

## Monterey businessman in Israel as rockets rain

By CAITLIN CONRAD

A PROMINENT Monterey businessman found himself stranded in Israel last week when the war with Iran shut down all commercial air travel in and out of the



PHOTO/COURTESY DAVID ARMANASCO

David Armanasco with a Bedouin guide in Jordan after evacuating from Jerusalem. Armanasco was part of a tour group that had to repeatedly shelter from Iranian rocket attacks.

country.

David Armanasco, owner of Armanasco Public Relations, was traveling with a tour group outside of Jerusalem on Friday, June 13, when Israel launched its blistering attacks on Iran, which responded with hundreds of missiles. He'd hear his first rocket interception just hours later.

Armanasco's group had returned from sightseeing to their hotel in central Jerusalem when air raid sirens sounded just before midnight, prompting them to move to the underground bomb shelter.

"I got to the second floor and I heard this 'kaboom,' and it was a rocket that blew up somewhere, not that far away," said Armanasco.

### Intercepting

Fortunately, the explosion he heard was Israel's Iron Dome intercepting a missile before it landed. The intricate defense system is not perfect — Iranian strikes that have found their targets have killed at least 24 people and wounded hundreds of others in Israel. When Armanasco first heard the sirens, he thought it was a drill, but at the sound of the first blast, he knew it was no rehearsal.

"That put a whole new feeling in my mind and my body," said Armanasco.

The hotel's bunker two floors below ground level provided shelter not only for the hotel's guests, but for neighbors in nearby apartments. The tour group found itself sharing the space with everyday Israelis and their pets. Locals told the visitors to download the Red Alert app that night. The smartphone application provides real-time alerts when rockets, mortars or missiles are fired into Israel.

"That night, that app and sirens went off a couple more times, and you get in bed and start falling asleep, about an hour-and-a-half later, all of a sudden, your phone is buzzing, you're hearing sirens, you get up and go downstairs

See **ARMANASCO** page 164

## Foundation damage at Haseltine Court to be fixed

### Who pays still in dispute

By MARY SCHLEY

MORE THAN six years after it was damaged, work to repair the foundation of an apartment complex at Fifth and Lincoln is about to get underway.

One apartment at the complex has been uninhabitable ever since a contractor working on a subsequently abandoned project at Dolores and Fifth dug underneath — causing damage that left the unit unsafe to inhabit and forced its tenant out. But an ongoing battle with an insurance company has stuck the complex's owner, The Carmel Foundation, with the bill, at least for now, according to executive director Kim Stemler.

### Major excavation

"The Carmel Foundation is about to start shoring up our Haseltine Court property that was damaged and red-tagged in the Pit excavation," she said this week.

The 16,000-square-foot area behind the complex



PHOTO/COURTESY KIM STEMLER

Excavation underneath the Haseltine Court complex in 2019 led to 6-inch cracks and made one of its apartments uninhabitable.

came to be known as The Pit after its former owner, Leidig Draper Properties, undertook major excavation and started building a parking garage as part of a large mixed-use project but then ran out of money. Work stopped there in March 2019, and later that year, foundation representatives, as well as those at the Carmel Art Association to the south, reported the extensive digging had damaged their properties.

While the Lincoln Street complex, which houses low-income seniors, suffered cracking and settling, the art association reported cracks in some of its gallery floors

See **DAMAGE** page 214

## C.V.roundabout construction set to commence

### \$3.8M project will take nine months

By CHRIS COUNTS

MOTORISTS CAN expect delays over the next nine months due to the construction of a roundabout at Carmel Valley Road and Laureles Grade which is set to start Monday.

The project is expected to cost taxpayers about \$3.8 million. Construction will be limited to weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

"Motorists will see traffic control measures," the county announced this week. "But because the project will be done in phases, two-way traffic will be allowed at all times."

On its website, the county announced it will "make every effort" to keep people informed about the traffic impacts. Regular updates will be posted on Facebook and X.

### What needs to be done?

"The project includes widening Laureles Grade and Carmel Valley Road at the east and northwest corners of the existing intersection," the county reported. "However, it will not add lanes or increase the intersection's capacity. Medians will also be constructed on Carmel Valley Road to the northwest and southeast of the proposed roundabout, as well as on Laureles Grade to the northeast."

## Council OKs fire map but is unsure what it will mean

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL City Council earlier this month approved an ordinance adopting the California Fire Marshal's map of the town's fire hazard severity zones — as it was basically obligated to do — but what it means for homeowners and how the numerous requirements it triggers will be implemented remain unclear as a committee works to figure it out.

Based on data compiled by Cal Fire, the new map designates 278 acres within Carmel city limits as "very high fire hazard severity zone," 110 acres as "high," and 100 acres as "moderate," while the rest of the city, mostly at the south end and including part of Mission Trail park, is not considered to have an elevated level of fire danger. The map replaces the one adopted in 2011.

When the council got its first look at the map in May and pondered its impacts, it decided to form a committee to research the issue. The group consists of city administrator Chip Rerig, councilman Hans Buder, Mayor Dale Byrne, planning director Anna Ginette, new public works director Ken Wysocki, Monterey Fire Chief Andrew Miller and Carmel Police Cmdr. Todd Trayer.

"We're in the homework stage and gathering information," Rerig said, including touring heavily wooded Pescadero Canyon and Mission Trail park, where volunteers and city crews have been removing unwanted vegetation.

### Rules, rules

Planning director Anna Ginette said at the start of her June 3 presentation that she'd received several questions about the new hazard zones and the rules they could trigger.

State law requires anyone who "owns, leases, controls, operates or maintains an occupied dwelling or occupied structure in, upon, or adjoining a mountainous area, forest-covered land, shrub-covered land, grass-covered land, or land that is covered with flammable material" and is designated as a very high fire hazard severity zone to create defensible space.

Homes in that zone and in the wildland-urban interface

See **FIRE MAP** page 30A

## Wildfire prevention in a city where trees are sacred



RENDERING/TAMC

An artist's rendering showing what the roundabout at Laureles Grade and Carmel Valley Road will look like when it's done early next year.



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# Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

## No place like home

Bobby is a little Chihuahua-terrier who was found cowering on the side of the road. He wasn't young and he's still not old, but his eyes say he's seen a lot.

He's currently residing in a whole other universe than where he was found, in the Pebble Beach home where his foster person lives. He's not far from Huckleberry Hill, one of his favorite places where, for the past year, he and his person take their daily walk.

"Bobby is my 24th foster dog," his person said. "I had three dogs of my own and eventually had to put each down. I couldn't handle such heartbreak any more, so I decided to foster. I know when they leave me, it's off to a better home."

She's sheltered some foster dogs for two days, while others, like Bobby, she's housed for a year.

"I was fostering Marvin, a scruffy little guy who went off to his forever home right when I was asked if I'd consider taking Bobby, who needed to be in a loving home. They all do. So this is how it goes."

When not wandering Huckleberry Hill, Bobby and his foster person stroll the strand along Scenic Road, over-



looking Carmel Beach, where Bobby now wanders with curiosity and confidence.

"He's come out of his shell with me," his foster mom said. "It's just him and me, so he can feel safe. At night, he sleeps on the empty side of the king-sized bed where my late husband slept, so we both rest easy in the comfort."

Whenever another foster person has to travel, Bobby's person takes in their dog for the duration. Bobby isn't happy about it, she says, but he's learned to play nicely. Bobby remains available for his forever family.



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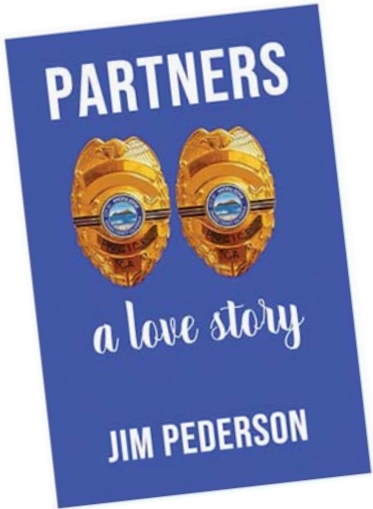


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# Commission opens door to metal roofs

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER YEARS of sometimes approving metal roofs and other times denying them — an inconsistency that has frustrated property owners — the planning commission last week took steps to expand the list of roofing materials that can be approved without public hearings.

According to the city’s longstanding residential design guidelines, “metal, plas-



PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

The planning commission has approved numerous metal roofs in town, even as it denied others. An effort is underway to get rid of the subjectivity.

tic and glass roofs are inappropriate in all neighborhoods,” but in recent years, more people have been requesting metal and other types of roofs due to wildfire risks and concerns about losing insurance coverage, associate planner Jake Olander told commissioners June 11.

“Applicants have proposed PVC roofs, green roofs, metal roofs, synthetic faux wood and slate, and comp shingle roofs as alternate materials to the traditional wood shake roof,” he said.

Under those circumstances, the planning

commission was tasked with deciding, because such materials are not among the options planning staff can approve over the counter. The commission has OK’d some metal roofs and denied others — even approving metal for one wood-sided home and then denying it for a similar house on the same block — and has also allowed composite shingles.

For many years, only natural roofs, mostly wood shakes and shingles, were OK, along with clay barrel, slate, concrete and ceramic tiles. Nine years ago, a subcommittee added synthetic materials that “mimic the texture, thickness and color of natural roofing materials” to the list.

While the planning commission has allowed several metal roofs, some residents have repeatedly objected. “These residents have stated that the metal roofs are inappropriate for all neighborhoods and believe that they are eroding the village character of Carmel-by-the-Sea,” Olander said. “These residents have also expressed their distaste with the abundance of high-contrast color schemes.”

### Third meeting

In response to requests from commissioners during two roofing discussions earlier this year, Olander provided information he obtained from a local insurance broker and brought several samples of metal and

See **METAL** page 19A



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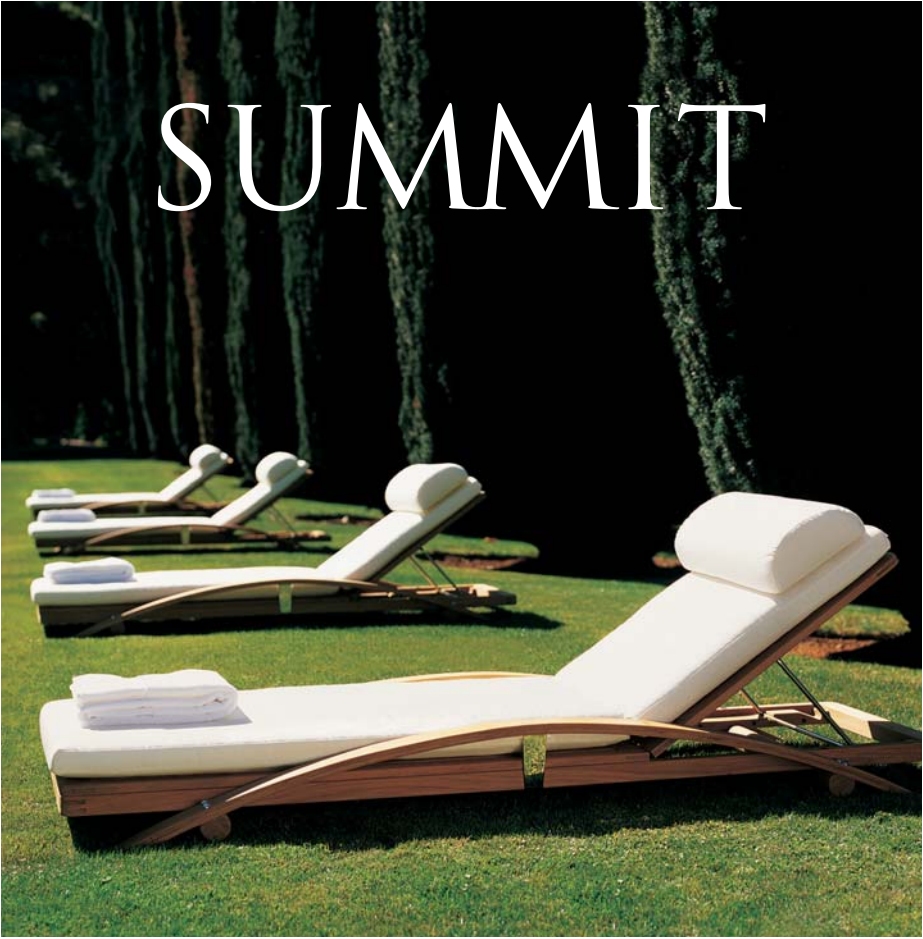
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# Police & Sheriff’s Log

## Toto, there’s no place like home

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

**FRIDAY, MAY 30**

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Cyber and identity fraud reported at Lopez and Second. A male victim received a scam phone call alerting him to alleged suspicious activity on his bank account. The caller instructed him to call another number or transferred him to a “supervisor,” which ultimately allowed the perpetrators to gain access to his bank account and misappropriate funds.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Lost wallet reported at Fifth and Dolores.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Found wallet at San Carlos and Eighth returned to owner.

**Pacific Grove:** Adult Protective Services report of fraud on Gate Street.

**Pacific Grove:** Non-injury vehicle collision at Central and 15th. No suspect.

**Carmel Valley:** A driver on West Carmel Valley Road was arrested for DUI.

**Carmel area:** Deputies responded to a report of two individuals, a 41-year-old male and a 36-year-old female, exiting a Carmel Rancho Boulevard business without paying.

**SATURDAY, MAY 31**

**Pacific Grove:** A 30-year-old female was cited and released for an outstanding warrant for disobeying a court order and failing to appear in court.

**Pacific Grove:** A 29-year-old male at 19th and Sinex was intoxicated and unable to care for himself. Cited and released to a responsible adult.

**Pacific Grove:** Dog at large on Pacific Grove Lane.

*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 24** — Salinas Valley State Prison inmate Jaime Demicio Romero, 32, was sentenced to a term of 45 years to life in prison after being convicted of second-degree murder. Romero was also convicted of personally using a deadly or dangerous weapon to commit the crime. Judge Stephanie Hulsey, who presided over this trial, found that Romero had previously been convicted of three strikes under California’s three strikes law.

On the morning of Jan. 12, 2018, correctional officers observed blood smeared on the window and leaking out beneath the door of the cell of the victim in this case, 19-year-old Jose Alcantar Ortega.

When correctional officers reached the cell, they observed Alcantar-Ortega lying motionless on the floor in a pool of blood, and inmates Cortez and Romero standing in

the back of his locked cell. Two inmate-manufactured weapons were discovered flushed down the cell’s toilet. While Ortega had over 70 stab wounds to his body, most of them to his back, head and neck area, inmates Cortez and Romero did not have any injuries and their hands and clothes were covered in the victim’s blood.

Ortega was still alive when correctional officers removed him from his cell and life-saving measures were taken by prison medical staff, paramedics and medical staff at Natividad Medical Center. However, three days later, Ortega succumbed to his injuries.

This case was investigated by the investigative services unit of Salinas Valley State Prison as well as Monterey County District

*See **GAVEL** page 47A*

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# Boat flips at Lake San Antonio

By CHRIS COUNTS

A BOAT accident at Lake San Antonio shortly after noon last Friday left a man dead and a teen injured, according to the Monterey County Parks Department.

According to the county, the boat was traveling between 30 and 60 mph when it attempted a turn, hit a wake, and flipped over several times. Drone footage captured by an onlooker shows park rangers and other emergency personnel rushing to the scene. While a minor on board suffered minor injuries, John Alexander of North Hills — a community in the San Fernando Valley — died due to “severe trauma.” He was 62.

The vessel was described by Monterey County parks chief Bryan Flores as a “high-speed race boat.”

On social media, several people who were there described the scene and noted that many others witnessed the accident

from the shore. Several commented on the high rate of speed many boats were traveling, while another suggested the lake can be dangerous on a rough day. The county’s web page for Lake San Antonio doesn’t list a speed limit for boats.

A woman who knew Alexander expressed her sadness.

“He was my friend,” she posted on Facebook. “I am heartbroken. He loved life. He was a good man and a good friend.”

### Be careful

Supervisor Chris Lopez urged boaters to be careful when visiting the lake. “We mourn the loss of life, and remind people to prioritize safety on the water,” Lopez said.

The incident is under investigation, according to the county.

There was no mention in the report about drugs or alcohol being involved in the accident.

# Employees lauded for saving life

By MARY SCHLEY

TWO MAINTENANCE workers were honored by the Carmel City Council last month for helping save a woman’s life.

Rene Aldama and Miguel Manzano were walking into the public works facility, which is located on Junipero and backs onto Torres, on March 24. They noticed a woman who “had exited her car and appeared to be experiencing a medical emergency,” then-acting public works director Mary Bilse told The Pine Cone. She did not disclose the type of emergency, but it appeared to be serious.

“They immediately approached her to see if she needed assistance,” Bilse said, and the woman, a Carmel resident, asked them to call 911. The men did so and stayed with her until medics arrived.

Bilse said the resident “expressed deep gratitude, noting that both public works employees remained calm, brave and professional throughout the incident,” and that she felt reassured and well cared for.

### ‘Extraordinary courage’

As a result, the city council on May 6 issued a proclamation honoring the pair for demonstrating “extraordinary courage and swift action in the face of a life-threatening emergency,” and stating that their quick thinking and response “played a critical role in rescuing a resident experiencing a serious medical emergency, preventing what could have been a tragic loss of life.”

The proclamation read at the council meeting also notes that their “heroic efforts

See **HONORED** page 23A

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# Sign the Referendum Petition

## A Commentary On Pacific Grove's Referendum

O Pacific Grove, jewel of the Monterey Peninsula—your winds carry not only the scent of cypress and sea, but now, too, the breath of something stirring: the people awakening. A slumbering electorate now rouses to find five among their chosen, five stewards of the civic trust, have cloaked themselves in entitlement and declared themselves deserving of more—*much* more—at the people’s expense.

A 130% raise? In a time of fiscal hardship? Not with consent. Not with conscience. Not without cost.

What these council members forget—or perhaps never knew—is that power is not inherited from a dais or bestowed by parliamentary trickery. It is loaned by the people. Every dollar spent from the public treasury is a note co-signed by those who rise early, earn honestly, and entrust their labor to the service of the whole. These citizens did not labor to furnish self-dealing. They toiled for parks and schools, for safe streets and quiet dignity—not to gild the chairs of those who meet fewer times each year and ask more for the privilege.

And yet, amid this quiet betrayal, a voice has risen. A group has formed. A spark now leaps from citizen to citizen. It is called Transparent PG. It is called hope. It is called memory—the memory that we are still a republic, that Pacific Grove is no fiefdom, and that the first words of our compact still ring true: *We the people*.

They have invoked the referendum—not as a weapon, but as a mirror. They ask only that the question be carried *back* to those from whom all legitimacy flows. In this act, there is no vengeance, no bitterness—only a return. A return to civic first principles. A return to shared decision. A return to the majesty of the people's voice.

