 53 Porter Dr., Royal Oaks, CA 95076.  
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA  
This business is conducted by a corporation.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on May 19, 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/Taha Taleb, CEO  
Date: May 19, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 19, 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: June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025. (PC 615)

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# The green, green grass of home

LESS THAN a mile-and-a-half from the front door of their school, the Stevenson Pirates became California’s 2025 state champions in boys golf Tuesday, obliterating their nearest competitors by nine strokes to capture the team trophy.

The Pirates collaborated for an aston-

## Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

ishing score of 353 strokes — 2 under par as a team — at Poppy Hills Golf Course, leaving runners-up Santa Margarita and De La Salle barely visible in the rearview mirror. Those two powerhouse golf schools tied for second with 362 strokes each, 7 over par.

“I was absolutely shocked, to say the least,” said Stevenson coach Justin Bates. “I thought a top-three finish was a very attainable goal for us and would have felt very good about a third-place finish today.

“But yesterday, during our practice round, I saw a team that seemed really relaxed, confident and feeling very much at home — because they were,” he said. “They’ve all played this course dozens of times.”

Burdened with the greatest pressure of their golfing lives, three Stevenson players smoked the 7,002-yard, par-71 golf course with sub-par rounds, placing among the top nine in the 54-player field.

### The best ever

Princeton-bound senior Luke Brandler — “unquestionably the best golfer ever to come out of this school,” Bates said — led that charge with a 4-under-par 67, tying for fourth overall behind medalist Jaden Soong of St. Francis (9 under) Evan Liu of Torrey Pines (7 under), and Mater Dei’s Brayden Jones (5 under) — all Southern California players.

“This is unbelievable for all of us, because last year, after winning Nor-Cals, we came to the state tournament with really high

expectations,” Brandler said. “This year, we didn’t win NorCals and didn’t feel as much pressure. We also were playing a course we know extremely well.”

Teammate Steven Lai, a third-place in the 2024 state tournament as a junior, finished at 2 under to tie for seventh place, and sophomore Zac Hawkins, 1 under par, tied for ninth.

“This is a dream come true for all of us,” Lai said. “This was the last tournament of my high school career, and the feeling right now is incredible.”

Calvin Etcheverry — another sophomore — shot a 2-over-par 73 for the Pirates, tying Carmel’s Julien Cho, an individual qualifier, for 21st place.

### ‘No throw-out score’

Six players compete for each team in high school golf tournaments. Only five scores count toward the team score, and the sixth is discarded. But seniors Johsh Chadha and Marc Sasetia both carded 3-over-par 74s, tying for Stevenson’s fifth-best score of the day.

“That was a great thing, because nobody on our team had a true throw-out

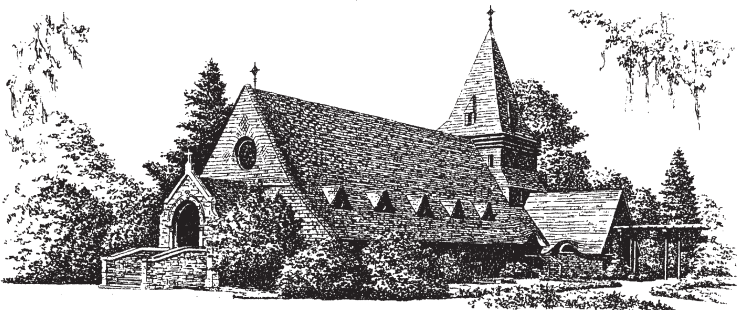
See **SPORTS** page 24A



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Luke Brandler “didn’t miss a fairway all day,” said Coach Justin Bates of Stevenson’s top golfer, who shot 4 under par Tuesday to lead the Pirates to the state championship at Poppy Hills.

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SPORTS  
From page 23A

score — everybody can feel like they contributed,” Bates said.

Sasetia capped his high school career by scoring an eagle on Poppy’s 18th Hole, a 505-yard par-5.

“He didn’t hit a great drive, then hit a 3-wood about 6 feet from the cup,” the coach said. “Then he drained the eagle putt in front of a whole bunch of Stevenson fans, and everybody went absolutely nuts.”

The Pirates’ other eagle on Tuesday was holed by Brandler on the 515-yard ninth hole to finish the front nine 3 under par.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Senior Steven Lai, a third-place finisher at the 2024 state tournament, made five birdies Tuesday to shoot 2 under par — second-best among the Pirates. He tied for seventh overall in this year’s 54-player tournament.

Sasetia also birdied the fourth, 10th, and 18th holes.

Lai had birdies on 4, 8, 9, 10, and 12, then finished with six consecutive pars.

Hawkins’ wild front nine began with a bogey and was also marred by a double bogey, but he birdied five of the other seven holes for a 34.

Etcheverry’s round included four birdies, Chadha had three, and Sasetia recorded a front-nine birdie to go with his final-hole eagle.

Julien Cho, Carmel’s only state qualifier, birdied the ninth and 10th holes, but had bogies on No. 1 and No. 11, and double bogied No. 14 to finish 2 over par.

The state championship is the second in the history of Stevenson School. The Pirates (Seb Cranston, Drew Nelson, Michael Decker, Nick Simmons, Sunny Yan, and Kyle John) won the 2013 tournament at Quail Lodge, after placing third as a team in 2012 and second in 2011.

■ Norcal baseball

**Carmel and Stevenson** won quarterfinal games on their home fields on Tuesday, advancing to the semifinal round in separate divisions of the Northern California regional tournament.

Second-seeded Stevenson (20-8) won 5-2 over Matilda Torres in NorCal’s Division 5 quarterfinals, earning a Thursday game against San Francisco-based Lincoln High (17-15), the No. 6 seed. The result was unavailable at press time.

Carmel (22-10) will play Rancho Cotate (17-13) of Rohnert Park at noon Friday at Carmel High in the Division 3 tournament.

All championship games are scheduled at 4 p.m.



Matt Maxon’s 11th home run of the year — a fourth-inning grand slam — turned Tuesday’s NorCal semifinal game into a 9-0 rout for the Padres. The semifinals will be played at noon Friday at Carmel High.

PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Saturday at the site of the higher-seeded team.

**Maxon’s slam sparks Padres:** After pushing across a first-inning run, Carmel buried No. 7 Rancho Cotate with an eight-run fourth inning, highlighted by Matt Maxon’s 11th home run of the year — a grand slam.

The resulting 9-0 cushion allowed the Padres to relieve starting pitcher Lucas Rocha, a sophomore lefthander, who had thrown four scoreless innings. Rocha struck out three, walked one, and allowed just one hit during his stint.

Relievers Dario Melicia, Carter Lloyd and Ty Arnold threw the final three innings, allowing no runs on two hits.

Maxon also contributed two singles to the Padres’ 14-hit day, which included two hits apiece from Dean Briant, Kaleb Hero, and John Beretti, and a home run from Bo Lewis, who scored twice and drove in two.

**Thomas blanks Toros:** Phinn Thomas allowed one hit and struck out 10 in six scoreless innings, leading Stevenson’s victory over Matilda Torres to vault the Pirates into the semis.

The Pirates scored single runs in each of the first three innings, then added two in the fifth to secure the victory. The visiting Toros got both of their runs in the top of the seventh.

Stevenson’s 10-hit assault included three hits and an RBI from Thomas.

■ CCS baseball

**Padres edge Willow Creek:** Carmel won Friday’s Central Coast Section Division 3 title game in dramatic fashion Friday at Santa Clara University when Bo Lewis delivered a clutch, opposite-field single in the eighth inning, driving in fellow senior Ty Arnold to beat Willow Glen 3-2.

The victory gave Carmel its 10th CCS baseball crown, including nine under coach Mike Kelly. It was the second sectional title in three years for the Padres.

Stanford-bound junior Matt Maxon pitched the first seven innings, retiring the side in order in the first two frames, then working out of a bases-loaded jam in the third.

Carmel took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the third inning, when Maxon and Arnold delivered sacrifice flies to drive in Dean Briant and Kaleb Herro.

The Rams (23-6) nicked Maxon for runs in the fourth and fifth innings to tie the score, then dodged a seventh-inning bullet when Alex Hirschfield and Skyler Brown singled, but were stranded on base.

Continues next page

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From previous page

Kelly replaced Maxon on the mound with Rocha, who held Willow Glen scoreless in the top of the eighth to set up the game-ending fireworks. Rocha was also Carmel’s winning pitcher in the quarterfinals, whitewashing Santa Cruz 7-0.

The other pitcher in Carmel’s starting rotation, freshman Kenny Sanchez, teamed with Arnold, the closer, to shut out Christopher, 2-0, in the semis.

**Pirates win CCS crown:** The previous day at Excite Park in San Jose, Stevenson won the CCS Division 6 championship with minimal stress, routing South San



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Sophomore southpaw Lucas Rocha, the winning pitcher in three postseason games this spring, threw four scoreless innings in Tuesday’s 9-0 victory in the NorCal quarterfinals.

Francisco, 18-8. It was the second sectional crown in three years for the Pirates.

The Pacific Coast Athletic League’s Mission Division champions finished off the Warriors in just five innings when Reggie Bell ripped his third hit of the game — a double into the left-centerfield gap — to drive in two teammates for the game-ending 10-run margin.

Bell belted two doubles and a triple, driving in four runs, to lead a 15-hit barrage. Soren Hillman also drove in four runs. He and Jack Bucich had three-hit days. Phinn Thomas, J.J. Hall, and Henry Blaxter contributed two hits apiece.

The Pirates scored six of their runs in the first inning, five in the fourth, and six more in the fifth and final frame.

■ **State track and field**

Carmel’s Mack Aldi and Stevenson’s Kekoa Williams competed in Saturday’s California State Track and Field Championships on Saturday, but neither local athlete reached the podium.

Aldi placed second in the 800-meter run in the state-qualifying meet on May 25 with a time of 1:55.41 seconds, then was clocked at 1:52.75 in the finals, finishing seventh.

Williams qualified for the finals with a high jump of 6-6, but wasn’t among the top 18 in the finals.

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

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MONTEREY  
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# Editorial

## The abundance agenda

SACRAMENTO CREATED such a monster when it invented CEQA — doing so much damage to the state’s supply of housing and other badly needed infrastructure — that these days the California Legislature and governor are rushing pell-mell to bring it to heel.

According to the Los Angeles Times, two new bills will go further than any of their previous efforts to stop the environmental law from making it so difficult for people to find an affordable place to live.

One of those bills, AB 609, creates a broad exemption from CEQA for housing projects on infill sites (up to 20 acres) that comply with local zoning and general plan standards, particularly in areas pre-approved for development.

A companion bill in the state senate, SB 607, also reforms CEQA by clarifying exemptions for urban infill housing, aiming to reduce procedural hurdles for such projects.

By “urban,” they mean places like the Monterey Peninsula, so if you’re getting ready to invest in real estate around here, you might want to look in an already developed area for something that can be turned into multiple units.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court jumped onto the “reform environmental laws” bandwagon this week with a ruling in Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County, Colorado — a case that exemplifies some of the worst excesses of federal and state environment laws.

As we have noted before, these laws were made purposefully vague, so that nobody could be sure what they required. For decades, if you had property you wanted to turn into a housing subdivision, a shopping center or an office park, and you hired the best architects, engineers and environmental consultants in the country and gave them an unlimited budget to design a project that would meet all the relevant environmental standards, they wouldn’t be able to do so — because there was no way to pin down what these standards were.

The case the Supreme Court dealt with this week involved a proposed 88-mile railway in Utah’s Uinta Basin intended to transport crude oil to the national rail network and Gulf Coast refineries.

After the railroad project was OK’d by the United States Surface Transportation Board in 2021, Eagle County, Colo., and environmental groups sued, arguing the 3,600-page environmental impact statement for the project inadequately addressed impacts like oil production, refining, rail accidents, wildfires and Colorado River pollution.

In 2023, a U.S. District Court judge nullified the transportation board’s approval because the environmental document for the project, the court said, was deficient under the National Environmental Protection Act, which is very similar to CEQA.

And how was it deficient? Because it failed to analyze not the direct impacts of the railroad on the environment, but the impacts of possible future oil wells that might use the railroad for shipment of what they produced, and possible future expansion of Gulf Coast refineries to handle the oil produced by these (hypothetical) new wells.

A unanimous Supreme Court, however, said analysis of indirect, hypothetical environmental impacts wasn’t required by federal laws. Only direct impacts of the “project at hand” need be addressed before a permit can be issued, the court said.

Environmental groups, like the League of Conservation Voters, criticized the ruling for prioritizing industry over what they called “community health and climate concerns.” Legal scholars noted the decision’s alignment with an “abundance agenda” favoring development.

An abundance agenda sounds like a great idea to us, compared to the “shortage agenda” we’ve been living with all these years — especially in California. Making clear what environmental laws require is a big step in that direction.

## BEST of BATES



“You decided to go to the Barnyard instead of the beach. You decided to go to Tor House instead of the Mission. You decided to go to PacRep instead of Sunset Center. Now, will you please decide where we’re going to eat?”

## Letters to the Editor

**Not NIMBY**  
**Dear Editor,**

To those calling Keep Big Sur Wild a NIMBY group, let’s take a moment to think that through.

If standing up for the Big Sur Land Use Plan makes us NIMBYs, then by that logic, so were the hundreds of residents, planners, conservationists and public officials who worked tirelessly to draft and adopt the plan in 1986. That includes the California Coastal Commission, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission, and generations of Big Sur residents — many of whom weren’t just defending their own property, but speaking for the landscape itself.

The LUP wasn’t created to wall Big Sur off from the world. It was created to protect it for the world — for all people, present and future, to experience it as wild, scenic, and largely undeveloped. That’s not NIMBYism. That’s vision, discipline, and love for place.

If you want to argue that the LUP’s limits on commercial development, short-term rentals, and critical viewshed protection are outdated, make that case — but don’t hide behind a lazy label. We’re not here to stop progress. We’re here to stop the slow dismantling of the one plan that’s kept Big Sur from becoming just another coastal commodity.

If that’s NIMBYism, then we’re proud to stand with the original architects of the LUP — and to keep Big Sur wild.  
**Marcus Foster, Chair**  
*Keep Big Sur Wild*

**Fewer cars and tourists**  
**Dear Editor,**

Sure, Carmel needs more parking spaces. But what do we need even more? Fewer vehicles!

Has no one observed that although Carmel is still a very nice place to live, we have pretty much reached our tourist capacity? Have we no concern for adequate water supply or clean air or drivable streets? Are we only interested in how much money luxury hotels and restaurants can make? Do we want Carmel to simply become nothing but a real estate investment for the wealthy?

Carmel is being marketed extensively, then while we spend time, effort, and city funds to work on parking problems, we continue to spend on advertising and trying to accommodate the world. Places like Carmel actually do have maximum capacities, for residences as well as tourists.

We humans have literally loved beautiful locations to death. Why are we determined to put Carmel and Big Sur on the death list? Kudos to Carmel’s city council for acknowledging this situation and trying to work things out to the advantage of Carmel residents as well as our businesses, visitors, and friends from our neighboring cities.

**Karen Sonnergren, Carmel**  
*See LETTERS page 28A*

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# The Carmel Pine Cone

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**The Carmel Pine Cone**  
was established in 1915 and is a legal newspaper for Carmel-by-the-Sea, Monterey County and the State of California, established by Superior Court Decree No. 35759, July 3, 1952



# Immersed in old traditions and submerged in ancient seas

RAISED BY two schoolteachers in a small town on Long Island where “everyone knew your name,” John Tully understood a lot more about the culture of Friday-night football and becoming an Eagle Scout than building a military career. Yet he grew up in the “Top Gun” movie generation, knowing he wanted to go to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis.

