



HEALTHYLifestyles

From “Dad bods” to eczema, not to mention your best friend’s skin, we’ve got something to scratch your itch ... Inside this week!



The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 111 No. 30

<https://carmelpinecone.com>

July 25-31, 2025

TRUSTED BY LOCALS AND LOVED BY VISITORS SINCE 1915

Volunteers seek and destroy illegal fires



PHOTO/BIG SUR SOUTH COAST FIRE FOUNDATION

Volunteers drive the backroads of Big Sur’s South Coast in search of illegal campfires. See page 8A.

Railway homeless camp to be removed

■ Make way for busway

By KELLY NIX

GROUPS OF homeless people living at an encampment off Highway 1 in Seaside have been told they have to leave the property to make way for construction of a \$100 million bus project.

The makeshift campground, just north of the Fremont Boulevard exit along an old railroad line, will be cleared to allow crews to start work on the Surf Busway Bus Rapid Transit project, a 5-mile lane from Marina to Sand City and Seaside parallel to Highway 1.

‘Trespassing’

Monterey-Salinas Transit’s Surf project will allow its buses to bypass traffic congestion on Highway 1 to improve the service’s speed. Work on the project is expected to start next month, and it will be ready for passengers by spring 2027.

On Monday, in preparation for the work, MST posted a “notice to vacate illegal campsite” at the entrance to the area, which was last cleared in September 2023 during a crackdown by Caltrans and

other government agencies. The land has long been used by homeless people who set up makeshift living spaces.

“Every person who camps or lodges or stores property on public or private property without permission of the owner is guilty of a misdemeanor violation under California law,” according to the notice, which warns occupants “You are trespassing” and gives them until 8 a.m. Aug. 4



PHOTO/KELLY NIX

Residents of this campsite off Highway 1 near Sand City and Seaside have been told they’ll have to find somewhere else to live by Aug. 4 so crews can break ground on a bus project.

Barmel sues landlord over lease, maintenance

By MARY SCHLEY

THE PROPRIETOR of a popular downtown bar and restaurant is suing his landlord for unlawfully terminating his leases, as well as interfering with his attempts to sell his business, letting the property fall into disrepair, depriving customers and staff of their use of restrooms, and numerous other allegations, according to a complaint filed in Monterey County Superior Court this month.

Gabe Georis, son of late restaurateur Gaston Georis and longtime owner of the restaurant and bar on San Carlos northeast of Seventh, is suing Johanna White, better known as Jo Jo, and others for alleged breach of contract, “intentional interference with economic relations” and other wrongs, according to a July 8 lawsuit drafted by Carmel attorney Mark O’Connor.

Georis opened a Spanish restaurant, Mundaka, in the Carmel Square space in 2009 and took over the bar next door, then called Ody’s, in 2013, subsequently renaming

Refusal to extend leases, ‘stealing food’ from the kitchen

it Barmel. He later replaced Mundaka with a Mexican restaurant, Pescadero, in 2017, and then morphed it into the Barmel Supper Club. Georis’ establishments offered 10 outdoor seats and had an overflow spot in another Carmel Square unit that had previously been a sewing shop.

Unfair rents, neglect

While the lawsuit was filed several weeks after White issued a 60-day notice of termination in June, Georis alleges she repeatedly violated the lease terms over the

See **BARMEL** page 18A

Forester proposes linking fines to property values

■ Says current penalties aren’t high enough to influence rich people

By MARY SCHLEY

TO DETER people from illegally pruning or cutting down trees to improve their views or accommodate construction, the Carmel Forest and Beach Commission wants the city to drastically increase the fines levied on wrongdoers. Otherwise, commissioners suggested, people who are wealthy enough to own homes in Carmel might be willing to commit the crimes and write the checks.

“We’ve had issues in the past where we’ve had egregious damage to trees from construction,” city forester Justin Ono said at the July 10 meeting, and high per-square-foot property values are driving property owners and developers to get every bit of space they can.

Expensive

He said online research suggests the average value of property in the city is \$2,100 per square foot, which he described as “just insane.”

“It really pushes anybody who’s developing to maximize square footage, especially for developers,” he said. “That’s an extra problem, because if you’re not tied to the property and you’re just going to turn it and burn it, that tree in front could just be in the way of maximizing the building footprint.”

Senior planner Evan Kort attended the meeting at Ono’s request and said he has “seen numerous instances of construction impacts on trees,” including trees dying after the work is finished, whether due to roots being cut or soil being compacted too close to the trunk.

to leave and take their belongings with them.

Transportation Agency for Monterey County senior engineer Laurie Williamson said that MST will take over maintenance responsibilities for that portion of the railroad right of way.

MST deputy CEO Lisa Rheinheimer said that contractors will start work on the busway in a few weeks.

“Contractors may start as early as mid-August on the Fifth Street area in Marina,” Rheinheimer explained. “Initial activities will include establishing a staging area and

See **HOMELESS** page 16A

Caltrans finally gets slide to stop moving

By CHRIS COUNTS

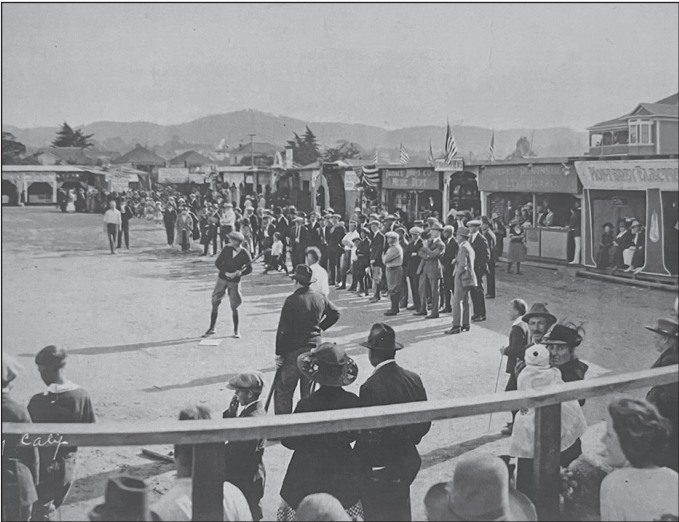
THE INSTALLATION of 2,000 steel rods at Regents Slide in Big Sur — which required almost 23 miles of steel and 900 tons of cement — is complete, Caltrans said Thursday.

The work enables crews to resume “full-scale excavation activities,” the road agency said, making it possible to complete repairs and potentially reopen the long-closed highway from Carmel to Cambria in a few months.

According to Kevin Drabinski of Caltrans, the installation of the 60-foot-long rods, also called shear dowels, “is having the intended effect of mitigating further slide activity.” Located about 5 miles south of Esalen Institute, the site has been plagued by instability since wet weather triggered the slide in February 2024.

The world-famous scenic highway has been closed to

See **SLIDE** page 22A



PHOTO/COURTESY A.C. HEIDRICK

This image captures a baseball game at Jacks Park in Monterey in 1922 — when home plate was where center field is today. See page 14A.

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The Carmel Pine Cone

Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Darling doodle

They always loved dogs and always had dogs, raising them right alongside their children. Yet once their nest emptied, they flew off into a life of travel.

Until they received a pivotal call from a friend in Incline Village, who had reserved a goldendoodle pup from a breeder in Nevada. In fact, with them in mind, he'd taken two.

"You know that puppy you secretly thought you wanted?" he said, "Well, I have him for you."

It was the early days of Covid, and they were sequestering at home, which made it, they thought, the right time to focus on a baby dog.

"Ozzie, now 4-and-a-half, has been with us and never anyone else 24/7," his person said. "He thinks he's our baby, and I'm pretty sure that's because he is."

That kind of consistent, loving attention has fostered a sweet, confident dog. He seems content with whatever his people are doing. And, when he goes out and about among others, he simply wags his tail, and waits for their attention.

Yet Ozzie's happiest place is Carmel Beach where, his person said, he runs around with delightful abandon — now that he has the hang of it.

"The first time we took Ozzie to the beach," his person said, "this dog, whose only water experience was



Lake Tahoe, had paddled out a little ways when a wave came up behind him. It rolled him over, and his little head popped up with an expression of, 'What the heck was that?'"

When his people moved to Carmel Valley Manor, Ozzie became the "Mayor of Hillcrest." Wandering the halls of the assisted-living facility, he'll sit by a bed or a wheelchair and lean in while people pet his wavy coat and play with his soft ears.



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Bookings, room rates climb again

By MARY SCHLEY

HOTEL STAYS in March and April increased over a year ago, as did the average daily room rate during those months, according to the City of Carmel’s finance department, and as a result, transient occupancy taxes were up, as well.

Accountant Jane Hogan reported that hotels, inns and B&Bs reported an average daily occupancy rate of 67.7 percent, compared with 63.6 percent occupancy in March and April of 2024.

Not surprisingly, that springtime rate was also 14 percentage points higher than the rate in January and February, which are typically the slowest months of the year despite the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am golf tournament. Bookings are typically highest in July and August, followed by those in September and October, and then steadily decline until heading back up again in spring and early summer.

The average daily room rate in March and April was \$339, a 4.7 percent increase over the \$324 average rate a year earlier.

The ADR also represented a \$17 increase — or 5 percent — over the January-February period.

“In addition to the increases in occupancy rates and room rates, the number of room-nights available decreased by 3 percent in the March-April period, compared to a year ago,” Hogan said, though she didn’t say why. Svendsgaard’s Inn at San Carlos and Fourth was sold last year and has been closed for renovation, accounting for at least some of the decline in room availability.

\$13.6M in sales

As a result of the higher prices and bookings, the city collected \$1,359,640 in transient occupancy taxes for its general fund, compared with the \$1,256,345 taken in for the same two months in 2024, an 8.2 percent increase amounting to around \$103,000. The TOT rate is 10 percent, indicating lodging places took in \$13,596,400 in fees. Guests also pay a small tax which is collected by the city but passed on to Visit Carmel for tourism marketing.

AGENCY POSTPONES WATER DISCUSSION

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A CRUCIAL decision about the Monterey Peninsula’s long-term water supply and demand estimates a state commission was set to make this week was postponed until mid-August.

Staff of the California Public Utilities Commission pulled the item from Thursday’s agenda. Commissioners were set to vote on the estimates at the agency’s headquarters in San Francisco. It’s been rescheduled for Aug. 14.

A PUC ruling on the water supply figures would resolve a longstanding disagreement between Cal Am — which says only its proposed desalination plant will provide enough water for its Peninsula

customers for the next 25 years — and those opposed to the facility, including the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, the City of Marina and LandWatch Monterey County. PUC administrative law judges Robert Haga and Jack Chang on May 9 concurred with Cal Am’s projected 2050 water demand figure of 13,732 acre-feet per year and current annual water supply of 11,204 acre-feet.

LandWatch contends that the judge’s proposed decision’s demand forecast of 13,732 acre-feet per year is “factually wrong,” and the group recently requested that the PUC set an estimate of no more than 11,200 acre-feet of water. The City of Marina also contests Cal Am’s water estimates.



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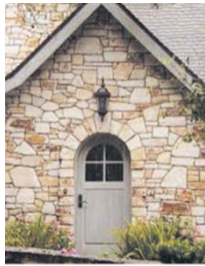


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Police & Sheriff's Log

Lock your car and take your stuff

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.

THURSDAY, JULY 3

Pacific Grove: Subject charged with inappropriate conduct with minor. The 19-year-old male was arrested on Sunset Avenue for unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor more than three years younger (statutory rape), oral copulation with a person under the age of 18 and sodomy.

Carmel area: A 48-year-old male was arrested on Marguerita Way for vandalizing vehicles and property, threatening a resident with a knife, entering another residence and battering that resident, damaging a sheriff's patrol vehicle with a rock and kicking a sheriff's K9.

Pebble Beach: Online report of harassment on 17 Mile Drive.

ment on 17 Mile Drive.

Pebble Beach: Online report of harassment on Chaparral Road.

Carmel area: Deputies responded to a report of an assault on Fisher Drive between a 47-year-old male, who was arrested, and a 49-year-old male victim.

Carmel area: Alleged physical abuse on Oliver Road.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Pacific Grove: Civil issue on Pine Avenue regarding custody.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle at Arkwright and Moreland towed for expired registration.

Carmel area: Burglaries to residences on San Luis Avenue and Portola Avenue.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle towed from Lincoln and Fifth for blocking a driveway.

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

May 5 — The Hon. Andrew G. Liu sentenced Salinas resident Luis Carranza Torres, 40, to state prison for three years and eight months for arson and, in a separate incident, spraying a woman in the face with tear gas.

On June 26, 2024, at approximately 8:20 a.m., a Salinas citizen observed Torres in her apartment complex parking lot, which is not open to the public. She photographed his vehicle, and in response, he sprayed her in the eyes and face with pepper spray (also known as tear gas). Torres is a convicted felon who is not allowed to possess tear gas.

On Jan. 7, at approximately 11:35 p.m., Torres lit a shopping cart on fire in downtown Salinas. The cart contained, among other items, a propane tank. The tank exploded with such ferocity it activated the city's shotspotter system, which continuously scans

for the sounds of gunshots. Torres told officers he lit the fire because the cart's owner owed him \$20. The arson charge is a strike offense within the meaning of California's three strikes law.

These cases were investigated by Salinas Police officers Julian Pacheco and Jonathon Juarez.

May 15 — A jury found Armando Rodriguez Garcia, age 37, guilty of willful, deliberate, and premeditated attempted murder of a peace officer, seven counts of assault on a peace officer with a semiautomatic firearm, three counts of armed robbery, being a felon in possession of a firearm, and being a felon in possession of ammunition. The jury also found true that Garcia personally used and

See **GAVEL** page 51A

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Say goodbye to Jimmy and Paul

By MARY SCHLEY

CARMEL POLICE Chief Paul Tomasi and longtime senior maintenance worker Jimmy Pingree will be honored during a celebration at Carmel Plaza Friday in light of their impending retirements.

Tomasi announced a few weeks ago he would be leaving in early August — for the second time — after returning two years ago at the behest of city administrator Chip Rerig. Pingree, a 36-year city employee, quietly let people know he’ll be retiring at the end of the month, but word got out.

In the city’s weekly video Friday, Rerig and Tomasi reminisced about starting their vlog during the Covid pandemic.

“It’s been over five years, and ostensibly the purpose of it was to get information and safety information out to our thousands and millions of viewers,” Rerig recalled. “Remember the time someone gave us grief that we were sitting too close to each other?”

The men returned with a tape measure to assure viewers they were not within the danger zone, and while Covid has come under control, the video tradition has continued.

‘Probably minutes’

Their conversation July 18 turned to Tomasi’s decision to return to the city in fall 2023 following a tumultuous period at the police department during which Tomasi’s short-lived replacement, Alan Ward, was put on leave in January of that year pending investigation into multiple complaints against him. Former Cmdr. Jeff Watkins became chief in Ward’s wake but decided to leave in late 2023, and that’s when Rerig asked Tomasi to come back.

“When you asked me, it didn’t take

long — it was probably minutes before I said, ‘Yes,’” Tomasi told Rerig, explaining that his decision was driven by his love for the city.

“I consider this my home,” he continued. “Last time I left, I said, ‘I won’t be far away, and if you need me, I’m here.’ And you needed me, and I was here.”

Tomasi said he’s proud of what he and his department have accomplished in the past two years, including promoting and hiring strong leaders and developing a succession plan.

He said he is “blessed and full of gratitude” for his three decades in law enforcement and finding his perfect fit in Carmel.

“You have the approach not only for community policing, but to make

healthy, responsible, respectful relationships,” Rerig observed.

In the July 18 Friday Letter, Rerig also shared some truisms he’s learned from Tomasi.