A referendum is not obstruction. It is not chaos. It is clarity. It is the most American act of all—*peaceful correction*. And if our leaders have grown too insulated to hear our voice, then let them hear our signatures.

Let 1,200 become 12,000 in spirit. Let sidewalks become petition stations. Let coffee shops become council chambers. Let us not shrink before the machinery of power but remind it who built the engine.

We do not rise in anger. We rise in resolve. We do not burn. We build. We sign not with rage, but with righteousness. And in doing so, we lead.

Let this be the moment when Pacific Grove did not falter in the face of arrogance. Let it be remembered that when trust was breached, the people stood up—not to be governed, but to govern.

History will not remember the pay raise. It will remember the consent of the people.

– *Bill Lipe*



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# Hit-and-run apparent result of road rage

By MARY SCHLEY

A PRIUS driver repeatedly rammed the side of a white van on northbound Highway 1 near Valley Way Monday afternoon before fleeing the scene, according to a witness who speculated the crash was the result of road rage.

The California Highway Patrol described the collision as a hit-and-run and is asking for help tracking down the driver who fled.

“Preliminary investigation indicates a green Toyota Prius was involved in a crash with a white Chrysler van,” CHP public information officer Saul Perez said. “The van was driven by a 34-year-old resident of Florida and occupied by a 49-year-old passenger, also from Florida. Following the crash, the driver of the Prius fled the scene.”

Perez said the driver of the van sustained “suspected injuries” and that the vehicle “came to rest on its wheels, facing in a southerly direction, on top of the asphalt curb” on the east side of the highway.

“At this time, the identity of the driver of the Toyota Prius remains unknown,” he said. “It is currently unknown if alcohol or drugs were a contributing factor in the crash.”

A passing motorist, however, posted about the wreck online. “Did anyone witness a road rage incident at about 1:45 p.m. today, June 16, just before Carpenter

on Highway 1 northbound between a Prius and a white van?” a poster asked on NextDoor. “Prius started ramming into white van repeatedly. Hope everyone is OK.”

She went on to elaborate on what she saw as she drove past.

“I should add that the Prius was ramming into the side of the van, not the bumper. As if they were trying to push the van off the road or into incoming traffic,” she said. “Lots of damage to van. Van spun around and was facing south. Didn’t see the damage to the Prius because they sped off.”

### Can’t confirm

Others responded that they’d driven on that section of highway shortly after the collision, by which time the Prius was gone and CHP officers were on scene.

Perez told The Pine Cone he could not corroborate the woman’s story, because “any statements provided are part of the investigation.”

The CHP is asking the public to help identify the Prius driver. “If you were in the area at the time of the crash or have any information that may help in identifying the suspect, please contact the CHP Monterey Area Office,” Perez said. “Assistance is available 24 hours a day at (831) 796-2160, or during business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at (831) 770-8000.”

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# Park gets wildlife drinking fountain

By CHRIS COUNTS

WHILE PEOPLE are often reminded not to feed wildlife, it’s apparently OK to offer them a drink — which has been made easier at Toro Park along Highway 68 by the installation of what is known as a “water guzzler” to collect rain during the winter and make it available in the summer.

For much of the past year, county staff worked with the Monterey County Fish & Game Advisory Commission to install the equipment, which, according to the county, “will benefit all species of wildlife over the long dry season by providing much-needed drinking water.”

The longtime chair of the commission, Kevin Kreyenhagen, came up with the idea of installing the watering device somewhere in the county to gauge its benefits. “A number of guzzlers were installed on commissioner Kreyenhagen’s family ranch in Fresno County, and he saw first-hand how wildlife benefited from the water when drought and prolonged periods of heat occurred,” the county said.

The use of such facilities dates to at least the 1950s.

**Old technology**

“In the 1950s, the California Conservation Corp installed rain catchment cisterns at ranches throughout the state using California Fish & Game funding,” the county noted. “The cisterns were primarily intended to provide water for birds such as quail, pheasant, wild turkey, grouse and chukar, but other small birds, mammals, and snakes, lizards and frogs also benefited.”

The county explained how the guzzler works: “Rainwater is collected on a sheet-metal roof that also acts as a shade barrier for the

water tank,” the county said. “The water is diverted through a gutter system. With the water basin at the base of the tank, all species of wildlife can access water. It only takes 6 inches of rain to fill the 1,100-gallon tank.”

**Building things**

Kreyenhagen said he’s thrilled to see the project become a reality. “It’s really great to see commissioners not only come to a meeting to conduct the public’s business, but also get out in the field and build things that truly benefit wildlife, protecting it for future generations,” he said.

County parks chief Bryan Flores hailed the arrival of the water guzzler.

See **WATER** page 22A



PHOTO/MONTEREY COUNTY PARKS

A new “water guzzler” at Toro Park will help satisfy the thirst of wildlife during summer.

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# CUSD greenlights 25-26 budget

By LILY PATTERSON

IT'S GRADUATION season and the end of the school district's fiscal year, so the Carmel Unified School District Board of Education celebrated with a two-meeting month. June opened with the unveiling of "the district's first comprehensive strategic plan in recent memory" and closed on an even bigger reveal: the 2025-2026 budget, which the education board approved Wednesday night.

The budget debuted with a public hearing on June 4, revealing that CUSD expects a combined revenue of \$88.2 million in the 2025-2026 school year, with expenses totaling \$87.4 million.

It may include bigger salaries for teachers and staff, extra support for special education, and a \$22.2 million cash reserve, but the proposed budget doesn't cover what's needed for maintenance, classroom upgrades and other facility needs, according to Yvonne Perez, the district's chief business official.

### 81.6 percent to salaries, benefits

Employee benefits alone will account for more than 25 percent of spending, between rising pension rates and ongoing negotiations with local teachers and school employees unions. Salaries and benefits are projected to cost the district nearly \$70 million next year, 81.6 percent of its budget.

Another 5 percent will go for books and supplies, with 12 percent for "services and other operating" fees.

Perez assured the board that those percentages are "pretty consistent with most school districts in California where the vast majority of funding goes directly toward the people who support student learning and district operations."

According to the numbers, CUSD will spend \$36,711 per student next year. And although "declining enrollment" was referenced a few times throughout the presentation, Perez and her team used the same 2024-2025 figure — 2,159 students across nine district schools — to develop the 2025-2026 budget.

### School board signs off on \$87.4 million spending plan

Special education is getting "a significant investment," according to Perez. Next year, the district will contribute \$8.6 million to the program, up from \$8.1 million this year. Special education services support 318 students and employ 82 staff members across the district, according to an April report.

### 'Stable and responsible'

Perez said the budget "indicates a stable and responsible financial outlook" and a "healthy fund balance" going into next year. Both budget meetings were open for public comment, but no one offered any.

Though the books aren't yet closed on 2024-2025, Perez estimated the district will enter the new financial year July 1 with a bank balance of \$20,678,013. It aims to close out next year with a reserve of \$22,260,247.

That's 25 percent going to savings. It's true that California schools are required to keep a modest reserve, about 3 percent of their general funds — but CUSD is a basic aid district, generating most of its income from local property taxes. Those extra savings are essentially an insurance policy, according to the board, in case property values decrease.

Not that CUSD is expecting any hiccups, projecting that local taxes will bring in about \$76.2 million, or 86.3 percent of next year's revenue. With the help of an estimated 5 percent increase in revenues,

See **BUDGET** page 23A

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# Coastal panel backs telecom law

By MARY SCHLEY

OVER THE objection of Verizon Wireless, the California Coastal Commission unanimously approved Carmel’s updated telecom ordinance Friday in San Diego.

Following numerous hearings and lengthy debates between the city and a citizen group advocating for strict control of wireless facilities in town, the city council ultimately approved the revised law in September 2023, following an application from Verizon in 2019 to install five cell towers in various neighborhoods. The coastal commission had the final say since the ordinance is part of the city’s state-supervised local coastal program.

The new wireless law “includes updated provisions meant to address coastal resource protection as well as to implement applicable requirements emanating from federal and state telecommunications law,” coastal planner Maura Siciensky said in her Feb. 13 report.

### Resource protection

She noted commissioners are familiar with the issues, in general, since such wireless controversies have arisen in numerous coastal areas. She observed that “Carmel is a popular visitor destination, driven not only by the city’s iconic Carmel Beach and natural shoreline area, but also by its ‘city in a forest’ aesthetic and its well-known quaint architecture.”

Her presentation included slides showing the beach and some of its more famous cottages and storefronts.

To protect those resources, the city’s ordinance requires wireless carriers to propose locations for their facilities “that will be the least intrusive to community character and values,” and it identifies the central

and service commercial districts and the “community and cultural” district as the most compatible areas for such installations, followed by parks and theaters. All the residential districts are in the “least compatible” category.

It also calls for locating towers and equipment on public and private property rather than in the public right of way — especially any that are “highly incompatible,” such as streets in single-family-residential neighborhoods, near historic resources, and along Scenic Road.

The ordinance describes numerous design standards for wireless equipment, including height limits and other dimensions, shrouding and “stealth” concealment, noise, fire risk mitigation, finishes, lights, trees and landscaping, and security measures.

“In doing so, the provisions provide clear guidance for wireless communications facility siting and design that should serve to protect the resources and views for which Carmel is so famous,” Siciensky said, while acknowledging federal telecommunications law, which “prohibits an action from being taken if it would ‘effectively prohibit’ wireless coverage.”


She recommended the commission approve the amendment as presented, and several residents sent letters in agreement.

### ‘Treasured coastal town’


“Carmel-by-the-Sea is a treasured coastal town, renowned for its natural beauty, historic charm and carefully preserved coastal environment,” Ned Spieker wrote. “The unnecessary proliferation of cell towers poses significant impacts including visual blight, disruption of scenic viewsheds, and long-term degradation

See **WIRELESS** page 25A

## ‘Vague’ aesthetic standards or thoughtful rules?



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# MONTEREY OKS LONG ANTICIPATED CARMEL AMBULANCE CONTRACT

By MARY SCHLEY

‘WE’VE BEEN living together for 13 years — now it’s time to make this official.’ That’s how Monterey Firefighters Association President Ross Pounds described the relationship between his department and the City of Carmel’s ambulance crew to the Monterey City Council Tuesday. Moments later, councilmembers unanimously approved a new contract putting the Monterey Fire Department in charge of Carmel’s ambulance service.

In response to sky-high overtime costs and chronic understaffing that had taken the ambulance out of service for 30 days during a 12-month period — which threatened the City of Carmel’s rights to operate it — the Carmel City Council in May unanimously decided that Monterey should take charge. Monterey Fire has operated Carmel’s fire department since 2012.

The new agreement will increase the city’s 2025-2026 fire services contract with Monterey from \$3,432,417 to \$5,545,711, including \$2,140,071 for ambulance services, Monterey Fire Chief Andrew Miller said at the June 17 meeting. That amount includes “all direct costs associated with providing fire and ambulance services,” as well as a 16 percent fee “to help offset indirect administration costs including

fire administration personnel, human resources, finance/payroll, risk, and other administrative services.”

### Monterey payroll

The contract anticipates the hiring of six firefighter-paramedics “at an average cost of \$272,000 each per year,” Miller said, and Carmel’s paramedics will be offered the opportunity to move to Monterey’s payroll.

Carmel will retain the ability to bill ambulance users and will keep those revenues. It’s also in the process of buying a new ambulance, which will remain in the Sixth Avenue station. The city will be responsible for covering its maintenance costs.

The contract will run for five years, with automatic renewal for an additional five years.

Miller said the deal has been a long time coming. “In 2012, when we did the original contract with Carmel-by-the-Sea, the ambulance was supposed to be a part of that,” he explained. But city leaders were wary and wanted to see how the fire merger worked out before adding the ambulance service to the mix.

When Miller came out of retirement to return to the chief’s job in January 2024, he said, he was surprised to learn that Carmel

was still running the ambulance. A former Carmel City Council committee recommended four years ago that Monterey take it over, but the matter was sidelined by the pandemic and leadership changes.

He also noted that the employees fully back the idea and worked with management on the terms. “I want to commend them for that — they made it really easy,” he said.

Pounds confirmed Miller’s take.

“It’s been in the works for a long time — since 2012,” he said. “So we’ve been serving with Carmel Fire Ambulance employees since then, respond to calls together, train together and live together. We’ve been living together for 13 years. It’s time to make this official.”

### Consolidation on horizon?

The arrangement marks another step toward the goal of consolidating firefighting and emergency services under a joint powers authority model of governance, according to Miller.



PHOTO/PC FILE

It will look and feel the same, but the city’s ambulance will be staffed, managed and operated by Monterey Fire.

A 2007 study favored combining local fire departments — which began with Pacific Grove contracting with Monterey in 2008 — as the first step. Monterey holds more than \$11 million worth of fire service contracts with other agencies including Sand City, the Naval Postgraduate School, La Mesa Village and Monterey Regional Airport.

See **AMBULANCE** page 22A



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# Cause of Gardener Ranch fire remains a mystery

By MARY SCHLEY

THE FIRE that rocked Carmel Valley Village with a series of explosions Monday afternoon — and which destroyed a greenhouse and a shed — remained under investigation Thursday, according to Monterey County Regional Fire District prevention specialist Matt Lumadue, with its origin and cause still unknown.

The blaze apparently started in vegetation toward the rear of the Gardener Ranch resort property near the Carmel River at around 3:30 p.m. June 16 and quickly consumed the two outbuildings. The heat and flames blew up a 5-gallon propane tank and caused two pressure tanks in the property’s well system to explode, according to Lumadue. Radiant heat from the fire also singed a garage.



PHOTO/MEENA LEWELLEN

Smoke billowed over a Carmel Valley Village neighborhood after a grass fire erupted on the nearby Gardener Ranch property.

The incident provoked a swift and heavy response, with some 70 firefighters from Monterey County Regional and Cal Fire arriving on numerous engines and other vehicles to help keep it confined and put it out.

“Luckily, the crews and a chief were right at the Village station on Via Contenta,” he said, so it didn’t take long for

them to arrive.  
In addition, Cal Fire sent a helicopter and three airplanes from its Hollister base, but they were soon sent home as crews on the ground managed to hold the fire to an acre, according to Lumadue. PG&E also responded to shut down power to live wires in the area.  
The Monterey County Office of Emergency Services

See **FIRE** page 22A

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City to fix long-closed beach stairs

By MARY SCHLEY

OFF-LIMITS SINCE storm-driven waves battered them in early 2024, the set of wooden stairs descending to Carmel Beach from Scenic Road near 10th Avenue should be rebuilt in July, new public works director Ken Wysocki told the forest and beach commission last week.

City officials had been pondering how to repair those stairs, along with those near 12th Avenue that were also badly damaged, for more than a year. They obtained a structural evaluation from Kyler Engineering in September 2024 that noted excessive splitting, weakness and corrosion, and officials said replacement would likely entail full reengineering, extensive permitting by multiple agencies, and considerable costs.

But if the stairs are rebuilt exactly as they were, Wysocki said at the June 12 meeting, the city could obtain an emergency coastal development permit from the California Coastal Commission — just as it did in March 2024 when it repaired four other damaged stairways — and work can begin soon.

Like for like

“In order for us to get this through the California Coastal Commission and for us to streamline this and move this forward, we have to rebuild it like for like,” he explained. “We’re going to replace them with reclaimed redwood, and there’s some wood in there already that we can reuse as well.”

City administrator Chip Rerig’s authority to sign contracts without first getting

approval from the city council maxes out at \$59,999, and Wysocki said he’s taking advantage of that to get a contractor on board quickly to help with the rebuild.

To keep costs down, public works staff, including Wysocki, will handle the demolition.

The project will be funded with money



PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

These storm-damaged beach stairs, closed since early 2024, are set to be rebuilt next month.

left over from the 2024-2025 capital budget and a \$15,000 donation from Carmel Cares, he said.

“That’s why we’re able to keep it down in the contract and move this forward,” he said.

Of course, “in government, there’s the process, and we have to make sure we do it right,” he added. “There are guidelines we have to follow.”

Wysocki said he had hoped to get started this month, but some of that government process got in the way.

Fortunately, he noted, the contractor and public works staff are ready to go as soon as he gets the green light.

“They’ll shift their schedules around,” he said.

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# Former Carmel Valley resort sold

BY CHRIS COUNTS

A FORMER resort in Carmel Valley that was recently the subject of an ambitious renovation plan has been sold for \$2.775 million, Mahoney & Associates Commercial Real Estate told The Pine Cone. According to county records, the buyer was a San Francisco-based corporation called 10 Country Club Drive, while the seller was the Santa Rosa Motel Co.

Located at 10 Country Club Way, the 6.6-acre property is home to the Portofino Inn, a once-thriving hotel with 22 rooms that has fallen into disrepair.

### Plans abandoned

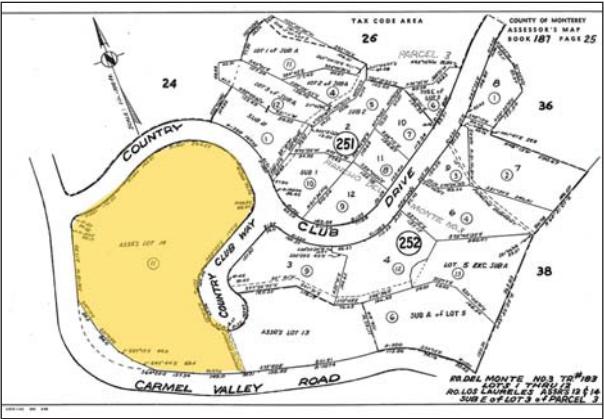
The seller had proposed tearing down the former resort and building a new one with 22 rooms, a restaurant, an expanded spa, and 55 parking spaces for overnight guests, restaurant guests and staff. Other improvements included upgrading an onsite wastewater treatment system,

rehabilitating walkways and parking areas, hardscape and landscape, and removing two oak trees, including “one landmark tree with a cluster of trunks.”

But a county official announced in March that those plans had been abandoned, and the property was going on the market.

While the Carmel Valley Land Use Advisory Committee recommended

See RESORT page 17A



A county assessor's map shows the old Portofino Inn property in Carmel Valley. The property was recently sold for \$2.775 million.



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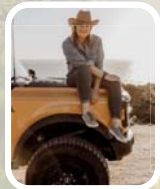
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## ARMANASCO

From page 1A

again, and the novelty was wearing off about the second or third time," said Armanasco.

The pattern of sleepless nights would follow the Monterey man even as he made his way to safety in the coming days, and so would rocket fire.

### Exit strategy

The morning after the first missile attacks, Armanasco and his group awoke to an unpleasant realization. Israel's airspace was closed and all commercial air travel was shut down.

"All of us are starting to panic because we want to get out, we want to stick pretty much to our schedule, and all of a sudden we were faced with this issue of not knowing when the airport will reopen," said Armanasco.

The U.S. State Department issued a "do not travel" advisory, its highest warning level, and the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem posted an alert telling travelers it was "not in a position at this time to evacuate or directly assist Americans in departing Israel."