“The idea of service was appealing to me,” Tully said. “I used to get together with high school friends and watch war movies. I found the ritual of it all attractive — marching in uniform, the regimentation, the adventure. Then I read Tom Clancy’s ‘The Hunt for Red October,’



Retired Capt. John Tully and his family have settled in Monterey after a military career spent largely abroad.

and ‘A Sense of Honor,’ by James Webb, which had a big impact on me.” All of those sights and sounds of patriotism had a lasting effect. In April, the Monterey resident retired as a Navy captain after working all over the world, including more than 18 years abroad as a foreign area

officer. More on that in a bit. Tully said he applied to Annapolis, West Point and the Coast Guard Academy, and was accepted to the latter two relatively early. In June of his senior year,

## Great Lives

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

he finally heard from the Naval Academy. A month later, he arrived in Annapolis to study history.

Although attending the academy had been a significant achievement, Tully hadn’t truly considered what specialty he wanted to pursue after graduation. On a friend’s suggestion, he signed up to interview for the Navy’s surface nuclear power program, a competitive process, he said, “where a four-star admiral rakes you over the coals and helps you feel totally inadequate and question your own existence, to make sure you have the mettle to get through the program.”

He remembered being asked why a history major wanted to get into this program and whether he could explain what was going on in the Balkans. It was early 1995, and Tully talked about the collapse of Yugoslavia. The admiral said Tully was the only person he’d asked who actually knew where the Balkans were.

“At 21, I was accepted into the nuclear power training program, not onboard ship, but in the submarine force,” he said. “I am not claustrophobic. I know this because I am 6-foot-2 and didn’t mind tucking inside a submarine. And, when in dry dock, I was the officer who had to wriggle my way into all the tanks to clear any debris.”

### War on terrorism

Tully’s first tour of duty was based in Hawaii. From there, he was deployed aboard the USS Tucson submarine and spent three years in the Persian Gulf, followed by a few months in South America.

“From the bridge of the submarine

See LIVES page 29A

From the mayor’s desk —

# A budget that reflects our values

By DALE BYRNE

THE LAST 5 months, I’ve come to see the development of a city budget like preparing for a symphony performance. I’ve had the privilege of watching an incredibly talented orchestra practicing its craft. At the podium was finance director Jamye Fields, providing precision, clarity, and structure to city staff. Mayor pro tem Bob Delves and councilperson Hans Buder, as members of the financial stewardship committee, worked tirelessly behind the scenes to elevate the work and refine the score. The rest of the council contributed ideas, questions and insight. And most importantly, the public played its part — through feedback, engagement, and sharing expectations. What emerged was not just a financial plan, but a performance that reflects who we are and what we value.

## ■ What matters

This budget introduces a more disciplined, transparent process — one designed not just to keep the lights on, but to shine a light on our priorities. It includes stronger financial controls and prioritizes capital investments that residents will actually experience: safer sidewalks, restored beach stairways, beautification projects, improved roads, forest management and public infrastructure that reflects the care this town deserves.

Residents have told us clearly: take care of what we have. That’s what this budget does. After years of rising operational costs that crowded out physical improvements, we are now shifting course — directing resources toward things that will endure

See MAYOR page 31A

# SINGULAR MEMORIES WITH THE SCENT OF DARKROOM CHEMICALS

AT 17 — maybe even sooner — Michelle Magdalena already self-identified as a “lone wolf.”

By then, she was a Pacific Grove High School graduate (Class of ’03), living solo in Santa Barbara, studying at the prestigious Brooks Institute, one of the best-known photography schools in America.

## ‘Steeped in my work’

“I was steeped in my work there. My life was mostly about nature, me, and photography, and I was on a no-friends kind of trajectory,” said Magdalena, who was a friendly-with-everybody but still mostly independent, high school student.

“At Brooks, I learned all the technical skills,” she said. “But creativity is some-

Palestine”), which frequently intermingle with her other passions and causes — nature, spiritualism, environmentalism, documentary journalism, activism — revealing an artist who clearly walks her own bohemian path.

“At the end of the week, I’ll be leaving for South Dakota to participate in a ceremonial ride with the Oglala Lakotas to memorialize Crazy Horse,” she said, referring to the legendary chief of the Native American tribe, part of the Great Sioux Nation.

## Documentary interest

“My photography always has been geared toward fine art, but I’ve found myself shifting into documentary-style storytelling in recent years.”

That pivot includes her own glossy magazine, “Magdalena,” the third edition of which will publish in November.

“It’s more like an art

book — very high-end, no advertisements — and each issue takes me about three years to make,” she said of the 150-ish-page labor of love, which pays for itself entirely through sales and donations. The publication is described on its webpage as “artfully woven, prayerful stories of women taking action and creating hope for the positive changes we need to see in this world.”

The features in her second issue included:

■ “Ojai Shepherdess,” an interview with a California woman who, with no previous experience, chose to become a shepherd, following in the footsteps of her great-great grandparents, who were shepherds in Spain;

■ “Land Back,” a piece chronicling the homecoming of the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County, pondering whether it might inspire activism by other tribes to protect and steward sacred spaces;

■ “Nat Kelley,” following a woman’s transformation from fashion influencer to environmental activist.

## Designing mom

The inaugural issue included “Starhawk,” which “lifts the veil on witchcraft,” “Waking Up For Water,” the story of “a prayerful, 300-mile pilgrimage along the migrational path of the salmon,” and “14th Moon,” examining the underappreciated value of the wisdom of elders.

Magdalena spent her earliest years in San Diego,

See ARTIST page 30A

## Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

thing that always came pretty naturally, because I was raised in such a creative way.”

Magdalena, a fourth-generation artist, is the daughter of fine-art photographer Birgit Maddox and the sister of author Daniel Shane Maddox.

Her haunting self-portrait, “From Palestine” (15-by-36-inches, black-and-white), is part of Monterey Museum of Art’s 2025 Biennial Exhibition.

The showcase of more than 800 works by 122 Central Coast artists will be on display at the museum through Aug. 31.

Magdalena’s prolific portfolio includes multiple creative nudes (like “From



PHOTO/COURTESY MICHELLE MAGDALENA

Free spirit Michelle Magdalena is a prolific fine-art photographer whose work is part of the 2025 Biennial exhibition through Aug. 31 at Monterey Museum of Art.

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# DRAG

From page 6A

considered, sponsored, or endorsed the drag queen story time event,” its press release said. “The city has played no role in the selection of the storyteller, the books to be read, or the location of this event.”

It also said that while the library is a city department, its oversight is handled by an administrative board of trustees which is separate from the city council.

“The board establishes library policies, hires the library director, and recommends the library budget to the city council,” the city said, directing questions and concerns to the library’s director and board of trustees.

An Instagram page for Saint Sallos says the person is a “disabled drag performer” with “it/its” pronouns and is a “Non-Binary Trashmasc Drag Thing” and “Saint of the Seventh Circle.”

### ‘Represents everyone’

Drag shows for kids have been held in other parts of the country for about a decade. Supporters say they’re a harmless and fun way of breaking stereotypes and promoting inclusivity and self-expression. Critics argue they are unsuitable for young children because they can expose them to sexualized material and offer confusing messages about gender.

“The library represents everyone in our community, and we look forward to continuing to provide a wide range of events, collections and services where everyone feels seen, valued and appreciated,” Edwards said. “If this event is not for you or your family, please feel free to check our calendar for something else that you will enjoy.”

# ARE YOU SMARTER THAN THIS FIFTH GRADER?

By LILY PATTERSON

FOR THE average fifth grader, a trip to Walt Disney World or Universal Studios in Florida is the stuff of epic “what I did this summer” essays.

Others have different reasons for visiting Orlando, Fla., the marshy home of numerous theme parks.

Will Langston, a student at River School, did make it to Universal during his recent trip to Orlando, but spent most of the weekend hunkered down with 162 fellow fifth graders in a hotel ballroom, where the National Science Bee was in session.

The quiz competition, which took place May 22-26, ran a lot like Jeopardy, except contestants couldn’t pick their favorite category from “any discipline in the field of science,” as organizers describe possible subject matter.

“One thing I should work on is reading stuff I don’t find interesting, like math and biology. Some people are better at certain subjects than others,” Will said, reflecting on his 27th place finish. He was knocked out in the first round of the quarterfinals by a bunch of math questions and the names of certain famous scientists — stuff he doesn’t find that interesting, not compared to chemistry. One question he did ace involved the properties of lithium, another about a star called a white dwarf.

It was all one big experiment for Will, in his first year at such a high-pressure competition, which followed two rounds of regional qualifiers.

His parents may have been surprised, a couple years ago, when he picked up a book called The Elements: A Visual Exploration of Every Known Atom in the Universe. Will has since read it four or five times over, along with numerous chemistry books. His dad said nothing surprises the family anymore, and they’re figuring out how to enroll Will in after-school chemistry classes at Monterey Peninsula College. Importantly, his friends at River School are “pretty impressed” by it all.

### What the future holds

Will plans on a comeback next year, to try and qualify for the International Science Olympiads. As for his promising future, he hopes to flip a favorite pastime into a career someday. “One of my hobbies is going to e-waste facilities and finding devices to refurbish and sell on eBay,” he told The Pine Cone. “Hopefully I can manage this, but I’d like to work in a chemistry lab and have my own business.” He likes video games, too, but prefers playing on “older consoles” like the Nintendo DS and the Wii, whose design and tech specs he admires.

Did we mention he’s an avid reader of The Pine Cone?

# LETTERS

From page 26A

We humans have literally loved beautiful locations to death. Why are we determined to put Carmel and Big Sur on the death list? Kudos to Carmel’s city council for acknowledging this situation and trying to work things out to the advantage of Carmel residents as well as our businesses, visitors, and friends from our neighboring cities.

**Karen Sonnergren, Carmel**

### Eastwood’s generosity

**Dear Editor,**

In honor of his 95th birthday, I would like to offer a personalized account about Clint Eastwood’s contribution

to the community.

In 1985, the Monterey County Special Olympics primarily held only Summer Games partly due to limited financial resources. As a board member at the time, I reached out to Malpaso Productions in hopes that Clint might be willing to support us in some way.

To our surprise, several generous actions followed. Clint graciously offered to host the world premiere of his then-newest film, “Pale Rider,” at the Golden Bough Theater in Carmel as an exclusive fundraiser for the Special Olympics. The event quickly sold out, raising thousands of dollars that helped us to expand our programming.

He not only attended the premiere but warmly engaged with everyone who approached him, showing genuine support for the organization. He also joined me in filming public service announcements at KSBW-TV to promote that summer’s games at Monterey Peninsula College.

Thanks to his involvement, and the support of other community leaders from sports, the military, local government, and our dedicated volunteers, we experienced the largest spectator turnout in our history. Much of that success can be directly attributed to Clint Eastwood’s generous decision to use his celebrity status to uplift and support the local Special Olympics.

**Charles Beren, Monterey**



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## ARTIST

From page 27A

where she was born, and Germany, where she summered with her grandmother and attended first and second grade.

“My mom was a graphic designer at a time when you needed photography and darkroom skills to do that job. I still have memories of the smell of those darkroom chemicals,” she reminisced.

### ‘Odd man out’

Her mother’s graphic design work brought the family to Pacific Grove when Magdalena was 11 — a move that, in hindsight, probably contributed to the “lone wolf” instincts that permeate her personality.

“The Forest Grove kids thought I came from Robert Down School, and the Robert Down kids thought I was from Forest Grove,” she said. Since she actually knew no one from either elementary school, she recalled, “I sort of felt like ‘the odd man out,’ and spent a lot of time being solitary with nature.

“I was also introduced to my mother’s world of art — the theater and museums — watching her spin wool and loom yarn and seeing her work in the darkroom,” Magdalena reflected.

Her own interest in photography began at 15 and quickly blossomed into the fascination that took her to Brooks Institute two years later.

Magdalena felt close to her father, Tim Maddox, a carpenter and fisherman who took the family on frequent, memorable road trips.

But her dad contracted cancer when Magdalena was 19 and died the next year. With him as a collaborator, she recorded his demise in photographs.

“I memorialized the most painful part of my father’s life, and it was traumatizing,” she said.

“In many ways, it made grieving him very difficult.”

In 2011, after an earthquake and tsunami caused a nuclear meltdown in Fukushima, Japan, she traveled there to photograph the locals and interview them about their

feelings about nuclear power.

“As an anti-nuclear person, I was really curious to know what the Japanese people were thinking, and I was surprised to find a mixed bag,” she said. “Some were very much against nuclear power and afraid of their government. They were worried about their children, as well as contaminated water, and cancer. Others just felt like everything would work itself out and had total trust in their government.

Not long after, Magdalena survived her own bout with cancer.

Between her fine-art creations and commercial photography — portraits, editorial shoots, commissions from foundations, etc. — she enjoys a rewarding, liberating, lone-wolf lifestyle.

“I feel very blessed that people respect what I do,” said the artist. “It’s still surprising to me that I’m supported to do what I enjoy and feel safe to express myself the way I want.”

### Honored the bohemians

Mentors and inspirations as a photographer and artist have included William Giles (who passed away in April), Ryuijie, Kim and Gina Weston, and her mother, who divides her time between Germany and the Monterey Peninsula.

“When my mom saw me dive into photography at Brooks, it reignited her own passion to start shooting again and get back into the darkroom,” Magdalena said. “She’s an incredible photographer — so devoted to her craft — and she actually shoots a lot more than I do.”

Magdalena felt honored to be one of many local artists who were interviewed for “Bohemian Soul: A Colony Awakens,” a 2020 documentary examining the impact the early bohemians of the Carmel-by-the-Sea art colony. (The full 50-minute production can be found on YouTube.)

The Biennial exhibition can be seen at Monterey Museum’s main gallery at 559 Pacific St., Monterey.

Images of Magdalena’s body of work and additional information about the artist and her magazine (available for pre-order), can be found at michellemagdalena.com.

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



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# MAYOR

From page 27A

and enhance daily life and make our town safer. It’s not about expansion; it’s about preservation and thoughtful reinvestment in the soul of Carmel.

## ■ Discipline and heart

This year’s approach also includes new tools and tracking measures that will help ensure accountability. The budget reflects improved fiscal discipline and community values — two things that don’t always align easily. But when they do, the result is powerful. This was not a rushed or routine process. It was thoughtful, collaborative, and built for long-term benefit.

The signs are already there. Residents are more engaged and positive. City staff is energized by a clear sense of purpose. Our volunteer groups are stepping up to play their part. And now we have a budget that gives that energy direction. It’s a budget that says we’re not just managing the present — we’re building a foundation for the future.

## ■ Listening and alert

Like most cities in California, we still face serious challenges, including large deferred pension obligations, aging infrastructure and the need for significant long-term investment. But we are now being more honest about the future, and we have a much more transparent and realistic view of our situation, along with a team that is marching together to better understand it and take smart, deliberate actions to address it.

As mayor, I am proud of how this team came together in just five months to produce an end product that, while not perfect by any means, is a remarkable example of what can be accomplished when everyone is pulling together, putting in the time and staying focused on what truly matters.

Carmel doesn’t need to be reinvented. It needs to be restored, reinvested in and respected. This budget is a strong step in that direction. And as mayor, it has been a joy to watch our team — staff, council and community — each playing its part clearly and in harmony.

To hear a podcast version of this column, visit [cli.re/budget](https://cli.re/budget).

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

# STOP

From page 3A

it. She has also frequently complained, and did so again at last week’s meeting, that drivers frequently go down Fifth in front of the post office in the wrong direction, despite the many signs and arrows telling them not to.