“I’ve been thinking about Chief Tomasi retiring (again) and the lessons he’s shared with me over the last decade,” he said. “No. 1: local government is part art, part science. No. 2: Lead with passion (and compassion). No. 3: Love it all — the people you serve and aspire to be a servant-leader. No. 4: Never, ever, play the jackal.”

Ode to Jimmy

And the letter the week prior included a poetic tribute to Pingree, who came to work in the city’s forestry department in October 1989 and spent 16 years there before transferring to public works as a senior maintenance worker.

He’s best known in town as the driver of the street sweeper, a duty he’s had for

See **BYE** page 19A



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Group spreads campfire safety warnings

By CHRIS COUNTS

ALONG THE bumpy backroads of Big Sur’s remote South Coast, a small and dedicated group of volunteers is doing all it can to let visitors know that campfires are dangerous and illegal this time of year.

Known as the Big Sur South Coast Fire Foundation, its members face a daunting task, because camping is allowed along dozens of miles of U.S. Forest Service dirt roads that bisect Highway 1 near the Monterey-San Luis Obispo county line.

Some camp in cars, while others set up tents in nearby grasslands. Some start campfires, despite the seasonal ban. The forest service, meanwhile, patrols the area infrequently.

The group currently relies on about 10 volunteers to patrol the roads and talk with those who have campfires or are setting them up.

“The greatest need we have is for more volunteers,” the group’s board president, Lindsay Romanow, told The Pine Cone. “They are very hard to come by. Most of us are elderly or disabled — there’s very few young people.”

On weekends when camping is busiest, teams of two volunteers approach those with campfires, share information about the risks, and encourage them to put them out. Not only can wildfires threaten nearby homes, but along roadways they can create deadly bottlenecks as campers flee while firefighters arrive.

“Our main aim is to distribute information to the public so they are aware of the rules and regulations of the forest service and they have the information they need to have a safe and enjoyable experience,” Romanow explained.

‘We help them put it out’

The volunteers even help with dousing fires. “We always bring water,” said volunteer and board member Connie McCoy, who often joins Romanow on his patrols.

While an occasional camper can be cranky, most accept the advice gracefully.

“Most people are very affable and compliant,” McCoy said. “They thank us for being there — we get a lot of thank yous.”

Although the volunteers have no

See **PATROL** page 30A

Volunteers Connie McCoy and Matt Chircop help put out an illegal campfire along a dirt road on the South Coast of Big Sur.

PHOTO/BIG SUR SOUTH COAST FIRE FOUNDATION



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Roundabout work causes backups

By CHRIS COUNTS

TO REDUCE backups that have plagued motorists since construction began a week ago on the roundabout at Carmel Valley Road and Laureles Grade, county workers have made changes to the timing intervals for the light that regulates traffic at the intersection.

In a video she posted to Facebook July 22, Monterey County 5th District Supervisor Kate Daniels announced the changes made to the light. She also told residents she shares their frustration over the lengthy delays they’ve experienced while traveling through the work zone. She noted that traffic has backed up as far as Garland Ranch Regional Park, which is about a mile away. She said the problem seems to have been caused by the elimination of a dedicated left-turn lane at Laureles Grade for those traveling eastbound on Carmel Valley Road.

“I live east of this construction project, and I know what’s it’s been like first-hand,” Daniels said. “If someone would like to a make a left-hand turn, they are in the same lane that someone who is traveling east is in. If you’re making a left-hand turn and there’s oncoming traffic, you’re holding up all the traffic that’s behind you and creating a pretty gnarly traffic scenario.”

Timing intervals

Daniels said she’s hopeful the changes to timing intervals will help reduce gridlock. “What we have implemented starting today is that there is going to be a longer period of time where the light for those

headed east is green, coupled with the oncoming traffic having a red light at that time,” she reported. “Anyone who’s making a left-hand turn on to Laureles Grade is going to have a protected left-hand turn, there will be no oncoming traffic, and it will not create the stopping of traffic,” she explained.

Sooner than later

Daniels also addressed the project’s timeline and its cost. Regarding the former, she said the work is expected to be done by March 2026.

“We’ve heard concerns from you about this being a two-year project,” she said. “This is not a two-year project. We’re working with the contractor to complete it as soon as possible — we hope it will be done a lot sooner.”

As for the cost, Daniels said the price tag for the work is \$3.8 million. The supervisor reported that

“much high numbers have been thrown around Facebook.”

Carmel Valley traffic mitigation fees and a grant from Monterey Bay Air Resources District will pay for the roundabout, along with Measure X funds. The contractor is Teichert Construction of Pleasanton.

Construction is set for weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Work will stop for Car Week (Aug. 8-18), and construction equipment will be temporarily moved elsewhere.

While construction officially started on the project July 18, some work was done the previous month. “Crews needed to clear some trees and widen certain portions of the road to allow for all of the traffic control devices to fit,” county spokesperson

‘I know what it’s been like first-hand,’ Daniels said

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PGMS burglary suspects arrested

By KELLY NIX

TWO MEN have been charged for breaking into Pacific Grove Middle School last week, vandalizing property and stealing food. One of them was injured during the break-in, leaving a trail of blood behind, police said.

On July 17 at about 7:40 a.m., officers responded to the Forest Avenue school and found evidence that someone had entered the cafeteria by breaking a window. While they were searching the school for the burglars, they found large amounts of blood, “including pooling, bloody footprints, and a blood trail originating from the point of entry.”

P.G. police Cmdr. Brian Anderson said officers followed the blood trail through the school campus.

“This evidence was later confirmed to be the result of injuries sustained by suspect Gabriel Mario Guertin during his forced entry into the building,” Anderson explained. “Guertin suffered lacerations to his hands and feet and injured his head during a fall inside the cafeteria.”

Police reviewed Pacific Grove Unified School District surveillance footage, and officers recognized Zachary Shelby Malone, 22 — who was arrested in a separate incident two days earlier — and Guertin, 23.

“At about 1:30 p.m., officers located and contacted Guertin and Malone,” Anderson

said. “A confession was obtained, and both were taken into custody without incident and booked at the Monterey County Jail.”

While Guertin had been held on charges of second-degree burglary, for which bail was set at \$20,000, and conspiracy to commit a crime, he was released Tuesday. Malone is also no longer in jail, records show.

Vandalism and burglary

On Monday, the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office filed misdemeanor vandalism and second-degree commercial burglary charges against Guertin and Malone, who are residents of P.G.

The pair “did willfully, unlawfully and maliciously deface with graffiti and other inscribed material and otherwise damage and destroy real and personal property, to wit, a window,” the criminal complaints against the men said.

Police said officers found that several money tills inside the cafeteria had been opened and ransacked, but the thieves did not take any cash, and instead stole a “large quantity of food and food products” from a refrigerator.

Police later recovered the large quantity of food, which the burglars abandoned near Hillcrest Avenue.

Pacific Grove Unified Superintendent Linda Adamson told The Pine Cone that

See **BURGLARY** page 22A

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GARRAPATA STATE PARK TO GET HIGH-TECH OUTHOUSES

By CHRIS COUNTS

ADDRESSING A topic that has long concerned many — and illustrating how challenging it can be to install critical infrastructure in a sensitive place in California — a plan is moving forward to put a dent in Big Sur’s lack of public restrooms by installing high-tech outhouses, also known as vault toilets, at two sites in Garrapata State Park.

A presentation on the plan was made July 11 at Big Sur’s quarterly multi-agency meeting at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park.

“This is something we’ve been working on for years,” John Hiles of California State Parks told those in attendance, including Congressman Jimmy Panetta and Monterey County District 5 Supervisor Kate Daniels. “We’re finding ways to improve the restroom opportunities for the

millions of people traveling down Highway 1, and this is an opportunity for us to address that.”

Plans call for replacing existing chemical toilets with two-stall vault toilets, which aren’t connected to sewers and have no water supply, at the Soberanes Creek trailhead and along the main route to Garrapata Beach. Road and trail improvements will be made to make the sites accessible and ADA compliant.

Studies completed

To comply with state and federal regulations, surveys were done in early 2025 to assess any biological, cultural and tribal resources on the two sites, and a visual simulation was also completed.

See VAULT page 28A

Lawsuit over N-word settled out of court

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A BLACK woman who was seeking at least \$1 million in damages from the Esalen Institute in Big Sur after claiming a meditation teacher played a video for students in which the N word was used has settled her complaint with the retreat center.

Nicole Evans, who lives in the Los Angeles area, claimed in a Dec. 28, 2022, lawsuit that a meditation teacher at Esalen played a YouTube video featuring a Black comedian, which at first drew laughs from people in the class. But then the comic used an offensive term, even when uttered by a Black person, “saying that the ‘Irish people were the niggers of Europe,’” according to Evans’ suit, which was filed in Monterey County Superior Court. “Suddenly, the room became deafeningly silent, save for a few gasps, because everyone in attendance was in shock.”

The meditation teacher, Evans said, rewound the clip to the part where the comedian used the offensive term and played it again.

“At this point, some of Evans’ classmates groaned and some got up and walked out,” her complaint said.

Evans said Esalen “directors” held a meeting about the incident and the meditation teacher offered a “forced” apology. After the meeting, the institute’s “director,” whom she did not name, “said he was sorry that this had happened to her.”

‘Emotional distress’

Evans said the episode left her with severe and profound pain and emotional distress, anxiety, depression, headaches, tension and other physical ailments. Evans also said she’s incurred medical expenses, including those for psychological counseling and treatment.

She alleged civil rights violations, intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress and negligent supervision and “retention of an unfit employee” and is seeking “an amount no less than \$1 million.”

The complaint was dismissed in May after Esalen and Evans made an undisclosed agreement to end the litigation process.

An October 2024 court document indicates that an attorney for Esalen testified that the meditation teacher was not an employee of Esalen when the alleged incident occurred but an independent contractor.



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\$7.6 million project to fix 34 culverts

By CHRIS COUNTS

CALTRANS WILL undertake extensive drainage work along 16 miles of the busy Highway 68 between Pacific Grove and Salinas over the next two years. The project will upgrade 34 culverts, which carry storm runoff beneath the highway, and rehabilitate 20 traffic lights.

The construction will cost \$7.6 million and is anticipated to start in January 2026. Just last month, the right-of-way acquisition was completed, along with the project’s design. The bulk of the work will be done over the next two summers and will wrap up by Dec. 2027.

“The project schedule is unique due to the requirements to work outside of the rainy season and the bird nesting season,” the state roads agency reported. “In general, to minimize traffic impacts, the work plan will concentrate activities that may impact travelers to night work or weekend work.”

According to the project’s environmental impact report, the work is needed because the culverts “show varying degrees of damage and/or deterioration.”

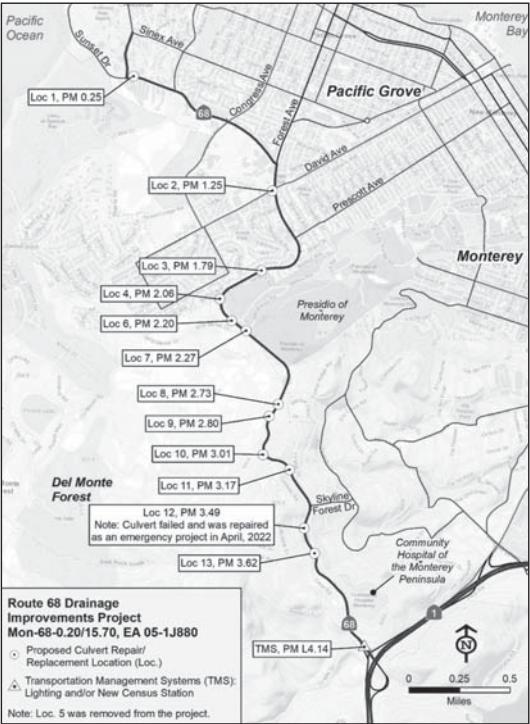
“If damaged culverts are not repaired or replaced, there is a high potential that the highway embankment at the culvert locations would begin to erode, leading to roadway damage and/or failure,” the report said.

New lights, too

Traffic lights also need replacing. “The lighting equipment at several intersections along the route — including bulbs, conduit, and electrical panels — is outdated and nearing the end of its useful life,” the EIR notes. “If left unaddressed,

the systems would eventually fail and pose traffic sight distance concerns.”

Traffic counters will also be installed to provide transportation officials with data about traffic patterns on the congested route.



PHOTO/CALTRANS

A map shows where culverts will be replaced along Highway 68 between Pacific Grove and CHOMP.

“There are no traffic monitoring stations on State Route 68 within the project are,” the report noted. “New census stations are needed to provide complete and accurate traffic data.”

Paved in 1937, Highway 68 is located along the route of the historic DeAnza Trail — which ran from just south of Tucson to San Francisco and linked all of California’s missions during the Spanish colonial period.



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Uslar announces retirement

By MARY SCHLEY

MONTEREY CITY manager Hans Uslar this week announced he'll be retiring at the end of the year after seven years in the top job and a nearly three-decade career with the City of Monterey.

During his tenure, Uslar said he, along with the city council and staff, "significantly strengthened Monterey's financial reserves while maintaining the high level of service our residents expect and deserve."

Prior to being named interim city manager when Mike McCarthy left in 2017 and assuming the post permanently a year later, Uslar was assistant city manager, a job he'd held since 2014. He joined the City of Monterey in 1997 as a management analyst and worked in the plans and public works department before moving into the assistant position.

Accomplishments

Uslar said his career highlights as city manager include leading the city team



Hans Uslar

through the "unprecedented health and fiscal challenges" of the Covid-19 pandemic, implementing the city's "fiscal health response plan," overseeing renewal and expansion of its special sales taxes, helping to launch the rental and housing assistance programs, strengthening the city's fiscal reserves, acquiring the Old Capitol Site near Barnet Segal Lane and Highway 1 for development as a park, and sustaining the Presidio of Monterey's base operations contract.

Internally, he said, he has "remained committed to building a stronger workplace culture, supporting professional development and working to make staff feel connected and supported."

"Our city employees represent the very best of public service. Their dedication, professionalism and reliability — 365 days a year, 24/7 — are what truly keep our city thriving," Uslar said in a statement. "I have always been deeply

See USLAR page 31A

JACKS PARK TO GET MAKEOVER

By CHRIS COUNTS

PERHAPS THE oldest baseball field in the region, Jacks Park in Monterey has provided a wealth of fun, excitement and memories since America's National Pastime was first played there in 1892. But with the ballpark badly in need of repairs, the Monterey City Council July 15 accepted a \$150,000 grant from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation to help pay for the work.

Also July 15, the city appropriated \$100,000 from its Neighborhood and Community Improvement Program to fund the project. City officials are applying for a matching grant from State Parks to raise an additional \$250,000.

New turf, infield

According to the city, the ballpark — which is located at Franklin and Adams streets — needs "significant capital improvements" because "its amenities are aging." The necessary work includes removing the turf and irrigation system,

upgrading underground drainage and irrigation, replacing the outfield with new turf, and resurfacing the existing clay infield.

"This new infield and outfield surface, along with improved irrigation, would provide a safer playing surface," a city report indicates.

The report suggests that many recreational features at the park could be funded with the money, including "replacing

See JACKS page 31A



PHOTO/COURTESY MARIAN DRAKE WOODWARD

Three baseball players in Jacks Park in 1930. In the background are grandstands that were built two years earlier.

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Monterey chooses federal cash over ‘inclusive’ programs

By KELLY NIX

THE MONTEREY City Council this week decided to comply with a Trump administration demand to delete all references to “transgender” and “diversity, equity and inclusion” in a document requesting federal funds for city services. The council made the decision over fears it could lose more than \$8 million if it refused.