Armanasco's group was told its best plan of escape was to make a land crossing into Jordan and fly out of the airport in Amman. In the meantime, the travelers were told not to stray more than 15 minutes from their hotel, in case they needed to take immediate shelter.

Armanasco was with a close-knit group of 20 other Americans. The tour was organized by his business

partner, good friend and former California State Senator Jim Brulte. He and Armanasco are partners in California Strategies, a statewide public affairs firm, alongside several other partners and their families who were on the trip. Armanasco was the only single traveler in the group, as he lost his wife in 2022. He said his fellow travelers were one of the big reasons he decided to go to Israel in the first place, despite concerns expressed by his grown children.

"I really have always wanted to do this. This was a great opportunity to go with some friends that are like family to me, so I went," said Armanasco.

The friends decided, with the help of their American-born tour guide, to make the trip to Jordan sooner, rather than later,

See **STRANDED** next page



PHOTO/DAVID ARMANASCO

Members of Armanasco's group sheltering from possible shrapnel during a missile attack while they were on their way to Eilat.

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# STRANDED

From previous page

leaving Jerusalem after a day spent stuck around the hotel and a second night of rocket fire.

The fastest route from Jerusalem to Amman by car takes travelers through the West Bank, a 40-minute crossing that was out of the question due to the conflict. Instead, the group boarded a bus for what ended up being a 12-hour drive.

The first leg of the trip had them headed for Israel’s southernmost city, Eilat. On the journey there, phones started buzzing once again when the Red Alert app notified them of incoming fire. The group was forced to evacuate the bus, line up and shelter in place, using their hands to cover their heads.

Fortunately, they received the all clear and safely made it to Eilat, a resort town on the Red Sea. But by nightfall, Armanasco saw more incoming rockets from his hotel balcony.

“You could see these things coming, and we saw them

being intercepted, and the big bomb blasts, and I saw that and said ‘this is stupid, I am going inside,’ said the Monterey man about his third night taking cover.

The following day, the group crossed the border into Jordan and arrived in Amman, where Armanasco spoke to The Pine Cone ahead of boarding a flight to Paris.

“You don’t feel just for the Israelis. You feel for the Iranian people, too. It is so brutal what is happening to them and they have no control,” said Armanasco, reflecting on the experience.

### Thousands stranded

Hundreds of Americans have found themselves stranded in Israel over the past seven days. The closure of Ben Gurion Airport marks the first time in Israel’s 76-year history that its main international hub has been closed with no estimated reopening date.

The closure has also prompted thousands to attempt to travel by boat, rather than plane, using Cyprus and Greece as landing pads. Some visitors are trying to get out, others are Israelis trying to get home. On Tuesday, 1,500 “Birth-right Israel” travelers, including hundreds of young Americans, were evacuated by cruise ship to Cyprus with the

help of an Israeli naval escort.

On Thursday Mike Huckabee, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, posted on X that the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem would soon be evacuating American citizens.

“We’re working to get military, commercial, charter flights and cruise ships for evac. If you’re offered a seat, take it,” wrote Huckabee.

The post came as tensions between the United States and Iran ramped up, and the U.S. Navy continues to build up forces in the eastern Mediterranean and Arabian Seas.

At Queen Alia International Airport in Amman, Armanasco said the airport was crowded with European and American travelers on Wednesday, and he saw at least one other Californian, sporting a Cal Berkeley hat.

Even Jordanian airspace was not free from attacks this week. The country’s air force shot down several Iranian missiles overnight while Armanasco awaited his flight. All was quiet by daybreak and the Monterey man was able to board his flight to Paris.

Armanasco arrived safely in the City of Light on Wednesday, and he plans to stay with friends before making the final leg of his journey back to the Monterey Peninsula.

# RESORT

From page 15A

approval of the project, some neighbors and the Carmel Valley Association expressed concerns, including its impact on the water supply and how much traffic it might generate in the adjacent residential neighborhood. They also urged county officials to require the builder to seek new permits rather than reactivate prior approvals.

The property was also the former home of the Rancho Del Monte Country Club, which opened in 1948. Other businesses operated on the site over the subsequent decades, including a boarding school for boys. The buildings have long been dormant.

An agent for the buyer said it’s too early to say what the plans are for the property.

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# New Big Sur restaurant hosts grand opening

By CHRIS COUNTS

**BIG SUR'S** newest eatery, Solstice Restaurant and Cocktail Lounge, celebrates its grand opening this weekend — just in time for the summer solstice, the longest day of the year, which occurs Friday. The restaurant is in The Village, just south of the Big Sur River Inn on Highway 1. “Helled by chef Tim Eelman — formerly of Big Sur



PHOTO/SOLSTICE

Chef Tim Eelman (left) and staff prepare for the grand opening of Solstice in Big Sur.

Bakery and Sierra Mar — Solstice is a collaboration with co-founder of Big Sur Food and Wine and ambassador to Big Sur, Matt Peterson, and owners Patrick and Mandy Orosco, who led the creative direction and design of the venue,” the restaurant announced.

### ‘Hyper local ingredients’

According to Solstice, the restaurant will honor “the provocative and unbridled culture of Big Sur, with a focus on sustainably sourced, hyper-local ingredients.”

“Chef Tim leans into the primal approach of cooking that lets ingredients shine with minimal intervention or manipulation, showcasing the wood-burning hearth at the heart of the kitchen,” the announcement said. “Guests can expect such modern yet playful dishes like the cold-smoked Brokaw avocado with tomato miso and toasted seeds, beet and ricotta gnocchi with fava beans, morel

See SOLSTICE page 23A

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# METAL

From page 3A

other materials to last week’s meeting.

Olander said Matt Little from Carmel Insurance “stated that roughly 80 percent of insurance companies would not provide fire insurance for homes with wood roofing,” while the other 20 percent “would provide insurance if the wood shake is fire-treated regularly, and that there is no guarantee of continued coverage long term.”

“He stated that roofs with Class A assembly utilizing metal, composite shingle, terra cotta clay tiles, slate, and membrane roofing are all insurable for approximately 20 to 25 years before a new roof would be required,” and that such roofs could be insured for longer if a contractor is willing to report the roof is in good condition.

### Creating issues

Commissioners had also asked for a list of architectural styles with which metal roofs would be appropriate. But after Carmel City Councilman Bob Delves commented that he’d seen metal roofs on homes of many different styles during a trip to Australia, and councilmembers “expressed concerns about discretionary decisions supported by a finding that metal roofs fit the architectural style of the building,” Olander opted not to go that route.

“If you want to put a caveat on metal roofs for specific types of architecture,” he told commissioners, they have the authority to do so, but it might “create issues” due to subjectivity.

In addition to materials that can already be approved over the counter — such as like-for-like replacements, and new roofs of slate, tile, tar and gravel and other natural materials — Olander recommended allowing the same for metal roofs in earth tones, comp shingles in earth tones, and membrane on flat roofs.

Metal and comp roofs in “non-earth tones” would be reviewed by the planning

commission, as would PVC roofs on second stories, non-drought-resistant green roofs, corrugated plastic roofs, and any others that aren’t on the list.

“We should eliminate as much subjectivity as we can,” commission chair Michael LePage agreed.

Architect Adam Jeselnick complimented Olander. “I think the staff has done an excellent job of putting together a really clear summary for all of you to consider,” he said. “Folks being able to come in to get staff approval makes a lot of sense.”

### Bad plastics

Some commissioners worried about the environmental impacts of allowing plastic roofing, such as synthetic shakes and tiles, and LePage suggested adding ratings for each material based on recyclability, toxicity and lifespan.

“I want to give homeowners more options and freedom to select the materials they want,” he said. “But we have a responsibility to not be shipping out materials that are toxic and break down and cause issues to the environment” when they are later removed and disposed of.

Commissioner Stefan Karapetkov suggested the city install some of the less commonly used materials on public buildings scheduled for reroofing so that property owners could see what they look like, but Olander said such decisions are above his pay grade.

LePage described the policy drafted by Olander and the subsequent discussion as “a very good start” and favored proceeding, since “time is of the essence” and many homeowners are worried about losing insurance coverage.


He made a motion to approve the resolution and policy with the addition of analyses of recyclability, toxicity and “any other elements that could cause harm to the environment or humans,” that metal roofs be matte finish, and that zinc and galvanized aluminum be allowed as well. The commission unanimously agreed and voted to forward the revised policy to the city council for adoption.



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- 

*“It’s fun to come to work when people think you’re so good”*



# DAMAGE

From page 1A

and ceilings. At the time, Leidig Draper denied the art association was experiencing any issues related to the construction project and blamed the contractor for doing “nonconforming work” that damaged Haseltine Court.

“The contractor dug under our building, and it dropped about 6 inches,” Stemler said. The city soon declared it unsafe.

**Must be done**

The developers ended up selling the property to Patrice Pastor, who purchased it for \$9 million in 2020 and has been trying to get a new mixed-use project going there ever since. After multiple attempts and redesigns, he and his design team at Esperanza Carmel obtained planning commission approval of their project, called Ulrika Plaza, in August 2023, and they are working on getting the demolition permit in place so they can finally proceed.

Stemler said the repairs to Haseltine Court, which will cost more than \$650,000, have to be done before Pastor’s firm starts its work.

“We don’t want to hold up Esperanza,” Stemler said Wednesday. “Plus, repairing the building after Esperanza has begun would be extremely difficult and very, very expensive.”

The foundation received approval of its building permit from the city in May, and its lawyer has set up several meetings with the insurance company that’s ostensibly responsible for covering the damage, according to Stemler, but the company’s lawyers have repeatedly canceled those meetings.

“The reason we haven’t done the work yet is because we haven’t received any insurance money,” she said.

But with time pressures mounting, the nonprofit is going to have to have to use its own funds, with hopes of getting reimbursed down the road.

**Delaying tactics**

“We have been working with Leidig Draper’s insurance company for a long time,” she said, adding that her predecessor, Holly Zoller, had been trying to get the issue resolved before she left the organization and Stemler took over the position in May 2024. “But since I’ve been in this job, we’ve had three or four mediations set up with them, and they’ve canceled all of them.”

She said she’s frustrated by what seem to be the insurance company’s delaying tactics.

Ausonio construction is being hired to do the reinforcement work, which Stemler said will get underway as soon as the foundation’s lawyer has reviewed the contract and

it’s been signed. The shoring-up should take less than a month. Once the apartment and other areas are deemed safe, the nonprofit will determine what to do next.

“The interior is going to be Phase 2 — the whole thing has to be rethought,” she said. “All we have to accomplish now is we have to get the underpinning done. The above-ground work can wait until after we get the insurance money.”

She said her board of directors is adamant that the foundation not get stuck with the bill. “We don’t want to settle for less than we’re paying, because we have nothing to do with this,” she said. “And unfortunately, we won’t be able to recover attorney fees, which have been pretty high.”

Perhaps the only upside has been getting to know Pastor’s team at Esperanza Carmel. “Esperanza has been great to work with,” she said, including supporting the foundation’s ultimately unsuccessful efforts to seek funds from an escrow account set up by the sellers and the buyer.

“The team at Esperanza Carmel are in close contact with The Carmel Foundation with regards to these works, which are important as they neighbor the Ulrika Plaza Project,” Pastor confirmed. “The situation is somewhat



PHOTO/COURTESY KIM STEMLER

Damaged by excavation underneath it during construction in The Pit in 2019, Haseltine Court is set to finally be reinforced.

complex, as it involves liaison between various parties, including the previous owners. We are confident we collectively have a clear path forward and look forward to working together to ensure all parties are happy.”



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# ROUNDABOUT

From page 1A

a roundabout would best address concerns over safety and efficiency at the intersection. Besides support from many residents, a “corridor study” identified the roundabout as the “best option” for the intersection, according to the



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county.

While construction starts next week, not everybody is on board with the project. At hearings in 2022 and 2024, some expressed reservations, including concerns over whether the roundabout would be able to safely accommodate bicyclists.

Deborah Wenzler told The Pine Cone this week that she has started a petition opposing the construction of the roundabout. Wenzler, who co-owns Baum & Blume Café & Catering, called the roundabout an “unnecessary and ill-conceived development.” She suggested a stoplight

# AMBULANCE

From page 12A

“The study recommended a two-phase implementation beginning with a contractual model followed by a full consolidation under a JPA governance model,” Miller said in his report. (A JPA comprises two or more agencies that jointly share decision making and other powers. The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments is an example.)

“This continues our progress toward regional services and potentially a joint services model,” Miller said. “That has been our trajectory since 2008.”

The Monterey City Council OK’d the contract after a brief discussion.

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Not the only free paper. But the only great free paper.”  
— *unsolicited reader comment*

would be a better fix.

She also argued there wasn’t enough public outreach during the approval process.

“The area in question currently experiences minimal congestion, and the construction of this roundabout will cause significant disruption, confusion, inconvenience, loss of business revenue, and potential safety hazards for residents, visitors, workers and local businesses,” Wenzler contends. “We kindly request that the department re-evaluate the necessity of this project and consider alternative approaches that align better with the community’s needs and priorities.”

While some say the risk of accidents at the site is exaggerated, in 2017 a three-axle truck hauling a load of sod and a forklift lost control and crashed, as did a cement truck that lost its brakes in 2004.

Carmel Valley traffic mitigation fees and a grant from Monterey Bay Air Resources District will help pay for the roundabout, along with Measure X funds.

If all goes according to plan, the work will be done by March 2026. The contractor is Teichert Construction of Pleasanton.

# FIRE

From page 13A

issued evacuation warnings for several neighborhoods in the Village, but they were canceled a couple of hours later, while some of the firefighters remained at the scene through the evening.

“The fire was burning in some thick creek-bottom brush, so crews were on scene to mop that up and get complete extinguishment for quite a while,” Lumadue said, and no injuries were reported.

While Lumadue said the fire district’s investigator quickly found the origins of the explosions, work is still being done to try to determine where, exactly, the fire started, and how.

“I’m just glad it didn’t happen in August or September,” he said. “Take a hotter, drier day and put a wind on it, and it could have been bad.”

# WATER

From page 9A

“We are very thankful for the commissioners who give their time to make our county a better place, not only for our residents and visitors, but for the wildlife as well,” county parks chief Bryan Flores added. “The wildlife guzzlers that are being installed will provide lifesaving water for our animal friends during their time of need in the heat of the summer — these devices truly save wildlife lives.”

According to spokesperson Maia Carroll, the county spent \$3,300 in parts and labor for the guzzler. “There were some additional supplies donated and volunteer labor from commissioners,” Carroll added.



**CAROL LENORE YOUNG**  
5-9-1939 to 5-14-2025  
Pacific Grove

Teacher, singer, naturalist and mother, Carol was an intensely curious person whose presence will be sorely missed by her many friends and her family.

Mourning her unexpected passing are her partner, Mike Fitzgerald; her daughter, Diana Godwin (William); son, Scott Young (Cathie); granddaughters, Kendra Godwin (Gabe Brunswick), Claire Godwin (Aldo Negrete) and her great-granddaughter, Elinor Godwin Brunswick.

**Her celebration of life will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 12 at the First United Methodist Church in Pacific Grove.**

**In lieu of flowers, please donate to Monterey State Historic Park Association [www.mshpa.org](http://www.mshpa.org)**

# DIANA MARIE FREITAS

May 28, 1959 - May 19, 2025

Our beautiful Diana passed away peacefully, holding the hands of the love of her life and her daughter.

Diana spent her entire life on the Monterey Peninsula. She was raised in Marina and later moved to Upper Carmel Valley, where she spent the rest of her life.



Diana had a way of making you a better person. She listened without judgment, offering encouragement, a shoulder to cry on, a comforting hug, and most of all, unconditional love, a beautiful smile, and an infectious laugh. She saw potential in everyone and wasn’t afraid to challenge you if you were falling short.

She enjoyed watching her birds, tending to her flowers, listening to music, dancing, camping, and fishing. But above all, she cherished spending time with loved ones. She was proud of her family, her community, and her work at Kasey’s for 23 years.

Diana took great pride in her family business, the Los Padres Pack Station, ensuring it carried everything one might need. The Kid-O-Rama events she organized had a profound impact and left lasting impressions on the children who participated. The barbecues, street dances and pool tournaments brought people together, transforming a small mountain town into a vibrant community.

Her love for Upper Carmel Valley was evident in her tireless efforts to preserve its beauty. She served on numerous boards and committees, working to protect the land and the integrity and history of the area. Diana had a passionate connection to the Cachagua Community Park, and always had a vision for it. She was heavily involved in the Cachagua Country Fair, running around with a clipboard in hand, ensuring a good time for all. Last year, she was honored with the “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Cachagua community.

She leaves behind a legacy of love through her partner of 36 years, John Cherry; and her daughter, Mattie Jean Cherry; both of Carmel Valley. She is also survived by her sister, Ramona Nason, of Carmel Valley; her brother, Raymond Freitas, of Hackett, Arkansas; along with several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Rayma Freitas; and her brother, Steven.

Diana will be deeply missed by those who had the privilege of crossing her path. A celebration of her life will be held in October in Carmel Valley.



# HONORED

From page 6A

reflect the highest ideals of public service and human compassion, going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the safety and well-being of a fellow community member,” applauds their selfless actions, strength of character and deep commitment to the community, and holds them up as examples for other employees and the city’s residents.

“Now, therefore, I, Dale Byrne, mayor of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea on behalf of the city council and the residents of our community, do hereby recognize and honor Rene Aldama and Miguel Manzano for their extraordinary heroism, unwavering dedication, and compassionate service, and extend our deepest gratitude for their lifesaving actions on March 24,” it concludes.

# SOLSTICE

From page 18A

mushrooms and fromage blanc and 38 North dry-aged duck with porcini, California olives and olallieberry.”

The restaurant’s aesthetics were shaped by Big Sur’s vibrant creative culture.

### The fine art of food

“Solstice’s design draws heavily from Big Sur and the artisans who call it home,” the restaurant added. “That meant using bridge timbers and handcrafted techniques used to build places like Nepenthe and Big Sur’s iconic homes during the 1950s and 1960s. Salvaged redwood was hand-split to form shingles for the restaurant’s exterior. A 45-foot-tall sycamore tree that toppled in a storm was carefully cured, then chainsawed to fashion the bar tops and dining room tabletops. Indonesian doors and mirrors that adorn the walls were saved from the cliffside house near Bixby Bridge that was owned by Allen Funt of ‘Candid Camera’ fame.”

After owning it for eight years, Patrick Orosco sold The Village to Patrice Pastor in May for \$4 million, but he remains the proprietor of the businesses there, including the restaurant, which can be found online at thevillagebig-sur.com/restaurant.

# BUDGET

From page 10A

the district is looking at an additional \$3.6 million compared to this school year.

Zooming out, that extra revenue could easily cover routine building maintenance. California schools are required to set aside at least 2 percent of funds for general upkeep and repairs — but a couple million dollars “doesn’t even begin to cover our facility needs, it doesn’t even come close,” Perez said.