Tomasi further suggested making Monte Verde at Fifth and Sixth avenues, where northbound and southbound drivers have the right of way, three-way stops, “because people are coming up from Pebble Beach and off the side streets, and they’re coming around those corners pretty quick and it’s dangerous.” And he said stops should be added at Monte Verde and Seventh, Lincoln and Fifth and Lincoln and Sixth.

The committee unanimously agreed, and Tomasi said he would bring the proposal to the city council for approval, ideally in July.

# LIBRARY

From page 9A

human dynamics.”

After he retired in late 2019, Farina and his wife set out to figure out where they wanted to spend the rest of their lives. “Our first stop in January 2020 was Carmel-by-the-Sea,” he said. “In less than 24 hours, we knew we found our forever hometown.” They bought a house that month and spent the next four years renovating it.

“He’s got a great career behind him,” Delves said. “And what particularly struck me was his experience with project work at scale and dealing with a lot of complexity, and as I thought about what we’ve got coming with this library project, I think that’s exactly what we need.”

Delves said the library remodel will require “the best and brightest.”


“Bob and I spent a lot of time doing this, and I would hope you respect our opinion,” Byrne said, before also extolling Farina’s virtues.

## Other appointments



Delves made the motion to approve the library appointees as recommended, and Byrne seconded it, but Baron made a substitute motion approving the other appointees but excluding Farina, and it passed 3-2, with Delves and Byrne dissenting. The decision means the eight other appointments recommended by Byrne and Delves were

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ratified, but the duo will have to again propose an appointee for the remaining library board seat.

For the community activities commission, which has been more or less defunct as of late and saw all of its members’ terms expire, five new appointees were approved: Ellen Martin, a 30-year resident who served on the activities commission during Covid and has extensive event experience, De Tierra Vineyards owner Jeff Meacham, Judy Refuerzo, who served on the community activities commission from 2013 to 2023, Maria Ruess and Carmel Chamber of Commerce CEO Kati Enea.

The people appointed to the reinvigorated commission are excited to serve, Byrne added.

Bobbie Voris — the longtime owner of two Comstock homes — will join the historic resources board, and three-year resident Harry Ross, retired from a career in HR and business, will serve on the forest and beach commission.


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# PUBLIC NOTICES

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251009  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **KAREN'S DAYCARE**, 11341 Rico St., Castroville, CA 95012.  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Registered Owner(s): GUADALUPE ANA KAREN MENDOZA ROJAS.  
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/Guadalupe Ana Karen Mendoza Rojas  
Date signed: May 30, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 30, 2025.  
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251022  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **DARIA SHOPPING**, 14726 Kit Carson Drive, East Garrison, CA 93933.  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Registered Owner(s): SINHUEI WANG,14726 Kit Carson Drive, East Garrison, 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 31, 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/Sinhuei Wang  
Date signed: June 2, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 2, 2025.  
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of

Professions Code).  
Publication Dates: June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025 (PC 617)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251030  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **EMPIRE MOTORS**, 431 Abbott St., Salinas, CA 93901.  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Registered Owner(s): CARLOS MEZA ANDALON, 431 Abbott St., Salinas, CA 93901.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on April 11, 2013.  
**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/Carlos Andalon  
Date signed: June 3, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 3, 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

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: June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025 (PC 618)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251035  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CHICANORA TACOS**, 46 Russell Rd., Apt. D, Salinas, California 93906.  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Registered Owner(s): JUAN MARTIN CEDANO.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 3, 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/Juan Cedano  
Date signed: June 3, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 3, 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

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: June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2025 (PC 619)

**Public Notice**  
**Pebble Beach Community Services District**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Friday, June 27, 2025**

The Board of Directors of the Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD) adopted a **Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26** (July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026). The Board will hold a public hearing on **Friday, June 27, 2025 at 9:40 a.m.**, to adopt the **Final Budget**, including annual fees for sewer collection and treatment, fire protection, and garbage collection services. The public is invited to attend this meeting to comment, or seek clarification on any item included in the Preliminary Budget. Additional information and copies of the Preliminary Budget are available on the District’s website, [www.pbcsd.org](https://www.pbcsd.org)  
Publication dates: June 6, 2025 (PC6101)

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# Class of 2025

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Age-old traditions and new frontiers for 2025's top scholars

By ELAINE HESSER

**FOR ALL** but a few years of their lives, today's high school seniors have been working toward one big moment, when "Pomp and Circumstance" is more welcome than anything by Taylor Swift or Billie Eilish. An oddly-shaped cap and voluminous gown temporarily outclass the look-of-the-moment, and a time-honored ceremony goes by in a blur.

The new graduates realize that the daunting mountain they have climbed has somehow become a shelter, too, and they stand atop it asking, "What's next?" with excitement and trepidation.

Meanwhile, slightly shell-shocked parents are left wondering what the heck happened to the adorable babies they brought home last week.

It was last week, right?

Among the hundreds of local students in that procession are the academic super-achievers: class valedictorians. We'd like you to meet some of them this week.

## Best of Carmel

Carmel High is one of many schools nationwide that declare that anyone who

**VALEDICTORIANS** *cont. page 37A*



Among 2025's top students are 15 from Carmel High, including (top row from left) Alyssa Moore, Savanna Radowicz, Sophie Morgan and Tobias Schoone. Other top-notch students of the year include (bottom row) Aleasha Kalinski and Sophie Gong from Santa Catalina, Wonjim Eum from Stevenson, Alvin Liu of York and Danny Ostovar from P.G. High.



## Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

We are proud of all that you have achieved.  
Continue to stay true to yourselves and embrace the journey ahead.



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Catalina  
School

Girls • Grades 9-12 • Boarding & Day  
[santacatalina.org](http://santacatalina.org)



CLASS OF 2025

Preserving the beauty of ‘a second of history’

By TULLAH MCCOLL

**AFTER TAKING** an intro-level photography course his junior year to fulfill a technology requirement, Carmel High School senior Jack Bell found the art meant much more than just checking a box for his transcript.

While the school class surrounded Bell with other talented photographers and supportive teacher Holly Lederle, the assignments didn’t spark much interest. However, as a lover of the outdoors, Bell easily found a way to take advantage of the class-provided camera.

“I just took it and went on hikes and to the wharf in Monterey, and I just started to realize that I really liked to do wildlife photography,” said Bell.

Lizards and spiders

He discovered a passion for capturing nature and animals, and he wanted to take his interest far beyond the CHS campus. Taking advantage of an opportunity, Bell decided to spend three weeks during the summer of 2024 in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands with a National Geographic program.

“I got a full-ride scholarship from a generous sponsor to go on the trip,” said Bell. “I had to get two letters of recommendation, write an essay and submit my best photo of that year.”

In addition to learning advanced camera skills and techniques, Bell’s two mentors in the program taught him more about the nuances of good photography.

“One mentor, Pedro, taught me the importance of patience when it comes to waiting for the perfect shot,” said Bell. “Raj taught me there are many angles to a photograph. There is no need to be basic.”

Since the trip, Bell has continued to use “every drop of advice from his men-



Jack Bell thought he was checking off a graduation requirement when he signed up for a high school photography class. Instead, he found his calling.

tors.” When a friend of his found a spider in his front yard, it took Bell one hour and 4,545 photos to get the perfect shot. That wouldn’t have happened without patience.

Two offers

The soon-to-be graduate hopes to one day work for National Geographic and bring awareness to major environmental issues worldwide.

“I want to show society the beauty that our planet has to offer,” said Bell. “A lot of people look to NatGeo for that kind of

stuff.”

To follow his dream, Bell will spend the next four years obtaining a bachelor’s degree in photography from the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia.

Bell applied to only two colleges. There was Seattle University, which he said he felt somewhat confident he could get into, and CalArts, which seemed more difficult given its 25 percent acceptance rate. CalArts also required a portfolio, artist statements, personal work and a recap of the applicant’s photography journey.

“I thought I was only going to get into one school, so when I got into Seattle, I said yes. Two weeks later I got into CalArts, and I had to say no to Seattle.”

Although being in the urban area of Valencia is not something Bell is excited for, he said he is most looking forward to being surrounded by other artists, including dancers who can help him develop what he calls “people photography.”

“I think dance is beautiful, and I want to

PHOTOS cont. page 41A



YELLOW BRICK ROAD  
BENEFIT SHOP

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 RECIPIENTS



Andrew Alvarado-Cardenas  
Carmel High School



Seth Agan  
Cal Baptist University



Tiana Alvarez  
UC Irvine



Kristin Beal  
Cal Poly State University



Ashley Bishop  
Baylor University



Hannah Brown  
Santa Catalina School



Viviana Brown  
Monterey High School



Rachel Christian  
UC Davis



Michael Devine  
Monterey High School



Ben Dickson  
Salinas High School



David Flores-Orillana  
Soledad High School



Elisabeth Gage  
Belmont University



Ella Gaily  
Carmel High School



Grace Gorman  
Pacific Grove High School



Deisy Gracida  
North Monterey County High School



Helen Hanalla  
Pacific Grove High School



Pedro Hernandez  
Seaside High School



James Hinkle  
Palma High School



Laura Hodges  
Notre Dame High School



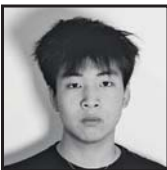
Preston Howard  
Luke Weathers Flight Academy



Ollie Johnston  
Carmel High School



Emil Keller  
Cal Poly State University



Bryan Kim  
York School



Alexandra Krueger  
Grand Canyon University



Noah Kwasnoski  
Pepperdine University



Summer Landis  
Salinas High School



Elizabeth Lorenzo-Ramirez  
Soledad High School



Brandon Maguire  
Oklahoma State University



Cameron Maguire  
McPherson College



Zoe McKrill  
Marina High School



Jake McTighe  
Salinas High School



Ana Mendoza-Martinez  
North Monterey County High School



Kaylin Menezes  
Trinity Christi an High School



Thomas More  
Salinas High School



Daniel Naaman  
Trinity Christian High School



Gesell Navarro-Zepeda  
Alisal High School



Jaclyn Norman  
Salinas High School



Josae Perez  
Monterey Peninsula College



Roberto Perez-Velasco  
Fresno Pacific University



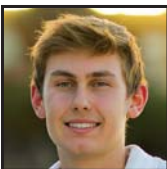
Brysma Ramirez  
North Monterey County High School



Judah Steelman  
Ocean Grove Charter School



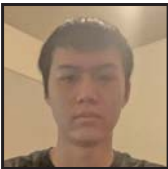
Emily Swedberg  
The Master's University



Joseph Tringali  
Carmel High School



Victoria Valdez  
Carmel High School



Justin Wang  
UC Davis

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CONGRATULATIONS,  
**Class** of 2025



**131**  
GRADUATES

Countless achievements. One extraordinary class.

**99%**

College-Bound  
1% Gap Year

**40**

Accepted to colleges in 40  
states, DC, and 13 countries

**61**

International applications, with  
9 students studying abroad

**13**

Artists continuing in  
a range of disciplines

**17**

Collegiate athletes, including  
9 at Division 1 programs

**10%**

Acceptances to multiple  
schools with lowest admit rates  
(less than 10%)

Gentle in manner, resolute in deed — these graduates exemplify the Stevenson spirit. With **standout admissions** and **prestigious scholarships** — including a **QuestBridge Scholar** attending Columbia — they're ready to create joyful, inspired futures.



CLASS OF 2025

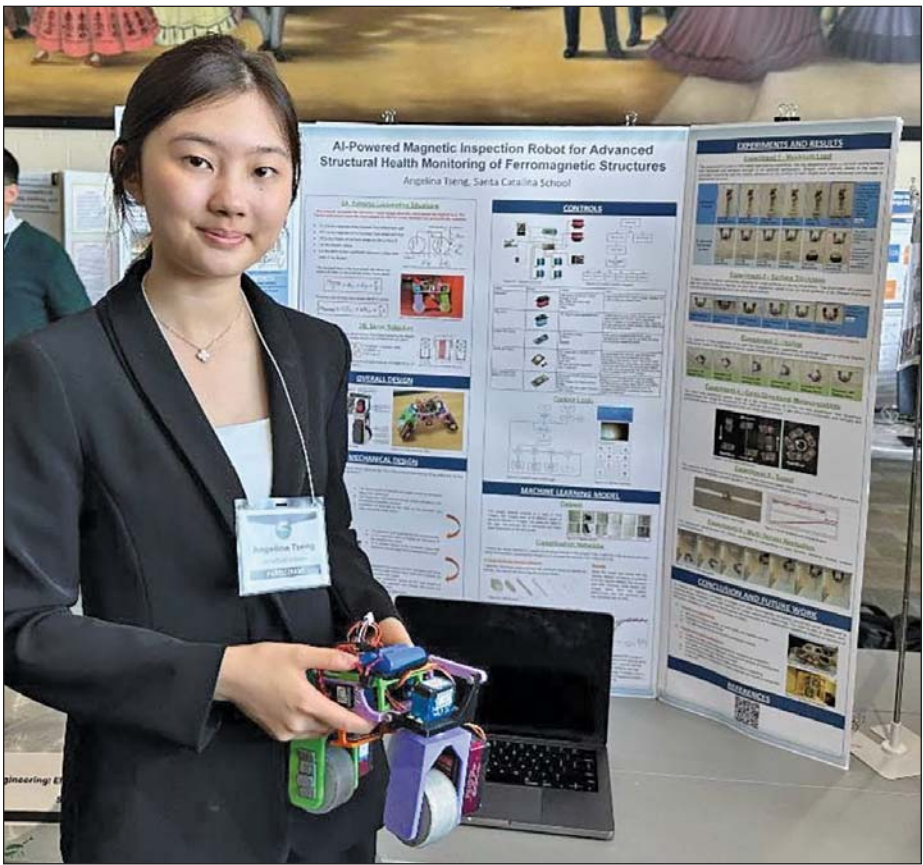
Worried about handing over the reins?  
It'll be OK. They've got this.

By DENNIS TAYLOR

**AFTER SHE** collects her diploma from York School, **Sasha Campbell** will take her 4.3 grade-point average to UCLA, where she hopes to major in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology. One aspiration for Campbell is researching organ transplants to help find solutions to organ-rejection problems.

She is exceptional — but hardly atypical — of the high-quality students who graduate each year from Monterey Peninsula high schools. It's a reassuring sign that the world will be in good hands. **Angelina Tseng** spent just a year-and-

**LEADERS** *cont. page 42A*



Angelina Tseng of Santa Catalina designed an award-winning robot that helps inspect bridges.

Congratulations  
to the 2025 Graduates  
throughout our community!

May you find purpose and happiness  
in all your future endeavors.

“The future belongs to those who believe  
in the beauty of their dreams.”  
~Eleanor Roosevelt



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CONGRATULATIONS  
Chartwell School's Class of 2025

Chartwell's Class of 2025 is heading out into the world with purpose, individuality, and a deep sense of connection to one another. We're proud to celebrate 16 graduating seniors who have not only met academic goals, but have also built a culture of kindness, curiosity, and mutual respect.

Collectively, the Class of 2025 was admitted to 63 four-year colleges with 120 acceptances, and received more than \$5.6 million in scholarship offers.

Sebastian Atcitty  
Hannah Bell  
Matthew Bell  
Nathaniel Birks  
Holden Bogue

Chloe Dawson  
Fritz Eberly  
Jamie Hamane  
Christopher Melchor-Peralta  
Josh Quinn

Lala Schembari-Willard  
Paige Shugart  
Eli Sternbach  
Nicole Stull  
Ari Vickers-Coleman  
Conor Walsh





2025

VALEDICTORIANS *from page 33A*

meets a specific set of rigorous academic requirements be- comes a valedictorian.