Two months ago, Monterey submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development its plans to use federal taxpayer money to pay for programs, many of which would help lower-income residents. The document contained references to DEI.

On July 18, though, HUD informed Monterey officials the city had just six days to amend and resubmit the grant request so it would conform to federal laws — namely, President Donald Trump’s executive orders to end DEI-related programs that are supported by federal funds.

‘Must comply’

To comply, a HUD official told Monterey, the city must remove or replace “all equity, inclusion and DEI and transgender references” and replace them with “activities and actions that do not violate any applicable federal anti-discrimination laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,” which prohibits discrimination based on race, color or national origin. A recent Supreme Court decision also said that giving minorities preferential treatment in college admissions was illegal.

Monterey housing manager Anastacia Wyatt told the council that the city must comply with Trump’s executive orders,

and that failure to do so could result in the denial of Monterey’s plan and forfeiture of up to \$8.3 million in Community Development Block Grant program funding over five years.

“HUD is requesting that we remove any DEI equity statements from our plan, which includes data,” she told councilmembers during a meeting Wednesday afternoon.

The program Wyatt referenced provides grants to states, cities, and counties to “develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.”

Money trumps principles?

While DEI is intertwined with the Monterey City Council’s mission and vision — and the city promotes the use of diversity, equity and inclusion “through training, performance, hiring and recruitment efforts” — it took the five-member council only a few minutes to vote unanimously to remove the language. There was no debate.

Wyatt said she would resubmit the document Thursday.

The city plans to use the funds to support homeless prevention programs, including housing, outreach, counseling and food services, renovation of shelters, infrastructure improvements and myriad other programs, as well as planning and administrative activities that don’t directly benefit families.

Before the council members cast their votes, a citizen called in to bemoan the

See FUNDS page 31A

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HOMELESS

From page 1A

clearing the site in preparation for grading.” Rail track clearance — stretching from Seaside to Marina — is expected to begin in September, she added.

The cleanup along the tracks will include removing trash and addressing biohazards, she said, adding that the agency’s vacate notice includes a list of local charitable organizations that help homeless people with housing and services.

A Pine Cone reporter who went to the property Tuesday found numerous occupied and vacant campsites and scattered piles of trash and debris. A strong smell of urine was present. Several occupants were at the camp, including a man living in the only tent located west of the railroad tracks and a woman in another campsite who seemed to be looking for a spot to hang a shirt.

All but one of the campers appeared to be living on property owned by the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, though portions of land along the railroad

tracks between Sand City and Marina are also owned by California State Parks and Caltrans.

The Monterey-Salinas Transit notice instructs campers to remove all personal property and debris. Any belongings still there after the Aug. 4 deadline will be considered abandoned, according to the agency, which will collect and store property for 60 days to allow its owners to get it back.

“Continued violations will result in citation and/or arrest,” it said.

People have lived on the property off Highway 1 on and off for years.

After TAMC cleared the area in 2023, it said it would try to prevent people from reestablishing it as a homeless enclave. Doing so has proved difficult, in part, since the property is isolated and campsites can be set up in very little time.

New bus stop

Once the busway is complete, MST buses will enter new dedicated lanes near the intersection of Palm Avenue and Del Monte Boulevard, where a new transit stop will be located.

“Passengers will enjoy frequent service with quiet, zero-emission buses every 10 to 15 minutes,” an MST promotional video says.

Other features include a 1-mile trail extension from Beach Range Road in Marina and Sand City with improved access to the Fort Ord Dunes State Park and the “planned Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway network.”

The Surf project also had a major impact on Handcar Tours, which offers tours on railroad tracks adjacent to the ocean and Highway 1. The family-owned business was told by TAMC and the City of Marina, which had been leasing the land for the venture, it would not be renewing its contract. The business recently announced that it is closing permanently Aug. 28. A related lawsuit Handcar Tours filed against TAMC is going through the court process.



IMAGES/KELLY NIX AND MST

This homeless encampment will soon be cleared so crews can start working on a new busway, which is depicted in the rendering below. The busway will improve travel speed for riders, MST says.



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Top drivers take trolley ride around Laguna in advance of weekend races

By MARY SCHLEY

‘Do WE get to drive it?’ That was the question IndyCar racers Alex Palou and Pato O’Ward — championship contenders set to race at Laguna Seca this weekend — had for Monterey-Salinas Transit officials who brought a trolley to the track for a press event Wednesday.

Sadly, the answer was, “No,” so no one got to see how fast the cable-car look-alike could go around the track.

But they did get to ride in it while sharing what it’s like to race in the nation’s top series and battle it out through the world-famous track’s 2.238 miles of 11 turns, including the iconic Corkscrew, which makes a quick zigzag while dropping several stories in elevation.

It’s a corner that “doesn’t make sense,” the two drivers laughed. For one thing, since you can’t see through the bottom of it, especially while seated low in a car, O’Ward said he aims for one of the trees visible from the top. Palou — the defending champ — said he’s never thought about that before, but now he might.

Indy 500 winner

Palou, 28, is from Spain and has amassed seven wins in the past 13 races, including the Indianapolis 500, and is fighting for his third consecutive championship in the last four years. His chief competitor, O’Ward, 26, is from Mexico and is in second, with two victories and eight top-5 finishes this season, which will conclude in Nashville Aug. 31.

They and the rest of the 33-driver field will be racing at WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca during the Java House Grand Prix of Monterey July 25-27.

In addition to America’s top series, the track will host up-and-coming drivers in the Indy NXT series, the Porsche Sprint

Challenge USA West, and Radical Cup North America.

Java House is the race weekend’s new sponsor and will be serving its signature cold brew at the track, while its espresso martinis will be poured in bars and restaurants all over the Monterey Peninsula, including Barmel, Monterey Cookhouse, Abalonetti, Flaherty’s, Edwin’s and The Brass Tap. (Find the full list at javahouse.com/blogs/whats-new-at-java-house/java-house-martini-map-for-monterey-grand-prix-weekend.)

Spokesman Matt Thompson explained why a coffee purveyor would put up the money to sponsor IndyCar races.

Caffeinated

“As an Indianapolis-based company, it’s impossible not to be drawn to the Indianapolis 500 and the world of IndyCar. The entire state lives and breathes racing for a full month every year,” he explained, when the 500 and accompanying races are staged in May.

And as a former Purdue football player and lifelong fan of sports and competition, founder Ted Gelov “wasn’t going to pass up the opportunity to be part of this series,” he continued.

Gelov’s interest began with the purchase of a majority stake in a race team and grew into sponsoring two cars.

“We’re now proud to be the title sponsor of one of the most iconic races on the IndyCar calendar, the Java House Grand Prix of Monterey at the legendary WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca,” Thompson said. “It’s been an incredible ride so far — and we’re just getting started.”

In addition to three days of racing, the Grand Prix of Monterey will offer numerous off-track activities, attractions and events. For a full schedule and other details, visit weathertechraceway.com.



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BARMEL

From page 1A

years in numerous ways.

She arbitrarily adjusted rents, for instance, and failed to distinguish the monthly rates from insurance, taxes, assessments and utilities in the financial accounting, refused to reveal the basis for increased charges, and issued lease addendums “attempting to relieve defendants of their leasehold responsibilities, impose an added burden and expense on the plaintiffs, or misrepresent facts and circumstances.”

Georis also accuses White’s property manager, Linda Persall, of interfering with his business by interrupting guests’ dinners and “appearing in the kitchen unannounced, insisting upon free food for herself and her husband, and issuing false or inaccurate reports about plaintiffs and their operations unless their personal demands for free food or favor were met.” Further, she would go into the restaurant without notice or permission to “steal food or drink” and use the kitchen.

When he complained, he says, White and Persall would retaliate by refusing to maintain the courtyard and keep the buildings clean, neglecting the bathrooms and then barring access to them, and shirking other maintenance

and repair duties.

Despite numerous customer complaints about the bathrooms, a leak in the men’s room and other problems that Georis says White and Persall were obligated to address, they told him last December that “continued requests and complaints do not do any good,” that they would not undertake any repairs and that he had to “hire the necessary licensed plumbers to assess the repairs” at his own expense, according to his lawsuit. This year, they put up “out of order” signs and locked the restrooms.

When they were advised of problems with the gas, water and electrical systems and the roof that needed maintenance and repair, they acknowledged receipt, he says, but “chose to ignore, evade or deny their repair and maintenance obligations.”

Lease options

After Georis had trouble securing insurance because an electrical panel needed replacement, White refused, according to the complaint, and she still hasn’t fixed a dangerous metal railing she’s known about since 2021.

But the biggest issue, he says, is the landlord’s refusal to renew his leases even though he followed the terms of their agreement. Georis’ leases for the restaurant and bar spaces had five-year renewal options to extend them to



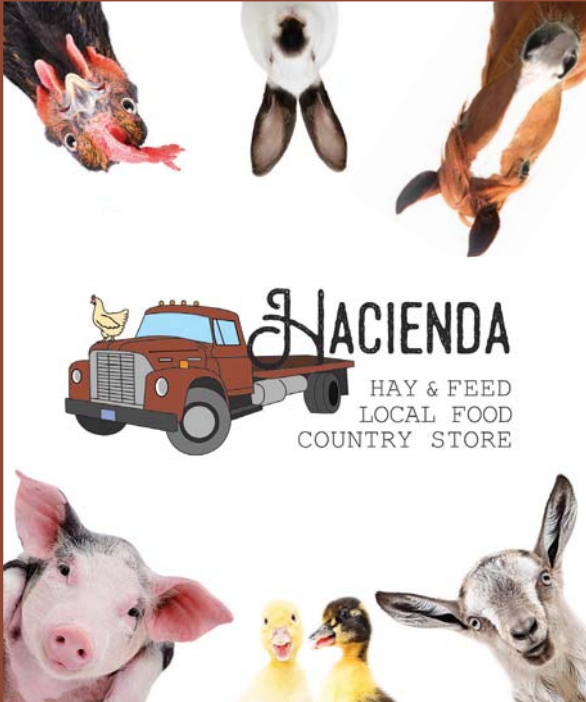
PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

The fate of Barmel on San Carlos Street may be in the hands of the court system due to a dispute between the bar’s owner and its landlord.

Dec. 31, 2029, according to the complaint, and he notified White and Persall in January 2024 that he planned to exercise them.

See **LEASE** next page

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LEASE

From previous page

After two months, they still hadn’t come to terms on the rent, so he hired an appraiser — as was called for in their agreement — to calculate the fair rents that would take effect early this year. In a letter dated April 29, 2024 Robert Arnold advised Persall and White of the new monthly rates, one of which remained unchanged and the other of which increased.

Then, last fall, White asked Georis to agree to transfer four seats, which was necessary due to rules about water credits, from his space to another Carmel Square spot so a different tenant could open a creperie. He agreed, and the extended leases were updated accordingly, he says, but White never signed them and then “denied plaintiffs the promised lease terms.”

Sale scuttled

The problems came to a head when White told Georis she was terminating his lease for the café space, which he was using for overflow seating — and which was approved by the city just this month for a gelato shop owned by Danny Hala and his wife — and then “engaged in efforts to undermine plaintiff’s other leases.”

White issued several notices of default, according to Georis, all of which were

“inaccurate, defective or pretextual,” and sent him a 60-day notice of termination on June 4, alleging he had not exercised the options to extend his leases.

He accuses White and Persall of doing so to undermine his efforts to sell Barmel, for which he was entertaining offers.

As a result, Georis is suing for breach of contract, for overcharging rent, for failing to account for rents and other taxes and fees, and for intentionally interfering with the contractual and economic relationships Georis had with customers and potential buyers. “Among other things, defendants published false statements in 2025 that plaintiff’s leases had expired in 2024,” the complaint says.

“As a result of defendants’ conduct and statements, plaintiffs lost the benefit of the contracts and plaintiff was prevented from selling the business,” which he says had been in the works by way of a March contract with would-be buyer Anthony Accetta.

In addition to monetary damages, fees and other compensation, Georis is asking the court for “a judicial determination of all rights and duties, a declaration settling the leases and accounts between the parties, and a judicial order declaring performance obligations required of the defendants for the duration” of the leases through Dec. 31, 2029. He is demanding a jury trial.

White told The Pine Cone she could not comment on the lawsuit.

BYE

From page 6A

two decades. Locals know him for his cheerful demeanor and engaging personality, and he always has a wave and a beep-beep of the sweeper’s horn for those he recognizes — which is a lot.

The Friday Letter’s “Ode to Jimmy Pingree, King of the Street” poetically extols his work behind the wheel of the “zippy

street sweeper,” zooming “down the lanes with a grin ear to ear, waving at locals with holiday cheer.”

Pingree, 62, was also a longtime softball coach, including leading Carmel High School’s team, but he has retired from that as well.

The Carmel Residents Association and the Carmel Chamber of Commerce will honor both men — and are inviting community members to join in — at the Plaza July 25 at 4:30 p.m. before the weekly summer music series begins at 5.

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MARTHA DREXLER LYNN
(MARTHA DANZIGER)

May 30th was a beautiful Friday night in Carmel Valley. As the moon was rising, a choir of angels appeared to retrieve Martha’s soul. The angels were all students of ceramic arts, and they needed a phenomenal subject matter expert. Thus ended the life of Martha Drexler Lynn (Martha Danziger).

Martha was born, circa 1947, in San Rafael, the daughter of Jane and Fred Drexler. Born with a club foot, she was forced to wear a clumsy brace. To her mother’s frustration, 1-year-old Martha delighted in repeatedly kicking off the brace. Martha enjoyed telling this story as evidence of her will to have things her way and her tenacity in eliminating or circumventing life’s obstacles.

While attending Marin Country Day, the family discovered that Martha had a serious case of dyslexia. As Martha fought to develop coping strategies, she was bullied by her peers. The Drexlers moved her to The Hamlin School in San Francisco. Not only did she flourish in her new environment, but she rode back and forth to school with her father who worked in the City. Fred was CEO of Industrial Indemnity Insurance Co. Like osmosis, Martha absorbed many of her successful father’s strengths and over time she became her



“father’s daughter.” Mature beyond her years, she was whip smart, had a firm grasp of common sense, was tenacious, funny and driven to succeed. Another silver lining of her dyslexia was her acquired taste of aesthetics. Her quest for beautiful things would be a central theme of Martha’s life.

After high school, Martha attended Cal Berkeley where she earned a B.A. in art history. Then as now, jobs for art historians were scarce. In her search for substantive employment, Martha migrated to England for two years. The English lesson (pun intended) was that she discovered the discipline of decorative arts. From there, she was off to USC where she earned her master’s and Ph.D. in art history. Determined to work among the best, Dr. Lynn scored a job as an associate curator at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). In addition to overseeing the museum’s 20th century decorative arts collection, Martha’s tenure included the acquisition of hundreds of art objects and the implementation of more than 35 national and international exhibitions of clay, glass, metal and wood. Martha traveled around the world lecturing about ceramics and consulting for museums who respected the short curator with big hair from LACMA. She also authored seven academic books, the last one from the Yale University Press entitled “American Studio Ceramics: Innovation and Identity, 1940 to 1979.” The girl who repeatedly kicked off her brace and learned to deal with dyslexia fought her way into becoming an international expert in ceramic arts.

With stellar professional success under her belt, Martha married a man who could keep up with her. By all accounts Bob Danziger was brilliant. Bob’s formal education culminated in a high school diploma. That’s it. Yet he managed to get a job as an engineer at the prestigious Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. When he passed, he had nine patents to his name. To put a finer point on this, Bob was interested in law. He read some law books while he was recuperating in the hospital. To test his comprehension, he took the bar exam and passed, never stepping foot inside a law school. He also possessed a wicked sense of humor with perfect timing. Bob and Martha were made for one another. With the enjoyment of her professional success, combined with the marital bliss that came with Bob, Martha entered the happiest 20 years of her life.