### Borrowing money

It wasn’t up for discussion during the June 4 budget hearing, but a recap of the district’s facilities master plan would have been useful, in light of Perez’ announcement that the board plans a bond campaign to fund it.

The \$295 million plan “identifies a vision for the next 10 to 15 years” and outlines needs for top-to-bottom repair and upgrades, enhanced safety and security, new classroom technology, utility fixes, and additional teaching, tutoring, and “student support” spaces on all nine CUSD

campuses. Its first visible phase can be seen at Carmel High, where lighting was recently installed at the football stadium and a parking lot is under construction where the aging tennis courts used to be.

Last year, the board floated the idea of a \$190 million bond to pay for all of this, which would have levied new property taxes for an additional \$12.8 million per year. The board stopped short of putting it on the November ballot following a June survey of district voters — only 47 percent indicated support for the bond, short of the 55 percent it would need to pass.

The most recent bond passed by district voters was a \$22.5 million measure in 2005 which funded new classrooms, athletic facilities, a library and performing arts center, all at Carmel High.

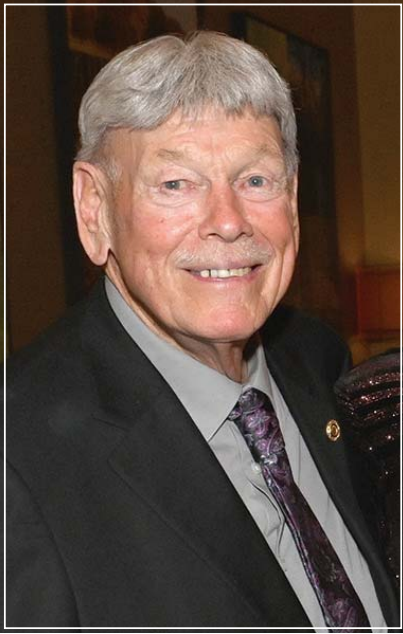
It’s unclear when the new bond campaign will begin, though it seems imminent — so far, only \$400,000 of the 2025-2026 general fund is allocated for maintenance and capital improvements to facilities. In May, the board approved an increase in residential developer fees from \$0.49 to \$3.78 per square foot of new builds in the district, including those designated as affordable housing. That is restricted to facilities improvements, though it’s only projected to supply an additional \$420,000 per year.

## TERRY LINDSAY WECKER

March 25, 1946 ❖ June 2, 2025

Terry Lindsay Wecker was born on March 25, 1946, in Carmel, California. He is the second of seven children. His father, the late John F. Wecker, served in the United States Army for 23 years and retired as a major. Terry’s mother, the late Florence Snow, raised her children and worked at Carmel Mission School as a teacher’s aide.

Terry’s family traveled to many parts of the world until settling back to the Monterey Peninsula. Terry attended Del Monte Elementary School, Fremont Junior High School, and Junipero Memorial High School where he graduated in 1964. Terry was a great athlete and played every sport. He was extremely talented at baseball.



Terry met the love of his life, Angela Mangiapane, in 1962 during the early years of high school. In 1966, just before completing Monterey Peninsula College, Terry was drafted into the Army. Before shipping off to Vietnam, he came home to marry Angela on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, Jan. 6, 1968. Terry served in the military police force while in Vietnam. After being honorably discharged, he returned home and joined the police academy. He then served as a police officer for the Pacific Grove Police Department for eight years. Terry started his career in real estate almost 50 years ago and was the office manager at Custom House Realty and Property Management.

Terry and Angela’s daughter, Nicole Amaral (Wecker), was born in 1978. They welcomed their son, Albert John Wecker (A.J.), in 1984. One of Terry and Angela’s proudest moments was when their only grandchild, Brenton Demarco Amaral, was born in 2013 to their daughter, Nicole, and son-in-law, Mike.

Throughout his life, with Angela by his side, Terry has given a lot back to their community. He was a member of the Monterey Jaycees for 11 years (VP for part of the time) and was actively involved with putting on the annual Pebble Beach Rugby

Classic. Terry went on to join the Monterey Rotary Club where he served an 11-year stint as secretary, attended district conferences and played for the Monterey Rotary baseball team. Terry and Angela hosted the annual Rotary bus trip to the SF Giants game for many decades. Terry received Perfect Attendance for the Rotary Club for almost 42 years. When their children were involved with the band and other music programs at Monterey High School, he served as president of the Monterey High Band Boosters for eight years.

Terry was a Babe Ruth League and Pony Baseball coach, manager and sponsor for multiple seasons. He was a member of the Compari Club Monterey (served as president for two years), Paisano Club and the Gold Coast Rods Car Club (served as president for eight years). He also belonged to the Knights of Columbus of Carmel. In 2018, Terry was awarded the Alton Walker Award by the Rotary Club of Monterey for outstanding community service. Angela and Terry received the United Way Award in 2022 for their outstanding service in assisting Gateway Center. They were both honored by the Italian Heritage Society of the Monterey Peninsula in November 2022.

Terry served on the Gateway Center Board of Directors for more than 20 years. He always loved classic cars and music, so he created an annual fundraiser for Gateway Center that features both. This Saturday June 21, 2025, will mark the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Monterey Rock and Rod Festival at the Custom House Plaza in Monterey. This will be the final show, that will feature hundreds of 1975 and older classic and custom hot rods along with a lineup of great live entertainment. Terry’s family would appreciate if everyone could attend and pay tribute to the man who started it all.

Terry is survived by his wife of 57 years, Angela; his daughter and son-in-law, Nicole and Mike Amaral; his son and daughter-in-law, Albert John (A.J.) and Kelsey Wecker; and his grandson, Brenton Amaral. He is also survived by three brothers and their spouses: Robert (Bob) and Sue Wecker, Thomas (Tom) and Debra (Deb) Wecker and Michael (Mike) and Cheryl Wecker; his sister-in-law, Patricia Wecker; and his sister and brother-in-law, Paula and Ron Ridley. Terry also leaves his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Bert and Bella Cutino, many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews, cousins and close family friends. He was preceded in death by his father, John Wecker; mother-Florence Wecker; brother, Richard (Rich) and brother, John Jr. (Johnny).

**Family and friends are invited to the visitation and recitation of the rosary at Mission Mortuary in Monterey from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday, June 23, 2025. There will be a private family burial service at the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery.**

**Special thank you to the staff and nurses at CHOMP, Westland House and Hospice of the Central Coast.**

**Please note that in lieu of flowers, donations in Terry’s honor may be sent to Gateway Center of Monterey County, Inc. at 850 Congress Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.**

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## Kathleen Marie Morris

Kathleen Marie Morris (née Pavon), lovingly known as Kate, passed away peacefully at home in La Jolla, California on June 14, 2025, at the age of 77.

Kate was born on Jan. 7, 1948, in Oakland, California. Though her early years were marked by hardship and pain, she refused to let that define her. She committed herself to creating a life grounded in love, stability and joy, and her unwavering strength and compassion left an indelible mark on her family.

Kate was a devoted wife to her husband of 55 years, Robert “Bob” Botelho Morris, Jr. Their marriage was rooted in mutual respect, laughter and an unwavering partnership. Together, they built a home grounded in principles, wit and love — filled with inside jokes, cherished routines and the deep comfort of a well-worn bond. Bob and Kate raised their family in Carmel, California where they made their home for 31 years.

As a mother, Kate nurtured curiosity, creativity and a passion for learning. She believed deeply in education and exploration, supporting her children’s individual interests and encouraging them to pursue their dreams. She nurtured their growth toward success, integrity and balance.

After many years as a stay-at-home mother, Kate pursued a professional path, and embraced new challenges with characteristic tenacity. She approached every task with intelligence and determination, proving that she could succeed at anything she set her mind to.

Kate had a profound appreciation for the world around her. She loved to travel and passed that adventurous spirit on to her family. She found peace in nature and had a special love for animals. A patron of the arts, she delighted in ballet, opera, theater and the fine arts.

She brought light to others through simple, generous acts — volunteering to drive Carmelite nuns to their appointments, often taking scenic detours and sharing sweet treats along the way. She was also a Eucharistic minister and brought communion to homebound parishioners, offering companionship and comfort with every visit. A devoted Catholic, Kate served as a docent at the Mission in Carmel, sharing her love of history and spirituality with others.

Kate was dignified, encouraging and funny — with a sharp wit, an easy laugh and a generous heart. Her presence made the world a better place. She will be missed beyond measure and remembered always with love. She is survived by her husband, Bob; her children, Lisa (Alan), Jacquie (Chris), and R.B. (Kayla); and her three grandchildren Ashlyn, Charlotte and Mitchell.

## LAURA LOCKETT

Dec. 26, 1949 ❖ June 6, 2025

Laura Lockett, 75, passed away on June 6, 2025, after a six-month battle with pancreatic cancer. She was raised in Virginia. After her father’s unexpected death in 1962, Laura and her brother moved with their mother to Mexico City. She attended the American School Foundation there and graduated in 1968. She attended college in Mexico City for two years before being offered the trip of a lifetime, an around-the-world cruise for one semester through the World Campus Afloat. Upon returning to the United States, she worked in Newport Beach in the hotel industry where she met her husband, Ronald Horner.



Laura moved to the Monterey Peninsula with her husband and worked as a travel agent for more than 50 years, ending her career as a beloved member of the team at Pacific Grove Travel for more than 23 years. She was an excellent travel consultant where her clients always came first.

Later in life, Laura became interested in painting watercolors and it became her passion. Here’s what she said on her website:

*“I paint watercolors exclusively and primarily on location in plein air.*

*In the early ‘90s I studied with Anita DeCarlo and that started my lifelong quest to continue learning the process. Since then, I’ve had the privilege to study with several Master Watercolorists: Frank Eber, Andy Evansen, Tom Fong, Charles Reid and Mary Whyte.*

*My paintings have been on exhibit in various locations around the Monterey Peninsula in solo and group juried shows with awards. I have enjoyed participating in plein air events in Monterey and Carmel Valley.”*

Laura was predeceased by her mother and father, Marjorie and Ralph Lockett; and her brother, Gordon Lockett. She is survived by her beloved husband, Ron.

**No services are planned. Donations in Laura’s memory may be made to AFRP or Golden Oldies Cat Rescue.**

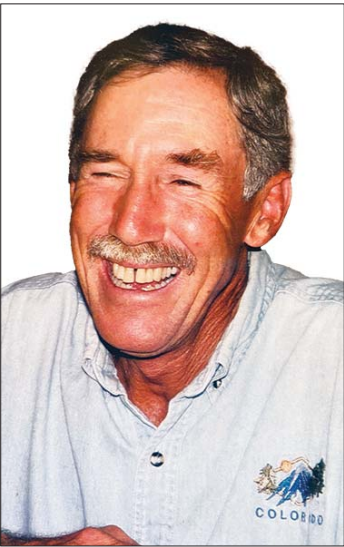
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## JOHN ‘RICK’ MANNING

John “Rick” Manning departed peacefully from his home in Carmel Valley, family by his side, following a brief illness on April 16, 2025.

Born July 8, 1946, in Albany, New York, to Albert and Elizabeth Manning, Rick grew up in Delmar and attended Bethlehem Central Schools. He graduated from Lawrenceville School in 1964 and from Yale in 1968, where he majored in history and sang with the Yale Glee Club, the Dukesmen and the Whiffenpoofs.

He then served three years in the U.S. Army, which included an assignment at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, to study Korean. It was during this time that Rick discovered the extraordinary beauty of the Monterey Peninsula — and fell in love with his future wife, Ruth Carter. After a tour of duty abroad, Rick returned to Carmel Valley where he and Ruth built a life together.



A natural athlete, Rick trained as a youth at the Chase Tennis Center in Pennsylvania. His passion for the sport became a lifelong vocation. A summer job in 1971 turned into a 33-year career at John Gardiner’s Tennis Ranch in Carmel Valley. For seven of those years, he served as tennis director at John Gardiner’s Tennis Ranch on Camelback in Scottsdale. There, he directed the celebrity-filled annual Senators’ Cup Tournament, where his eloquence, authenticity and warmth helped raise millions for Hospice of the Valley.

In 1995, Rick joined Peter Burwash International at Carmel Valley Ranch, where he expanded his engagement with both local and global tennis communities. His work took him across Europe, and he and Ruth enjoyed traveling to cultural and natural landmarks including Venice, Lake Como and the Swiss Alps.

Rick never stopped playing tennis, but he did retire from the demanding daily schedule and administrative duties. In recent years Rick was an active member of the Haasis Hikers, a group of kindred spirits united by their quest for outdoor adventure, camaraderie and stimulating conversation. He served as vice president of the Carmel Valley Association, working effectively to protect the beauty and rural character of the Valley and cultivate community spirit. He was known as “Ambassador” for his skill in listening intently to concerns of Valley locals and sharing CVA’s perspective with elected officials.

Rick’s intellectual curiosity was boundless spanning nature, physics, history, politics, literature and the arts — especially music and the Classics. He was an avid attendee of the Carmel Bach Festival and an enthusiastic participant in Shakespeare scholar Leo Schaff’s weekly online seminars from New York.

A gifted storyteller, his brilliant intellect and voracious interest in many topics enabled him to volley conversation as effortlessly as he served tennis balls. Whether acting as emcee at a gala, delivering an ode he composed to celebrate a friend, or simply recounting the day’s events, he always held his audience in rapt attention.

Above all, Rick was a devoted friend. He had a singular ability to make people laugh and to feel seen and appreciated. Whether through a funny note, a thoughtful call, or a perfectly chosen book, he stayed meaningfully connected across decades and distances.

Most cherished and enduring was his love for Ruth — and hers for him.

Rick is survived by his wife, Ruth; sisters, Wendy Muhlfelder of Slingerlands, N.Y., and Beth Manning (Mike Slivienski) of Cropseyville, N.Y.; beloved nieces, nephews, grandnephews; and a wide circle of devoted friends.

**In lieu of flowers, the family invites donations to a charity of the donor’s choice.**



# WIRELESS

From page 11A

of neighborhood aesthetics and values.”

Tasha Witt and Christy Hollenbeck — both of whom were heavily involved in the Stop Cell Towers in Carmel Neighborhoods group that worked to defeat Verizon’s application and hired attorney Andrew Campanelli to help draft the city’s ordinance — sent letters and spoke at the hearing.

“I’m a longtime fulltime resident of Carmel-by-the-Sea speaking on behalf of the residents who care deeply about preserving the character of our town while keeping up with today’s technological needs,” Hollenbeck said.

Only Verizon’s attorney objected.

## ‘Vague criteria’

“As a complete overhaul of the city’s wireless facilities ordinance, the proposed amendments include location restrictions that do not conform to Carmel’s land use plan and violate state law granting telephone corporations a statewide franchise right to place equipment along any right of way,” San Francisco lawyer Paul Albritton said in a letter. “The location standards and vague aesthetic criteria contradict the federal Telecommunications Act and Federal Communications Commission regulations, which preempt both local codes and state law.”

He proposed changes, including “deleting the preempted preference for private property over the right of way,” removing the requirement for a “special exception” to install cell towers in most rights of way, and getting rid of “numerous vague aesthetic criteria.”

“These modifications could avoid legal conflicts and litigation should a wireless carrier appeal a denial of an application to the coastal commission,” Albritton said. “We urge the commission to defer action on the proposed amendments and direct staff to implement our suggested

modifications.”

Campanelli sent a letter rebutting Verizon’s demands, and Siciensky sided with the city. She also noted that Verizon raised the same objections during Carmel’s hearings.

While it’s not the commission’s job to ensure the city’s ordinances don’t run afoul of other laws, she said, “for the reasons specified in the preceding analysis, the commission finds the proposed amendment to indeed meet that legal test.”

“Despite Verizon’s claims to the contrary, the commission does not find the proposed language to constitute ‘vague aesthetic criteria,’ but actually is quite specific,” she said, and its provisions regarding locating cell towers are not unique, either.

“The commission does not believe any modifications to the proposed amendment are warranted since the language as submitted satisfies applicable LUP requirements,” she concluded. “In addition, the suggested changes raise their own concerns,” including limiting or precluding all of the wireless provisions and the broader local coastal program, which could lead to cell towers in sensitive habitats, on beaches and along streets and trails.

## Everywhere

Commissioner Mike Wilson spoke more broadly on the topic, suggesting all areas should benefit from more aesthetic and well sited wireless facilities.

“We don’t have to reserve decent and practical aesthetic designs for these types of technologies to places like Carmel-by-the-Sea or neighborhoods that are trying to maintain character,” he said. Instead, they should apply to industrial and even blighted areas, too, and companies like Verizon have the resources to make that happen.

Without further discussion, coastal commissioners voted to approve the new wireless ordinance, bringing the end to a six-year saga that included not just fights in city hall, but in the courts, where the city prevailed against Verizon.

# Will feds sell off land in Big Sur?

By CHRIS COUNTS

A FLURRY of recent news reports say that officials in the Trump administration want to sell off more than 3 million acres of federal land, and some say land in Big Sur is at risk. Meanwhile, many of the reports were accompanied by a crude map provided by the Wilderness Society that offered few details.

Gordon Johnson of the Ventana Wilderness Alliance sent The Pine Cone a link to a far better map, which shows where the land under consideration lies. Unfortunately, the map doesn’t show the precise acreage.

To boost domestic energy production, raise revenue and facilitate the construction of housing, Republicans want to sell off up to 3 million acres of federal land in 11 western states — which contain more than 258 million acres of federal land. The proposal has outraged many on the left, particularly groups focused on protecting public properties.

## Under threat

The land under consideration in Big Sur is owned by the U.S. Forest Service and is clustered in specific areas. Some of the largest parcels are located just north of Bottchers Gap at the end of Palo Colorado Road, adjacent to the Old Coast Road just east of Sierra Hill, east of Big Sur Valley

in the vicinity of Post Summit and Mount Manuel, and west of the Coast Ridge Road and north of Marble Peak. Pfeiffer Beach and land around it are also included, as are several parcels along the coast near Pacific Valley.

The map also shows some smaller pieces of land owned by the Bureau of Land Management in eastern parts of the county, mostly west of Soledad.

Will the feds ultimately sell off pieces of Big Sur to private entities? Such threats have been made by federal officials in the past. Johnson is skeptical. “It’s going to be a pretty heavy lift to get this passed,” he suggested. “I don’t think it’s going anywhere — I’m going to wait before I panic.”

## Differing views

Sen. Mike Lee of Utah — a heavy-weight in the fight between mining companies and environmentalists — made the proposal.

“We’re opening underused federal land to expand housing, support local development and get Washington D.C. out of the way for communities that are just trying to grow,” Lee said. “This does not touch national parks, national monuments or wilderness — we’re talking about isolated parcels that are difficult to manage and are better suited for housing or infrastructure.

The Wilderness Society urged its members to speak out against the proposed sale.