This year, there are 15: **Ty Arnold, Caden Brown, Skyler Brown, Jonathan Elazar, David Elyoussoufi, Ava Ghio, Tyler Hendrick, Callum Jeffers, Chloe Le- Master, Kai Meng, Alyssa Moore, Sophie Morgan, Alex Norbraten, Savanna Radowicz** and **Tobias Schoone**.

Many, like **Alyssa Moore**, hail from Carmel Valley. She’s a dedicated student of STEM — science, technol- ogy, engineering and mathematics — and was the “build lead” on the robotics team. “For a long time, I loved as- tronomy, space and astrophysics,” she said, but her focus shifted to biology, and she’s thinking about combining that with robotics to work with medical developments or bio-engineering.

She also presided over Rotary Interact, was co-presi- dent of This Club Saves Lives and co-captain of the tennis team, and she played violin in the orchestra. She’s headed off to UC Irvine this fall.

**Savanna Radowicz’s** drive for straight A’s was bal- anced by a love of the outdoors, hiking and backpacking. She hopes to combine academic excellence with those pas- sions at UC Santa Barbara, where she’s planning to major in earth science. In addition to working on the school’s Sandpiper newspaper, she played basketball, was presi- dent of the art club and volunteered with the Monterey Bay chapter of the National Charity League from seventh grade on.

Scoring goals and tutoring math

Born in the Netherlands, **Toby Schoone** moved here with his family at age 4. After attending All Saints Day School near his Carmel Valley home, Schoone moved on to Carmel High. The “Ted Lasso” fan has been play- ing soccer since he was 6 and was part of the Monterey Football Club’s development academy. He also enjoyed the hands-on experience he got in CHS’ sports medicine program, which undoubtedly fed into his decision to study biology at Berkeley this fall. He’s tutored at Mathnasium for two years and completed a couple of intern and job- shadowing experiences.

Family was important to all the graduates, including **Sophie Morgan**, who said, “I always wanted to do well. My older sister was a good role model.”

The lover of all things STEM added, “I doubled up on math and science,” and she supplemented that with Mon- terey Peninsula College classes in marketing and business. She might have been influenced by her father, the chief financial officer at Montage, where Morgan completed an internship with the facilities department.

She starts UC Santa Barbara this fall, with plans to ma- jor in economics, possibly adding communications and cognitive science.

Morgan started a club called Cards for Kindness and created a “career connections” website where she inter- viewed people about their jobs so students could learn

ACADEMICS *cont. page 39A*



GABRIELLA PHARES

We are so proud of you!  
We love you to the moon and back 🍷

Love always,  
*Gramma and Papa*

CARMEL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025



SAVANNA HARRIS

CARMEL HIGH CLASS OF 2025

*Love, Aunt Nette, Hamish & Heidi*



Congratulations to the 8th Grade Class of 2025!

As you step into the next chapter, we celebrate not just where you are going, but who you are becoming—thoughtful, confident, and ready to lead lives of meaning and purpose.



Santa Catalina  
Lower and Middle School

Boys & Girls • PreK-Grade 8  
Monterey, CA • [santacatalina.org](https://santacatalina.org)



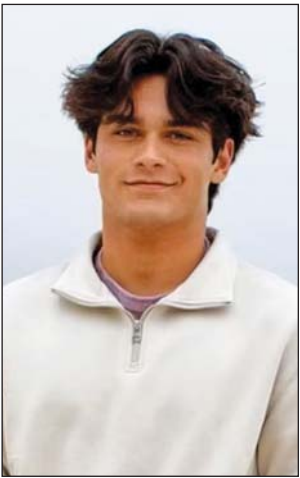
C L A S S O F 2 0 2 5

Carmel Valley Rotary honors top 100 scholars at annual dinner

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

**THIS MONTH**, the Carmel High School Class of 2025 will enter the next phase of their lives after having experienced and achieved much, many of them making the roster of what Carmel Valley Rotary calls “The Top 100 Scholars” — 25 per grade — celebrated with an evening tribute on April 8.

“Our club decided many years ago to recognize the students for their academic achievements,” said Carmel Valley Rotary Foundation Chair Rabbi Bruce Greenbaum. “We know they are constantly given accolades for sports and drama and music. The one thing we want to recognize is academic excellence.” Some of the seniors in the group talked about their experiences.



Vetea DeVilliers



Nicole Tapson

As **Vetea DeVilliers** approaches graduation, he’s been contemplating two paths that lie before him at the University of San Diego.

“I’ve been considering a career in commercial real estate or maybe international business,” said DeVilliers, who plans to major in business. He said he has considered himself entrepreneurial since he was a kid, selling home-made items as a boyhood venture. He’s also intrigued by real estate, particularly its interpersonal aspects.

When not studying, DeVilliers is a champion of water polo, surfing and any other opportunity to get in the water, one reason he chose USD.



Each year, the Carmel Valley Rotary Club recognizes 100 top scholars — 25 from each grade — at Carmel High School.

Even though the beach will beckon, he said, “I’ve always prioritized school. My friends and I have created a culture of achievement which makes me proud. This has included both studies and sports.”

‘Excited for next chapter’

Although more than a dozen friends are headed to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, DeVilliers decided not to move with his classmates, but instead to head into this next phase on his own.

“I’m a little nervous but also excited and ready for the next chapter,” he said. “I look forward to encountering new people and new experiences and trust it will work out just fine.”

Another top scholar, **Nicole Tapson**, said, “I am super excited to go to USC, which has the No. 1 communications program in the country. I’m going to major in public relations and advertising.” She cited experience with broadcasting, “which I got into during high school. I even created a weekly Friday show. I just love it.”

Tapson studied video production and took a class in broadcasting, where she discovered her passion for reporting news. She was part of a team that competed in a national film and broadcast competition. “It was called ‘Student Television Network,’” said Tapson. “I didn’t win, but our team won an honorable mention for a documentary and third place for our short film. That was really validat-

ROTARY cont. page 40A

CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATES

Kai Abraham ✂️Ω  
Gillian Adams Ω  
Amelia Aldi ✂️Ω  
Mack Aldi ✂️  
Elizabeth Almaras-Perez Ω  
Andrew Alvarado-Cardenas Ω  
Hannah Arbuckle  
Ty Arnold ✂️✂️  
Brooklyn Ashe  
Craig Balbo  
Keneth Barrios-Corona  
Jack Bell  
Olivia Bell  
Nicholas Braulio Beltran  
Carmelle Berg  
Patricia Bernahl Ω  
Brielle Bishop  
Kai Blackwell  
Warren Blut ✂️Ω  
Ezra Bogey  
Aaron Bonynge ✂️Ω  
Caden Brown ✂️✂️Ω  
Simeon Brown ✂️  
Skyler Brown ✂️✂️Ω  
Dean Bullas  
Edgar Cabrera ✂️Ω  
John Cardinalli  
Elizabeth Chan ✂️Ω  
Jonathan Chen ✂️Ω  
Adalyn Clark  
Hiroki Cole ✂️  
Gavin Collins ✂️  
Orla Cook Ω  
Saylor Cripe ✂️Ω  
Hayden Culver  
Alfredo Damian-Felix  
Sebastian Danielson ✂️  
Aarna Desai ✂️Ω  
Vetea DeVilliers ✂️Ω  
Karim Dwidari  
Jonathan Elazar ✂️✂️Ω

David Elyoussofi ✂️✂️Ω  
Jenny Esquivel Garcia  
Royce Evans ✂️Ω  
Norah Falkel  
Lilah Filly Ω  
Boston Fisher Ω  
Lauren Fitzpatrick Ω  
Bennett Foreman ✂️  
Sean Fosmark ✂️  
Mason Foster  
Alexander Frederick ✂️  
Ella Gaily ✂️Ω  
Hanna Galan Vasquez  
Ella Gallagher ✂️Ω  
Thomas Gardner ✂️  
Jet Garneau ✂️Ω  
Charles Geiss  
Ava Ghio ✂️✂️Ω  
Amery Gill ✂️  
Chase Gilman  
Harrison Glaser ✂️Ω  
Bennett Goldberg ✂️  
Stefano Goldman  
Kate Graham  
Parker Guzowski  
Maura Guzzi ✂️  
Jake Hannah  
Luke Hansen  
Mikhail Harleman  
Savanna Harris  
Luke Hawker  
Fiona Heilig ✂️  
Davin Helenius  
Tyler Hendrick ✂️✂️  
Amanecer Hernandez  
Ariana Hernandez  
Arely Hernandez Ruiz Ω  
Travyn Herro  
Hans Hess ✂️  
Macie Hill ✂️Ω  
Dylan Hinds

Zachary Hinds  
Mason Hogan ✂️Ω  
Daniel Hohnloser  
Elizabeth Iandoli  
Erin Ikemiya Ω  
Riley Imamura ✂️Ω  
Julia Jackson ✂️Ω  
Callum Jeffers ✂️✂️  
Dwayne Jeffries ✂️Ω  
Oliver Johnston ✂️Ω  
Ava Kadosh ✂️Ω  
Jade Kang ✂️Ω  
Levi Kelsey  
Sophia Kemmerly ✂️Ω  
Troy Kingshaven  
Amaya Kinoshita  
Mieke Knibbe ✂️  
Zackary Lander ✂️Ω  
Tobias Lee Ω  
Chloe LeMaster ✂️✂️  
Bo Bradley Lewis  
Jesus Linarez-Rochin  
Haley Liss  
Jackson Lloyd  
Tallinn Loberg ✂️  
Jadyn Lome ✂️Ω  
Carter Lukes  
Danna Macias  
Ava Mangiapane ✂️  
Lola Marciano Ω  
Ava Martin ✂️  
Sara Martin  
Flor Martinez Ω  
Sandra Martinez  
Alexander Martinez Rivera  
Alejandro Martinez-Resendiz Ω  
Kristen Mastin ✂️  
Charlotte Mayer ✂️  
Alanna McNamara ✂️  
Eva Melentieva  
Dario Melicia

Cauan Melo De Figueiredo  
Lillian Mendez ✂️Ω  
Cristofer Mendieta ✂️Ω  
Kai Meng ✂️✂️  
Vishv Mepani ✂️  
Katherine Miller ✂️  
Nicole Mirski ✂️Ω  
Alyssa Moore ✂️✂️  
Cynthia Moreau ✂️Ω  
Sophie Morgan ✂️✂️Ω  
Peter Moro  
Levi Murray ✂️  
Kenza Musinger  
Ruby Myrold ✂️  
Landon Noble  
Alexander Norbraten ✂️✂️Ω  
Stella Nunez Ω  
Bella Ortega  
Jovan Osorio ✂️Ω  
Avery Palshaw Ω  
Tristan Paquelier ✂️  
Maxwell Pierce  
Cullen Pritchard ✂️Ω  
Ethan Pugh  
Virginia Quintero Perez ✂️Ω  
Savanna Radowicz ✂️✂️Ω  
Udali Ramirez Merino  
Zachary Rasmussen ✂️Ω  
Ashton Rees ✂️  
Roy Reneker ✂️Ω  
Kye Reyes ✂️  
Charlee Riddle ✂️  
Jeremiah Robinson  
Bella Rocha ✂️  
Laith Rodriguez  
Eryll Rose  
Azar Rose  
Michael Rutherford Ω  
Noah Scattini ✂️  
Tobias Schoone ✂️✂️Ω  
Brianna Sciuto ✂️Ω

Jayda Sherratt ✂️Ω  
Emma Shin ✂️Ω  
Jesse Shu ✂️Ω  
Dayan Soriano-Prieto Ω  
Tessa Stallcup  
Naomi Stanley  
Alyssa Stinnette  
Kyra Sullivan ✂️  
Ryan Sullivan  
Aidan Swenson ✂️Ω  
Samantha Szamos ✂️  
Bella Tanguay  
Nicole Tapson ✂️Ω  
Paige Allen Thomas  
Marcus Togneri ✂️Ω  
Tyler Towle-Santoro ✂️  
Joseph Tringali ✂️  
Minna Trokel ✂️Ω  
Sofia Tucker  
Eugene Tupino ✂️Ω  
Victoria Valdez ✂️  
Brianna Verbera  
Layla Viel ✂️Ω  
Nicolas Vitiello  
Madeleine Walbrun  
Loken Wallis  
Grayson Walton  
Madison Waroff  
Sophie Weaver ✂️  
Scarlett Wennerholm  
Weston Wilson ✂️Ω  
Ayden Marie Wittmann  
Sage Wolf  
Magnolia Woodruff Lyons  
Kylie Wright ✂️Ω

Valedictorian ✂️  
Golden State Seal Merit Diploma ✂️  
State Seal of Bi-literacy Ω



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ACADEMICS *from page 37A*

more about the world of work. While not “super-competitive,” Morgan said she enjoyed volleyball and soccer, as well as working on school events.

Pride of the Breakers

Pacific Grove High School still follows the traditional practice of having but one valedictorian, and this year it’s **Danny Ostovar**. He took almost every advanced placement course available in his pursuit of knowledge. “I’ve always liked school,” he said.

He learned to collaborate with others as part of a robotics team that met for more than 20 hours weekly from January to March in preparation for competitions.

Ostovar said his parents provided “great support” and inspiration. He had long conversations with his father about his career choice, which was also informed by the family’s participation in the Baha’i faith. The spiritual emphasis on empathy and loving others formed the basis of Ostovar’s interest in medicine.

He’s been volunteering in the emergency department at CHOMP, helping patients “on some of the worst days of their lives,” and although he founded it intimidating at first, he’s happy to do it. This fall, he’s going to UC Berkeley to study data science. He wants to use computer science, statistics and artificial intelligence to solve challenging problems, and he’s already worked on a project using AI to examine retinal scans for signs of macular degeneration.

Catalina sisterhood

Year after year, Catalina’s outstanding students — there are no valedictorians — emphasize the “sisterhood” they feel at the all-girls high school, often talking about the courage and support they received from classmates and teachers.

**Aleasha Kalinski** said Class Night was one of her favorite traditions. “It’s the night before graduation, our last time together and an amazing night to celebrate each other,” she explained.

She played volleyball for four years and enjoyed soccer and lacrosse. Kalinski has also been head of the school’s health and wellness committee and a camp counselor for Summer at Santa Catalina.

San Diego State is her fall destination. She’ll have family nearby, and she plans to major in political science.

Her classmate, **Sophie Gong**, was a day student whose commute from Gilroy took about an hour each way. She started Santa Catalina in ninth grade and called it “the best four years of my life.” Gong, heavily involved in theater and dance, gravitated toward computer science and philosophy. She’ll be studying industrial and systems engineering — “where business meets engineering,” she said — at the University of Southern California.

Surprised at Stevenson

“I wasn’t expecting this. I had a lots of friends with high GPAs,” said **Wonjin Eum** of becoming Stevenson School’s valedictorian. A boarding student from Seoul, South Korea, Eum has parents who are both professors,

and their influence remain strong from half a world away. “It was definitely interesting growing up between them,” she said. “I always took the hardest courses across the board.”

“I’m definitely a STEM person,” she added. She’ll be studying information science — “computer science with a social aspect” — at Cornell University. She’s done two summer programs at the University of Pennsylvania, and when not in the classroom, Eum likes basketball, which she learned at Stevenson.

“I’m not a star player, but I’m a great teammate,” she said. In addition, she sang in the choir and in casual

STUDIOUS *cont. page 43A*



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

CARMEL WATER POLO



DEAN B - ALEX N - WESTON W- ALEX F- HARRISON G- VETEA D- TOBIAS L- BOSTON F- JOVAN O- SEAN F- LAITH R

UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I at MANOA



EMMA,

Congratulations  
on your graduation!

BEST WISHES FOR YOUR  
NEXT ADVENTURE.