In 2000, the Danzigers moved to Carmel Highlands. Life couldn’t have been better. Martha was on boards of the Carmel Public Library Foundation, the National Steinbeck Center, the Archie Bray Foundation, the Monterey Museum of Art and the Foundation of California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB). Martha and Bob were donors to CSUMB. At the end of 2021, the happiest period of Martha’s life sadly came to an end. Bob passed away due to a life-long illness.

Bob’s passing, combined with Martha’s breast cancer, was the beginning of her survival period. When she was declared cancer free, she rang the bell and proclaimed that this was just the beginning of her final chapter. Low and behold, months later in 2022, she had a serendipitous meeting with Tom Hudson. He didn’t have nine patents and couldn’t spell decorative arts. On the other hand, he spoke English, he could drive, and he laughed at her jokes. For about 10 months, a good time was had by all.

Late in 2023, Martha was told her breast cancer had returned in the form of bone cancer. As one might suspect, Martha was the Muhammed Ali of cancer fighters. Tom’s role transitioned to that of Martha’s cornerman. In November, Martha entered the ring for the final round. She could win. She was tough and could be seen getting out of her wheelchair and crawling on her hands and knees up two flights of stairs without a whimper. Among the variables that sustained her for the final 18 months was her sense of humor. After Tom became Martha’s husband, she would gleefully announce to friends that they were trying to have kids. The game was to see how long it took the audience to recognize the joke about two septuagenarians having kids.

When it became clear that Martha wasn’t going to win the fight, she kept her sense of humor. She suggested to Tom that after her passing, he rent a van and drive her to the family’s plot at the cemetery in Marin. “But” she said, “I want you to take me out of the casket and strap me into the passenger’s seat. That way we can use the HOV lane.”

Martha’s mother very much wanted her only daughter to grow up to be like Doris Day. Instead, the world got a cross between Madame Curie and Lucille Ball.

Martha is survived by her husband, Tom Hudson Jr.; her older brother, Ken, her second brother, Roger, his wife, Jill; her nephew, Daniel, and all her friends who loved her dearly.

Goodbye Sweetie. Rest in peace.

FINES
From page 1A

on Scenic and on San Antonio, for example — and the excavation they require is more intensive due to underground infrastructure and basements, which puts trees further at risk.

Meaningless fines

The Carmel Municipal Code calls for fines of \$250 for a first violation and \$500 for a second, according to Ono, but the commission has also penalized owners and builders based on assessed values of the trees that were damaged or killed — sometimes charging tens of thousands of dollars.

Nonetheless, those measures lack sharp enough teeth, Ono said.

“These amounts are so negligible that pursuing its recovery is often not even worth the staff time required to do so,” he said of the fines. And “while recovering the appraised value of a tree provides at least some measure of accountability, it fails to act as a meaningful deterrent and can be viewed simply as an inconsequential ‘cost of doing business’ relative to typical project costs and property values in the city.”

Ono looked at penalties imposed by a handful of other jurisdictions and offered them for comparison. Laguna Beach, for instance, approved an ordinance in 2018 that imposes penalties ranging from \$1,000 to \$30,000, with the highest fine for repeat offenders and those who cut down “heritage trees,” which he said have “distinctive features promoting the city’s beauty, character and history.”

The City of San Jose punishes people who illegally prune or remove public trees by levying fines up to \$15,000 per tree, with as much as \$30,000 for a heritage tree, and La Cañada Flintridge charges restitution based on the wholesale cost of a replacement tree, with a maximum penalty of \$18,000 for damaged or cut public trees with diameters of 36 inches or more.

Fines imposed by the City of San Mateo

can reach up to \$10,000 per tree injured or taken down during construction, and a stop-work order can be issued until a mitigation plan is in place.

Ono also suggested the city could require a deposit equal to 25 percent to 100 percent of the appraised value of trees on a site, like the City of Saratoga does. “This money goes into an account which is used to fund the contract city arborist’s work on the project,” he said. “As our city has full-time staff, this money can be held as collateral in case a tree is purposely or inadvertently damaged during construction activities.”

‘Appraisal war’

The city could even fine people based on what their properties are worth, Ono suggested, such as levying penalties ranging from 1 percent to 5 percent of the value, based on the egregiousness of the act.

He didn’t make any formal recommendations but encouraged commissioners to discuss “what punishment fits the crime in a town like this.”

While they did not take any action, commissioners clearly favored higher fines.

Chair Kelly Brezoczky predicted basing fines on property values would lead to “an appraisal war” but proposed “at a minimum, having the city council change \$250 and \$500 to \$10,000 and \$20,000, or \$15,000 and \$30,000.”

Commissioner Neal Rutta asked if Ono could force someone to plant a tree in the exact same spot “in those cases where someone decides to cut a tree down and write a check for 30 grand because it’s just noise for them,” but Ono said he is unsure how far his authority extends under those circumstances.

A few members of the public encouraged the commission to pursue heavier penalties, and further discussion included establishing a subcommittee on the topic.

The push to penalize people for illegally pruning or removing trees comes amidst state mandates to remove vegetation, trees and other combustible materials that increase the risks of wildfire.

ELIZABETH ANN GLASER HOFFMAN

May 29, 1956 – July 15, 2025
Sacramento

Elizabeth Ann Glaser Hoffman, born on May 29, 1956, in California, was the beloved daughter of Antoinette (Toni) and James (Jim) Glaser. Raised in Carmel, Liz was the eldest of six siblings. Liz was the dependable older sister to her siblings, Margaret, Kathryn, Maree, James and Nicholas.

After graduating from Carmel High School in 1974, Liz attended college in Santa Barbara, where she met her late husband, Steven Hoffman. They began a life full of travel and exploration, living in Lake Tahoe, Arizona and eventually settling in Sacramento where they raised their family of four boys: Nathan, Logan, Spencer and Parker.

After Steven’s passing in 1992, Liz faced the challenge of single motherhood with grace, strength and unwavering love. She raised her four boys with love and devotion, making their lives her priority. She served as team mom, swim team board member, and the ever-reliable minivan chauffeur to countless sporting practices and games.

As Liz’s four sons started families of their own, she became a proud and devoted grandmother to Austin, in 2007, and Lana, in 2008. Liz adored spending time with her all her grandchildren: Madison, Kristian, Jayden, Bryce, Zoe and the bonus grandchildren who joined the family in 2023. Whether hosting birthday parties, reading books aloud, playing board games, or enjoying summer days by the pool, Liz ensured all her grandchildren felt loved and cherished.

Liz continuously held close bonds with her family, friends and the community while supporting her grandchildren through their baseball, soccer and swimming activities.

Liz stayed connected with her children, siblings and friends, while always being a phone call away with unwavering support, advice and guidance. Liz’s greatest joy came from her family. Her love, warmth and fierce devotion will forever be remembered by all who knew her.

Elizabeth will be deeply missed, and her legacy will live on through the many lives she touched.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation
to The American Cancer Society.





KAREN MARIE OSBORNE
1948-2025

To those who had the honor and pleasure of knowing Karen, she epitomized light – the ethereal and powerful energy that illuminates and heals – and with her passing July 10, there’s a little less of that light in the world.

Born in Utica, N.Y., to George and Jane Phelan Vogel as one of four, Karen was endowed with a strong spirit and a powerful will to help others.

Harnessing those attributes, Karen graduated from St. Joseph’s School of Nursing in Syracuse, N.Y., and earned a master’s degree in psychiatric nursing from Boston College. She went on to build her career in helping and healing others, holding multiple nursing jobs that culminated in her running a senior clinic in San Francisco.



She married Charley Osborne and brought her young daughter, Sarah, to join him and his sons, Matthew and Jesse. They built their life together in the San Francisco Bay area and welcomed their youngest son, Ian, into the world.

When Charley retired from a career in finance and asset management, the two of them bought a historic but neglected house in the Carmel Highlands that they fully and lovingly restored and improved.

While Karen no longer worked in healthcare, her spirit and desire to help others remained undiminished, and she became increasingly interested in developing ways to address homelessness. She was astounded to learn there were more than 10,000 homeless children and teens in Monterey County and took up the battle with a group of friends to launch Housing for School Kids. Administered by the Community Foundation for Monterey County, the nonprofit focuses on meaningful and pragmatic ways to support homeless families and was Karen’s proudest accomplishment.

She had a large and diverse group of friends who deeply loved her and found her approachable, wise and warm, and she was fiercely devoted to her friends and family.

Whenever a problem or challenge arose, Karen was always the first to step up with possible solutions, and she was generous with her time and intellect. Those in her book group, the Sally Group, the Arica clan and her host of relatives and their friends could count on her for sage advice, entertaining stories – and a wholesome meal topped by her delicious brownies.

Karen is survived by husband Charley; siblings Donna Kaplan (Steve Schulz), Richard Vogel, Craig Vogel (Amy); children Matthew (Lisa), Jesse (Kyrsten), Sarah (Frayne) and Ian; her goddaughter, niece Kelly Vogel; and grandchildren Christie, Riley and Cooper.

Memorial contributions may be made to Housing for School Kids via the Community Foundation for Monterey County or to another favorite charity.

HELGA DANOS

June 14th, 1927 – July 13th, 2025

After a long and interesting life, Helga (Heimers) Danos died peacefully a month after celebrating her 98th birthday. Born and raised in Hannover, Germany, as a teenager she saw firsthand the effects of World War II. Helga married Michael Danos of Riga, Latvia in Heidelberg in 1949. He was a theoretical physicist and for professional reasons, they immigrated to the United States in 1951. They lived first in New York City and then in Washington, D.C. with their two children. Helga earned a master’s degree in linguistics from Georgetown University and was an instructor for the Defense Language Institute in Washington, D.C. In 1975, she accepted a transfer to the Monterey branch of DLI and drove cross-country in a yellow convertible Mustang. A lover of current events, history, world affairs and travel, she had many interesting stories of the places she visited. She loved the outdoors and explored California on long hikes with the Sierra Club and in later years, continued with shorter hikes along the coast on her own because as she said, “I didn’t want to slow the group down.” As a long-time member of CVAC, which she called the tennis club, she enjoyed tennis until she was 92. She loved the community of Carmel, volunteering for more than 20 years at the Sunset Center, and was a longtime member of the Carmel Foundation.

Helga is survived by her daughter, Johanna Danos; and her grandchildren, Elvin and Elena Danos. Her daughter, Tamara, preceded her in death in 2003. The family would like to thank the many friends Helga made on the Monterey Peninsula who looked in on her as she aged in place in her home.

Helga requested no fanfare with her passing, so if you were lucky enough to have known her, please celebrate her life in your own way.



HELEN SLAWEK JOHNSTON

JULY 3, 1931 – JULY 3, 2025
LONGTIME RESIDENT OF SAN JOSE AND MONTEREY, CA

Helen S. Johnston, beloved wife, mother, grandmother “Babu,” violinist, educator, philanthropist and friend, passed peacefully at home in Monterey, CA with her family at her side on her 94th birthday, July 3, 2025.

Born in 1931 to her immigrant Polish parents, Aniela and Stanley Slawek, in Sacramento, CA, she was raised on a small farm in the California Delta. Her first home was on Prospect Island where her father would row her in a boat across the river to meet the school bus. Later her family moved to a parcel of land in Rio Vista, California where Helen attended middle school and Rio Vista High School (1949). Her father was a well-driller and farmer. Helen was involved in Rio Vista life as a competitor for the Rio Vista Bass Derby Queen and was given the keys to the City of Rio Vista. She proudly attended Rio Vista High School Reunions with her classmates in her later years at The Point Restaurant.

Helen studied violin in her youth and became proficient. Her father would drive her to weekly lessons in Sacramento. She played solo and special events in high school and then became principal violin in the Sacramento City College orchestra, All-state Community College Orchestra and the Sacramento Symphony. It was in the Sacramento Symphony that she met the principal clarinetist, Darrell Johnston, soon to be her beloved husband. Helen and Darrell married in August 1952 and moved to Rochester, New York where Darrell completed his master’s degree at the prestigious Eastman School of Music and Helen continued her violin studies. After Darrell’s graduation he was enlisted in the Army and stationed in Joplin, MO where Helen taught elementary education and soloed as a violinist with the Joplin Symphony.

They returned to their California roots by way of Woodland for several years where Helen taught at Gibson Elementary School and finally settled in their primary home in 1958 in San Jose. Helen taught primary K-2 at the Metzler School until her second child was born. She then taught private violin lessons while raising her children and played in the San Jose Symphony at night.

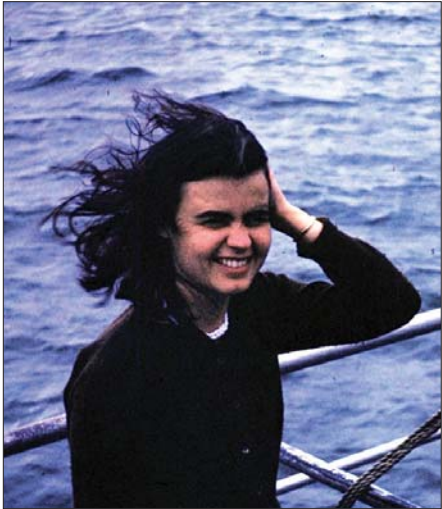
She was a member of the Montalvo Service League in support of its arts center where she enjoyed preparing and working at the Yuletide holiday events. She was a long-time supporter of the musical arts in Silicon Valley, specifically the San Francisco Symphony, San Jose Symphony and the San Jose Wind Symphony. Helen enjoyed playing tennis and excelled at doubles. She was a longtime member of the Los Gatos Swim and Racquet Club.

Helen graduated from Sacramento City College with an AA degree and later completed her teaching credentials at Sacramento State University. Helen will be interred at the Los Gatos Memorial Park at a future date in a private family ceremony.

Helen’s greatest happiness was to be with her family, especially her grandchildren. She is survived by her two children, Scott Johnston (Cindy), Annette Johnston Welton (Pat); grandchildren, Christopher (Chelsea) Johnston, Alexander (Alexa) Welton, Mikaela Welton, Holly Johnston McIntyre (Danny), Brooke Johnston, Alison Johnston and great-granddaughter, Avery Welton. She is predeceased by her husband of 69 years, Darrell Leland Johnston; her mother, Aniela (Kopec) Slawek; father, Stanley Slawek and sister, Stella (Stasha).

A special thank you to Dr. Scott Schneiderman and to the entire staff at Merrill Gardens of Monterey, Ileini’s Care Inc. and to special friend Mr. John Goings and his family.

Memorial donations may be made in her name to:
Montalvo Arts Center: [Montalvoarts.org](https://montalvoarts.org)
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BURGLARY

From page 10A

the damage was less than \$500.

“The food taken consisted mainly of condiments, such as ketchup,” Adamson said.

Previous crimes

Guertin’s criminal history includes arrests for felony and misdemeanor domestic violence, false imprisonment, violations of probation, driving drunk, providing false information to a peace officer and resisting or delaying an officer.

Malone has been arrested for vandalism, drunk driving, resisting or delaying an officer, disorderly conduct, battery, loitering, child abuse and criminal conspiracy, PGPD said.

“Notably, Malone had also been arrested just two days prior in connection with an unrelated battery investigation,” PGPD said.

SLIDE

From page 1A

through traffic since January 2023.

“An array of monitoring equipment has confirmed that the dowels are having the intended effect of mitigating further slide activity,” Drabinski reported.