## JUDITH (JUDY) ADELENE WEBB

Judith (Judy) Adelene Webb of Monterey, CA, passed away in the early morning on Friday, June 6, 2025, at 85 years of age. She was predeceased by James William (Bill) Webb, her husband of 63 years. She is survived by her daughter, Jennifer J. (Webb) Baker; son-in-law, John W. Baker; and grandsons, James and Joshua Baker, all of whom she loved dearly. She is also survived by her dear sister, Diane Speckman of Oregon and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Judy was born to Mercer and Marjorie Beall at Peninsula Community Hospital in Carmel on January 31, 1940. She grew up on Lighthouse Avenue in Pacific Grove, to which Judy and Bill returned in 1997 and lived there for 25 years. Judy went all through Pacific Grove schools, graduating high school in 1957 as valedictorian. She attended San Jose State until she met Bill in the choir loft at First Baptist Church of Monterey, where they married in 1961. Their only child, Jenny, was born in 1974.



Judy began her musical career as the xylophone soloist in Miss Oliver’s Kindergarten Band, and throughout her school years she sang in ensembles, accompanied choirs and played in the band. A gifted pianist, she taught piano lessons for 20 years as well as playing in many church services. She also played the church bells and sang in many choirs.

At the urging of friends, Judy began a writing career that took many forms. Any misadventures (especially those of her husband and daughter) were turned into a story. Her writing was published in newspapers on both coasts and magazines across the country. She had a weekly column in the Ridgefield (Connecticut) Press for several years. She wrote hymn lyrics, song parodies, poetry and skits for her church’s annual Christmas party. She also wrote the text for Monterey Bay Aquarium’s online timeline for its 20th anniversary. A few years ago she compiled her columns and stories into a published book titled, “I Never Said I Wanted a Dog.”

Judy returned to college at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, in her 50s, where she graduated with honors in English and was awarded membership in Phi Beta Kappa in 2000. She truly enjoyed learning, no matter her age. It was one of her proudest achievements.

A lifelong Christian, she was deeply involved in her church wherever she lived (due to moving multiple times following Bill’s career). She taught Sunday school for many years. She also wrote curriculum and organized women’s Bible studies. Judy and Bill’s holiday tables often included people from church who were away from families or who didn’t have families. She always opened her house and heart to friends.

Judy adored her daughter, son-in-law, and grandsons who live in Pennsylvania. Judy was a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother, and sister. She was an incredible, dear friend to many and will be truly missed.

## DEWEY D. EVANS

Dewey D. Evans, born May 17, 1938, peacefully passed away at Hospice of the Monterey Peninsula’s Westland House on June 15, 2025. Dewey was born and raised on the family ranch in Evanston, Wyoming and was preceded in death by his parents, Dorothy L. and William A. Evans. Dewey joined the USAF in 1956, stationed in Wakkanai, Hokkaido, Japan for the first two years of his service and completed his service at Cambria, California in 1960.

Dewey left behind his loving wife of 27 years, Kendra C. Evans; stepdaughter, Danielle Ashmore; sisters, Dixie L. Warren, Tamara J. Bond and Susan H. Johnson; brothers, George W. Evans, Jon J. Evans and numerous nieces and nephews.



Dewey retired from the City of Monterey in 1999 after serving 30 years as finance director. In retirement he continued consulting professionally for numerous cities and agencies on the Monterey Peninsula including Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District. He also held the position of CEO for the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster from 2006-2016.

He served as past president of the following professional associations: League of California Cities, California Society of Municipal Finance Officers and California Municipal Treasurer’s Association, among many other organizations. He was a member of the International Club of Carmel.

Dewey has requested that there be no public services. There will be a private family celebration of life for Dewey on a future date.

The family would like to thank Hospice of the Monterey Peninsula for compassionate, professional and dedicated patient advocacy. In honor of Dewey’s memory, the family requests that any donations be made to the Alzheimer’s Association or SPCA.



# Editorial

# 'Village in a forest' is not a suicide pact

THE GREAT Bill Bates, whose inimitable cartoons we continue to print more than 15 years after his death, was not only a skilled artist, he was a keen-eyed satirist who specialized in capturing the spirit, the customs and the foibles of Carmelites and the town they love. And one of those oddities, as he showed in several of his most famous drawings, was the town's habit of not only hugging trees, but practically worshipping them.

Carmel, Pebble Beach and the rest of the Monterey Peninsula are justly famous for their fantastic scenery, and an important part of that is the forest — especially the Monterey cypress, whose rugged, windswept silhouette against the Pacific Ocean defines the scenic beauty of the region and makes it a symbol of California's wild coastline.



"To hell with the house. Save the trees!"

But loving a forest is not the same as elevating its importance above everything else. For one thing, we all use wood or wood products 100 times a day, so it's a bit silly to pretend that cutting down trees to suit human purposes isn't OK. And this is especially true when the purpose is saving your life.

"To hell with the house. Save the trees!"

Keep in mind that 15 of the 20 worst wildfires in California history have occurred since 2015, driven by prolonged droughts and urban expansion into fire-prone areas. And the top five — all but one in the last few years — have been shocking in their destructiveness:

No. 1 is the **Camp Fire**, which struck in November 2018 in Butte County, not only wiping out the town of Paradise, but destroying more than 18,000 buildings, killing 85 people and burning more than 150,000 acres. Cost of the damage is estimated at \$16.5 billion.

No. 2 is the **Eaton Fire**, started by unknown causes during high winds in January near Los Angeles, destroying 7,000 structures, killing 18, burning 14,000 acres, and causing up to \$100 billion in losses.

No. 3 is the **Palisades Fire**, which erupted in a wealthy community near Los Angeles in January, burning down 6,600 structures, killing 12, scorching 20,400 acres, and causing up to \$250 billion in economic damages.

No. 4 is the **Tubbs Fire** in Napa and Sonoma counties in October 2017 which destroyed 5,636 structures, killed 22 and burned 37,000 acres.

No. 5 on the list of California's most destructive fires almost seems small by comparison. The **Tunnel Fire** in the Oakland Hills in October 1991 destroyed 2,900 buildings, killed 25 and burned 1,600 acres.

Think we can't end up on this list because of our cool weather and damp climate? Perhaps you need to be reminded of the frightening Pebble Beach fire in June 1987 which ravaged a hillside in Del Monte Forest, quickly destroying 36 homes near Highway 68. And it could have been much worse.

As we report on page 1A, according to the latest maps released by the California Fire Marshal, many parts of the Monterey Peninsula, including most of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, are at severe risk of death and destruction in a wildfire. We must take this danger seriously, even if it means hugging our trees a little less earnestly.

## BEST of BATES



**“Carmel’s not the same anymore.”**

## Letters to the Editor

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

*The Pine Cone only accepts letters to the editor by email. Please submit your letters to [mail@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:mail@carmelpinecone.com)*

*School district troubles*  
**Dear Editor,**

In the recent Pine Cone article, CUSD superintendent Sharon Ofek lamented that “individuals” are undermining the district’s progress. If only student achievement could be rescued by public relations instead of actual results.

Let's be clear: this isn't about personal attacks. It's about performance — and the data don't lie.

Since Ofek took charge, Carmel Unified has seen a disturbing decline in student outcomes: college and career readiness, science scores, math proficiency, CTE completion, and services for English learners have all dropped significantly. Chronic absenteeism remains unresolved. Yet while students are falling behind, legal costs and consultant spending are soaring.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights found CUSD in violation of federal civil rights law in 2024.

for failing to address repeated antisemitic harassment. Though incidents spanned from 2021 to 2024, some of the most serious occurred after Sharon Ofek assumed leadership. She is now named in two active lawsuits: one alleging retaliation against a former principal who raised legal and safety concerns, and another alleging harassment and discrimination within the HR department she oversees.

Despite this, the district's budget has ballooned to over \$88 million, with a staggering increase in services and operating costs — most of it going to lawyers, consultants and outside vendors.

CUSD spends nearly twice the state average per student and pays among the highest teacher and administrator salaries in California. Yet districts spending far less are outperforming our students, sometimes by double-digit margins. The only thing rising faster than the budget is the amount being siphoned into contracts and damage control.

As a basic aid district, CUSD is funded directly by local property taxes. That means the public isn't just watching, we're paying for this dysfunction. Every taxpayer in this community has a right — and a responsibility — to ask: Where is our money going, and who is being held accountable?

If the superintendent is wondering why “individuals” are speaking out, it’s because someone has to stand up for the students. While she’s busy outsourcing strategy and dismissing dissent, our community is watching — and we can read a graph.

**Evelyn Dincer, *CUSD Parent***

*See LETTERS page 29A*

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# The Carmel Pine Cone

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# Different lives, different times, but plenty of common threads

“THE SECOND Mrs. London” is Pacific Grove resident Marlo Faulkner’s historical novel about Charmian Kittredge’s romance with and marriage to Jack London. Faulkner has much in common with the real-life Kittredge, a decidedly unconventional and adventurous woman who studied at Mills College, then eschewed marriage for a business career. Kittredge’s aunt, who edited a literary journal, introduced her to Jack London in 1900. A romance blossomed, was put on hold by London’s first marriage, and then resumed later in their lives.

### Confidence

Faulkner, born in 1942 (and no relation to the Southern author), summarized her own “checkered resume” in her author’s bio, including organizing bat girls for a college baseball team, working for Ed McMahon, going undercover with a Florida vice squad, and, with her husband, Mark, co-founding an opera company in her hometown of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.

While growing up there, she joined the Bluebirds, a junior division of the Camp Fire Girls. It was an experience that inspired her to leave every community better than she

stand up for myself.” After high school, she studied English, biology, history and geology at the University of Idaho. By the time she got to gradu-



PHOTO/ELAINE HESSER

Pacific Grove resident Marlo Faulkner has lived a colorful life — as did the subject of her new historical novel.

ate school, her goal was to “go to San Francisco, live as a young single woman, and experience life.” It would be a little while until she got there, however.

Like most good storytellers, Faulkner is an attentive listener and observer. She also seems to attract fascinating people and interesting situations — many of which have led to unusual opportunities.

See **LIVES** page 31A

## Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

found it. She also gained confidence and learned to relish challenges. As an Irish Catholic in an overwhelmingly Protestant area — and someone who read the dictionary for fun — she said, “I had to learn to

# From the mayor’s desk — Progress through partnerships

By DALE BYRNE

IF YOU’VE ever wondered how a small town like Carmel-by-the-Sea manages to make real progress while preserving its one-of-a-kind charm, the answer is simple: we work together. Our city government doesn’t operate in a vacuum. Around here, meaningful change happens when the city council, city staff, residents, nonprofits and other agencies roll up their sleeves and get to work, side by side.

### ■ Protecting Carmel’s character

One example of this is our newly approved wireless ordinance. Last Friday, the California Coastal Commission — one of the toughest regulatory bodies in the state — gave it a unanimous thumbs-up. This was the result of a multiyear community-wide effort involving city leadership, city staff, legal and technical experts, the planning commission, city council, wireless service providers, and engaged

residents. Everyone listened, adapted, and contributed to the result.

When concerns were raised about a draft ordinance’s impact on Carmel’s beauty and environment, residents got organized. They researched alternatives, rallied support and brought in a national expert — generously funded by local donors. To use a popular ad — “Can you hear me now?” — the answer was yes, and the council did a restart. The result? With the coordination of all stakeholders, we developed a smarter, stronger ordinance that protects what makes Carmel special while staying compliant with federal law. A best-practice process that led to a best-practice policy that allows for intelligent and necessary improvements to our cell services.

### ■ More than just a fence

Another recent win: the new redwood fence around Devendorf Park. What began

See **MAYOR** next page

# ‘Either do it, or shut up,’ he said

THE PAST had been beckoning since the mid-1970s to Matt Connors, who moved to New York City right after graduating from Dartmouth College and had a brief-but-memorable flirtation with fine-art photography.

The fling fizzled, as flings sometimes do, but the spark never really went out.

“Times changed. I left New York, got really busy with my professional pursuits, and photography kind of went into the background,” said Connors, who had a 30-year career as a software developer. “I always had this feeling that I’d get back into photography one day, but never did.”

In 2012, he and his wife, Elneda, moved to the Monterey Peninsula. Two years later, when he retired at 62, Connors engaged in a stern conversation:

“Stop pretending,” he scolded himself. “Either do it, or shut up.”

Ironically or not, a Connors photograph

iPhone shot of a narrow, partially cobblestone street in a French village called Foix. In the foggy distance are two silhouetted walkers, barely illuminated by the soft glow of distant street lamps.

That one was an award winner, published in February’s edition of Black and White Magazine — one of the highlights of an impressive resume that’s barely a decade old.

### ‘A happy accident’

After a 40-year hiatus from photography, Connors began shooting again in 2014, two years after he and Elneda moved from Half Moon Bay to Carmel Valley.

“We knew the Peninsula was a beautiful place, of course, but I was unaware, at the time, that this place also was a photography hotbed. That was a happy accident,” he said.

“When I thought of Ansel Adams, I thought of Yosemite. If you had asked me about Edward Weston, I guess I might’ve made the Monterey Peninsula association.”

The awakening began when he discovered Carmel’s Center for Photographic Art, attended a “members night,” and felt exhilarated to be surrounded by like-minded people.

“That meeting really changed everything for me, because it was the first time I showed my work to other people,” said Connors, who became a member, then was taken under the wing of — among others — Brian Taylor, the center’s newly installed executive director at that time.

“It was like finding my tribe, and it’s really important to have a tribe,” he said.

Taylor became a mentor and go-to source whenever Connors had questions or wanted advice about the art of photography, printing techniques, or any number of other things.

### Power of community

In retirement, Connors also began volunteering as a docent at the center, initially as a member of the crew that hangs and breaks down exhibitions. In 2015, he joined ImageMakers of Monterey, another robust organization of fine-art photographers.

“Just being around those people, seeing their work, hearing their conversations ... those things have been invaluable to me,” said Connors, who became a trustee of the Center for Photographic Art in 2018 and served as president of the board of trustees from 2019 to 2024. “My advice to any photographer, any artist, is to find your community, spend time with them.”

He grew up in Burlingame, graduated from Mills High School, then headed east to New Hampshire and majored in theater arts at Dartmouth College.

“My focus as a theater arts major was lighting and design, and that’s what I did for a while after graduating,” said Connors, who moved to New York with a girlfriend to seek employment in the theater world.



PHOTO/ELNEDA CONNORS

Matt Connors and his “Rue des Chapeliers,” an award-winning photograph of a cobblestone street in a French village.

See **ARTIST** next page

## Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

entitled “The Past Beckons” hangs today at the Monterey Museum of Art, part of the museum’s first-ever Biennial Exhibition.

That showcase of more than 800 juried works by 122 Central Coast artists runs through Aug. 31.

“The Past Beckons” is a 16-by-20 toned cyanotype of a dark corridor in a Roman amphitheater in Spain, with daylight glowing at the opposite end.

### UV lights & Peruvian tea

Connors prints cyanotype images from his own digital negatives using a self-built box of ultraviolet florescent lights, a process that doesn’t require a darkroom.

Cyanotypes are typically blue, but Connors tones his prints into much darker hues using a Peruvian tea called yerba mate.

His creative eye is attracted by mysterious, sometimes foreboding scenes that evoke more questions than answers. His European travels also produced a photo called “Rue des Chapeliers,” a nocturnal

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# MAYOR

From previous page

as a modest like-for-like upgrade became a masterclass in teamwork. City staff, a public works team led by our new director Ken Wysocki, Carmel Cares, a local contractor, and a local wood supplier all joined forces. Ken and I even showed up at 8 a.m. on demo day with work gloves to help — or at least with a promise to not get in the way. In just five days, we built something functional and beautiful that will last a lifetime. A true all-in effort. More projects like this are on the way soon.

There are many more success stories. Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve have helped protect and enhance one of Carmel’s largest open spaces for over 30 years and are coordinating making it safe from wildfires. While city crews handle major tree work, the Friends of Carmel Forest enhance the city’s efforts through planting, watering, and long-term care — one “right tree in the right place” at a time.

The Carmel Garden Club beautifies beloved spots like Piccadilly Park, city hall, Harrison Library, and the North Dunes. The Carmel Public Library Foundation, backed by

## Panetta says there’s ‘overwhelming’ support for Israel

By CHRIS COUNTS

IN THE Middle East for talks with leaders in the region as a member of a congressional delegation, Rep. Jimmy Panetta said the United States’ support for Israel in its fight with Iran is something both political parties should agree on.

Interviewed by Fox News Thursday, Panetta said the support for recent bills passed by Congress shows that Israel’s self-defense is an “overwhelmingly bipartisan issue.”

“Making sure Iran doesn’t have a nuclear weapon, making sure we don’t get dragged into forever wars and

generous donors, is preparing to launch a major interior remodel of Harrison Memorial Library — planned to wrap up just in time for its 100th birthday in 2027. The list goes on and on.

### ■ The Carmel way

These partnerships don’t just make things happen — they make them better. They reflect Carmel’s greatest strength: our people. Residents who care. Nonprofits that deliver. Staff who go the extra mile. And a city government that is listening and adapting. Sure, not everything works perfectly every time. But we are all working hard and are seeing that when we mix community spirit, professional know-how, and the attention to detail outside groups and individuals provide, Carmel gets stronger.

This spirit of collaboration goes all the way back to Frank Devendorf’s dream of a village filled with artists, idealists and doers. That legacy is alive in every partnership, every project and every neighbor who steps up. So if you’re wondering how to make a positive difference, just look around. The invitation is always open. Because in Carmel, we’re getting things done — together.

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

# ARTIST

From previous page

“I only pursued that for a couple of years — there were things about the lifestyle that didn’t appeal to me — but my then-girlfriend was into photography, so I also got into it.”

An interest in computers led him back to the San Francisco Bay area, where, for three decades, he worked in various aspects of the software industry.

In 1985, he met his soulmate.

“I was working for a healthcare information system company in San Mateo. She was working at St. Mary’s Hospital in Reno — one of our clients. I would say it was attraction at first sight,” he said.

They were married three years later.

Eldena, a 1980 graduate of Stroudsburg State College in Pennsylvania, had degrees in biology and biological chemistry, with plans to become a physician.

In 1992, with Matt’s support, she enrolled at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, earning her DVM in 1997. She worked as a vet until 2017, when she retired from private practice, but returned two years later to serve part time as chief of veterinary staff at SPCA Monterey County.

Eldena also has an artistic side, dabbling in ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement.

In 2023, the Connors moved from their Carmel Valley house that was “too big,” on a 1.6-acre property that was “too spacious,” to Carmel Meadows, just off Carpenter Street east of Highway 1.

making sure Israel has a right to defend itself are issues Republicans and Democrats can work together on,” he said. “If the president wants to actually bring Democrats and Republicans together, he needs to continually reach out to both sides.”

Panetta gave an assessment of the dire situation in Iran. “I think there’s two ways this can go,” he said. “One, the regime and leadership of Iran can get back to the table, give up their nuclear arms, and realize that they have to start negotiating from that position. Or two, the people rise up” and change their government.

The congressman urged the people of Iran not to blame the United States. “They should be focused on their nationhood, rather than on ‘Death to America,’” he said.