We love you,  
Mom & Dad



Alexa Arango-Cuevas • Veronika Barlow • Trevor Bernardino • Oisín Burke • Sasha Campbell • Yolanda Chen • Natalia Dokie  
Miles Fadem • Emily Geiser • Lily Gill • Vanitha Glover • Kiyari Gomez • Charlie Hamper • Hazel Herzog • Jayden Isabella • Gavin Jones  
Jordan Jones • Eric Karp • Bryan Kim • Alvin Liu • Anderson Mahoney • Izzy Rega • Esbeidy Rodriguez-Calvo • Haven Steiner  
Alex Stihler • Diego Suarez • Regan Takashima • Alessia Torrente • Eli Tripp • Garrett Webster • Brandon Whaley • Winnie Wu

The Class of 2025 was accepted to 81 colleges and universities, including:

Adelphi University  
American University  
Arizona State University (Tempe)  
Art Center College of Design  
Baldwin Wallace University  
Boston University  
Cal Poly Humboldt  
California College of the Arts  
California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo)  
California State Polytechnic University (Pomona)  
California State University (Bakersfield)  
California State University (Channel Islands)  
California State University (Chico)  
California State University (East Bay)  
California State University (Fullerton)  
California State University (Long Beach)  
California State University (Los Angeles)  
California State University (Monterey Bay)  
California State University (Northridge)  
California State University (Sacramento)  
Carleton College  
Catholic University of America  
Clark University  
Colorado School of Mines  
Colorado State University (Fort Collins)  
Defiance College  
Eastern Oregon University

Fordham University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Hartnell College  
Kent State University  
Lewis & Clark College  
Linfield University  
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
Menlo College  
Monterey Peninsula College  
New York University  
Occidental College  
Oregon State University  
Pace University (New York City)  
Pacific University  
Parsons School of Design at The New School  
Portland State University  
Pratt Institute  
Purdue University (Main Campus)  
Reed College  
Rutgers University (New Brunswick)  
San Diego State University  
San Francisco State University  
San Jose State University  
Santa Clara University  
Scripps College  
Skidmore College  
Sonoma State University

Suffolk University  
The Ohio State University  
University of Akron Main Campus  
University of Arizona  
University of California (Berkeley)  
University of California (Davis)  
University of California (Irvine)  
University of California (Los Angeles)  
University of California (Merced)  
University of California (Riverside)  
University of California (Santa Cruz)  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Florida  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
University of Kentucky  
University of Oregon  
University of Redlands  
University of San Diego  
University of St Andrews  
University of Strathclyde  
University of Vermont  
University of Washington (Seattle Campus)  
Wabash College  
Western Washington University  
Westmont College  
Whitman College  
Willamette University



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C L A S S O F 2 0 2 5

ROTARY from page 38A

ing.”  
She shared that part of her drive came from her late brother. “What especially drove me to excel in high school was that my older brother, Traven Tapson, passed away my freshman year. He was always my role model, so a lot of what I do is in his honor. Figuring out who I am as

a person and what I love, plus finding my way to USC, would make him proud.”

Finding the right doors

Honoree **Alex Norbraten** said picking a college was a matter of where he could be accepted, affordability and the best preparation for a career in mechanical engineering. That equation added up to UCLA.

“I wrote an essay about my interest in working on cars and planes, and how my dad is a pilot who works for the Naval Post-graduate School. I can’t tell you what my career will be, but I will learn more about what I enjoy doing at UCLA.”

When not studying, Norbraten was on water polo and swim teams. He also surfs and became a certified lifeguard. “Life-guarding has been a great experience in terms of service and leadership,” he said. Norbraten also credits his congregation at Carmel Presbyterian Church for giving him insight about his decisions.

“If you work hard at something and believe in it, you’ll find doors along the way that close to let you know what’s not for you, steering you toward the right doors that will open,” he said.

**Savanna Radowicz** credits her parents, who took her hiking and camping, with encouraging her to appreciate the environment. Today, she has her sights set on UC Santa Barbara, her father’s alma mater, where she plans to study earth science.

“I started realizing the Earth is something I want to protect, that I want all its natural beauty to be here for the people who come after me. I plan to foster that by going into environmental education, management, conservation — or all three.”

“I hold myself to a really high standard; I’ve always strived to get good



Oliver Johnston



Savanna Radowicz



Alex Norbraten



CONGRATULATIONS  
SOPHIA KEMMERLY

2025 Carmel High  
Graduate

Your talent, insight and  
kindness is shaping a bright  
future. We are immensely  
proud. Go Mustangs!  
Love, your family

Congratulations  
on Your  
Retirement!



On behalf of the Carmel Unified School District  
and the Board of Education, we extend our  
deepest gratitude and warmest congratulations  
to our 2025 retirees.

Your dedication, passion, and years of service  
have left a meaningful impact on our students,  
families, and community. Thank you for creating  
learning environments where students are  
empowered to thrive and succeed.

We celebrate your achievements and wish you  
happiness and fulfillment in your retirement.  
You will always be a part of the CUSD family! ❤️



York  
SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATES

- Alexa Sarai Arango-Cuevas
- Veronika Barlow
- Trevor Albayda Bernardino
- Oisín Ciarán Burke
- Sasha Mae Campbell
- Yolanda Chen
- Natalia Nizhoni Dokie
- Ilan Miles River Fadem
- Emily Elizabeth Geiser
- Liliana Olivia Gill
- Vanitha Anisha Glover
- Izel Kiyari Gomez
- Charles Granville Hamper
- Hazel Jade Herzog
- Jayden Matthew Isabella
- Gavin Riley Jones
- Jordan Alexander Jones
- Eric Ingvar Karp
- Bryan Kim
- Alvin Jinfei Liu
- Anderson Owen Mahoney
- Isabella Adam Rega
- Esbeidy Rodriguez Calvo
- Haven Ila Steiner
- Alexander Taylor Stihler
- Diego Miguel Suárez
- Regan Namiko Aguilar Takashima
- Alessia Torrente
- Elias Gordon Tripp
- Garrett Karl Webster
- Brandon Joshua Whaley
- Yingxuan Wu



CLASS OF 2025

PHOTOS from page 34A

be able to capture that,” shared Bell.

With support from his family and friends, Bell remains inspired to pursue a career in the field. He knows making his goal of National Geographic a reality is going to take a lot of work, and building a portfolio takes time, but he hopes to get enough experience in photography and traveling to make it happen.


Until then, Bell believes there will be job opportunities he can still find a love for

and make money from, such as wedding photography or individual photo shoots.

“Photography allows us to take a literal second of history and have it there forever,” explained Bell.

“No photo is ever going to be the same as the one you take at any given moment,” he said.

*Editor’s note: Tullah McColl, a rising senior at Carmel High, has written for The Pine Cone for a year and will be an editor next year at The Sandpiper, the school’s newspaper. Congratulations, Tullah!*



ANDREW ALVARADO-CARDENAS

*Congratulations!*

Andres your determination and drive will be the key to your success. Enjoy the journey!

*God bless you Love, Mom, Dad, Adrian, Aaron, & Tita*

CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025

Carmel Reads The Pine Cone

CARMEL VALLEY KIWANIS



Fueled by volunteers. Powered by your generosity. Benefiting local Carmel Valley Youth.

Congratulations to the 2025  
Kiwaniis Scholarship Recipients!

CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL

Ty Arnold

Flor Martinez Blanco

Edgar Cabrera

Elizabeth Chan

Vetea DeVilliers

Lauren Fitzpatrick

Fiona Helig

Riley Imamura

Oliver McDarby Johnston

Tallin Loberg

Charlotte Mayer

Cristofer Mendieta

Ruby Myrold

Nicole Tapson

Noah Scattini

Tobias Schoone

Joseph Tringali

Sofia Tucker

Victoria Valdez

Maddie Walbrun

Kylie Wright

Maddox Zarazua

CARMEL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Victoria Martinez Blanco

Sienna Farfan

Skylar Moseley

Gabriela Phares

Andie Sassman

Carmel Valley  
Kiwaniis Foundation

Building community.  
Supporting youth.

Help us  
support  
future  
graduates!



Congratulations  
to our graduating seniors





DAVID ELYOUSSOUFI

Graduating from Carmel High School  
Attending UCLA, Majoring in Music,  
Cello, Math



BRYAN KIM

Graduating from York School  
Attending The Catholic University of  
America, Majoring in Nursing



KYLIE WRIGHT

Graduating from Carmel High School  
Attending University of Portland  
Majoring in Nursing, Minorng in Music

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C L A S S O F 2 0 2 5

LEADERS *from page 36A*

a-half at Santa Catalina School, where she helped develop a handheld, artificial intelligence-powered robot that uses magnets to detect fractures and flaws in bridges.

She'll carry a 4.5 GPA to Stanford University to major in science and engineering, computer science, or something called science technology society management.

Ready for challenges

During her time at Carmel High, **Mieke Knibbe** was named Student of the Year in English, and Student of the Month in Math.

A scholar with a 4.45 GPA, Knibbe is headed overseas to the College of London, where's she'll enroll at the Jill Dando Research Center's Crime and Security program. She'd love to work for the FBI.

**Beckett Heywood** was a 4.08 student at Stevenson School, where he fell in love with STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) — an education he'll

continue this fall as an engineering major at prestigious Harvey Mudd College in Claremont.

As they move into adulthood, the seniors are profoundly aware that they're inheriting a messy and complicated world filled with daunting problems.

They also feel prepared to lead a generation of problem-solvers.

"Honestly, there have been times when my level of optimism has been low," Knibbe said. "But the passions I've seen in my classmates throughout high school have given me a better outlook and convinced me that we have to have hope to create change.

"If I adopt a negative outlook on the future of our planet, I'm probably not going to want to do as much about it," she said. "I've seen how gorgeous and special this life is, and I want to share that."

Knibbe hasn't wasted much time on negativity during her four years at Carmel High, where she earned Student



Stevenson grad Beckett Heywood was a leader at Stevenson.

EXCEPTIONAL *cont. page 44A*



*Congratulations sweet Lilah!*

We love you more than words can say!

Love,  
Your Family

TCU Bound!



*Congratulations Savanna Radowicz!*

We are so proud of you and all you've accomplished. Your determination to meet the high standards you set for yourself has been nothing short of inspiring. You've shown strength, focus, and heart in everything you do. As you move into this next chapter, we know you'll continue to achieve great things. Your future is bright—and we can't wait to see it unfold.

Love, Mom, Dad & Justin

CARMEL HIGH VALEDICTORIAN CLASS OF 2025

STEVENSON

CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATES

Wonjin Eum †\*

*Student Body President*

Lincoln Truman Joseph Fung

*Student Body Vice President*

Malena Ixchel Acuña Millman  
Cody Lincoln Adams  
Julia Valerie Antoniu  
Katrina Yang Bauer  
Julian Indy Bittencourt Ivancko Beck  
Henry Barnes Blaxter  
Luke Shannian Ho Brandler  
Tesseira Danelle Britt-Bluth  
John Ryan Bucich  
William Owen Bufkin  
Siena Juliana Bullock-Martinez  
Lucy Burnett  
Kai Evan Carlson  
Nathaniel Robertson Carlyle\*  
William Earl Carminati  
Johshveer Singh Chadha  
Hoi Sum Chen  
Audrey Anna Church  
Sienna Anne Cimoli  
Georgia Claire Copeland\*  
Gina Da Silva  
Arielle Layne Dale

Victoria Ohenewa Darko  
Sasha Kamber Davis  
Thomas Daniel Dayton  
Alessandro D.V. De Leo\*  
Lucia Rose de Marignac\*  
William Flint Dickson  
Ivan Frederick Dimitrov  
Diego Charles Doust  
Willamina Hart DuPont  
Somers Love Eberly  
Ava Vittoria Edwards  
Emmerson Elise Ferriera  
Marcus Zhong Finley  
Amanda Emili Forte  
Macsen Colby Freeman  
Zhuolin Fu  
Isaac Fung  
Paige Taylor Graham  
Tatum Elizabeth Haggerty  
Hannah Noelle Haggquist\*  
Sabrina Yvette Hardin  
Ginevra Mae Heiser\*  
Michelle Henaku  
Beckett Whitney Utter Heywood  
Tun-Hung Hu  
Hayden James Huang  
Sarah Yi-Wen Huang  
Saghyna Ibraev

Nicole Alexandra Iniakov  
Grace Sela Ishii\*  
Zijin Jiang  
Elise Louise Johnsen  
Jett McGee Jones  
William Joshua Kernan  
Yu Ju Kim  
Ryan Adler Kosloff  
Adrianna Marcene Kosmont  
Wang Wa Lai  
Gordon Karto Lee  
Paige Elizabeth Leon  
Anqi Li  
Brian Luocheng Li  
Xinrui Li  
Yutong Li  
Zhenhong Li  
Haoyi Lin  
Eland Matthews Macleod  
Ganigar Mahadumrongkul  
William Vincent Maiorana  
Twyla Elodie Manheim Barclay  
Iasonas Stamatis Manthoulis  
Harry George Marquess  
Chloe Alexandria McClintock\*  
Max Mendez  
Madeline Holiday Mims\*  
Anna Olivia Mitchell

Oliver Charles Moriarty  
Alexa Rose Muchnick  
Amelia Noel Dunlop Myers  
George Danial Neault  
Natalie Shay Nootbaar  
Siobhan Mei Qi Ong  
Cameron James Page  
Henry Ferguson Parker  
Katelyn Idella Partridge  
Mitchell Noah Peurach  
Alexander C Peyton  
Khanh Toan Phan  
Carter Qin  
Kunqi Qu  
Annamaria Ramirez - Sabogal  
Zachary Charles Robins  
Anderson James Rogers\*  
Yi Rong  
Alexander B Rushing  
Lucie Monique Ryan  
Miranda Eden Salinger  
Marc Gabriel Sasetia  
Ian Rand Schindler  
William Muir Hillman Simonds  
Noah Quinn Sondergaard  
Alessandro Spada  
Herold Wendell Stein  
Atticas Paige Stroebel-Haft

Alexander Rohan Strofs  
Alyssa Ruoxin Sun  
Liam Tilenius  
Macey Rose Torres  
Sean Alexander Toth  
Shawn Lee Tse  
Wai Tin Maya Tsui  
Madeleine Eloise Agnes Ulliyot  
Grace Doran von Schack  
Michelle Wang  
Sirui Wang  
Yunyi Wang  
Hyunjun Whang  
Emily Rose Wheat  
Kekoa David Williams  
Connor Jerald McDonald Wood  
Rachel Wu  
Fangyi Xu  
Savanna Connie Yant\*  
Yutong Yao  
Hayden McCafferty York  
Anton Rocco Christian John  
Zaninovich  
Xiaoming Zhang  
Xiaocheng Zhao

\* 12+ years at Stevenson School  
† John Lyon Reid Award Recipient



C L A S S O F 2 0 2 5

STUDIOUS *from page 39A*

“mini-performances” on campus, did some rock climbing, and seemed mildly surprised by how much she enjoyed the school’s sophomore expedition — 11 days backpacking in the wilderness, with “no showers, no phone and no wifi.”

Falcon soars


**Alvin Liu**, valedictorian of York School in Monterey, is a thoughtful conversationalist who listens attentively and pauses to think before speaking. He has a high regard for words and language.

His parents, both Chinese instructors at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey for more than a decade, taught him to speak Mandarin at home, and Liu began learning English when he started pre-school. He’s always found languages “easy to learn,” and also speaks French and Spanish.

Like several other valedictorians, he was on a robotics team and spent long evenings preparing for competitions, something he found tremendously rewarding. He will study mechanical engineering at Berkeley.

Liu enjoys playing violin and piano and has been part of the concert orchestra at MPC for five semesters. “It’s been a blast every time,” he said of performing with them. Sports — soccer, tennis and cross country — were “mostly for fun,” he noted.