“As the top-down excavation advances, crews will continue to install dowels in the slope, providing immediate and long-term reinforcement,” he continued.”

The upcoming work will be done by humans and machines and is happening seven days a week.

While Caltrans isn’t ready to say when Highway 1 will reopen at the site, the state roads agency did say it will be “in a position to provide an updated estimate on the full reopening” by mid-September.



PHOTO/CALTRANS

Work continues to reopen Highway 1 at Regent Slide in Big Sur, where 2,000 steel rods were recently installed to stabilize the site.

California Transportation Secretary Toks Omishakin visited the site July 18.

Fully committed

“California and Gov. Gavin Newsom remain fully committed to reopening Highway 1 at Regents Slide as quickly and safely as possible,” Omishakin said.

“Visiting the project site reinforced my confidence that we will restore access to this majestic section of coastline to people who have endured hardships and demonstrated incredible patience.”



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DONALD ROBERT NEWMARK

May 17, 1926 — July 15, 2025
Age 99

Donald R. Newmark, an urban planner who worked professionally in the San Francisco Bay Area, expressed his love for jazz in his retirement years by teaching a jazz education course at the Center for Learning in Retirement in San Francisco from 1990 to 1993 and a Jazz History and Appreciation course at the Carmel Foundation from 1994 on for many years. In Carmel, Don was also a president of the Gentrain Society and served on the board of the Monterey Peninsula College Foundation. At MPC he endowed a scholarship to assist deserving students wanting to go on to four-year institutions.



Don was born in 1926 in Los Angeles and grew up in Beverly Hills. He attended the University of Colorado, then earned BA and MCP degrees at the University of California, Berkeley. Outgoing and affable, he enjoyed lifelong friendships with two childhood friends and several graduate school classmates. A skier and runner, he met his wife, Laura, on a Sierra Club hike. After their marriage in 1971, they enjoyed travel in the U.S. and Europe including a visit to Carmel that led to a move to Monterey in 1994 and to Carmel in 1996. As an arts-oriented couple, they found the Carmel community congenial.

Don is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Laura; by his brother, Thomas; his nephew, Robert (wife Tori, son Sam) and his niece, Linda.



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Lulu
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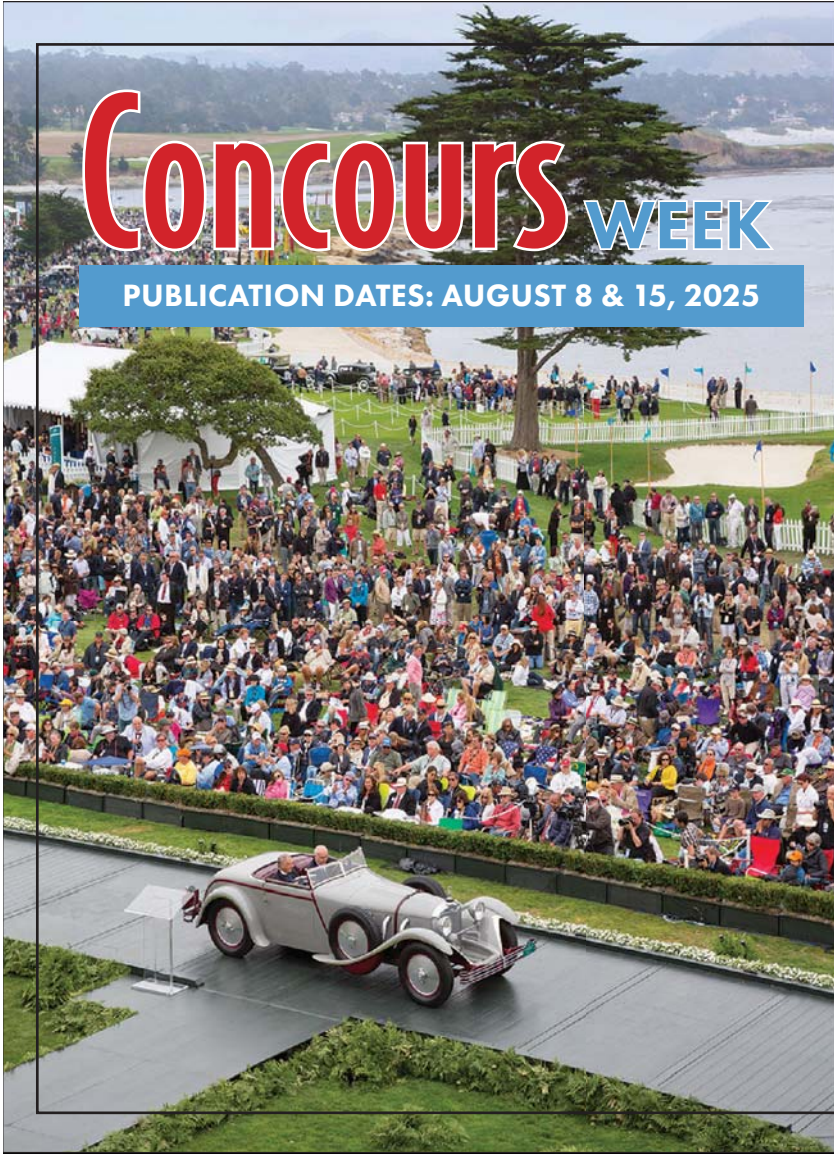
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The Carmel Pine Cone

ARTISTS ARE BUSY BEHIND THE SCENES AS COVID MEMORIAL TAKES SHAPE

A WEEK after Monterey County announced the start of construction for a Covid memorial in Salinas, glass artist Shelby Hawthorne described the work that she and her brother, steel artist Taylor Hawthorne, are doing behind the scenes in Sand City to create the memorial next to the county government building in Salinas.

When the memorial was conceived, plans called for bringing together five transparent, colored acrylic panels representing the five districts in Monterey County — with

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

the names of victims to be etched into the acrylic. “They were looking for a local artist who could do plexiglas art, and they were running into some dead ends,” Hawthorne said.

As a result, glass was considered as an option, and someone recommended Shelby.

“They reached out to me, and I did some prototypes,” she recalled.

Shelby said glass made more sense than acrylic. “It will last way longer,” she said. “It’s much stronger — it won’t break down over time. Glass is great with UV light and won’t cloud over.”

Too big for her kiln

Each of the five colored glass panels is 8 feet wide by 6 feet tall and will be made up of seven segments, because Shelby’s kiln can’t fire pieces that large, she said.

Once the glass pieces are completed, Taylor will frame them with steel. She and her brother are doing the work in a studio they share at 460 Elder Ave. in Sand City, about one block from a studio operated by their father, noted Big Sur artist Greg Hawthorne.

Shelby told The Pine Cone that she’s looking forward



Local glass artist Shelby Hawthorne (above) and her brother, metal artist Taylor Hawthorne, are working in Sand City on the county’s new Covid memorial.

to seeing the memorial completed. “Public art is such an important thing, and I know a lot of people in Monterey County lost loved ones to Covid,” said Shelby, who is juggling her art with taking care of her two young children, including a 10-month-old. “This will help bring awareness to those who lost loved ones, and be a unique spot to bring joy and happiness. It should be exciting when it all is put together.”

The memorial is expected to cost \$300,000, with most of the money coming from donations. If you’re interested in donating, visit the Community Foundation for Monterey County’s website at cfmco.org. For more about Shelby’s glass art, visit shelbyhawthorne.com.

YAC hosts Summer Art Show

Showcasing the creative talent of the next generation of local artists, Youth Arts Collective opens its 2025 Summer Art Show with a reception Friday that will be an “unforgettable evening as we showcase over 100 original works created by YAC’s talented young artists and mentors,” the group said.

The public is invited to “wander through our studio gallery in person, or explore the exhibit online at yacstudios.org/exhibit,” they added. “Whether they’re dropping by in person or tuning in online, we can’t wait to share this vibrant and joyful show with everyone.”

The Youth Arts Collective is at 472 Calle Principal in Monterey. Friday’s opening reception begins at 6 p.m.

Museum hosts mixer

Giving people an opportunity to meet sculptors and mixed media artists who are featured in the first Monterey Biennial Exhibit, the Monterey Museum of Art presents an Artist Mixer Saturday at 2 p.m.

The event is the first of a series of three. “This series of informal gatherings provides a unique opportunity to connect with fellow artists working within your discipline and strengthen relationships within the Central California creative community,” the museum said.

The show, which includes work by 122 contemporary artists, will be on display through Aug. 31.

More than 800 pieces are in the show — all produced by working artists who are residents of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz, and San Luis Obispo counties.

The museum is at 559 Pacific St. Visit montereyart.org.

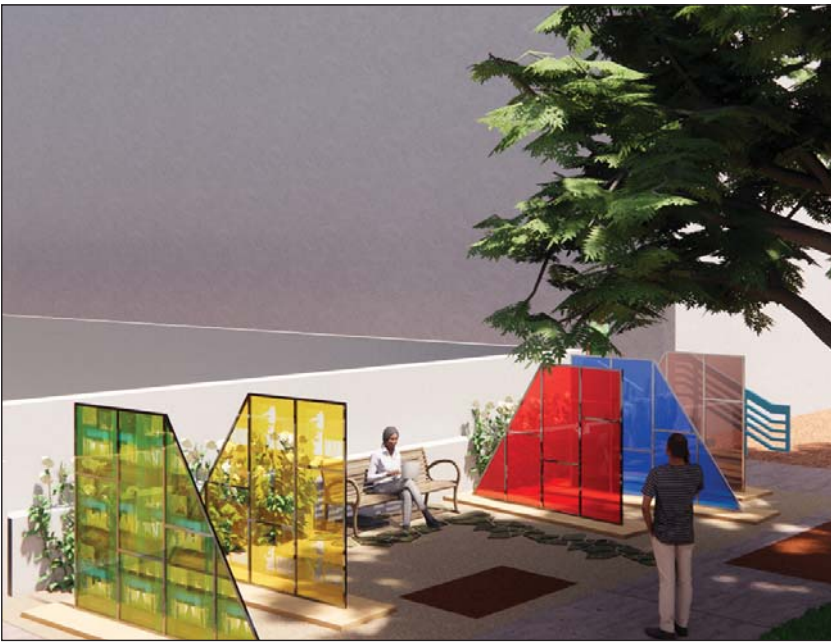
Painters host pop-up show

Contemporary abstract painters Mary Titus and Lori Ponsak have a pop-up show of their work on display in the Crossroads shopping center through September. The

gallery is located next to Spencers Stationary at 233 Crossroads Blvd.

Besides being a gifted painter and longtime Carmel Highlands resident, Titus has owned and operated several downtown galleries.

The pop-up gallery is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



A rendering shows what the Covid memorial next to the county government building in Salinas will look like when it’s completed.

CAROLYN ‘ELISABETH’ McPHAIL

January 13, 1932 – June 29, 2025

Carolyn “Elisabeth” Johnson McPhail, affectionally known by many as “Bee,” died peacefully, with her loving family nearby, in the care of hospice in Monterey, California, at the age of 93 on Sunday, June 29th, 2025.

Elisabeth was born January 13th, 1932 in Sacramento, and grew up there – first on 47th Street in downtown, and later, on 11th Avenue in Land Park.

She was a talented musician – a life-long piano player – who could read sheet music before learning to read words in school – was blessed with perfect pitch – and could sight read just about anything put in front of her.

She was a talented artist as well, starting to paint at 15, and enjoying oils all through her adult life – painting the many Victorian houses in Santa Cruz under the name “Peter Bern,” and later focusing on portraits, painting many members of the extended family, and close friends – perhaps her most notable portrait being of Ian, in his kilt. She went on to paint many still-lives, and finally moved to non-representative abstracts. Her paintings grace the walls of homes throughout the United States, the United Kingdom and Germany. Two of her large abstracts are part of the permanent collection of Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula.

Elisabeth was also a talented writer. In her later years, she enjoyed writing children’s adventure stories, with her four grandchildren as the heroes. These works were published together with the writings of other family members and are available on Amazon as “Family Writings: by McPhail and Meeks Family Members.”

She attended McClatchy High School in Sacramento, graduating in 1949. She maintained countless close friendships from that period in her life to the very end.

Elisabeth went on to Stanford University, where she lived in Jordan, with many good friends from Sacramento and beyond. It was here that she first started painting portraits. She got her bachelor’s in 1953, and her master’s in 1954.

After receiving her master’s, she moved to London to teach elementary school at the American School for two years – thoroughly enjoying life in the English capital in the ‘50s, living in a so-called bedsitter flat, making London a home away from home. She would remain an Anglophile for the rest of her life.

So perhaps it was no accident when a young Londoner appeared in San Francisco, while hitchhiking his way around North America in his Argyle and Southern Highlander’s regimental kilt, that it was love at first sight. That was 1958. They would be married in 1959 in Sacramento.

Elisabeth taught elementary school in Berkeley while Ian attended law school at Boalt.

Once Ian got his law degree, they moved to Santa Cruz and opened their own practice. Elisabeth worked full-time as Ian’s assistant, until their first child was born. They lived in the “flats” of Rio del Mar, in Aptos.

While their three children were young, they lived on Elva Drive on Seacliff, before relocating to Montclair Drive in Rolling Woods, between Santa Cruz and Scotts Valley. Elisabeth had a studio there, and continued to paint prolifically, while studying under Keith Ward.

Elisabeth co-wrote books with Ian about his law-practice specialty, estate planning.

Elisabeth was a passionate fan of classical music, and she and Ian were devoted annual attendees of the Carmel Bach Festival. They so loved the cultural scene in the village of Carmel, they spontaneously decided to move there in 1986.

Once again, Elisabeth set up a painting studio at the house on San Juan Road. She continued to take painting classes and joined a painting group with friends on the Monterey Peninsula. She participated in an investment club and a book club with good friends. She and Ian belonged to the The Beach & Tennis Club in Pebble Beach, where their young grandchildren spent summers swimming and attending tennis and sailing camps.

Elisabeth is pre-deceased by her parents, Oscar Frederick and Irene Bern Johnson; and her older sister, Mary Alice Basye.

She is survived by her beloved husband of nearly 66 years, Ian; her younger sister, Christine Farquhar, of Stanford, CA; her daughter, Mary Meeks (Paul) of Charleston, SC; her sons, Andrew McPhail, of Berlin, Germany and Alex McPhail, of Carmel, CA; her grandsons, Andrew (“Drew”) Meeks, of Bellingham, WA, Daniel McPhail, of Nuremburg, Germany and Nickolas McPhail, of Karlsruhe, Germany; her granddaughter, Caroline Meeks, of Charleston, SC; her cousin, Keith Anderson (Bob), of Medford, Oregon; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Elisabeth’s life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of sending flowers, please consider donating to
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Pirates alum Evan Johnson learned from hands-on experience at BYU

STEVENSON SCHOOL alum Evan Johnson was midair in a jam-packed stadium in Laramie, Wyo., last September when he flashed back to one of those “teachable moments.”

Eleven days earlier, against Southern Illinois, the Brigham Young University cornerback had found him-

I felt a lot more poised,” he said. “This time, I looked for the ball and attacked it at the highest point, like my dad always taught me. And I hung on, and came down with it.”

Those Baryshnikov-like acrobatics resulted in the first interception — [youtube.com/watch?v=aOeD-q1nnP6k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOeD-q1nnP6k) — in Johnson’s college football career. He’s glowing with authentic self-belief as he enters his third season as an NCAA Division I player.

The BYU Cougars have been ranked as high as 12th in the nation in preseason polls.



PHOTOS/BYU

(Top) Evan Johnson’s acrobatic interception against Wyoming last September was the first of his college career. (Above) Johnson celebrates his second college interception, which came against Colorado in the Alamo Bowl.