### ‘Real thrill’

Highlights of Connors’ photography resume also include a 2024 show at the Peter Fetterman Gallery in Santa Monica, 2020 and 2021 exhibitions at the Photographer’s Eye Collective and Gallery in Escondido, and showing at the 2021 and 2022 Alternative Process Photography Exhibitions at The Image Flow Photography Center in Mill Valley.

“But I’ve never been in a museum before,” he said. “Having a picture in the Biennial Exhibition at the Monterey Museum of Art is a very big deal for me. It was a real thrill to go over there and see my photo on the wall with so much wonderful art.”

See his diverse body of work online at mattconnorsphotography.com.

Visit the Monterey Museum of Art Biennial (559 Pacific Street) Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. More information about the exhibition can be found at montereyart.org.

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



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# LETTERS

From page 26A

## Wave warnings

**Dear Editor,**  
Last Dec. 23, historic large waves hit Monterey Bay. The Santa Cruz wharf was torn apart, there was damage to boats in their harbor and three people lost their lives around the bay.

After the first person died in Santa Cruz, state parks began closing the beaches except for Marina State Beach. That is where the second person died due to large waves. Pacific Grove didn't even bother to close the rec trail where many tourists were on top of rocks and the waves were lapping up to the trail. Amazingly, no one was swept to sea. Pebble Beach didn't close the site where the third person died. All of these areas should have been closed and would have been if there was a functional emergency alert system not just for tsunamis, but for all unusually large waves.

As someone who knew the person who died in Marina and heard eyewitness accounts, there were no rangers down there at all. Lifeguards and the Coast Guard weren't able to go out because of the waves. Somehow, though, a whale-watching boat was out and found the body — but they had to let it go because the Coast Guard wouldn't come to get it. Isn't that the point of the Coast Guard? To go out when no one else can? Are the tourists on the whale- watching boat braver than the Coast Guard? Another reason the beaches should have been closed — if no one is able to do a rescue.

If we had had an emergency alert on our phones that day, perhaps those three people wouldn't have died and the beaches would have been closed. It doesn't matter how dangerous waves are generated, whether from an earthquake or wind. It matters how they end up. If NOAA would stop considering only earthquake-driven tsunamis worth an emergency alert and work in conjunction with the weather service to send an alert, three people might still be alive today.

Jane Benight, Monterey

## Peaceful fires?

**Dear Editor,**  
Congressman Panetta should know that only the rioters are responsible for the Los Angeles riots. They were not provoked. They were rioting from the start. Or were those peaceful fires we all saw?

Bob Nunes, Carmel Highlands

## Fascist Pine Cone

**Dear Editor,**  
There were no "riots" in Los Angeles, except for the atrocities by ICE, LAPD and perhaps MAGA thugs posing as law enforcement. Your fascist slant is repulsive.

Paul H. Goldstein, Carmel

## Mysterious lights

**Dear Editor,**  
On Sunday morning, June 15, at 11:10 a.m., I was driving west on Carmel Valley Road. I glanced in the rearview mirror and was immediately puzzled by circular green lights in the windshield areas of four cars which were quite a distance behind me, appearing one behind the other. These lights turned yellow for a second or two and then back green. The front car's headlights blinked on and off for a moment. It was far behind me and not blinking to pass. As I watched, other cars also with green lights came into view behind the first four. Toward the end of my viewing, the green light moved somewhat to the left on the windshield of the first car. What was the cause?

A reflection of the sun did not appear to be the answer since it was high in the sky. Could it have been a funeral or other group procession? I haven't seen one of them in many years.

If anyone else saw this phenomenon or has an explanatory thought, please share with me. It will be greatly appreciated.

George Brehmer, Carmel Valley

## 'Because I cannot simply live'

**Dear Editor,**  
Last December, my living room sideboards, mantle and any surfaces flat enough were covered with holiday greeting cards. This year, Easter and Passover cards wishing me well rested on surfaces within my easy vision. Then more additions with traces of caring following my recently profoundly altered life, which began with an unexpected fall that landed me in the hospital and later in a nursing home.

A few days after turning 90 years old, my life suddenly changed when I fell in my own home. No longer could I manage my ordinary life. I needed assistance to perform even seemingly simple tasks involving movement from couch to chair, to bathroom, to bed. I found help from other people and from a black four-wheeled contraption: a walker. And profound aid from my friend Herman, and my daughter, Malina, both of whom live quite close to me in Carmel.

A sudden awakening from my ordinary life felt like a strange sleep experience, maybe a dream. During those days and nights, I felt I had a choice to complete my stay on Earth or to leave quietly my current life, to trade it in for the ultimate inevitable ending, hopefully a restful death.

Yet I found solace and strength in knowing I still desired to remain here, honoring the many connections that tied me to this Earth. I feel these wishes helped me to remain a bit longer, to keep up and commit more fully to my life gift, that of honoring the written words of others, to help them to see the worthiness of their own journeys through their own writings.

Through the grace of a power unnamed, I knew I still faced opposites, of losses and discoveries, both playing momentous roles in my life. I felt unfinished with my earthly stay. I realized more profoundly the wonder of my life, begun as a premature babe, to becoming a woman who loved well and raised fine children and found her true work in helping others. I wanted to remain, I was not finished in my life. For that, I am most grateful.

And now, having again become more involved with my students, I find deep affirmation in my choice. And I feel profound gratitude and love for those who choose to be in my presence as their presence becomes more fully known to themselves and others.

Yes, I will remain as long as possible on this journey called life.

Illia Thompson, Carmel

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# FIRE MAP

From page 1A

— 334 acres of northern and eastern Carmel described in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan adopted last fall — must also be built with fire-resistant materials. Failing to follow the law is a crime.

For homes in those areas, California Fire Code Chapter 49 outlines various rules for landscaping, Ginette said.

In new gardens and yards, for instance, vegetation has to be “fire-resistant,” shrubs must be 6 feet or shorter, groups of shrubs can’t have “a maximum aggregate diameter of 10 feet,” and while trees that tend to resist burning can be 10 feet from a house, those that present a higher fire danger — like eucalyptus — have to be at least 30 feet away.

People with established gardens must maintain defensible space by ensuring limbs and branches are at least 10 feet from a chimney or stovepipe, vegetation adjacent to or overhanging a building is free of dead or dying wood, and roofs are free of leaves, needles and other debris.

And new buildings must have fire-resistant roofing, siding and decking, flame- and ember-resistant vents, and tempered and glazed windows, skylights and doors.

Ginette also noted that property owners with homes in hazard areas are required to provide disclosures to potential buyers.

**Zone 0 coming**

Meanwhile, requirements for Zone 0 — a 5-foot-wide “ember-resistant” border around structures in the highest fire-hazard zone — that were called for in a 2020 Assembly Bill have not been finalized, despite the fact they were supposed to have taken effect by Jan. 1, 2023.

After the Los Angeles fires earlier this year, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order directing the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to expedite the adoption of Zone 0 regulations for “the elimination of materials in the

ember-resistant zone that would likely be ignited by embers,” with the goal of having them in place by the end of the year.

Once they take effect, they’ll apply to new construction immediately, while other properties will be given three years to comply.

In Carmel — a city thick with trees and shrubs — rules already mandate some fire-proofing efforts, including Class A fire-resistant roofs for new buildings and for reroofing projects covering more than 25 percent, spark arresters on chimneys, fire sprinklers and vegetation maintenance, Ginette said.

During the public comment period June 3, few people addressed the issue at hand — the codification of the new fire map — instead raising related issues.

Former councilwoman Karen Ferlito recommended removing the power pole and lines feeding Flanders Manion, saying the vacant, historic house could be connected to a pole on the Hatton Road side, and Carmel Residents Association board member Nancy Twomey reiterated the need for guidance on how to comply with the rules.

Zone 0 requirements “will change the look and feel of the village,” Twomey said, adding that the defensible space fliers received by homeowners are confusing to understand and follow.

Councilman Jeff Baron observed that the state law is at odds with city codes on design and landscaping.

“I think it’s really important that we figure that stuff out,” he said. “Public education is at the top of the list.”

He also said the entire council should figure it out, not just a committee, and that it should be done in open meetings.

“I think there’s going to be a huge public outcry about what we have to do,” he said.

Councilman Hans Buder said the city needs “to find a solution that balances safety with the obvious character impacts — and it does need to be a community process.”

“There’s a mismatch between what

Sacramento thinks we need to do and what actually makes sense,” observed councilman Bob Delves, adding that he supports the committee’s efforts to “turn what is a bunch of chaotic rules into something that’s more useful and meaningful for us.”

Councilwoman Alissandra Dramov lamented the state’s heavy-handed control.

“I feel like we’re being rushed into this,” she said.

Nonetheless, the council approved the ordinance adopting the new map, which the state said must be done by July 8.

**Inspections underway**

The Monterey Fire Department began conducting property inspections in Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel last month to gauge “compliance with local and state defensible space regulations and vacant lot guidelines.” MFD also sent mailers with checklists and a declaration of compliance — which can be submitted by snail mail or email — to homeowners in the high and very high hazard zones.

Monterey Fire Division Chief Justin Cooper said inspectors brought in to help with the process, which is expected to run through September, have visited 402 properties, 309 of which were compliant.

“We’re obviously seeing some common things like people who haven’t weed-whacked their yards yet and their grasses are super high,” he said, as well as “tree limbs and branches overhanging chimneys,” leaves and other debris on roofs and in gutters, broken or unsafe vents, and dead trees and plants that need to be removed. The inspections are starting with home in the highest hazard zone.

Inspectors knock on doors to talk to residents about the inspections and, if no one is home, will evaluate the property from the street. Residents can also point out areas of concern

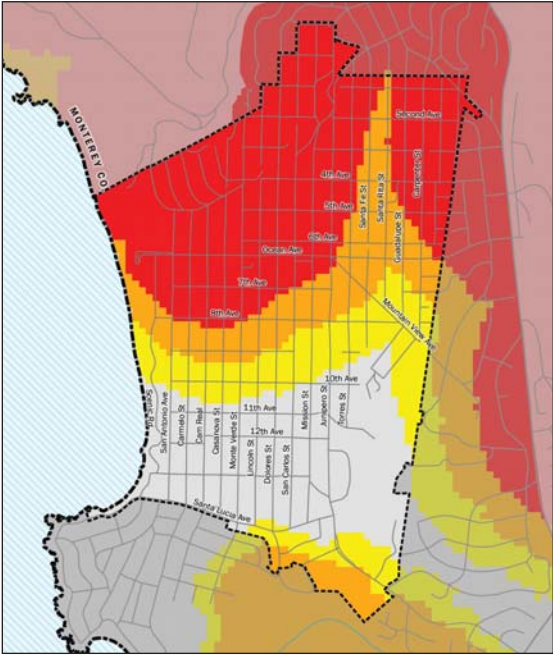
on their neighbors’ properties.

The nonprofit Monterey Firefighter Community Foundation is offering grants to homeowners who can’t afford or are unable to make the required corrections, Cooper said.

“We partnered with a local landscaping company who donated \$10,000 and time to help target residences that are having hardship issues,” he said, and the application and eligibility criteria can be found at [montereyfirefighterfoundation.org/services-6-1](http://montereyfirefighterfoundation.org/services-6-1).

Cooper said the ramped-up inspections and increasing requirements for defensible space are driven by recent wildfires and insurance companies, which are cracking down on policy holders and in some cases canceling their coverage altogether.

“Insurance companies are just coming out and really hammering people and dropping people’s coverage,” he said. “But for us, it’s about being resilient from wildfires and protecting lives and property.”



The state’s rules for wildfire protection could get a lot more severe for property owners with homes in high fire hazard severity zones.

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# LIVES

From page 27A

Her biggest adventures began after she took a job teaching English back in Coeur d’Alene, where she hadn’t counted on a certain lack of privacy.

“I went out with a guy and by the time I got home,” she said, her mother had heard all about it through the local grapevine.

Not very long after, Faulkner escaped. She hopped a train to Florida and found an apartment, a roommate, and a job with an employment agency. One client, a restaurant manager, had fired every candidate she sent him. When she bluntly asked him what the problem was, he challenged her to come in and try the job herself. She said that in short order, she took over the restaurant.

### Here’s Johnny

While working there, Faulkner’s desire to go to California resurfaced, and one day when she mentioned it, a customer she knew fairly well volunteered to take her to Los Angeles on a private jet the next morning. Never one to shrink from an adventure, she sold her car, paid her bills and joined him and some other businessmen on the cross-country flight.

In a remarkable stroke of fortune, one of them connected Faulkner with Ed McMahon, Johnny Carson’s sidekick on the “Tonight Show,” who was in town from New York for one of the program’s West Coast tapings, which happened every three months or so.

McMahon needed a Los Angeles assistant, and after a phone interview, Faulkner got the job, which also involved hosting celebrity guests in the green room. It paid \$75 a day, plus a hotel room and a driver. And it led to more than a few interesting

encounters for her. Over a group dinner one evening, Carson asked Faulkner, “Does your mother know where you are?” “Yes, Mr. Carson,” she replied. Carson ordered up a telephone, dialed the number in Idaho, and the star and his sidekick told her parents what a pleasure it was to work with her. There was a dinner with Tony Bennett, an introduction to Pearl Bailey, and, in July 1981, a meeting with Jimmy Stewart that turned into an emotional segment of that night’s show.

“He asked if I was really an English teacher,” recalled Faulkner. “And when I said I was, he asked if I would read a poem he had written and wanted to read to Johnny during the show.” Titled “Beau,” it was the story of Stewart’s sometimes-uncooperative dog, who had died. Faulkner encouraged Stewart to read it, and when he was finished, he was choked up, and Carson was wiping his eyes. (It’s easily found online, if you’d like to see it.)

Eventually, Faulkner made it to the San Francisco Bay area and returned to teaching — and a healthy social life.

She described running late for a dinner one evening when a Jaguar convertible started tailgating her, matching her route turn for turn. She decided to pull over and scare the “stalker” off. He stepped out of the car and she began screaming and swearing at him until he drove off.

As it turned out, he wasn’t actually following her. He was just going to the same party, where he greeted her with a wry, “I think we’ve met.”

Despite the awkward introduction, “we’ve been married for 56 years,” she laughed.

Mark was a teacher, too, but, after cashing in some stock she had purchased years

before, they also bought a needlepoint shop in San Mateo, and she ended up writing a needlework column for the local paper. “I’d been sewing since I was a kid,” she explained. “I made my own clothing through college.” Writing was also something she’d enjoyed in her youth, and she was happy to return to it as an adult, quickly expanding her repertoire. Her enjoyment of sewing and the written word were about to coalesce into a new project.

### Found her muse

Faulkner’s novel was inspired by a trip to Jack London State Historic Park in Glen Ellen, where, in passing, she mentioned her needlework column to a ranger, who directed her to the secret entry Charmian used for visits during London’s first marriage. Then, he showed Faulkner the woman’s wardrobe.

“Her closet was full of custom-made dresses with matching coats and shoes. Her

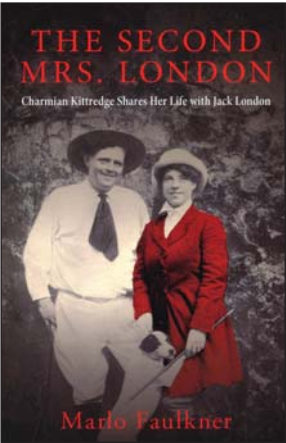
‘dainties’ were silk charmeuse edged with lace. I was hooked. Who was Charmian London?”

Faulkner recounted some of what she’d learned from her extensive research. “She was a very fine writer. She started as a stringer for Sunset,” and wrote the “The Log of the Snark,” describing her international travels with London on their custom-made yacht.

Like the Londons, the Faulknors discovered the Monterey Peninsula’s allure. They vacationed on Carmel Point for 16 years and decided to move here after her mother died and they sold the family home in Idaho.

If you’d like to meet Faulkner and learn more about Charmian Kittredge London, there’s a book-signing on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at River House Books in the Crossroads shopping center.

And the vice squad? You’ll have to ask her about that.



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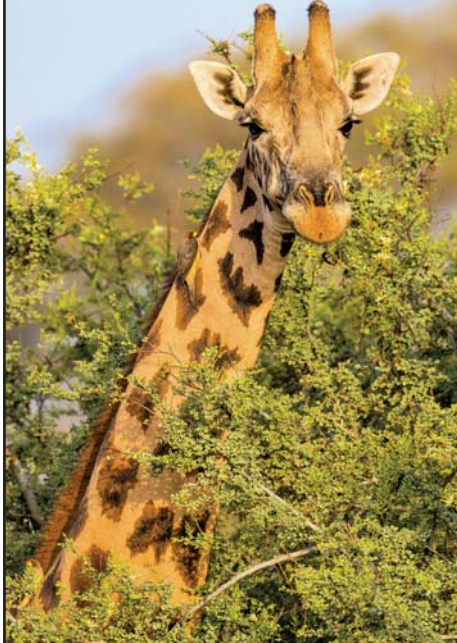
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# The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

## Santa Catalina alum delivers biggest hit when it really mattered

SHORTLY BEFORE the opening of the 2025 softball season, the UCLA Bruins sat in their home ballpark, Easton Stadium, for a team-bonding experience — a nocturnal showing of “Cool Runnings,” the Disney movie about a Jamaican bobsled team that improbably competed in the 1988 Winter Olympics.

The late-night sky provided a magical canvas when a shooting star streaked overhead, a sighting that was interpreted as an omen — a message to “aim higher,” which immediately became the team motto.

Four-and-a-half months and 55 victories later, Santa Catalina alumnus Jessica Clements stood at home plate in UCLA’s first game at the Women’s College World Series in Oklahoma City, facing a scoreboard that showed a 2-2 tie against the University of Oregon, with two outs in the seventh inning.

### Hammered it

“Even before I walked to the plate, I felt surprisingly relaxed — way more calm than I should have been in that moment,” said Clements, whose teammate, pinch runner Taylor Stephens, stood on first base.

— a high-arching fly ball that cut through the pitch-black sky like ... well, a shooting star.

Outfielder Kedre Luschar raced to the center field wall, leapt, and extended her glove.

**Actually happening?**

“I saw the outfielder going back and was like, ‘Oh, my gosh ... is this actually happening?’”

As she approached second base, Clements saw the ball clear the wall, where a spectator made a bare-handed catch in the bleachers.

When she touched the base and turned toward third, she directed a confused stare toward the UCLA dugout, where her teammates were wildly celebrating. The game was over. The Bruins had won.

Clements began to cry as she rounded third and headed toward a berserk mob waiting to swarm her at home plate.

Dreams are just dreams — until they come true. This one, she said, is unlikely to be topped.

“Absolutely not,” she said, bursting into laughter. “There are literally no words to describe the feeling.

“I was looking at the videos after we came home and couldn’t believe I was the one who did that. It still doesn’t feel real.”