Despite his widely varied pursuits, he was outspoken about what he called “hustle culture” among high school students. In advice worthy of a valediction, Liu said, “Apply yourself and do the things you like, but you don’t need to do everything under the sun. Be true to yourself.”



**Congratulations,**  
**SAYLOR!**

So proud of you and excited to see where life takes you. UCSB is lucky to have you.  
With love from all of us.

CARMEL HIGH CLASS OF 2025



**CARMEL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL**  
CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATES

Theo Bolton  
Michael Careaga  
Taylor Sophia Chartraw  
Sienna Lucy Farfan  
Danielle Elise Garneri  
Gabriel Klaus Johnson  
Savannah Skye Lane  
Victoria Martinez-Blanco  
Phelan Mattingley  
Skylar Moseley  
Gabriella Marie Phares  
Francesco David Premutati  
Andie Olivia Sassman

CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS!

2025



PARKER GUZOWSKI



ELIZABETH ALMARAS-PEREZ




JESUS LINAREZ-ROCHIN

ALL YOUR HARD WORK BROUGHT YOU TO THIS MOMENT. SAVOR THE DAY.  
CELEBRATE WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. A NEW ADVENTURE AWAITS!




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THE CARMEL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT IS PROUD TO  
ANNOUNCE THE...

*Class of 2025!*



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATING STUDENTS OF CARMEL HIGH & CARMEL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOLS!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HONORING YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE  
UPCOMING GRADUATION CEREMONIES



C L A S S O F 2 0 2 5

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of the Year honors in English, and a Student of the Month award in math. She made time to intern as a naturalist at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, and she tutored underserved elementary school students to develop early childhood literacy. In addition, Knibbe worked with children with autism and/or Down syndrome. The volunteering didn’t end there. She also worked with the California King Tides Project, documenting effects of climate

change on local coastlines and much more. She found time to play trumpet in the school’s jazz ensemble and pep band, became a member of the Tri-M National Music Honor Society, ran on Carmel High’s track and cross country teams, played basketball and field hockey, co-founded Carmel High’s book club, was president of the school’s poetry club and class vice-president as a freshman and sophomore — and worked a part-time job. All the while, Knibbe has shouldered the ongoing pressure of being a straight-A student.

“I’ve been taking five AP classes this year, which has been really stressful,” she said. “But proving to myself that I can learn such hard material is what motivates me. That’s very rewarding.”

**Diving champ**

On the campus of Stevenson School, Beckett Heywood was a tower of leadership. An Eagle Scout, he was selected during his junior and senior years to lead a group of sophomores on the Stevenson Expedition, the school’s annual 10-day backpacking trip. As part of another scouting-related project, Heywood offered to re-landscape part of Pacific Grove’s Gateway Center, a nonprofit facility that helps mentally challenged adults. He co-captained Stevenson’s league-champion water polo team in the fall, and this spring, he completed his third consecutive season as the Pacific Coast Athletic League’s undefeated 1-meter diving champ. He plans to dive next season at Harvey Mudd College. “Beckett is a model of effort and consistency who quietly enriches those around him, not just in the pool, but in the classroom, the woods, and the community,” said Brooke Higgins, his water polo coach. “He’s unafraid of the dirty work, embraces challenges with joy, never complains.” The selfless senior is also the one cleaning up afterward, when nobody’s looking. “I think it’s very easy to feel scared and worried about the future, but the great thing about our generation is that we’re very dedicated to making positive changes,” said Heywood, whose academic passion is science. “I’m very optimistic about what we can do to solve big issues, like



Mieke Knibbe

climate change, particularly with all of the new technology.” Angelina Tseng, who lives in Toronto, enrolled at Santa Catalina midway through her junior year. She fell in love with the close-knit student body and the attentive faculty. “I liked being a boarding student, partly because it allowed me to get to know my teachers a lot better, since they’re also our dorm parents,” she said. “I also appreciated the passion of other students here who

LEADERS cont. page 46A



Happy Graduation

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CLASS OF 2025

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<div><div>Santa Catalina School</div><div>CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATES</div></div>				
Maria Amelia Artola Ana Lucia Barron Bours Kendall Ashley Beffa Grace Rose Berry Alicia Minh Bolivar Hannah Rose Brown Piper Riley Butler Avery Faith Castleman	Kaia Rose Castro-Dara Seoyoon Choi Olivia DaSilva Maya De Saracho Ainsley Stewart DiNunzio Vivian Lee Edwards Maria Camila Escalante Figueroa Alexandra Marie Fieber	Yunhan Ge Sophie Nicole Gong Anna Halim Yingzhen Jiang Aleasha Julianna Kalinski Sophia Caroline Knipp Emily Grace Winn Limoges Andriana Dorothy Low	Sofia McHugh Tanusha Mehtani Averie Estella Nguyen Luisa Maria Perez Ruiz Natalie Kaitlyn Powell Selin Sakiz Anya Siu Luisa Tamayo de Saracho	Angelina Tseng Sofia Marie Vea Sawyer Elizabeth Vogel Elisabeth Caroline von Scheven Ziyue Xu Wei Zhou

<div><div>PACIFIC GROVE HIGH SCHOOL</div><div>CLASS OF 2025</div></div>				
Abrahamson, Roman R. Alkhalaf, Yasser M. Allard, Hayden J. Anderson, Alice K. Appold, Nathan M. Arroyo, Roman P. Baguio, Rizal S. Bagwell, Autumn A. Ballard, Jayden A. Blackmon, Isabella C. Botes, Caitlyn R. Bristow, Lauren R. Brosseau, Brody C. Buzoriute, Eve M. Chenoweth, Charlotte M. Cho, Euigyu Zion Chow, Ethan K. Chowdhury, Ishani Coen, Thomas H. Copiaco, Aiden J. Cromwell, Ricky C. Cronin, Zoe E. De La Garza Zubieta, Matias Dean, Alexandra S. Dean, Lucy A. Denton, Raysa F. Dishny, Deni A. Dolan, Beck N. Domalaog, Brooke Lynn M. Downey, Camilo R. Echeverria-Salinas, Camila B.	Edwards, Seth Englehorn, Olivia I. Eubanks, Abigail D. Evans, Meredith A. Faiz, Madina Ferguson, Lana L. Fernandez, Zachary I. Findlay, Caie H. Frasenyak, Anfisa D. Galer, Cora D. Gaona, Liliana E. Garry, Benjamin A. Gerow, Alison C. Gish, Weston D. Gonzalez, Kenji T. Gorman, Grace C. Grief, Leah A. Haddad, Maram M. Hanalla, Helen Hardy, Savannah E. Harrison, Ryton M. Hill, Wyloe M. Hoffman, Amber J. Hunter, Serena E. Hurst, Natalie A. Hurstfield-Meyer, Rowen D. Hutchison, Darrius A. Jaff, Jamal K. Jenkins, Savannah A. Johnson, Rivers T. Jones, Elias S.	Jones, Isabella R. Keller, Mackenzie E. Kerney, Carson P. Khadka, Sushant Khidar, Karim King, Dante G. King, Finn L. Klinger, Owen E. Kuska, Rogan M. Lee, Ella K. Lee, Shannon J. Leon Castaneda, Emanuelle Leonard, Alana J. Lewis, Sofia E. Liljegard, Tyra I. Lippert, James S. Liu, Angela Llantero, Gideon Xavier B. Lo, Maia C. Luttrell, Ben F. Lyon, River K. Lyons, Eleanor E. Macdonald, Aiyana D. McBain, Zachary A. Meek, Robert J. Mendez, Jonah F. Ming, Vivian Y. Mitchell, McKenzie C. Mohammadi, Mauna Montgomery, Owyn P. Murkison, Lillian E.	Murphy, Dakota J. Murray, Andrew T. Nardone, Ciara M. Navarro, Christian M. OBrien, Samantha C. Ostovar, Ladan E. Park, Faith J. Pechan, Zachary T. Pfeiffer, Colden Platt, Christopher L. Powley, William C. Pug, Oykum Qasem, Claire R. Quock, Katie M. Richards-Smith, Ella M. Rivera, Vanessa M. Robbins, Stephen E. Roberts, Sasha E. Rodolf, Carly J. Romero, Brooke R. Rosa, Marcelo B. Rosas, Gabriela Rueda Villamil, Sebastian Saab, Walid M. Sabala Weiler, Timothy Sabb, Daniel Samuels, Jasmine B. Sandoval, Dominic A. Selfridge, William W. Shand, Henry V. Shelton, Julia F.	Sherlock, Kieran D. Smith, Graham P. Snyder, Isis R. Souza, Juliette M. Stegge, John F. Stenlund, Per-Oscar V. Stovall, Ester V. Tamiz, Nicholas K. Thornburg, Colton Truett, Isabelle L. Tuitavuki, Annelisi K. Uriarte, Scarlett L. Vargas, Angeliq Wade, Nathaniel Q. Westmoreland, Leilani S. Williams, Broc Ronin A. Woods, Blayke E. Woods, Drew A. Wooten, Kuoni L. Wooten, Lux L. Wright, Ethan C. Wright, Lilikoi S. Yager, Alexander G. Yager, Liam P. Young, Thomas D. Yun, Yoona Zunich, Arianna M. Zupancic, Tyler J.



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grades for myself,” she said. “I hope to continue that at Santa Barbara, where 10 or 12 of my classmates are headed, as well.”

Although **Oliver Johnston** has grown up in Carmel, he will return to his native Canada to attend college.

“I’m looking at McGill University in Montreal and Queen’s University in Ontario, which is a tough choice. I got into Queen’s, whose health sciences department has only a 4.2 percent acceptance rate, and my sister, Maggie, is finishing her second year there in kinesiology. So that’s a plus.”

Johnston, who suffered with dental issues growing up, has long set his sights on becoming a periodontist to help other kids.

He said that he balanced his studies with sports, including his main focus, soccer, as

well as water polo and golf.

**Zach Rasmussen’s** decision to attend Pomona College was based on a trifecta of qualities: a great location, a smaller liberal arts college, and a good music program. His older sister, Ella, will be nearby, at Scripps.

He plays the piano, flute, and piccolo, sat down at the keys around age 5 and picked up the wind instruments in fourth grade. He also sings in the school choir.

“I’m still undecided on my major, but maybe psychology, with music as a double major. After college, I might pursue a master’s or Ph.D. and go into clinical psychology. Or maybe I’ll get a music degree and see where it takes me.”

He’s also involved in acting, particularly in musicals at Carmel High and in Monterey Peninsula Musical Theater’s outreach performances, through which he has toured inter-

nationally. The day after graduation, he will head to Thailand to participate in a cultural exchange program.

“The Class of 2025 is nothing short of remarkable,” said principal Libby Duethman. “They have demonstrated extraordinary perseverance through challenging times, all while pursuing a wide range of passions—from championship-winning athletes and talented musicians to dedicated Associated Student Body officers and inspiring club leaders.”

More than their achievements, said Duethman, what truly sets them apart is their kindness.

“They embody the ‘Carmel Way,’ caring deeply for our community, acting with honor and striving for success in all they do. This class is not only graduating — it’s leaving a legacy at Carmel High School.”



Zack Rasmussen

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*Tally Ho* inn  
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# Congratulations

to all the Graduates of 2025

# KYLIE WRIGHT

Heading to University of Portland to Study Nursing and Minor in Music.

*Congratulations, we are so proud of you and can't wait to see what you accomplish next!*

**Love,** Mom, Dad, Kendall, Ryan and Michael

CARMEL HIGH CLASS OF 2025

# Congratulations

# ASHTON

We love you!  
Once a Padre, always a Padre!

*Love,  
Mom & Dad*

CARMEL HIGH CLASS OF 2025

# ROTARY CLUB OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

***The Rotary Club of Carmel -by-the-Sea has awarded 2025 scholarships, Rotary, Interact, Vocational, Music, and Memorial to the following students:***

Elizabeth Almaras-Perez, Andrew Alvarado-Cardenas, Ty Arnold, Jack Bell, Olivia Bell, Edgar Cabrera, Vetea DeVilliers, Jenny Esquivel-Garcia, Harrison Glaser, Amanecer Hernandez, Ariana Hernandez, Oliver Johnston, Mieke Knibbe, Ava Mangiapane, Ava Martin, Flor Martinez-Blanco, Sophie Morgan, Alexander Norbraten, Avery Palshaw, Ashton Rees, Charlee Riddle, Arely Ruiz-Hernandez, Dayan Soriano, Samantha Szamos, Victoria Valdez, Kylie Wright

**Interact Scholarships** - Aarna Desai, Erin Ikemiya, Alyssa Moore, Ruby Myrold, Brianna Sciuto, Maddos Zarazua

**B.J. Love Memorial Scholarship** - Simeon Brown

**Jim Agan Vocational Scholarship** - Dean Bullas

**Jennifer Hill Memorial Scholarship** - Minna Trokel

*The students listed, in addition to those students currently in college with the LaSalle Music program, will be sharing a total of \$140,000 in 2025 in Scholarship support from Carmel-by-the-Sea Rotary*

Congratulations to **Tracy Ogata**, 3rd grade teacher at Tularcitos Elementary School in Carmel Valley recognized with the 2025 Harris A. Taylor Excellence in Teaching Award given annually by the Carmel-by-the-Sea Rotary Club



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LEADERS from page 44A

were pursuing STEM careers.”  
Tseng was inspired to design her award-winning robot after the 2019 collapse of a bridge in Taiwan, a disaster that

killed six people and injured 12.  
“I was interested in finding a project that would allow me to use AI and robotics, did a lot of research and decided to try to create an innovative product that could solve problems like these,” said Tseng, who in-

teracted with science and engineering experts while completing her invention.  
It made her one of 300 high school seniors honored by the Regeneron Science Talent Search, the nation’s oldest, most prestigious science and math competition.  
She is considering pursuing a career in structural engineering at Stanford.  
Like Tseng at Catalina, Sasha Campbell adored the closeness of York School, where she developed strong relationships with fellow students and her teachers.

“I was a timid kid who wouldn’t speak up before I came to York, where I really opened up. I definitely found my voice in that intimate environment,” said Campbell, who also developed independence during her high school years.

Studies in Costa Rica

As a 14-year-old, in the summer after her freshman year, she traveled alone to Yucatan, Mexico to study Spanish.  
“That was probably the best experience I’ve ever had,” said Campbell, who, the following year, went to Costa Rica with York’s sophomore class to study climate-change mitigation.  
She blossomed to serve as vice president of her freshman and sophomore class, competed in water polo, swimming and lacrosse, and was a captain of York’s field hockey team last fall.  
Campbell’s father is an engineer, and her mother is a professor of anthropology, which helps explain her attraction to science.  
She was named Biology Student of the Year at York, and wants to explore biological 3D modeling at UCLA, where she hopes to develop artificial human organs that will resolve rejection issues with the human body.  
“I’m not sure how optimistic I am about the future, but I’m definitely hopeful, which, I guess, comes from a desire to surpass my own expectations,” she said. “As a person who wants to go into science research, I’m not feeling satisfied.”  
Dennis Taylor is a professional freelance writer in Monterey County. Contact him at scribelaureate@gmail.com.



Sasha Campbell

KATE MADIGAN GRAHAM

CHS Class of 2025 has committed to the University of Colorado Leeds School of Business



Kate - we couldn’t be prouder of all your accomplishments over the years, especially your dedication to school, sports, and volunteering in our community through NCL. Most of all we are proud of your kindness. Here’s to your next chapter in Boulder!  
We love you, Mom, Dad, Ashley and Stella



CONGRATULATIONS!