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

self in an eerily similar position — airborne, arms fully extended in hand-to-hand combat, then body-on-body with a leaping receiver — reaching for a perfectly thrown pass.

“At Southern Illinois, I actually didn’t look for the ball — I just tried to play the hands — and that ball went right over my head,” remembered Johnson, who mentally marked it down as an opportunity lost.

“At Wyoming, it felt like the exact same situation, and



PHOTO/BYU

Stevenson alumnus Evan Johnson is No. 1 on BYU’s preseason depth chart at left cornerback.

More swag

“I’m coming into this year feeling like I can play with a little more swag, a little more confidence, just because I’ve been in these moments before,” he said. “Now I know I can trust my abilities and trust all the training and preparation I’ve done over the past three years to get where I am.”

Johnson spent his first year at Brigham Young as a redshirt — a developmental player practicing, training, gaining weight (from 150 to 180 pounds), strength, speed and football education, but not part of BYU’s active roster on game days.

The following year, 2023, his redshirt freshman season, he appeared in just two games, assisting on a tackle in each.

Last fall, he played in 12 of the Cougars’ 13 games — four as a starter — amassing 13 solo tackles and three assisted stops, as well as deflecting one pass and intercepting two.

His second career pickoff came on Dec. 28 during BYU’s 36-14 romp over Colorado in the Valero Alamo Bowl, capping an 11-2 season for the Cougars.

That heist — a lunging grab by Johnson — occurred after BYU safety Tanner Wall jolted the ball loose from CU receiver Jimmy Horn on a pass from All-America quarterback Shedeur Sanders.

“That was actually a great throw by Sanders, but Tanner laid the boom on the receiver, and the ball was right there for me after it popped out. I just wish I could’ve stayed on my feet to show people what I can do when I get loose.”

A football education

Being in the right place at the right time is a product of a football education for Johnson, whose dad, Ron Johnson, played five seasons (1985-1989) as a wide receiver

for the Philadelphia Eagles. And Evan’s big brother, Wesley, a graduate assistant at BYU, coached cornerbacks — including his sibling — through 2024, and is helping with linebackers this year.

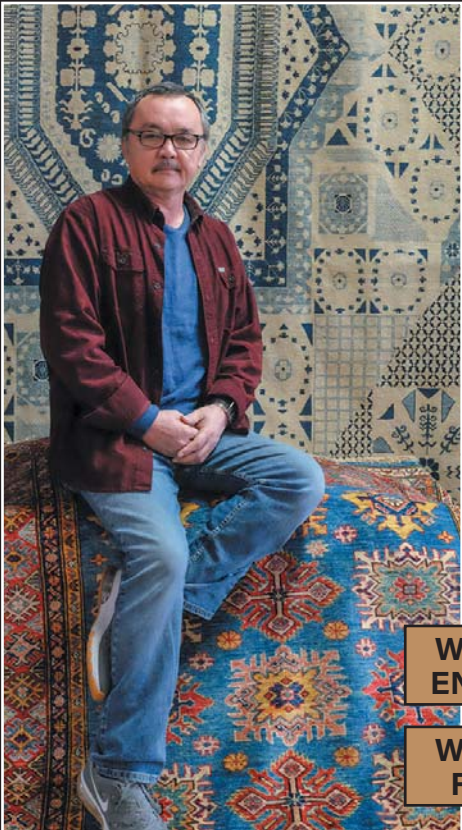
“I mostly played wide receiver at Stevenson, and I’m still learning how to play defensive back,” said Johnson, who graduated from the Pebble Beach school in 2022.

See **SPORTS** next page



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SPORTS

From previous page

“I’m just now picking up things that other guys probably learned when they were a lot younger.”

After high school, he was recruited by Arizona State, Boston College, Colorado, Vanderbilt, Fresno State and San Diego State before accepting BYU’s full-ride scholarship. “I’ve really embraced that learning role. You can never be ‘too good,’ and every little thing I learn is going to make me better.”

A year ago, he ran a 40-yard dash in 4.31 seconds — 4.21 is the fastest time ever recorded by a college football player — but he believes he might be faster today as he enters his junior year of eligibility.

“I weigh between 180 and 185 now, I’m stronger than I was last season, and I’m way faster than I was in high school,” said Johnson, who set Stevenson’s school record in the 100-meter dash (10.41 seconds), and won back-to-back Central Coast Section track and field championships for the Pirates as a junior and senior.

Starting left cornerback?

With fall practices less than a week away, he is currently projected to be the Cougars’ starter at left cornerback but takes nothing for granted.

“People are going to see that we’re very deep in talent at cornerback and at safety. I trust every single one of those guys to go on the field and make a play,” he said.

BYU defensive backs and linebackers intercepted at least one pass in all 13 games last year.

“I haven’t really set any personal goals — I like going with the flow — but I’m feeling pretty confident in myself. I definitely believe I’m capable of leading the nation in picks this season.”

The Cougars open their season at home against Portland State on Aug. 30, with a 6 p.m. kickoff (Pacific time), a game scheduled to be televised on ESPN.

Youth baseball

Carmel, PG qualify for Zones: Carmel’s Mustang Division (10-and-under) All-Stars, and Pacific Grove’s Bronco Division (12-and-under) team are each one step away from qualifying for the PONY International World Series after stellar performances in last week’s Super Regional tournaments.

Carmel continued its unblemished postseason run, going 4-0 at its Super Regional tourney in Ceres, qualifying

for this week’s PONY Mustang Zone Championships, which continue through Sunday in Placentia. They are 8-0 in the playoffs, including four straight victories two weeks ago at the Regional level.

Pacific Grove’s Bronco Division team also advanced to Zones with a second-place finish at its Super Regional in Seaside. The Bronco Zone will be played in Moreno Valley.

Carmel’s Bronco team went 0-2 at the Super Regional after qualifying with a fourth-place finish at Regionals.

The Zone tournaments will also include Super Regional qualifiers from Alaska, Hawaii, and Southern California.

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



PHOTO/COURTESY CARMEL YOUTH BASEBALL

Carmel’s Mustang Division All-Stars, ages 9 and 10, are 8-0 in postseason play after winning their super regional tournament Sunday at Ceres. They’ll play this week in the Zone Championships in Placentia. A top-two finish there will qualify Carmel for the PONY Mustang International World Series in Louisiana.



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‘Aren’t you the sea otter guy?’

IN THE mid-1700s, it is believed that as many as 150,000 to 300,000 sea otters populated coastal waters from Russia and Alaska to Baja California — though at least one estimate ran as high as 1 million. They were hunted to near-extinction as a result of demand for their luxurious fur.

Sea otters are now protected by a host of state and federal regulations, thanks to the efforts of dedicated marine biologists, conservationists and advocates for their survival. Prominent amongst them is Watsonville resident Jim Curland.

By the onset of the 20th century, an estimated 2,000 otters survived in remote areas of Russia, Alaska and the California coast. Hunting them was prohibited in 1911 by an international treaty signed by the United States, Japan, Great Britain (for Canada), and Russia.

Thought to be extinct in California, 50 to 100 southern sea otters were discovered in the early 1930s near the iconic Bixby Bridge, resulting in today’s fluctuating population of around 3,000 on the California coast.

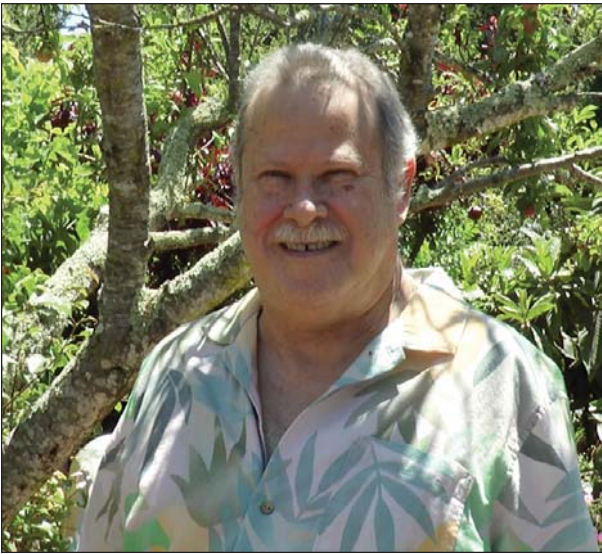
‘Wild Kingdom’

Raised in Beverly Hills, Curland knew early in life he wanted to work with animals. He was devoted to “Wild Kingdom,” the TV show hosted by zoologist Marlin Perkins, as well as to documentary works of his idols, Jane Goodall and David Attenborough.

“I was fascinated by it all,” he said. He graduated high school in 1977 and finished Humboldt State University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Arts in animal behavior. He completed a master’s in marine science through San Jose State University at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories in 1997. He was casting about for a master’s thesis topic, and a lab professor suggested sea otters. Curland’s thesis became a study of the effects of human disturbance — kay-

UC Davis zoology graduate working on her master’s in marine science. They married in 1999 after completing their degrees.

Curland’s academic passions turned to conservation and advocacy. In 1998, he



PHOTO/CARLIN JARDINE
Jim Curland of Watsonville devoted most of his career to sea otter conservation and advocacy.

became the science director for Friends of the Sea Otter, an organization founded in 1968 by environmentalist Margaret Owings of Bug Sur. The group played a crucial role in the southern sea otters’ recovery along the California coast.

“That was the beginning of my 17 years of sea otter and marine conservation,” he related. In November 2000, the entire staff — including Curland — left the Friends of the Sea Otter because of differences with its governing board. Defenders of Wildlife, a national nonprofit headquartered in Washington D.C. with outposts in California, hired Curland to continue his work with sea otter and other marine mammal conservation. He did so from 2001 to 2011.

International event

Amid an economic downturn, grants weren’t renewed and substantial staff reductions followed — not uncommon among nonprofits — leaving Curland unemployed. Meanwhile, Friends of the Sea Otter reorganized and brought on a new board. In 2012, Curland was rehired as its advocacy director. But in, 2015, following more board differences, he left once again.

“A lot of good things came of my times with those two entities,” he said. A manager at Defenders of Wildlife approached him about developing a project that became Sea Otter Awareness Week, intended to educate the public about the animals and provide people with ways to help. It grew from a small affair on the Monterey Peninsula to a national and international event.

Each September, zoos and aquariums around the world, as well as researchers, conservationists and educators, celebrate Sea Otter Awareness Week, 22 years after

See **LIVES** next page

Great Lives

By CARLIN JARDINE

aks, divers, surfers, jet skis, boats, and other recreational uses — on the pinnipeds.

Curland’s fascination grew. “I was drawn more and more to their story and their struggle for survival,” he said. “They’re captivating animals, playful, fun to observe and extremely interesting.” Sea otters are among the few tool-users in the animal kingdom, using rocks to crack open shellfish.

Love and science

The Moss Landing Marine Lab gave his professional — and personal — life focus and direction. It was there he met Pam, a

Work inspired by the quest for an elusive golden thread

IN 2024, Peninsula artist and educator Ginger Espinoza traveled to Italy in search of the “golden thread” — a notional concept that posits that all creative people borrow and steal from others.

Specifically, she studied paintings by Caravaggio — her personal inspiration — along with works of artists who influenced him, like Michelangelo, Da Vinci, Peterzano, Palma Vecchio, and some of those he

In 2012, after an 18-year marriage came to an end, she transitioned from painting to digital fine-art photography.

Her specialty is creating artistic images of intriguing people — street photography, fashion and portfolio photography, and commercial images.

Her expertise with Adobe Photoshop enables Espinoza to create stunning, imaginative backdrops and enhancements for her photographs:

A child wearing a black top hat cradles a bouquet of white roses in her arms as she stands peacefully between two white tigers, a long-haired woman extends

her arm toward a swarm of sharks, a young girl and a towering space alien exchange a glance on a moonscape.

A gallery on her website, titled “Azteka Pride,” features images of indigenous people dancing and proudly posing in colorful ceremonial costumes. Another, called “Expecting,” is composed of scenic shots of a pregnant model. “Bridal” features an African-American model wrapped alluringly in a snow-white wedding dress and stylish veil.

Much of Espinoza’s art is imbued with subtle symbols and metaphors that invite interpretation, often inspired by her own life journey.

Her mother is a painter. Her grandfather poured cement for a living, but sometimes shaped his cement into sculptures and masks, painted them, then discovered that he could sell them.

“When I was in my teens, he invited me to paint one of his sculptures. He showed confidence in my artistic ability, which felt pretty inspiring,” she remembered.

“My cousin, Camille, who is a year older, hasn’t forgotten that. She’s still saying, ‘I’m more creative than you!’ And I say, ‘No, Grandpa passed the torch to me!’”

Espinoza studied art at Citrus College in Glendora, where she met the man she would marry.

Young, expecting, and broke

“I was 20, one thing led to another, and I was expecting,” she said. “We looked at each other and said, ‘How are we going to afford this?’”

“Our rent at the time was \$600 — something like that — and we were stressing about that, so we thought the best idea was for him to join the military.”

A year later, she was nursing her firstborn son, Harrison, at Fort Bragg, N.C., and their bank account was no better.

“We were surviving on ramen. Raising a baby and being an artist and a



PHOTO/GINGER ESPINOZA

Fine-art photographer Ginger Espinoza used a strobe light to illuminate the mustard plants surrounding model Nalina Johnson during a photo shoot near the Carmel River.

See **ARTIST** next page

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



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LIVES

From previous page

its inception.

“I’m very proud of that accomplishment. It’s made a difference,” Curland said. He testified often at hearings of the California Legislature, the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission, and Congress on marine conservation issues such as the 2009 Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act authored by Rep. Sam Farr. Curland, along with California Senators John Laird and Bill Monning, which succeeded in getting the Sea Otter Fund placed on California tax forms as an option for citizen contributions.

When he left his second tenure with Friends of the Sea Otter, nearly \$500,000 had been raised for research and conservation.

Apple corps

While at Friends of the Sea Otter, and Defenders of Wildlife, Curland wrote reviews of media productions as well as numerous papers for the Fish and Wildlife Service. He consulted on documentaries for national and international production companies, including National Geographic, and was interviewed scores of times by local and major television entities from the United States and abroad.

At 56, after retiring from Friends of the Sea Otter and leery of the insecurities inherent with nonprofits, Curland

took a position at the Apple Store in Del Monte Center.

Curland noted that when people see him there, they say, “Wait, aren’t you the sea otter guy? What are you doing here?” He responds, “I feel I’ve made my mark with that part of my life. It was time to move on and I’m really happy where I am.”

In 1994, he was diagnosed with cancer midway through his master’s studies, which he completed after his recovery. Since then, he has dealt with it four more times.

“It’s all made me realize how precarious life can be and how much I appreciate it,” he offered. Curland, 66, admits to survivors guilt, knowing that so many don’t make it. Friends tell him to feel lucky, not guilty.

He concluded, “I want to do something with my life I’m proud of and I love, and I’ve survived to do that.”

ARTIST

From previous page

military wife was really difficult, so I decided to go back to school,” Espinoza said.

When her husband was transferred to Fort Sill, Okla., she enrolled at Cameron University to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

The university also hired her to teach oil painting to undergraduate students, which led to substitute teaching.

“I taught second and third graders and loved it,” she said. “The kids actually gave me hugs, and I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, this is my calling!’”

When a full-time teacher died of cancer, the school offered the job to Espinoza.

“At that time, I wanted to go full-throttle into education,” she said.

But after a year of teaching, she followed her husband — first to Hawaii, then to Washington state, where Espinoza began exhibiting her paintings in Seattle coffee shops.

In 2001, she gave birth to her second son, Christian. Six years later, her marriage was over.