She was no stranger to heroics at Santa



The game was tied in the bottom of the seventh inning of the Women’s College World Series and UCLA’s Jessica Clements, a Santa Catalina alum, was just trying to get a base hit when she hammered a fastball into the midnight sky.

PHOTO/UCLA ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Catalina (Class of ’20), where she was a four-year letter winner in softball and volleyball and a three-time All-Pacific Coast Athletic League Gabilan Division player. Clements led the Cougars to a 21-1 record and the Central Coast Section Division 2 championship as a sophomore and graduated with a career batting average of .605.

**Cal Poly’s all-time best**

She moved on to Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, where she became the top hitter in school history with a .411 batting average and ranked fourth all-time in stolen bases — 30 in 135 games — all starts.

In her final year, she won the Big West Conference batting championship with a

.464 average that was fourth-best in the nation — numbers that made her the Big West Player of the Year.

She graduated in 2024 with a degree in agricultural business, and one remaining year of NCAA eligibility.

The day after commencement, Clements was thrilled to receive an email from Bruins assistant coach and softball hall of famer Lisa Fernandez, who invited her to visit the campus and consider UCLA for graduate school — and dangled the possibility of joining a softball team that had won five NCAA championships since 1999.

See **SPORTS** next page

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

“I was just trying to get a base-hit. And then — boom — it happened!”

Clements, a left-handed hitter, hammered the second pitch from Oregon right-hander Elise Sokolsky toward center field

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A photograph of the Monterey County Pops Orchestra performing outdoors. Musicians are seated with various instruments, including brass and woodwinds, in front of a large crowd of spectators.

Independence Day July 4, 2025

Devendorf Park, Carmel-by-the-Sea

A photograph of five members of the Estillo Eficiente band standing together, wearing matching blue and red patterned shirts and hats.

Esillo Eficiente

1:00 pm Estillo Eficiente

This year’s concert opens with a performance by Estillo Eficiente under the direction of Eliodoro Vallecillo (“Lolo”) setting a lively and beautiful tone for the day.

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# SPORTS

From previous page

“After a few phone calls, I found myself boarding a flight to LAX for a 10-hour campus visit,” she reflected in a memoir she wrote for the Daily Bruin, UCLA’s student newspaper. “In that brief time, I knew this was the place where I wanted to spend my last year. The standards, expectations, and culture of excellence were immediately apparent.”

### ‘Was I good enough?’

What wasn’t apparent to Clements was whether she was athletically at the same level as the teammates she’d be joining — and if she’d be accepted as a newcomer. “Being a transfer can be hard, and I quite honestly did not know what to expect,” she wrote. “I was coming into the program with plans of staying in my own lane and doing what was asked of me.

“Another concern was whether I was good enough to be here,” Clements reflected. “Coming from a mid-major school and stepping into a program with insane talent was intimidating.” Her own talents calmed her insecurities. Clements became the starting center fielder and leadoff hitter for a team destined to go 55-13, win regional and super regional championships, and beat Oregon in the opening round of the World Series. Clements finished the year with a .372 batting average (fifth-best on the team), .437 on-base percentage, 18 doubles, one triple, six home runs, 44 RBI, and a team-best nine stolen bases. She also had an errorless season in center field.

### John Wooden program

For Clements — who aspires to become a coach — part of her graduate studies in Education included John Wooden’s Transformative Coaching and Leadership program, devised by the legendary UCLA basketball coach whose teams won 10 NCAA

championships. “I could talk about that all day, but the biggest things I learned were about relationship building,” she said. “I learned about how building deeper relationships can impact a player, a team, an environment, or a community.” Clements also has been invited to extend her master’s studies and remain at UCLA next year as a graduate-assistant coach. That dream come true could conflict with another opportunity: The possibility of playing in the newly-founded Athletes Unlimited Softball League, which launched June 6 with four teams that will play 24-game schedules (plus playoffs) at venues in 10 states.

“I’m signed up this summer in the reserve pool, meaning if anybody gets hurt, I’ll be playing in the new sports league. That also puts me in the pool to be drafted by an AUSL team next year — all of which is pretty exciting,” she said. It’s also “a slippery slope,” explained Clements, whose potential employers must be made aware that she could leave at moment’s notice if the softball league calls. Clearly, her future is brimming with possibilities for a student-athlete who, in



PHOTO/UCLA ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

As she rounded first base, Clements saw Oregon’s center fielder leap — but a fan in the bleachers caught the ball barehanded, giving Clements a walk-off home run.

one short year, learned to embrace what her teammates called “Bruin Magic.” “That’s just the belief that we can do anything, no matter the situation,” she said. “If we believe in our talent, believe in our preparation and believe in each other, literally anything is possible.” You can see Clements’ home run at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=2w2obYd6yYA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2w2obYd6yYA). Dennis Taylor is a professional freelance writer in Monterey County. Contact him at [scribelaureate@gmail.com](mailto:scribelaureate@gmail.com).



PHOTO/UCLA ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

After she crossed the plate, Clements sobbed and fell into the arms of her crazed teammates, celebrating a dreamlike finish to UCLA’s biggest victory of the year.

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# This Week

Live Music,  
Clubs and Events

## Nearly 7 decades after debut, Las Vegas legend visits Golden State Friday

NO PERFORMER has shined brighter and longer under the glittering lights of Las Vegas than 83-year-old singer and actor **Wayne Newton**, who takes the stage Saturday, 8 p.m., at the Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

### On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

Billed as “America’s No. 1 nightclub act,” Newton first performed in Las Vegas as a teenager. In the early 1960s, appearances on the Jackie Gleason Show made him a household name, and by the mid-1970s, he had emerged as the most popular entertainer in town, earning him the name, Mr. Las Vegas.



Known as “Mr. Las Vegas,” singer and entertainer Wayne Newton takes the stage Saturday, 6 p.m., at the Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

Besides his unparalleled popularity as an entertainer, Newton had a slew of hit singles, including his best-selling song, “Daddy Don’t You Walk So Fast,” which peaked at No. 4 on the pop charts in 1972.

Tickets start at \$69. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit [goldenstatetheatre.com](http://goldenstatetheatre.com).

### Remembering Heart

Featuring two founding members from the original band, **Heart by Heart** pays tribute to Heart Saturday, 4 p.m., at the 18th annual Monterey Rock ’n’ Rod Festival.

The tribute act is led by bassist **Steve Fossen** and drummer **Michael Derosier** — both of whom played on Heart classics like “Magic Man,” “Crazy On You” and “Barracuda.”

The lineup at the day-long gathering also includes **Jeremy “Elvis” Pearce & The Memphis Sons**, **The Yard Dogs** and singer and guitarist **David Conley**. Besides live music, the yearly festival features a display of custom and classic cars and trucks, and raises funds for the Gateway Center of Monterey County. For tickets and info, go to [montereyrockrod.com](http://montereyrockrod.com).

### Free on Friday

Led by singer and guitarist **Tim Brady**, Santa Cruz-based **Cement Ship** plays a free concert Friday, 6 p.m., just outside Sunset Center. The band serves up a fresh mix of folk, indie rock, acoustic rock, soul and Americana. The show is the latest offering in Sunset’s Terrace Hour music series. Pets are welcome. Food and drinks are allowed, but alcohol must be purchased on site.

Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. The website for tickets is [sunsetcenter.org](http://sunsetcenter.org)



Johnny Tsunami, featuring bassist Mike Royster, rocks Sly McFly’s in Monterey, Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.

### Live music June 20-26

#### Big Sur

**Big Sur River Inn** — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (folk, Saturday at 12:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist

See **MUSIC** page 40A

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FOOD & WINE

TASTE

From previous page

versary as owners of A Taste of Elegance catering, which they purchased in 2005. The couple met as geography students at San Jose State University, and both worked in their field after graduation. However, said Jeff, Annie had grown up in a restaurant family and enjoyed making food for others, so when carpal tunnel syndrome made working on a computer difficult, she decided to go into catering. A Taste of Elegance went on the market, and they bought it.

Coincidentally, said Jeff, on the actual day of the anniversary, the company catered an event for its longest-running client, Ocean Mist Farms, and had a celebra-

tion for their staff and employees from the last two decades.

The company does all sorts of events — corporate parties, weddings, birthdays, socials during Car Week and the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro Am, and more. Many of their efforts have been incredibly creative — made possible by a team that’s incredibly diligent.

Hobbs said outdoor events often come with the hurdles of building a full kitchen and transforming an empty space in a field into a posh dining room, but the group at A Taste of Elegance seems to relish the challenge.

One memorable birthday party was based on the series, “Downton Abbey,” an historical drama set on a fictional Yorkshire estate in the early 20th century. Guests

See **BREAD** next page



A Taste of Elegance catering is celebrating its 20th year under the ownership of Jeff and Annie Hobbs. The company does parties of all sizes, including this 2018 wedding at a private home in Pebble Beach.

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FOOD & WINE

BREAD

From previous page

came in costume, said Becky Rojas, who’s been with the company for 13 years.

Male servers wore tuxedos, while the women got custom-made costumes via Etsy. An actress was was hired to play the role of one of the senior Crawley family members, the owners of the titular estate. “She was hilarious,” remembered Rojas.

Doc Ricketts

The event was set up at a home in Pebble Beach and featured a specially designed dining room with china, real silverware and exceptional floral arrangements, she said. About 60 people enjoyed a four-course meal with “modern takes inspired by period dishes,” she added. They’ve also had events at Doc Ricketts Pacific Biological Laboratories Museum on Cannery Row, and, according the company’s website, “a strolling dinner on a Big Sur cliff



that transported guests into a modern-day medieval food village.”

There are two subsidiary brands, as



Ad Astra Atelier, part of Ad Astra Bread Co., has opened a location in Carmel Valley. Offering a selection of sandwiches, salad, snack plates and more. The Italian “sando” (left) is the perfect size for lunch, and the shop also sells whole loaves of Ad Astra bread, including its popular focaccia (right).



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well — Quench, which does bar catering exclusively, and Mirth Kitchen in Carmel Valley, with onsite casual catering and grab-and-go goodies to serve at home. For more information, visit [atoecatering.com](http://atoecatering.com), [mirthcv.com](http://mirthcv.com), and [quenchbarcatering.com](http://quenchbarcatering.com).

Valley stars

Ad Astra Bread Co., the bakery founded by chef Ron Mendoza in 2019, has had a brick-and-mortar outlet at 479 Alvarado St. in Monterey since 2023. Now, Carmel Valley residents can find the bread without hitting a farmers market or one of the many restaurants that serves it. Ad Astra Atelier in Mid Valley Shopping Center has opened in the location formerly occupied by The Bearded Bean coffee.

Open Thursday through Monday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., it’s a convenient place to grab a quick breakfast or lunch along with an espresso drink and of course, excep-

tional loaves of bread. Favorites like the focaccia, olive loaf and honey whole wheat are on the menu, and lunch options, available starting at 11 a.m., include assorted sandwiches, several salads, snack plates and toast. The hefty Italian “sando” combines thinly sliced cold cuts with arugula, sweet red pepper, creamy burrata cheese and just a hint of balsamic dressing on a seeded roll.

Happily, while the bread is crusty on the outside with great texture from the seeds, the inside is light and just a little chewy, with more than enough “give” to make it easy to eat. Engineering the perfect sandwich is indeed an art, and this combo checks all the boxes — the fillings stay inside, you don’t have to dislocate your jaw, and every bite builds on the exceptional canvas of the bread with a balanced helping of flavorful ingredients.

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



Presents...  
**SUMMER COMEDY KICKOFF!**  
Performances are June 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> at the Carl Cherry Theater!

SCAN FOR TICKETS!

It’s time to celebrate the carefree days of summer, and what better way than a night of comedy!

Soapbox Stageworks presents four hilarious One Act Plays that will lift your spirits and leave you laughing for days:

1. “Gentlemen’s Agreement” by Rich Rubin

When two Irishman wrangle over the selling of a couch and unexpected past arises.

2. “Elephant in the Room” by Kacie Michele

Four strangers got stuck in an elevator and how they cope is less than conventional.

3. “Break a Leg” by Max Jackson

An understudy is thrust into a performance with a notorious, diva actress, let’s just say, things get interesting.

4. “Judy’s Place” by Karen Devaney

A beloved pub is in danger of getting bulldozed when it’s owner suddenly dies. Friends and patrons gather as a far-fetched scheme is devised to save the place.

  
[www.soapboxstageworks.org](http://www.soapboxstageworks.org)

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# New book shines a spotlight on the First Family of Photography

THE GRANDSON of Edward Weston, photographer Kim Weston signs copies of his autobiography, “Growing Up Weston: In the Presence of Women,” Saturday, 6 p.m., at Bradley Gallery in Pacific Grove.

“This will be an unforgettable evening celebrating one of America’s most iconic photography families,” the gallery’s Jason Bradley announced. “This one-night-only event brings together live music, wine, hors d’oeuvres and an exclusive exhibition of photographs from five photog-

## Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

raphers spanning four generations of the Weston family.” The 348-page picture-filled coffee table book “offers a deeply personal look” into Kim’s life, as well as “his place within a legacy shaped by Edward, Brett, Cole, and Zach Weston.” “Kim will be present to sign books, share stories, and connect with guests in an evening dedicated to memory, inspiration and artistic passion,” said Bradley, whose gal-



Bradley Gallery in Pacific Grove celebrates the release of a new book by Kim Weston with a reception Saturday at 6 p.m.

lery offers a “full-service print lab and a photographic learning center.” The gallery is located at 566 Lighthouse Ave.

### Scholarships for students

Supporting their artistic journeys when they enter college this fall, the Arts Council for Monterey County awarded \$2,500 scholarships to six graduating seniors, including two from Pacific Grove High School, Angela Liu and Zion Cho. “These scholarships recognize six exceptional graduating high school seniors pursuing higher education in creative fields,” the arts council said. The awards are funded by the Emile Norman Trust. Norman was a highly regarded Big Sur artist who died in 2009. “These scholarships play a vital role in fostering the next generation of artists and ensuring Monterey County’s artistic legacy continues to flourish,” the arts council explained. “The arts are a powerful force for personal and professional growth, with limitless possibilities for impact.” The arts council’s executive director, Jacquie Atchison, said her group is “thrilled” to support the students. “We are committed to helping these students build fulfilling careers in the arts,” Atchinson added.

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■ ‘A delicious concoction’

Featuring paintings, mixed media and assemblage art, an exhibit by Stephanie Langley and Robert Armstrong opens Friday at the Cherry Center of the Arts, which hosts a public reception at 4:30 p.m. “This is a unique, one-of-a-kind, two-person exhibition, with close to 100 works of art, in a small gem of a gallery surrounded by a serene Zen sculpture garden,” said artist Jim Dultz, who curated the show. Described by the artists as “a delicious concoction of the sublime and absurd,” the exhibit, titled “Juxtapose,” will be on display through July 26. The Cherry Center is at Guadalupe and Fourth. For more details, call (831) 624-7491 or visit carlcherrycenter.org

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**Press releases about newsworthy events should go to the following Pine Cone reporters:**

**Mary Schley:** Carmel-by-the-Sea, food & wine, police, fire, criminal courts and schools  
mary@carmelpinecone.com

**Chris Counts:** Carmel Valley, Big Sur, Arts & Entertainment and scholastic sports  
chris@carmelpinecone.com

**Kelly Nix:** Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, Monterey, Seaside, state government, civil courts and water  
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**Letters to the editor are only accepted by email and should be sent to** mail@carmelpinecone.com

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Email is the most efficient way to place the following listings and ads.

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Anne Papineau (831) 274-8654  
anne@carmelpinecone.com

DEADLINE IS TUESDAY AT 1:00 P.M.

# CALENDAR

**Thursdays - Live jazz with The David Morwood Jazz Band**, 6 to 9 p.m., at Terry’s Restaurant + Lounge, inside Cypress Inn, Lincoln and Seventh, Carmel-by-the-Sea. For more information, please contact Cypress Inn, (831) 624-3871.

**June 20-Aug. 20 – Book your summer celebrations with Baum & Blume Catering!** Whether it’s a garden party, birthday, anniversary, or baby shower, we can help! Choose full-service, drop-off/set-up, or pick up at our kitchen. Fresh, innovative cuisine, impeccable service! Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley (831) 659-0400.

**Fridays – Latin jazz and blues with Dino Vera**, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Terry’s Restaurant + Lounge, inside Cypress Inn, Lincoln and Seventh, Carmel-by-the-Sea. For more information, please contact Cypress Inn, (831) 624-3871.

**June 21 – Morgan Winery’s ‘Best of Monterey’ Riesling pairing.** Enjoy a complimentary side-by-side pour of our award-winning Riesling added to every tasting flight, along with a complimentary cheese bite selected by Kent Torrey of The Cheese Shop Carmel; 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. at Taste Morgan, the Crossroads Shopping Center, Rio Road off Highway 1, Carmel.

**Saturdays – Soulful blues with Debbie Davis**, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Terry’s Restaurant + Lounge, inside Cypress Inn, Lincoln and Seventh, Carmel-by-the-Sea. For more information, please contact Cypress Inn, (831) 624-3871.

**June 21 – Continuum: 4 Generations of Westons – A rare art and cultural event featuring photography’s most iconic family.** Meet Kim Weston and explore an exclusive exhibition of works by Edward, Brett, Cole, Kim and Zach Weston. Book signing, live music, hors d’oeuvres, 6 to 9 p.m. at Bradley Gallery, Pacific Grove. Free entry.

**Sundays – Jazz brunch with the Andrea Carter Trio**, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Terry’s Restaurant + Lounge, inside Cypress Inn, Lincoln and Seventh, Carmel-by-the-Sea. For more information, please contact Cypress Inn, (831) 624-3871.

**June 27 – The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB)** will present a luncheon lecture at the Monterey Marriott. Topic is **“Fault Lines and Front Lines: Turkey’s Role in a Fractured Region,”** presented by Col. Christopher Welch (U.S. Air Force, ret). Visit <http://www.wacmb.org> for event information and registration.

**June 27, 28 & 29 – Soapbox Stageworks presents its summer comedy kickoff, with four hilarious one-act plays.** Setting is the Carl Cherry Theater in Carmel-by-the-Sea. For tickets and information, visit [www.soapboxstageworks.org](http://www.soapboxstageworks.org)

**June 28 – Join us for the grand opening celebration of The Charles, Pacific Grove**, an artfully designed inclusive bed and breakfast inn. Opening coincides with Monterey Pride. Celebration hours are 1 to 5 p.m. at 581 Pine Ave., Pacific Grove.