Carmel High School Foundation 2025 Scholarship Recipients

VISION SCHOLARSHIPS

- |                     |                    |                         |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Dean Bullas         | Boston Fisher      | Cris Mendieta           |
| Edgar Cabrera       | Amanecer Hernandez | Ruby Myrold             |
| Sebastian Danielson | Flor Martinez      | Elizabeth Almaras-Perez |

STAR SCHOLARSHIPS

- |                     |                         |                  |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Edgar Cabrera       | Flor Martinez           | Savanna Radowicz |
| Sebastian Danielson | Cris Mendieta           | Toby Schoone     |
| Ava Ghio            | Alyssa Moore            | Brianna Sciuto   |
| Riley Imamura       | Elizabeth Almaras-Perez | Maddox Zarazua   |
| Mieke Knibbe        | Avery Palshaw           |                  |

RON STONEY EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS PROGRAM

- |                |                      |                |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Isabella Boaro | Daniel Mora Gallegos | Maya Steinberg |
| Merielle Flagg | Skyler Moseley       | Samuel Weaver  |

TYLER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

- |              |              |                  |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| David Bogart | Bodhi Melton | Riley Nothhelfer |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|



ROTARY CLUB OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA ROTARY HAS AWARDED THE PRESTIGIOUS

Richard W. LaSalle Memorial Music Scholarship 2025

In the amount of \$20,000 (\$5,000 per year, renewable for four years)

to Carmel High School graduate

Sebastian Danielson

Sebastian will be attending Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee as a Voice and Music Education Major

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JULY 18, 2025

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Food & Wine  
Galleries and Art

# This Week

Live Music,  
Clubs and Events

## Yacht rockers bring pop ballads to Sunset Center and Golden State

SERVING UP more pop ballads from the 1970s and 1980s that you could ever find in a jukebox, **The Yacht Rock Revue** takes the stage Thursday, 7:30 p.m., at Sunset Center.

The Georgia-based band pays tribute to the music of Hall and Oates, Steely Dan, Michael McDonald and other

Rock Revue guarantees an unforgettable evening of hot hits and chill vibes for all ages,” Sunset Center said.

Tickets start at \$45. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 620-2048 or visit [sunsetcenter.org](http://sunsetcenter.org).

Next up at Sunset is a June 13 concert by **I Cantori di Carmel**, which explores German Romantic and French Impressionist works of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Tickets start at \$35, with discounts for active military.



Yacht Rock Review is one of two cover bands that will bringing songs like “I Can’t Go for That,” “Ride Like the Wind” and “Summer Breeze” to the Peninsula this week.

## On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

soft-rock artists who dominated Top 40 radio long before the advent of the internet.

“Whether you’re a longtime lover of yacht rock or dipping your toes into its waters for the first time, the Yacht



Classical guitarist Richard Devinck performs this week at the Cypress Inn, Bernardus Lodge and the Intercontinental Hotel.

### ■ So smooth

Five days earlier, another yacht rock tribute act, **Mustache Harbor**, plays Saturday, 7 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

Like their counterparts who are performing at Sunset Center Sunday, the San Francisco-based soft rock band digs deep into the past for creative inspiration. “For over a decade, Mustache Harbor has been thrilling audiences across the country with their spot-on renditions of the smoothest music from the ’70s and the ’80s,” according to the band’s website.

Tickets start at \$30. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit [goldenstatetheatre.com](http://goldenstatetheatre.com).

Playing Friday, 7 p.m., at Golden State is **Rising Appalachia**, an Atlanta-based group that puts a contemporary twist on traditional folk music. The group is led by a talented pair of sisters who sing and play multiple instruments, **Leah Song** and **Chloe Smith**. Tickets start at \$33.

### Live music June 6-12

#### ■ Big Sur

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

#### ■ Carmel

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

See **MUSIC** page 51A

## CARMEL ART ASSOCIATION

June Exhibitions  
June 4 through June 30

Pathways  
Mark Farina

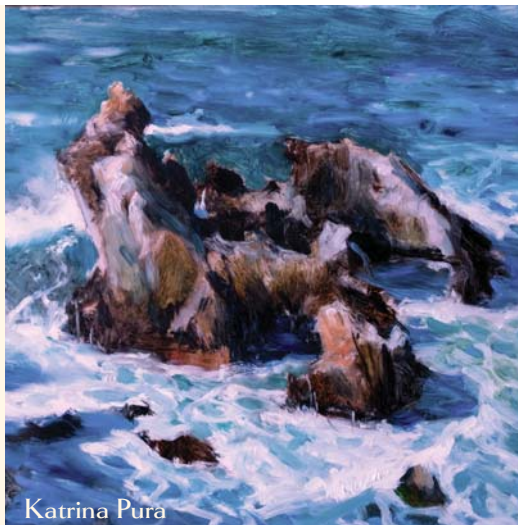
Robin and Chris Sawyer  
New Paintings and Sculptures

New Artist Members  
Inaugural Exhibition

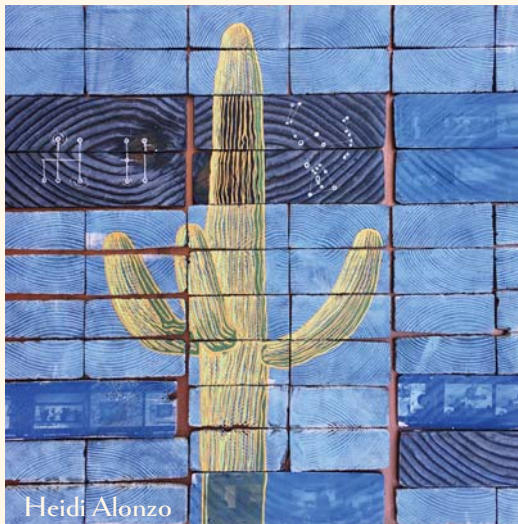
Join us for our Reception on  
Saturday, June 14  
from 4 to 7 pm



Polly Osborne



Katrina Pura



Heidi Alonzo



r. mike nichols



John Cromwell



Ethan Walsh



# Cocktail contest, bubbles and truffles, and lemongrass chicken

JOSH PERRY, the maestro behind the bar at Cella restaurant in Monterey, is bringing back his Coastal Cocktail Clash for a second year, with local bartending stars battling it out on June 23.

“Seven bartenders will go head-to-head in an exciting three-round showdown, putting their creativity and skill to the ultimate test,” he announced. “The winner will take home the prestigious cocktail clash championship belt.”

In the field will be two contenders from Michelin-starred restaurants: Kelsey Siegel from Chez Noir and Felicia Gonzales-Acosta of Aubergine. Joining them will be James Wall from Alvarado Street Brewery, Nica Farrahi and Andres Rocha from Mezzaluna, Radiance Weaver from Lalla Grill and Oscar Rodriguez from Stokes Adobe.

### Swag, talent

Learning from last year’s inaugural effort, Perry designed the event to offer three tiers of admission. General is \$45 for two drink tickets and standing room, while a preferred ticket is \$125 for two people and

passion for mixology,” Perry urged. Tickets are available via OpenTable and Cella’s website at cellarestaurant.com. The restaurant is in the historic Cooper-Molera adobe complex at 525 Polk St., and the clash begins at 6 p.m.

### Golden hour

Folktale Winery is offering “Boujee Bubbles — The Ultimate Golden Hour Soirée” Saturday, June 7, in its rosé vineyard in Carmel Valley.

“As the sun sets behind the vines, let internationally acclaimed DJ Sol transport you with a seductive mix of modern house, deep vibes and luxe lounge beats,” said Ashleigh Poland, the winery’s director of entertainment. “Her signature style, honed at top venues like Marquee Nightclub in Las Vegas and Mandala in Cabo, brings an infectious energy to the vineyard for one magical evening only.”

The evening will include tastes of Folktale’s three sparkling wines and small bites like oysters with mignonette, foraged mushroom tartlets with gouda and thyme, mini lobster rolls with chervil and mascarpone, avocado blini with caviar, black mission figs with whipped goat cheese, and chocolate-covered strawberries

and truffles.

Tickets cost \$100, with wine club members receiving a discount, and are available at [folktalewinery.com/upcoming-events](http://folktalewinery.com/upcoming-events). The event will run from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Folktale is located at 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

### Dog rescue fundraiser

Carmel Realty’s Heinrich Brooksher group is joining with nonprofit Peace of



Carrot (left) and Cupcake are two of many adoptable dogs recently featured at Peace of Mind Dog Rescue’s website. The nonprofit, which has been helping senior dogs and senior people since 2009, will benefit from an evening of wine, paella and other goodies at Hofsas House.

Mind Dog Rescue for a fundraiser at Hofsas House Hotel on Thursday, June 26, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Described as “a celebration of companionship, community and compassion,” the event will directly benefit POMDR, which is dedicated to helping senior dogs and senior people.

Canines — who must remain leashed — are welcome and are encouraged to wear their best “fun in the sun” ensembles as they chow down on Gourmet Bark Bites from Carmel Dog Shop and pose for professional portraits by Richard Green Photography. “Paw readings” will also be available.

Humans can dig into savory paella prepared by chef Brandon Miller, with appetizers from Sweet Elena’s in Sand City

and cookies from Café Carmel. Bernardus Winery will provide wine.

To RSVP, email [info@thebuzzpr.net](mailto:info@thebuzzpr.net) or call (831) 747-7455.

### Banh mi and noodles

Every once in a while, you stumble on a new, unassuming little restaurant. You fall in love with it and become hopelessly conflicted. You want it to thrive, but you want it to be your secret, too. Because you know that once the world “discovers” it, your days of breezing in, sitting right down at your favorite table and getting instant service are numbered.

Word is already spreading about Rice

*Continues next page*

# ENJOY

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# FOOD & WINE

From previous page

and Roots at 422 Tyler St. (riceandroots-monterey.com) in Monterey. You should visit before the inevitable happens there — especially if you enjoy excellent Vietnamese food at a great price.

The name, said co-owner Niki Nguyen, comes from “rice, the foundation of our cuisine, which connects us to generations before us, and roots, the traditions and flavors we carry with us, no matter where life takes us. Together, they tell the story of a family, a journey, and a love for food that bridges two cultures.”



Rice and Roots in Monterey offers affordable Vietnamese food, including several kinds of pho (soup) and a refreshing signature salad with papaya or mango. It's open daily for lunch and dinner.

Open seven days for lunch and dinner, it's bright, cheerful and simply decorated. White walls with a gold, geometric-design accent on one end, some red-backed booths and a few standalone tables are complemented by two large pieces of art depicting scenes from Vietnam.

### Good and close

On an afternoon visit, a few late lunchers perused menus while a brisk takeout business continued well past 1:30. The menu is short and simple, but that doesn't make it easy to choose a dish. There are six kinds of pho, or noodle soup, six rice dishes — which can also be served with pleasantly chewy, thick garlic-flavored noodles — along with vermicelli-based entrees and about a dozen shareable starters. Banh mi sandwiches are available with a variety of meat or vegetarian fillings.

Nguyen, former proprietor of Mon Chay Vegetarian Vietnamese restaurant in the Barnyard shopping center, said she decided to open the new eatery in part because she was tired of driving to San Jose for good Vietnamese food. Everything is prepared in-house from family recipes.

An order of four crispy R&R egg rolls came right from the fryer to the table. Slicing them open revealed wood-ear mushrooms (named for their shape) combined with flavorful pork, shrimp and mung beans, and a side of sweet-and-sour dipping sauce.

A good-sized portion of lemongrass chicken arrived next to a generous pile of noo-

Continues next page



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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13 | \$59\*\* PER PERSON  
THREE - COURSE PRIX FIXE MENU  
Reservations Recommended

APPETIZER	ENTRÉE	DESSERT
Melon & Ricotta bellwether ricotta, fried capers, meyer lemon	Beef & Mushrooms grilled bavette, brown butter fondant, green peppercorn	Raspberry Swirl Basque Cheesecake sicilian pistachio
Squash Blossoms labneh, tempura, harissa	Niman Ranch Iberian Pork Chop shelling beans, squash, tomato	Bavarian Cream Churros crème anglaise, strawberries
Chicken & Waffle chicken parfait, cherries, pickled alliums	Ricotta & Lemon Tortelloni artichoke, brown butter	

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# Congratulations

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CLASS OF 2025



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**THE FISH HOPPER**  
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From previous page

dles accented by garlic. The lemongrass was prominent, as were ginger and garlic, but subtle flavors of turmeric, star anise and cinnamon also came through.

Hot and cold Vietnamese desserts are available, and beverages run the gamut from tea and Vietnamese coffees, to soft drinks, smoothies, bubble tea and beer. Prices are very friendly, with only two dishes passing the \$15 mark. All but one of the banh mi are priced at \$10. Service is friendly, but allow time for your dishes to be prepared from scratch. And take note — Nguyen said that most days, the tables fill up at lunch. Rice and Roots is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

■ Dad logic

And now, a reading from the Book of Dad, Chapter 2: “If you don’t have time to do it right, how will you find time to do it over?” “If you live under my roof, you follow my rules,” and of course, “Come in or go out, but shut the door. I’m not heating all of Carmel-by-the-Sea.”

Monterey’s Old Fisherman’s Wharf will celebrate all things paternal on Sunday, June 15, with festive decorations, photo opportunities, and a way to share your father’s words of wisdom or favorite dad jokes for fun and the opportunity to win a prize — not to mention the right to tell neighbors it’s “a major award.”

Enter by emailing [info@monterey-wharf.com](mailto:info@monterey-wharf.com) with a description of your

father’s favorite saying, up to 200 words. Entries are limited to one per person and must be submitted by midnight June 15. Winners selected at random will receive gift certificates valued at \$100, \$50, or \$25, redeemable at any Old Fisherman’s Wharf business.

Additional contest information is available on the Father’s Day event page at [MontereyWharf.com](http://MontereyWharf.com).

Restaurants and retailers will offer Father’s Day lunch and dinner specials, as well as special sale items. Three candy shops are ready to satisfy your pop’s sweet tooth. And you don’t have to walk uphill both ways in cardboard-box shoes to get there.

Gift certificates for activities including whale watching, fishing, sailing, and glass-bottom boat tours will also be available for purchase from Wharf businesses. If you get chilly, don’t complain. Just put on a sweater.

*Elaine Hesser and Mary Schley contributed to this column.*



Colorful cocktails with interesting garnishes will surprise and delight guests as local bartenders compete in Cella restaurant’s Coastal Cocktail Clash, which begins June 23.

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## GAVEL

From page 4A

Before officers could take him into custody, Monterey County sheriff’s deputies were summoned to Doe’s residence. Doe reported another series of contacts with Betancourt where he battered and strangled her. Doe had visible injuries from no fewer than three separate incidents which occurred within days of her call to 911. Betancourt was located and arrested on fresh charges, as well as the warrants.

The domestic violence cases were diligently investigated by Salinas police officers and sheriff’s deputies. The case involving obscene matter was thoroughly investigated by Salinas police detective Scott Sutton. Doe was assisted by district attorney victim witness program manager Alma Sanchez and district attorney investigator Alicia Cox.

**April 15** — Travis Harris, 40, a resident of Scotts Valley, was convicted by a jury of 8 counts of lewd acts on a child age 14 or 15, in violation of penal code section 288(c), 6 counts of lewd act on a child under 14, in violation of penal code section 288(a), 1 count of oral copulation of a child 10 or under, in violation of penal code section 288.7(b), 1 count of contacting a minor for purposes of committing a sex offense, in violation of penal code section 288.3(a), 2 counts of sending harmful material to a minor, in violation of penal code section 288.2, 2 counts of unlawful sexual intercourse, in violation of penal code section 261.5(c), 1 count of using a minor for sex acts, in violation of penal code section 311.4(c), and 2 counts of providing cannabis to a minor over 14, in violation of health and safety code section 11361(b).

Judge Pamela Butler presided over the trial.