Working for Hot Cheetos

Her third child, now 11, was fathered by a man she dated after the divorce.

“I named her Angelina — Angie — and I truly believe she was sent by God. She’s my best friend,” she said of her daughter, a frequent model for her mom’s Vanity Fair-style images.

Angie also assists on photo shoots as her mother’s grip — the Hollywood label for a technician who helps with lighting and camera equipment. She wields a tiny strobe light and helps set the lighting and aperture of a photo.

“She’s been doing that since she was 9, and, of course, she complains the whole time,” her mom teases. “But her payment is Hot Cheetos. She’s happy as long as she gets her Hot Cheetos at the end.”

In 2017, struggling to make ends meet, Espinoza applied for a job as an illustrator at Monterey’s Defense Language Institute.

“I went to that interview with imposter syndrome,” she recounted. “I said ‘You want me to do what? Draw every day and get paid for it? Oh, sure ... I can do that!’”

Her interviewer sent her away that Friday with homework: Draw Japanese anime-style cartoon illustrations and bring them back Monday.

“I had never done an anime drawing, so I went straight to the library, grabbed a bunch of books, started drawing and discovered that it was really easy for me,” she recalled.

After showing her work the following Monday, she was led to a room full of people. “He said, ‘Ms. Espinoza, I want you to meet your new team.’ And I said, ‘What? I have a team?’”

Over the next four-and-a-half years, through a wide array of projects, she became a skilled digital illustrator and animator, earning the biggest paychecks of her life.

In 2020, she moved to the Naval Postgraduate School, where she spent a year designing a book.

Refined by fire

When the Covid pandemic emptied the NPS offices, she accepted a position from world-renowned sculptor Richard MacDonald, designing his catalogues and

websites and handling communications and public relations from 2021 to 2023.

“I also did Richard’s photography, and he was very particular. I’d shoot about a thousand photos, and Richard would approve one,” she said with dour amusement. “I was refined by fire. Richard was that fire, and I have the scars to prove it. He’s part of my golden thread.”

Espinoza’s art is tentatively scheduled to be showcased in the gallery at Del Mesa Carmel in February, and she continues to expand her body of work in preparation for future shows. A long-term goal, she said, is to edit her images into photography books on various themes.

She also anticipates returning to her first love, painting, in the future.

Firstborn son Harrison, 30, is serving in the military in Germany. His 24-year-old brother, Christian, is a Peninsula resident, also considering a military career. Angie shows evolving artistic talents, her mother said.

For additional information, and to see Espinoza’s photographs, visit gingerespinoza.com.

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

VAULT

From page 12A

Resident and county planning commissioner Martha Diehl urged officials to “include a full safety analysis of all of the parking in the vicinity, which has never been done before.”

“As soon as we make a design like this, we’re formalizing something that hasn’t been analyzed for safety at all,” Diehl said. “I want to put in a word for the CEQA analysis to include traffic flows, traffic impacts, traffic safety and parking design — these are areas where we’ve had a significant amount of trouble.”

Diehl also said she has viewshed concerns about the restrooms, particularly at Garrapata, where such a facility could mar views of the ocean for passing motorists.

To provide the public with an opportunity to review

project designs and offer input, site visits are set for Wednesday, Aug. 6 and Saturday, Aug. 9, from 10 a.m. to noon each day. “They will be a great opportunity to go into more detail,” Hiles said.

How soon?

So when will motorists be able to use the new restrooms? It could be a while. Hiles said it’s too early to say how much it will cost to build them or when they will be completed.

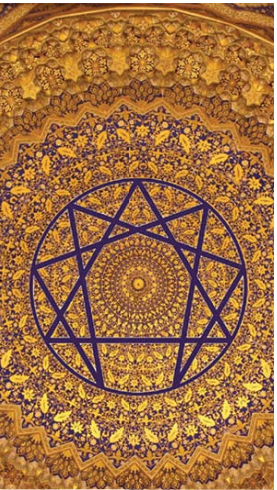
He did say the design and planning work has been funded by a taxpayers to the tune of \$300,000 from the California Coastal Conservancy.

While countless people fail to find a restroom during their visits to Big Sur — as evidenced by the mess they leave behind in many turnouts — Hiles pointed out that state parks welcomes motorists to use restrooms at nine of its sites between Carmel River Beach and Limekiln State Park.

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LETTERS

From page 26A

LandWatch opposes low density residential sprawl that consumes valuable agricultural land, congests roadways, and worsens climate change. Sprawl developments favor Bay Area commuters and investors rather than local working families. In the future, to be accurate, please refer to LandWatch as a “sustainable growth” organization.

Tom Ward,
LandWatch board member

Pickleball sounds good

Dear Editor,

We love pickleball, and we love the sound of pickleball, and our house is across the street from Forest Hill Park. Please keep in mind, we’re one of the houses mostly impacted by pickleball because of our proximity to the courts. Some call the sound of pickleball annoying; we call it the sound of people coming together, staying active, and having fun.

We made a conscious decision to purchase our home several years ago in this location, in part because of the vibrant, active lifestyle the park promotes, including both tennis and pickleball. These activities not only benefit our personal well-being but contribute to the sense of energy, community and connection that defines the Carmel community.

Besides Graham, someone who hates pickleball, it seems like the opposition is mainly coming from individuals who do not even reside in the immediate area. Many appear to regularly oppose community initiatives, regardless of merit. Their voices, though few, have managed to dominate the conversation.

There is a large and growing number of people, well over 100 residents, who fully support pickleball. We could easily gather signatures to demonstrate this, but the goal isn’t to turn this into a numbers game. Rather, it is to reaffirm what makes Carmel special: Its commitment to inclusivity and outdoor recreation, including pickleball and tennis.

If noise is the concern, a simple and reasonable rule, such as play permitted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., seven days a week, would provide structure and peace of mind for everyone. After 5 p.m., the park could enjoy designated quiet hours. This compromise acknowledges the needs of all residents while preserving the opportunity for active use of the courts for both pickleball and tennis.

Let’s not allow the loudest few to dictate the experience of the many. Let’s preserve what makes Forest Hill Park and our community great!

Greg Amaral,
Carmel

Parking solution

Dear Editor,

I read with interest your July 18 editorial providing the historical background on the parking problem in Carmel. Clint Eastwood hit the nail on the head in 1986, suggesting a parking structure at Sunset Center.

Almost 40 years later, with Carmel attracting greater numbers of visitors, the parking problem persists and is extending farther into the Golden Rectangle and surrounding residential areas. It is understandable that Carmelites do not like the idea of a multilevel parking garage, and the suggestion of underground parking is too expensive. Suggestions about valet service, transporting visitors from offsite parking locations, etc., may be detrimental to the business community and have not been acceptable.

“The Pit,” across from the post office, offers a glimmer of hope that Carmel can act — however slowly — on long-standing community needs. After six years of delays, construction will soon begin on a housing and commercial project that will draw locals and visitors to a relatively quiet corner of the business district. In contrast, the idea of building a much-needed parking structure — suggested by Eastwood — still isn’t being seriously considered. One would only hope that, when the time comes, thoughtful design and landscaping will soften its appearance and make it a welcome addition.

Action addressing this long-delayed parking problem would signal a renewed commitment to addressing Carmel’s parking challenges in a way that balances the village’s charm with its growing popularity. Thoughtful planning, sensitive design, and willingness to compromise will be essential if we are to preserve the character of our village while ensuring accessibility for all who live, work and visit here.

William J. Woska, *Carmel*

Mehdipour is responsible

Dear Editor,

Your criticism of the board of supervisors’ decision on the Massy Mehdi-pour application was misplaced.

Mehdipour spent the last two decades ignoring rules that apply to development in the Signal Hill Dune area, including the illegal tree removal, and dune grading, and allowing a home which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places to be illegally demolished.

I am very familiar with these rules, because I am building a home near the Mehdi-pour property and was subject to the exact same rules. I designed my home to preserve all the existing trees on site, did a historical analysis of the home that was on my property, and protected and restored all of the dune habitat outside of the footprint of the area that had been previously developed.

Simply put, I followed the rules. Mehdi-pour did not. The delays she suffered in the permitting process have not been caused by county officials, her neighbors, or as a result of discrimination against her as a woman of color.

See **MORE LETTERS** next page

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MORE LETTERS

From previous page

They are a result of her continued violation of state and local laws.

In 2023, the board of supervisors reluctantly allowed Mehdi pour to complete the demolition of the historic Connell House. The board required and she agreed that the replacement house had to be in the same footprint size and height as the illegally demolished Connell House. True to form, Mehdi pour returned with a proposed house outside the footprint, twice the size and 30 percent taller than the Connell House. That is why the board of supervisors denied the home.

Supervisors and project opponents should not be criticized for insisting that Mehdi pour follow the rules, they should be thanked.

Chris R. Stephens, Pebble Beach

Capital gains and the elderly

Dear Editor,

Earlier this week the Trump administration floated the idea of eliminating the capital gains tax on homes. It is an idea that has merit and I'd like to suggest a way to do this without adding to the \$36 trillion national debt.

Many people are fortunate to be sitting on large gains in their primary residence, gains that outstrip the \$500,000 per couple or \$250,000 a single person can deduct from their gain.

These people often choose not to sell so their heirs will get the stepped-up basis upon their demise. Why not allow people to take their one-time stepped-up basis before they pass? Thus, allowing them to sell their primary residence with no capital gains due.

This would not cost the U.S. Treasury one dime, as we are all going to die. Why not speed things up a little bit and give them the tax break while they're still living?

Not only would this free up needed inventory, but think of the benefit to local cities and counties. Once sold, the house would generate much more in property taxes, as it would be taxed at current value.

Also, some are house-rich but cash-poor. This would allow people to downsize and help them live a better life in their golden years.

Mark Hedberg, Carmel

PATROL

From page 8A

authority to cite those who break the law, they can communicate through a Starlink system to alert law enforcement if necessary.

In another move to deter those who ignore the law, the group has reached out to Congressman Jimmy Panetta and enlisted his help to increase fines for illegal camping.

"The fine can be as low as \$230," Romanow said. "We're trying to get that raised to \$1,000."

The group — which started patrolling in 2021 and officially formed in 2023 — relies on donations and grants, and has received generous support from the Community Association of Big Sur.

Besides seeking volunteers for patrols, the group is also trying to raise money for a vehicle known as a UTV Polaris 500 that pumps water — it has two but could use another.

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JACKS

From page 14A

safety netting, upgrading batting cages, adding shade for dugouts and bleachers, and updating the lighting system to allow for remote access.”

Also up for consideration are “restroom renovations, ADA improvements and play-ground upgrades.”

Located on land originally leased from

David Jacks by Father Ramon Mestres of the San Carlos Church, the field became a hub of activity by the early 20th century.

A local youngster who played there around the turn of the century, Harry Wolter, later played for the New York Yankees and coached baseball at Stanford University.

O’Doul, DiMaggio

Wooden grandstands were built in 1928, accommodating up to 7,000 spectators. The San Francisco Seals of the Pacific Coast

League played there on opening day in 1928 against a team of locals that included baseball legend Lefty O’Doul, who frequently played golf here. That year, Mary Jacks Thomas gave the property to the city. The Seals later used the stadium for spring training. Baseball great Joe DiMaggio was said to have played there, perhaps when he was stationed at Fort Ord in 1943.

The bleachers were torn down in 1954. The field was known as Monterey Ballpark until sometime in the 1950s, when it was renamed Jacks Park.

Today, about 60,000 people attend games and events at Jacks Park annually, according to the city. Home plate faces northwest — it faced the opposite direction in its heyday.

USLAR

From page 14A

honored to work with such an exceptional team.”

Uslar, 66, routinely recorded “Monterey Mornings with the Manager” YouTube videos in which he’d spend 20 or 30 minutes recapping the latest activities, decisions, legislation and other goings-on at city hall in an effort to keep residents and business owners informed. As city manager, he was also a member of the International City/County Management Association and a

trustee of the Naval Postgraduate School Foundation. He is a founding member of the Monterey Bay Defense Alliance and the California Defense Communities Alliance and a member of the Association of Defense Communities.

According to an online database, Uslar’s compensation in 2024 included \$272,402 in base salary, \$57,724 in benefits and \$87,399 in retirement contributions. As a longtime public employee, he’ll be entitled to set monthly retirement payments, including annual increases based on costs of living, for the rest of his life through the taxpayer-funded California Public Employees Retirement System.

FUNDS

From page 15A

HUD request, calling it a step back, and councilwoman Kim Barber seemed to agree with the sentiment.

“When we talk about equity and diversity, we are talking about fairness,” Barber said at the meeting. “When people take that and try to manipulate it, I think it’s unfortunate.”

HUD said Monterey’s DEI language was inconsistent with Trump’s executive orders, including one entitled “Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI

Programs and Preferencing.” The agency also requested that Monterey provide several “assurance statements,” including that it would “not use grant funds to promote ‘gender ideology,’ as defined in another executive order, “Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government.”

While proponents of DEI believe such initiatives can level the playing field for underrepresented groups and individuals and offer opportunities they might not otherwise have, opponents maintain DEI initiatives are unfair and illegal because they prioritize race, gender and other characteristics over merit.

Man calls 911 to say he killed wife

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A MAN who lives in a neighborhood north of Carmel High School called 911 early Thursday morning to say he’d just killed his wife, according to Monterey County Sheriff’s Cmdr. Andy Rosas.

Deputies arrived to find the woman and her husband, both in the 70s, in the bedroom of their home in the 3700 block of

Raymond Way near Via Mar Monte, Rosas said. The woman, whose identity has not been released, died at the scene from multiple stab wounds, while the man, who has also not been named, was transported to the hospital for treatment of “life-threatening injuries.”

Rosas said it appears the man stabbed himself in an apparent suicide attempt, but the investigation is ongoing.

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2Q 2025 Market Update | **Monterey**

\$52.35M

TOTAL DOLLAR VOLUME

↑ 36% more than 1Q 2025

↓ 30% less than 2Q 2024

42

TOTAL UNITS SOLD

↑ 11% more than 1Q 2025

↓ 30% less than 2Q 2024

40

AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET

↓ 24% less than 1Q 2025

↑ 46% more than 2Q 2024

\$1.32M

MEDIAN SALES PRICE

↑ 23% more than 1Q 2025

↑ 7% more than 2Q 2024

“**Monterey’s** market saw a healthy uptick in Q2, with both sales (42) and total volume (\$52.35M) outpacing Q1 by 36%. And as Q2 came to an end, the market experienced its quickest sales pace of the year, with homes averaging 40 DOM – signaling strong momentum as we move into the second half of 2025.”



Arleen Hardenstien
& Alecia Hull
Pacific Grove & Monterey Specialists

Arleen



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HEALTHY Lifestyles

Move over, Mom. Dads want to look great, too.

By ELAINE HESSER

‘DAD BOD,’ per Merriam-Webster, is “a physique regarded as typical of an average father, especially one that is slightly overweight and not extremely muscular.” But not all fathers are going gently into that paunchy good night. Some are opting for “Daddy Do-Overs.”

You can trace the masculine plastic surgery trend to the “Mommy Makeover” — a catchall term for a combination of procedures designed to reduce the visible aftereffects of having children. Like the female version, which can include a breast reduction or lift, liposuction, a “butt lift,” and more, the Daddy Do-Overs are personalized for each client, said Carmel plastic surgeon Joshua Korman.

National exposure

Korman, whose local office is in Carmel Rancho, also has practices in Mountain View, San Jose and Los Altos and is an adjunct clinical professor of surgery at Stanford University. And, according to his website, he “has appeared on many national television programs and newspapers as an expert in plastic surgery, including ABC’s ‘20/20,’ CNN, The New York Times, Ebony Magazine, and others. He has been named among America’s ‘best plastic surgeons’ by Newsweek for several years in a row.”