**July 4 – American Legion Post 512 invites all to its open house**, 1 to 5 p.m. on Dolores Street two south of Eighth, Carmel-by-the-Sea. See the post, meet some members and learn more about their offerings. Live music by Up The Creek. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be served (while supplies last.) To learn more, visit [alpost512carmel.org](http://alpost512carmel.org)

**July 4 – Join us for our annual celebration in Carmel-by-the-Sea at Devendorf Park! Monterey County Pops!** will present a free concert at 2 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic snacks to enjoy our free, live concert of popular and patriotic music in Devendorf Park. Good fun for the entire family! **LIVE STREAM** – Broadcast over Comcast Channel 24 and on our website [www.montereycountypops.org/livestream](http://www.montereycountypops.org/livestream)

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40A The Carmel Pine Cone June 20, 2025

# MUSIC

*From page 35A*

**Richard Tripps** (rock, Sunday at 1 p.m.). 46800 Highway 1.

**Fernwood Resort** — **Velour** (groove and funk, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

## ■ Carmel

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

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

**De Tierra Vineyards** — **Rob Frank Duo** (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.

**Links Club** — **The Katherine Lavin Band** (pop and rock, Friday 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.

## ■ Carmel Valley

**Bernardus Lodge** — pianist **Martan Mann** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea’s Fault** (jazz and pop, 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). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

**Big Sur Vineyards Tasting Room** — **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Friday at 5:30 p.m.). 1 Del Fino Place.

**Edgar’s Restaurant** — mandolinist

The latest in a series of free “Terrace Hour” concerts, Cement Ship performs outside Sunset Center Friday at 6 p.m.

**Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Friday at 5 p.m.). At Quail Lodge, 8205 Valley Greens Drive.

**Folktale Winery** — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Friday at 3 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Jacob Chase** (Saturday at 4 p.m.), **Monterey Jazz Regional All-Star Combo** (Sunday at 11 a.m.). 8940 Carmel

*Continues next page*

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From previous page

Valley Road.  
**Trailside Cafe** — singer and guitarist **Tom Faia** and singer **Kate Miller** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.  
**Twisted Roots Winery** — singer and guitarist **Casey Wickstrom** (Sunday at 1 p.m.). 12 Del Fino Place.

■ Monterey

**Albatross Ridge Winery** — singer **Eliza James** and singer-guitarist **Keith Rayburn** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Dan Cioper** (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, Wednes-

day at 7 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St.  
**Estéban Restaurant** — guitarist **Catherine Broz** (Spanish and classical, Thursday at 5 p.m.). Casa Munras Hotel, 700 Munras Ave.  
**Hyatt Regency Monterey** — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kip Allert** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.  
**InterContinental Hotel** — singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 9 a.m.), guitarist **Terrence Farrell** (Latin music, Sunday at 9 a.m.). 750 Cannery Row.  
**Melville Tavern** — **The Chuck Brewer Duo** (rock and blues, Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.). 484 Washington St.  
**Midici Pizza** — singer **Janice Perl** and guitarist **John Storie** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), **The David Morwood Trio** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.  
**Monterey Plaza Hotel** — pianist **Tom Gastineau** (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 **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Monday at 6 p.m.), mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Tuesday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Tamas**



A Los Angeles-based singer and guitarist on a nationwide tour, Laura Joy performs Sunday, 3 p.m., at the De Tierra Vineyards tasting room, which is located at Mission and Fifth.

**Marius** (jazz, Wednesday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Alison Sharino** (jazz, 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.  
**Peter B’s** — **TNT & The Explosions** (rock, county and r&b, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 1000 Highway 1, Suite 100, Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley Village

See LIVE page 44A



A Santa Cruz-based funk and groove band, Velour plays Saturday, 10 p.m., at Fernwood Resort in Big Sur.



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Continues on next page

**P**olice Log: June 11, 12

**A** male reported hearing gunshots from neighbor's residence on Monarch Lane.

**Unfounded.**

**Pacific Grove**

**F**emale reported losing her magnifying glass.

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JESUS CHRIST  
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MONTEREY STAKE

1024 Noche Buena St., Seaside  
• 10:30 a.m.  
• 1 pm (Tongan)

Email  
[Anne@carmelpinecone.com](mailto:Anne@carmelpinecone.com)  
to be included in this directory

## LIVE

From page 41A

p.m.). At Portola Hotel and Spa, 2 Portola Plaza.

**Puma Road at Portola Plaza** — singer and guitarist **Joyce Sampson** (Friday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

**Salty Seal Pub** — **The Rogue Roosters** (rock and blues, Friday at 8 p.m.), **Rachel Sprung and Soul Service** (r&b, Saturday at 8 p.m.), **The Edge Band** (rock, Sunday at 4 p.m.). 653 Cannery Row.

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

**Sly McFly's** — **The Speakeasy Band** (pop and rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **The Bridget Marie Band** (r&b and pop, Saturday at 9 p.m.), **The Rod Wilson Band** (classic rock, Monday at 8:30 p.m.), **The Pacific Jack Band** (classic rock, Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.), **Johnny Tsunami** (rock, Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.), **Blue Fire** (classic rock and modern funk, Thursday at 8:30 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** — singer and guitarist **Lisa Long** (Saturday at 2 p.m.), **Sixth Street Alternative** (alt-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** ("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** — **Sean and The Skin Walkers** (blues and rock, Friday at 6:30 p.m.), singer **Julie Capili** (jazz, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), **The Chuck Brewer Trio** (rock and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.), **Open Mic** (Tuesday at 6 p.m., sign up by 5 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.

### ■ Seaside

**Bayonet Blackhorse Golf Course** — guitarist **Richard DeVinck** (classical, Friday at 4:30 p.m.). Bayview Grill, 1 McClure Way.

**Cuz' Sportsman Club** — **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Saturday at 8:30 p.m.). 594 Broadway.

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

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# Obituary Notices

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250924  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**FRESH BIN, 21183 Ord Ave, Marina, CA 93933**, County of MONTEREY  
Registrant(s):  
ZAYAS DISTRIBUTION LLC, 21183 Ord Ave, Marina, CA 93933  
This business is conducted by a limited liability company  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.  
ZAYAS DISTRIBUTION LLC  
S/ MARTIN ZAYAS, MANAGING MEMBER,  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 05/15/2025.  
5/30, 6/6, 6/13, 6/20/25  
**CNS-3924761#**  
**CARMEL PINE CONE**  
Publication Dates: May 30, June 6, 13, 20, 2025. (PC 568)

**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 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250906  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CUTE-IE! NAIL BAR**, 75 San Miguel Ave., Unit 3, Salinas, CA 93901. County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Registered Owner(s):  
JOVANA MENDOZA, 606 Rusconi Dr., Soledad, CA 93960.  
This business is conducted by an individual.  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.  
**BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.** A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).  
S/Jovana Mendoza  
Date signed: May 13, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 13, 2025.  
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize

the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Publication Dates: May 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, MARITESS TORREBLANCA WICKLIFF, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
**A. Present name:** MARITESS 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 Agujajito 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. Wells  
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 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. 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 LLC., 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.  
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). *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/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 HUNTMARK 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 613)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250979  
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **SUNSHINE MASSAGE 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 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 MASSAGE 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)

TS No: CA08000084-25-1 APN: 243-301-023-000 To No: 92167861 **NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE** (The above statement is made pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(1). The Summary will be provided to Trustor(s) and/or vested owner(s) only, pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(2)). YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED August 2, 2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On July 29, 2025 at 10:00 AM, at the main entrance to the County Administration Building at 168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901, MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust recorded on August 8, 2006 as Instrument No. 2006069868, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Monterey County, California, executed by ROBERT BRUCE EGLINTON and FRIEDA B. EGLINTON, AS TRUSTEES FOR THE EGLINTON FAMILY TRUST, DATED 6 JULY 1998, as Trustor(s), in favor of FINANCIAL FREEDOM SENIOR FUNDING CORPORATION, A SUBSIDIARY OF INDYMAC BANK, F.S.B. A DELAWARE CORPORATION as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 36260 HIGHWAY 1, MONTEREY, CA 93940 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$1,707,365.29 (Estimated). However, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same Lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may visit the Internet Website address www.nationwideposting.com or call Nationwide Posting & Publication at 916.939.0772 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA08000084-25-1. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Notice to Tenant NOTICE TO TENANT FOR FORECLOSURES AFTER JANUARY 1, 2021 You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 916.939.0772, or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case CA08000084-25-1 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: May 24, 2025 MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps TS No. CA08000084-25-1 17100 Gillette Ave Irvine, CA 92614 Phone: 949-252-8300 TDD: 711 949.252.8300 By: Loan Quema, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ONLINE AT www.nationwideposting.com FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: Nationwide Posting & Publication AT 916.939.0772 NPP0474936 To: CARMEL PINE CONE 06/06/2025, 06/13/2025, 06/20/2025  
Publication dates: June 6, 13, 20, 2025 (PC616)

LEGALS DEADLINE: Tuesday 3:00 pm

Call Irma (831) 274-8645 or email:

legals@carmelpinecone.com

Se Habla Espanol







# GAVEL

From page 4A

Attorney Investigator Erik Morris and retired district attorney investigator Jackie Meroney.

**April 25** — The California Board of Parole Hearings, represented by two parole commissioners, granted parole to Joel Suarez Garcia after he served 24 years in custody. Garcia, now 51 years old, was serving a 15-years-to-life sentence for the 2000 murder of his five-month-old son, Raul. This was Garcia’s sixth parole hearing. He was eligible for parole under both the general statutory framework and the elder parole provisions.

On Sept. 27, 2000, Baby Raul’s mother, Noemi, left the infant in Garcia’s care for approximately 30 minutes while she went to the store for baby formula and visited an ATM. Upon returning home, Garcia called for her to come upstairs. There, she found Raul not breathing and turning blue. She attempted CPR and rushed him to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly after arrival.

An autopsy revealed that Raul died from “whiplash shaken infant syndrome” combined with compressive force to his trunk, which caused asphyxia. Additional injuries included a fractured upper right arm, a crack in the left elbow, and various abrasions and bruises. Medical experts determined the injuries were inflicted shortly before the baby’s death. Garcia denied harming the child and has consistently maintained his innocence.

Garcia was convicted of second-degree murder. At the time of the crime, he was on felony probation for unlawful intercourse with a minor (Noemi) and misdemeanor probation

for domestic violence against her. During the parole hearing, he also admitted to prior domestic violence against his wife, Victoria.

At the April 2025 hearing, the parole board focused on Garcia’s conduct during his incarceration. The commissioners noted he had no documented rule violations and had participated in rehabilitative programs addressing alcohol abuse, anger management, and criminal thinking. Psychological evaluations in 2022 and 2025 rated Garcia as a low risk for violent reoffending. The board concluded he no longer posed an unreasonable risk to public safety and acknowledged what they believed to be genuine remorse. Garcia also presented post-release plans for both the United States and Mexico, in the event of deportation.

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

Despite the board’s findings, the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office strongly opposed parole, arguing Garcia remains a danger — particularly to women and children. During the hearing, Garcia claimed his actions were driven by insecurity, low self-esteem, and jealousy over the attention Noemi gave to their son. The DA’s representative challenged this narrative, calling Garcia manipulative and deceptive, and characterized him as a selfish and callous individual. He was described as having a pattern of exploiting women, including cheating on both his wife and Noemi, who was underage at the time of their relationship.

Although Garcia had no formal prison violations, the record indicated that between 2001 and 2008, he associated with a prison gang and smuggled contraband as instructed by the gang.

In addition to the opposition by the district attorney’s Of-

fice, Salinas Police Chief Carlos Acosta expressed strong opposition to Garcia’s release. In a written statement submitted on March 18, 2025, to the board, Acosta reasoned: “Based on the brutality of this crime, which appears to be a completely senseless and unjustifiable act of violence, Garcia is unsuitable for parole. We believe that he poses an unreasonable danger to the community.”

This grant of parole is part of a trend across the state involving the release of individuals convicted of murdering children. In just the month of April, both Kern County and San Luis Obispo County have reported similar outcomes. On April 15, 2025, the California Board of Parole Hearings granted parole to Josue Herrera, who was convicted of murdering his girlfriend’s 2-year-old child in Kern County. Earlier this week, a parole grant was affirmed for Allie Hazel Brown — convicted under the name Herbert Brown III — for the murder of her 22-month-old daughter in San Luis Obispo County. These decisions reflect a disturbing statewide shift in which some of the most severe and heart-wrenching crimes are being met with early release, prompting serious concerns about justice, accountability, and the safety of our communities.

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250985

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:  
**WESTERN FUELS MANAGEMENT, 2455 TUCKAHOE TER, WATSONVILLE, CA 95076**, County of MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s):  
**RICHARD ALEXANDER SWITZER**  
This business is conducted by AN INDIVIDUAL  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on NOT APPLICABLE  
S/ RICHARD ALEXANDER SWITZER  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 5/28/2025  
6/20, 6/27, 7/4, 7/11/25  
**CNS-3937901#**  
**CARMEL PINE CONE**  
Publication Dates: June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2025. (PC 649)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251067

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:  
**1. ENGEL & VOLKERS CARMEL**  
**2. ENGEL & VOELKERS CARMEL**  
**3636 East Coast Hwy., Corona Del Mar, CA 92625.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: SFRE CARMEL INC., P.O. Box 680717, Park City, UT 84068.  
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 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 pur-

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250921

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MONTEREY MARGARITA COMPANY BARTENDING SERVICES, 1172 S. Main St. #175, Salinas, CA 93901.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: MONTEREY MARGARITA COMPANY, LLC, 1172 S. Main Street #175, Salinas, CA 93901.  
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 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 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/ Paul Benson, CEO  
Date: May 27, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 9, 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 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2025. (PC 648)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251093

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **ENVIOSPA TODOS, 133 E Alisal St., Salinas, CA. 93901.**  
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Registered Owner(s):  
Angelica Hernandez Munoz, 210 Archer St., Salinas, CA. 93901.  
This business is conducted by an individual  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 01/12/2022  
**Y 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/Angelica Hernandez  
Date: June 13, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 06/13/25  
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 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2025. (PC 651)

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
**BID NO. 25-01**  
**SOLAR POWER PROJECT**  
**The Santa Lucia Community Services District**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Board of Directors of the Santa Lucia Community Services District ("District") hereby calls for sealed bid proposals to be received by the General Manager of the District, at the Gate House, One Rancho San Carlos Road, Carmel, California 93923 on or before **Thursday, July 11th, 2025** at 5:00 PM, U.S. Pacific Time Zone, verified at www.time.gov.

**SCOPE OF WORK:** The SLCSO is issuing this Request for Proposals (RFP) to design, permit, procure the inverters and balance of systems, and construct a solar photovoltaic (PV) system with a system size of 138 kW (DC) to fulfill a reserved Net Energy Metering 2.0 (NEM2) interconnection with PG&E. The system must be installed and interconnected by **April 2026** to preserve NEM2 eligibility. SLCSO has already procured the photovoltaic panels.

All bids will include delivery to above address and all appropriate sales tax, etc. for Monterey Co.

**SITE TOUR**  
A site tour can be arranged **prior to July 3rd at 3 pm** by request of the General Manager 831-620-6791, or Public Works Director Aaron Dula at adula@santaluciapreserve.com

**The bid envelope is to be addressed to:** "Sealed Bid – Bid No. 25-01 – SOLAR POWER PROJECT, Santa Lucia Community Services District, Attn: General Manager Shaw Pick, Gate House, One Rancho San Carlos Road, Carmel, California 93923."

**Bid Opening.** At 5:00 pm July 11, 2025 the Bid Proposals will be taken by General Manager Shaw Pick, or authorized District representative, opened and publicly read. All bids received after this time will be returned unopened. The bids, together with a report of the bidders and the respective amounts of the bids, will be presented to the Board of Directors of the Santa Lucia Community Services District.  
All questions regarding the RFP should be presented in writing to:  
Santa Lucia Community Services District  
Attn: Shaw S. Pick  
1 Rancho San Carlos Road  
Carmel, CA 93923  
Email: spick@santaluciapreserve.com  
Questions must be received by 5:00 pm on July 7th, 2025.

**The RFP** may be obtained by email request at: csd@santaluciapreserve.com.

**Prevailing Wage Rates.** This Project is subject to the prevailing wage requirements applicable in Monterey County for each craft, classification or type of worker needed to perform the work, including employer payments for health and welfare, pension, vacation, apprenticeship and similar purposes. These prevailing wage rates are available online at <http://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSR>. The Contract will be subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the California Department of Industrial Relations, pursuant to Labor Code Section 1771.4.

**Nondiscrimination.** This Contract is subject to state contract nondiscrimination and compliance requirements pursuant to the Government Code, Section 12990.

**Addenda.** Any addenda issued prior to the bid opening shall constitute part of the Contract Documents. Subject to the limitations of Public Contract Code Section 4104.5, District reserves the right to issue addenda prior to bid time.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and any or all items of such bids and to waive any informality or irregularity in any bid, but if the bids are accepted the contract for the work will be let to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

Date of Publication: June 20, 27 and July 4, 2025.

By order of the Board of Directors of the Santa Lucia Community Service District.  
State of California

Publication dates:  
June 20, 27, July 4, 2025  
(PC656)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20250987

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:  
**CROWN & BLADE, 1102 FOREST AVE, PACIFIC GROVE, CA 93950**, County of MONTEREY  
Registered Owner(s):  
**ALFRED D. GONZALEZ, 1102 FOREST AVE, PACIFIC GROVE, CA 93950**  
This business is conducted by AN INDI-

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE** TS No. **CA-24-984063-BF** Order No.: **240046891-CA-VOO YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 6/10/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.** A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. **BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE.** Trustor(s): **ROSANNE MAYHEW, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN** Recorded: **6/16/2005** as Instrument No. **2005060867** of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of **MONTEREY** County, California; Date of Sale: **6/24/2025 at 10:00 AM** Place of Sale: **At the main entrance to the County Administration Building, located at 168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901** Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **\$800,957.90** The purported property address is: **109 PINE WAY, CARMEL, CA 93923-9603** Assessor's Parcel No.: **241-123-008-000** **NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call **916-939-0772** for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: **CA-24-984063-BF**. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call **619-645-7711**, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: **CA-24-984063-BF** to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT:** Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE POST-SALE OVER BIDDERS:** For post-sale information in accordance with Section 2924m(e) of the California Civil Code, use file number CA-24-984063-BF and call (866) 645-7711 or login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com>. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: **QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711** For **NON SALE** information only Sale Line: **916-939-0772** Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Post-Sale Information (CCC 2924m(e)): (866) 645-7711 Reinstatement or Payoff Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext **5318** QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION TS No.: **CA-24-984063-BF** IDSPub #0248370 5/30/2025 6/6/2025

Publication dates: June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2025 (PC654)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251113

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.  
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **YOGA SALINAS LLC, 44 Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA. 93901**, County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.  
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: YOGA SALINAS LLC, 911 Provincetown Drive, Salinas, CA. 93901.  
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 August 1, 2021.  
**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/Jennifer Ghastin  
Member/Manager  
Date: June 16, 2025  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 17, 2025.  
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Publication Dates: June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2025. (PC 655)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
File No. 20251113

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Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: YOGA SALINAS LLC, 911 Provincetown Drive, Salinas, CA. 93901.  
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA  
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S/Jennifer Ghastin  
Member/Manager  
Date: June 16, 2025  
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Publication Dates: June 20, 27, July 4, 11, 2025. (PC 655)

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