The defendant met Jane Doe 1 online, on the chat board “Reddit,” in September 2022. At the time, he was 38 years old, and she was 15 years old. After talking online for approximately a week, they met in person and engaged in sexual intercourse. The defendant was aware that she was only 15. They met in person many times, at various locations, over the next few months, engaging in various sex acts.

He also sent her lingerie, sex toys and adult clothing through amazon.com. He also sent her nude photographs of himself and took photos and video of the two of them engaged in sexual intercourse. The defendant asked Doe 1 to recruit other young friends of hers to have sex with him and spoke to her about his sexual fantasies.

He also told Doe 1 about a 9-year-old girl who previously lived in his household and described being naked with that child and seemed sexually excited by it. After seeing a news story about the defendant’s arrest, that child, Jane Doe 2, now a young adult, came forward to police and disclosed that the defendant had molested her when she was 9 years old. The defendant faces a maximum sentence of 51 years, four months to life. He will be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

This case was investigated by Greenfield police officers Jesus Rangel, Armando Lerma and Joseph Dyels, homeland security investigator David Mendelsohn, and Monterey County District Attorney investigator Rachel Maldonado. The victims and their mothers were supported by victim advocate Mayra Sandoval. Court facility support dog Armani and victim advocate Kristen Peterson provided Doe 1 and Doe 2 with invaluable support during their trial testimony.

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# MUSIC

From page 47A

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

**De Tierra Vineyards** — singer and guitarist **Ted Welty** (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 Rogue Roosters** (rock and blues, Friday at 7:30 p.m.), **Lighthouse** (rock, country 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 **Michael Culver** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kip Allert** (Saturday at noon), singer and pianist **TJ Kuenster** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Reija Massey** (pop, rock and country, Sunday at noon), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (Tuesday at 5 p.m.), guitarist **Richard DeVinck** (classical, Wednesday at 5 p.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

**Edgar’s Restaurant** — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Alison Sharino** (Friday at 5 p.m.). 8205 Valley Greens Drive.

**Folktales Winery** — **The Great American Train Wreck** (bluegrass, rock and country, Friday at 4 p.m.), **Magenta Spreen** (folk, Saturday at 2 p.m.), **Monterey Jazz Regional All-Star Combos** (Sunday at 11 a.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

**Trailside Cafe** — **Boscoe’s Brood** (rock and folk, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

See LIVE next page



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**Leon Joyce Jr.**



LIVE

From previous page

**Twisted Roots Winery** — guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Sunday at 1 p.m.). 12 Del Fino Place.

■ Monterey

**Albatross Ridge Winery** — singer and guitarist **Kris Angelis** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

**Bon Ton LeRoy’s Smokehouse** — **Open Mic Night** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 794 Lighthouse Ave.

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

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

**Hyatt Regency Monterey** — **Andrea’s Fault** (jazz and pop, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.

**InterContinental Hotel** — guitarist **Richard Devinck** (classical, Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Saturday at 9 a.m.), singer and pianist **TJ Kuenster** (Saturday at 7 p.m.), guitarist **Terrence Farrell** (Latin

music, Sunday at 9 a.m.). 750 Cannery Row.  
**Melville Tavern** — **Wild at Heart** (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.). 484 Washington St.  
**Midici Pizza** — **The Stu Reynolds Saxtet** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.  
**Monterey Plaza Hotel** — pianist **Steve Mann** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Daniel Cortes** (American roots and traditional Mexican music, Monday and Wednesday at 6 p.m.), mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Tuesday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.  
**Pearl Hour** — **The Zach Westfall Group** (jazz, Sunday at 8 p.m.), **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz, Wednesday at 8 p.m.). 214 Lighthouse Ave.  
**Portola Hotel** — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Rory Lynch** (Friday at 6 p.m.). On Jack’s Terrace, 2 Portola Plaza.  
**Salty Seal Pub** — **The John Michael Band** (pop and rock, Friday at 8 p.m.), **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Saturday at 8 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** — **Samba Da** (rock, soul, funk and samba, Friday at 9 p.m.), **Mad About You** (dance music from the ’80s & ’90s, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

■ Pacific Grove

**Il Vecchio Restaurant** — **The Cena Jazz Trio** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 110 Central Ave.  
**Lucy’s on Lighthouse** — **Kindred Soul** (classic rock and blues, Saturday at 2 p.m.), **The Wharf Rats** (rock, Sunday at 2 p.m.). 1120 Lighthouse Ave.  
**Julia’s Vegetarian Restaurant** — singer and guitarist **Rags Rosenberg** (Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Smith** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea’s Fault Duo**



Playing Friday at the Golden State is Rising Appalachia, an Atlanta-based group that puts a contemporary twist on traditional folk.

(“folky stuff mixed with surprises,” Monday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Holysea** (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave.

**PG’s Meetinghouse** — singer and guitarist **Scott Soifer**, bassist **Anthony Bianchini** and drummer **Patrick Tregenza** (rock and punk, Friday at 6:30 p.m.), **The Bill Spencer Organ Trio** (jazz, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), singer **Janice Perl** and pianist **Jon Dryden** (jazz, Sunday at 11 a.m.), **Open Mic** (Tuesday at 6 p.m., sign up by 5 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.

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

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CALENDAR

**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](http://smuinballet.org) or call (415) 912-1899.

**June 7 & 8 – Chamber orchestra Espresso presents “Romantique.”** Under the baton of **Daniel Henriks** and featuring soprano **Emily Sinclair**, they’ll perform a richly textured program of French Romantic works by Berlioz, Bizet, and Honegger. Concerts begin at 7 p.m. June 7 at the First Presbyterian Church, Monterey; and 7 p.m. June 8 at Peace United Church, Santa Cruz. Tickets: [espressoorch.org](http://espressoorch.org)

**June 11 – Ordering deadline for Father’s Day pies from Baum & Blume.** Choices: French apple, Key lime, German chocolate. Pick up June 14. Plus: shop for cards and gifts in our boutique! Open 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon-Sat. Lunch served noon-3 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito, Carmel Valley (831) 659-0400.

**June 13-14 – NEW DATES for I Cantori di Carmel,** presenting its powerful season finale, **“Songs of Destiny.”** Hear the chorus and orchestra perform works by **Brahms, Vaughan Williams, Debussy** and **Ravel**. General admission is \$33 to \$75. \$20 tickets available for students, active military and anyone under 30. Times are 7:30 p.m. June 13 at Sunset Center, Carmel; 7:30 p.m. June 14 at the USC Recital Hall, Santa Cruz. For tickets, visit [www.icantori.org](http://www.icantori.org). Info at (831) 644-8012.

**June 14 – Carmel Valley Lodge’s Vintage in the Valley Expo** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vintage clothing, jewelry, handbags, home décor and more! Admission is free, 8 Ford Road at Carmel Valley Road in Carmel Valley Village. See you all there!

**June 14 – Pacific Grove Garden Tour** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Hosted by the **Historic Garden League**. Join us for the day and explore multiple unique gardens in Pacific Grove. Stroll, admire and be inspired. Tickets are available at Eventbrite and on-site day of tour.For more information: [www.historicgardenleague.org](http://www.historicgardenleague.org)



# Searching for light, husband-wife photography duo finds it in Italy

IN A show opening Saturday at the Center for Photographic Art, Anne Larsen and John Sexton offer a fresh perspective

## Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

on one of the world’s most fascinating places — Venice, Italy. Titled “Embracing Light,” the show will be on display through July 27.

The couple has made photographic ventures to the City of Water.

“Included in this exhibition will be a body of work they undertook over multiple photographic journeys exploring Venice,” executive director Ann Jastrab said. “The exhibit will also include stunning images of the natural environment, as well as human-made subjects.”

Both photographers display mastery in their use of light. “Though their palettes

are different, Anne’s and John’s prints share a beauty and luminosity,” Jastrab explained. “They have been sharing a life together — along with their passion for photography — and exploring the land with large- and medium-format film cameras for more than 30 years. Their mutual devotion to the beauty of the handcrafted silver gelatin print, created in the traditional darkroom, lies at the heart of their artistic expression.”

Larsen and Sexton present a free talk Saturday at 3 p.m. in Sunset Center’s Carpenter Hall, with a public reception to follow in the gallery, which is just steps away. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. photography.org.

### ■ Art raffle benefits Rotary

The Carmel Sunset Rotary Club is presenting an art raffle with chances to win a polished bronze sculpture by Tom Bennett, painter and gallery owner Jennifer Perlmutter told The Pine Cone. Valued at \$11,000, the 26-pound piece was donated by an anonymous collector.

The Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery will host the drawing Tuesday at 6 p.m. The gallery is located on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth.

Proceeds benefit Carmel Sunset Rotary’s community initiatives, including the annual AIM Art Contest and other service projects. For raffle tickets, call Tammy Jones at (831) 601-0411.

### ■ New art, good cause

Painter Edi Matsumoto shares her latest creations Tuesday at Café

Carmel. The restaurant will be the site of a public reception at 5 p.m.

Wine from De Tierra Vineyards will be sold at the gathering as a fundraiser for Peace of Mind Dog Rescue, which finds

homes for older dogs and those with special needs.

The show will be on display throughout the summer. The cafe is on Ocean between Mission and San Carlos.



This John Sexton image of the main square of Venice during a period of high water — or “acqua alta” — will be part of an exhibit at the Center for Photographic Art.



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Continues on next page

**Police Log: Carmel-by-the-Sea, July 11, 13**

**O**wner of a residence on Monte Verde reported a tenant left the water running on purpose, before moving out.

There is a water bill for \$3,659.24.

**L**ost keys and missing doorknob reported on Monte Verde.

Reach the people who need your service for as little as \$20 per week.  
Put The Carmel Pine Cone to work for you!  
DEADLINE: MONDAY 1 P.M.  
**Email [service@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:service@carmelpinecone.com)**



# SERVICE DIRECTORY

Continues from previous page

## HOUSE CLEANING

### GRACE'S CLEANING SERVICES

Excellent References  
25 Years Experience • Residential-Commercial  
Move In/Move Out • Organization  
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**831-241-4692**

### MARTHA HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES

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Homes/Offices. Move in move out.

**Call 831 402-2220**

### Lexy's Cleaning Services

HOME OR OFFICE CLEANING:  
One-time • Weekly • Bi-weekly  
Monthly cleaning services  
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### Lily's House Cleaning

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20 Years Experience.  
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### MARCOS' HOUSE CLEANING SERVICE

Residential/Commercial/Move-outs  
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• House washing • Window cleaning  
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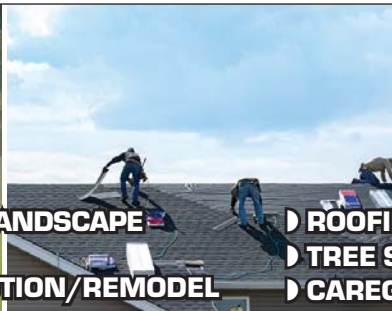
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2025/26



MARQUEE

SAT, SEPT 13, 2025 7:30PM

**AN EVENING WITH FRANKIE AVALON**

From Teen Idol to Icon, Frankie Avalon is Still Going Strong

Tickets: \$65 / \$85 / \$115



MARQUEE

SAT, SEPT 20, 2025 7:30PM

**W. KAMAU BELL: ARE YOU WITH ME?**

The Stand-up Comedy Show That Might Accidentally Teach You Something

Tickets: \$45 / \$60 / \$75



MARQUEE

SUN, OCT 5, 2025 3:00PM

**THE BRANFORD MARSALIS QUARTET**

Instrumentalist, Composer, Bandleader, and Three-Time GRAMMY Award Winner

Tickets: \$55 / \$70 / \$85



MUSICAL MASTERS

SAT, OCT 11, 2025 7:30PM

**REELIN' IN THE YEARS: CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF STEELY DAN**

Hear Steely Dan's Best, Played by the Best

Tickets: \$40 / \$50 / \$65



BROADWAY & BEYOND

FRI, OCT 24, 2025 7:30PM

**GRIFFIN THEATRE COMPANY: IN TO AMERICA**

True Stories. Shared Struggles. An Inspiring Look at America's Immigrant Roots

Tickets: \$35 / \$45 / \$55

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

SUN, NOV 2, 2025 3:00PM

**LAS CAFETERAS: HASTA LA MUERTE**

A Celebration of Life, Death, and the Dances In Between

Tickets: \$45 / \$65 / \$79



FUN FOR ALL

FRI, JAN 23, 2026 7:30PM

**LEGENDS: A TRIBUTE TO TAYLOR SWIFT MUSIC FEATURING CHRISTINA SHAW**

The Songs You Know by Heart, A Night You'll Never Forget

Tickets: \$25 / \$45 / \$75



CULTURAL AFFAIRS

THURS, JAN 29, 2026 7:30PM

**TANGO AFTER DARK**

The Language of Love, Spoken One Step at a Time

Tickets: \$50 / \$65 / \$80



MUSICAL MASTERS

FRI, FEB 6, 2026 7:30PM

**JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER LIVE: GREAT AMERICAN CROONERS**

Celebrate the Golden Age of Music with Songs by Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, and More

Tickets: \$40 / \$55 / \$65 / \$79



MUSICAL MASTERS

SUN, FEB 15, 2026 3:00PM

**VITAMIN STRING QUARTET: THE MUSIC OF BILLIE EILISH, BRIDGERTON & BEYOND**

Your Favorite Love Songs — Strings Attached

Tickets: \$45 / \$60 / \$75



MUSICAL MASTERS

WED, FEB 18, 2026 7:30PM

**THE DOO WOP PROJECT**

Not Your Grandpa's Doo Wop (But He'll Love It, Too)

Tickets: \$45 / \$60 / \$75



BROADWAY & BEYOND

THURS, MAR 5, 2026 7:30PM

**ALL THINGS EQUAL: THE LIFE & TRIALS OF RUTH BADER GINSBURG**

In This One-Woman Show, RBG Is "Notorious" and Victorious

Tickets: \$25 / \$35 / \$45 / \$60



FUN FOR ALL

THURS, MAR 26, 2026 7:30PM

**CIRQUE MECHANICS: TILT!**

Feel like You're Backstage at the Big Top with the Wibbly Wobbly World of Tilt!

Tickets: \$45 / \$55 / \$65



BROADWAY & BEYOND

FRI, MAR 27, 2026 7:30PM

**MATTHEW MORRISON RHYTHMS & REVELATIONS**

More Than a Musical Revue — It's a Revelation

Tickets: \$45 / \$60 / \$75



FUN FOR ALL

FRI, APRIL 10, 2026 7:30PM

**WIZARD OF OZ ON ICE**

See the Timeless Tale Reimagined with Lions, Tigers, and Toe Loops—Oh My!

Tickets: \$49 / \$65 / \$79



FUN FOR ALL

SUN, APR 26, 2026 3:00PM

**LIFE ON OUR PLANET, LIVE WITH DAN TAPSTER: PRESENTED BY THE NETFLIX SERIES - OUR PLANET LIVE**

This Is the Story of Earth's Greatest Hits... And a Few Close Calls

Tickets: \$25 / \$35 / \$45 / \$60



MUSICAL MASTERS

FRI, MAY 8, 2026 7:30PM

**AN EVENING WITH MESHELL NDEGOCELLO**

This Genre-Defying, Three-Time GRAMMY Award-Winning Bassist Doesn't Miss a Beat

Tickets: \$45 / \$60 / \$75



CULTURAL AFFAIRS

FRI, MAY 22, 2026 7:30PM

**MYSTICAL ARTS OF TIBET: SACRED MUSIC, SACRED CHANTS**

Drepung Loseling Monks Perform Ancient Music for World Healing

Tickets: \$45 / \$60 / \$75

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