He said that one issue men often face as

they age is that in high school, they could eat and work out and easily maintain their physique. Once they’re out of school — possibly leaving behind a sports team that required a lot of effort and calories — that intake/output balance can shift, and not in a good way.

A little assist

This can start as early as a man’s 20s, and it’s pretty common in the 30-to-50-year-old crowd, Korman said. He said about 35 percent of his patients are men. Some come in because they have gynecomastia — enlarged breasts. The Mayo Clinic says that this can occur for a variety of reasons and affects 35 to 40 percent of healthy men “at some time in their life.” It’s treated by removing excess fat and glandular tissue in the area.

“Ab etching” offers help to men who have worked out and dieted, but still haven’t obtained that “six-pack” look around the midsection. Korman uses liposuction to remove excess fat in the area, revealing a more sculpted appearance.

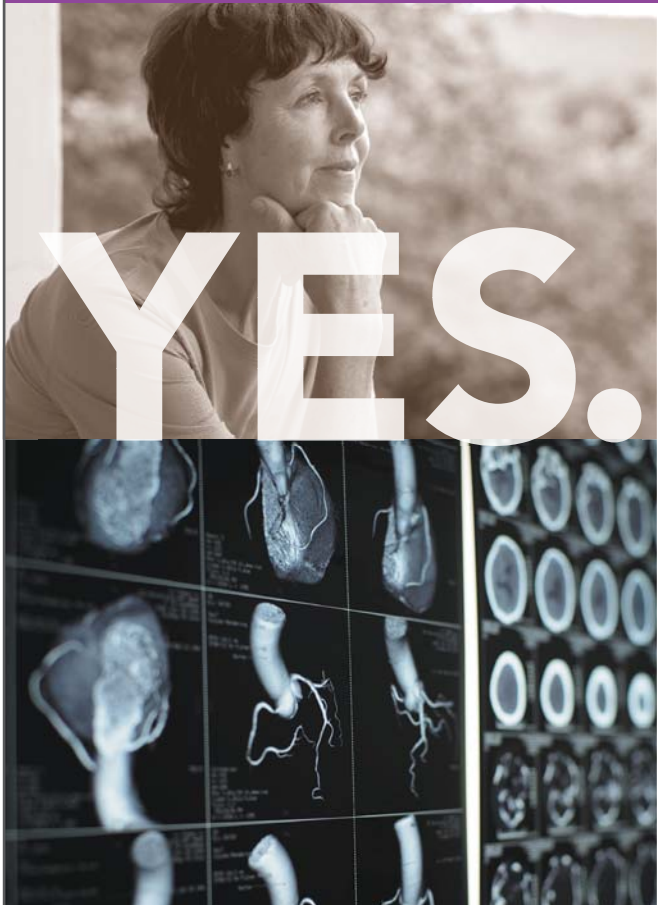
Liposuction is a form of fat removal using a cannula, or thin tube, and an aspirator, which creates a vacuum that sucks the fat cells out. When done properly, there’s minimal scarring.

REJUVENATE *con’t. page 37A*



Although it’s not often discussed, men’s bodies start to diverge from the “ideal” as they age, too.

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and I’m worried about family history.”
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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Rash decisions can be complicated

By LILY PATTERSON

A LITTLE conceit is good for your health, especially where your body's largest organ is concerned. So if you wake up one morning, skin red and scratchy in strange places, let vanity be the friend that drives you to the dermatologist's office.

Eczema and psoriasis are patchy, inflamed, and both can look and feel pretty awful. You may itch too much to care which one you have, but the difference does matter, and you need an expert in clinical relief, like Dr. Renee Lucero, a double board-certified dermatologist who

practices at Golden State Dermatology, 100 Clock Tower Place, near Carmel Rancho shopping center. The San Luis Obispo native joined the practice a little less than a year ago, following residency and extensive Mohs surgical training.

Eczema, also known as atopic dermatitis, shows up as an angry rash, ranging from rough and flaky patches to painful blisters. Lucero said it can be distinguished from passing irritation by its persistence

SKIN *con't. page 40A*



Topicals, biologics, and more — if you have eczema or psoriasis, treatment comes in many forms.

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From Collagen Stimulators to Skin Remodeling - How Today's Treatments Go Deeper Than Just Wrinkle Fillers

As we age, our skin doesn't just wrinkle — it thins, sags, and loses structure. You might notice that your face feels hollower, your jawline less defined, or your skin texture just doesn't bounce back the way it used to. At **Monterey MD Spa**, patients are finding lasting solutions through advanced treatments like **Sculptra**, **Morpheus8**, and **Sciton laser resurfacing** — all performed by **Dr. Jagroop Singh, MD**, a practicing physician who approaches aesthetics with clinical precision and a personalized eye.

Sculptra: Build Your Beauty from Within

Sculptra is not a traditional filler. Unlike hyaluronic acid injectables that add volume instantly, Sculptra stimulates your body to produce its own collagen, gradually restoring youthful volume and facial support over several weeks. Ideal for hollow cheeks, temples, and softening deep folds, Sculptra offers subtle, long-lasting rejuvenation — often lasting years or more. It's a favorite for patients who want results that evolve naturally, without looking "done."

Morpheus8: The Gold Standard in Skin Tightening and Remodeling

If your face or body has started to feel loose, crepey, or uneven in tone and texture, Morpheus8 may be the answer. This FDA approved powerful treatment uses **radiofrequency microneedling** to remodel the **deeper layers of your skin**, stimulating collagen and elastin where it matters most.

The difference is that it doesn't just treat the surface. It penetrates deeper than most microneedling devices, targeting the foundational layers that cause **sagging skin, acne scars, jowls, and even cellulite**. Over a series of sessions, skin becomes **firmer, tighter, smoother, and more lifted** — all with minimal downtime.

Whether you're treating your face, neck, abdomen, or arms, Morpheus8 delivers **real skin tightening with long-term results**. And under Dr. Singh's care, the settings and depth are carefully calibrated for your skin's needs, ensuring both safety and impact.

Sciton Laser Resurfacing: Reset the Surface

For patients struggling with **sun damage, fine lines, enlarged pores, or uneven skin tone**, Sciton's laser treatments — including **ProFractional Laser**— offer unmatched precision and renewal.

Sciton ProFractional is a fractional ablative laser that targets micro-columns of skin to **stimulate collagen and resurface damaged skin**. This results in **smoother texture, tighter pores, and brighter tone** with visible improvement in just one treatment. For more targeted discoloration, redness, and pigmentation, IPL Lumecca delivers intense light therapy to **clear and brighten the skin from the inside out**.

Laser resurfacing with Sciton is highly customizable — and in the hands of a physician like Dr. Singh, the treatment can be adjusted to your skin's condition and downtime tolerance. From gentle "lunchtime peels" to deeper resurfacing sessions, **your plan is tailored, not templated**.

Why Medical Expertise Matters

All of these treatments — Sculptra, Morpheus8, IPL and Sciton lasers — require more than a machine or syringe. They require an **understanding of skin biology, facial anatomy, and the aging process**. At Monterey MD Spa, Dr. Singh performs every procedure himself. He takes time to evaluate your skin thoroughly and build a plan around **your unique structure and goals**.

In an industry where aesthetic treatments are often rushed or handed off to underqualified staff, this **physician-led approach** sets Monterey MD Spa apart — and helps ensure **natural, long-lasting, and safe results**.



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If you're ready for rejuvenation that goes deeper than the surface, come in for a consultation at Monterey MD Spa. Whether you're noticing early signs of aging or ready to invest in long-term skin health, we'll guide you to the right solution — with care that's as thorough as it is results-driven.

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Keeping your dogs comfortable in their skin

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

HEART DOMINGUEZ, a graduate of UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, spent more than two years working at the SPCA Monterey County, caring for shelter pets and performing spay and neuter surgeries. He then spent nearly five years at Romie Lane Pet Hospital in Salinas before moving to the Animal Hospital at Mid Valley.

While he loves all animals, “Dr. Heart,” as staff and many clients call him, is devoted to dogs and works primarily with them and cats. On behalf of the local canine culture, he has advice on how to help our companions to have healthy coats and skin.

“The mainstay of good skincare is adequate flea and tick prevention,” he said. “Allergic skin disease is one of the most common diseases among dogs, and the three main groups of allergens are fleas, environment and food. Flea allergy is the most common affliction.”

Skin deep

Dominguez said he sees more flea infestations in winter, as people often stop giving medications, assuming cold air wards off insects. But our winters are mild and fleas love to jump inside a warm house.

And not all dogs react the same way to them. “Some dogs can be riddled with fleas and have no skin disease,” he said. “Others develop rashes or hot spots, lose their hair or feel itchy all the time. These are clinical signs of allergic skin disease.”

Canine dermatitis is a big topic, said Dominguez, since 10 to 30 percent of dogs will have an issue with their skin at some point. Most require lifelong management.

“If the dog were my patient, I would address any active infection by cleaning the area with topical medication, perhaps prescribe antibiotics and then monitor progress,”



Veterinarian Heart Dominguez has a soft spot for pugs, bulldogs and other snub-nosed breeds, but he has tips for keeping everyone’s pets comfortable.

he said. “It’s important to improve the quality of the skin and administer good flea prevention.” If that doesn’t help, consider environmental factors or food allergies.

Ticks carry diseases that can lead to harmful lifelong issues, like Lyme disease and other ailments.

“I frequently see cases in this community,” Dominguez said. “Prevention for flea and tick diseases is oral, most given monthly.” He said he prefers prescription oral treatments to over-the-counter topical brands because they are more effective and clients are better about giving them consistently. Also, he mentioned the “higher safety margin in the oral products and newer combo products that also

treat/prevent intestinal worms and heartworms.”

He continued, “If the dog is not on prevention and has been bitten by a tick, we can do a screening. If the dog tests positive, treatment is very dependent on what that disease is, which we determine through a blood analysis.”

This is why regular screening and prevention are so important and why Dominguez thinks every dog should be tested annually for heartworm and ticks.

“If you find a tick on your dog, take him or her to the vet for a disease assessment,” he said. “Unless you’re con-

DOGS *cont. page 41A*

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

REJUVENATE *from page 33A*

However, Korman cautioned, it doesn't cure obesity. He said that people accrue fat under the skin and around muscle and organs. The fat that he can remove with lipo is the former. "It's things that are pinchable," as opposed to deep beneath the surface, so that beer belly will still require a conventional weight-loss approach.

He added that men are generally pleased with their body-contouring results, and the outcomes look natural. "It's very satisfying — people are so happy," he said.

"The best compliment is when someone sees a man they haven't seen in a while and they say, 'You haven't changed a bit!'"

Korman mentioned two approaches to liposuction — Smartlipo, which has been around for a while and Vaser, which he described as "revolutionary." The former uses a laser to heat and melt the fat cells, and stimulate collagen production, which "will provide localized skin tightening," helping give patients the look they want. Vaser uses ultrasound technology to liquefy fat and also has a skin-tightening effect.

Other procedures popular with men include face lifts and brow lifts, which help with wrinkles that form between the eyes and on the forehead, and eyelid surgery to correct "drooping, sagging skin surrounding the eye."

Finally, Korman said, he works with something called PRP restoration for hair. The acronym stands for platelet-rich plasma, in which a patient's blood is removed and placing them in a centrifuge to separate out the plasma, which is then infused with platelets — and that concentrates what are known as "growth factors."

According to Johns Hopkins Medical School, PRP has many uses, such as speeding healing in knees and tendons. More to the point, it can also help "revitalize weak-

MEN *cont. page 39A*



Before and after: Eyelid surgery can take years off someone's face, while ab etching can bring men closer to that "six-pack" look.

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THE KITCHEN

Signature asparagus soup

Courtesy Chef Tim Wood, Woody’s restaurants

CHEF TIM Wood has a wicked and dry sense of humor. It pained us to edit his recipe even a little, because his writing fairly sparkles with wit. He’s also a staunch advocate of sourcing food locally and keeping things fresh and seasonal.

His asparagus soup recipe comes with professional tips and tricks, so you can get that restaurant look and flavor that’s so hard to duplicate at home.

There’s heart-healthy olive oil, and Wood uses water and not stock, you can control with salt content. With just 1 or 2 tablespoons of butter, you can use salted or unsalted without making a huge difference.

Asparagus is the real power player here — the Cleveland Clinic is as excited about it as the Cleveland Clinic gets about anything. Its website says, “From folate for a healthier pregnancy to nutrients that can lower blood pressure, asparagus is a nutritional superstar.”

Fiber and antioxidants

For starters, it’s got lots of fiber, it’s rich in antioxidants and low in calories — just 27 per cup. It has nearly half of the daily value of vitamin K (more on that in a moment) and 18 percent of a day’s worth of folate. There’s also copper, iron, thiamine and riboflavin.

If you’re on an anticoagulant like Warfarin, however, your doctor or pharmacist may recommend you avoid foods rich in vitamin K to prevent a possible bad interaction. For everyone else, the National Institutes of Health says the nutrient may help with bone density and coronary heart

disease.

Wood added a note at the end of the recipe explaining how to substitute fresh corn for an equally delicious seasonal soup.

- INGREDIENTS** *(Serves 8-10)*
2 pounds local asparagus, trimmed (2 bunches from the store)
2 medium yellow onions
4 cups water
1-2 tablespoons butter
Handful of raw spinach
Kosher salt and pepper (to season)
Olive oil for cooking as needed, about 1/2 cup
Celery leaves and/or croutons for serving (optional)

Equipment:

Heavy-bottomed 2-quart stockpot — time to bust out that dutch oven or Le Creuset.

High speed blender, such as Vitamix. You’re gonna ask about the stick blender and I’ve got your answer, right here: Absolutely. The soup will just be a little more rustic-looking.

This recipe is truly as simple as it looks. The keys are using good products and sweating of the onions.

Carefully cut the onion into a radial (half-moon) slice, or any kind of a uniform slice so it will sweat and cook evenly. We’re going for sweetness and cooking out



Chef Bio



GROWING UP in New York’s Hudson Valley, chef Tim Wood was born into his love of the culinary arts. Dinner conversation focused on food, as his dad always wanted to be a chef. Wood’s palate has been driven by his mother’s simple home cooking and the resourcefulness of his father — the family shopper — in selecting the freshest ingredients.

At 13, Wood lied about his age to get a job in a hotel kitchen, and he was hooked. He spent his teens working in small kitchens in his hometown. After high school, he attended the Culinary Institute of America with an extended internship at the Rainbow Room in Manhattan’s Rockefeller Plaza. This was followed by an apprenticeship in catering in the Hudson Valley and working as an executive sous chef back in NYC.

“I didn’t sleep until I was 30,” he deadpanned.

And to every accomplishment he recounts, he adds high praise for talented teammates, valued vendors and local artisans.

Seeking somewhere with a longer growing season, Wood met chef Cal Stamenov, then of Bernardus Lodge, and moved west, working for Stamenov for eight years. After a stint in Napa, Wood returned to the area for Carmel Valley Ranch’s reopening.

Wood launched various programs, including an in-house creamery with onsite goats. He kept chickens, had a robust chef’s garden, and cured Monterey Bay sea salt. Vineyards, an apiary and honey operation, lavender fields and more, rounded out the backyard supply chain.

Wood is owner, operator and “head bottle washer” of Woody’s at the Airport and Woody’s at Del Mesa, along with his newest endeavor, Woody’s at Carmel Valley Athletic Club. With his crew and the vendor relationships he has built, he says he serves food that “truly showcases the best of the Monterey Peninsula.”

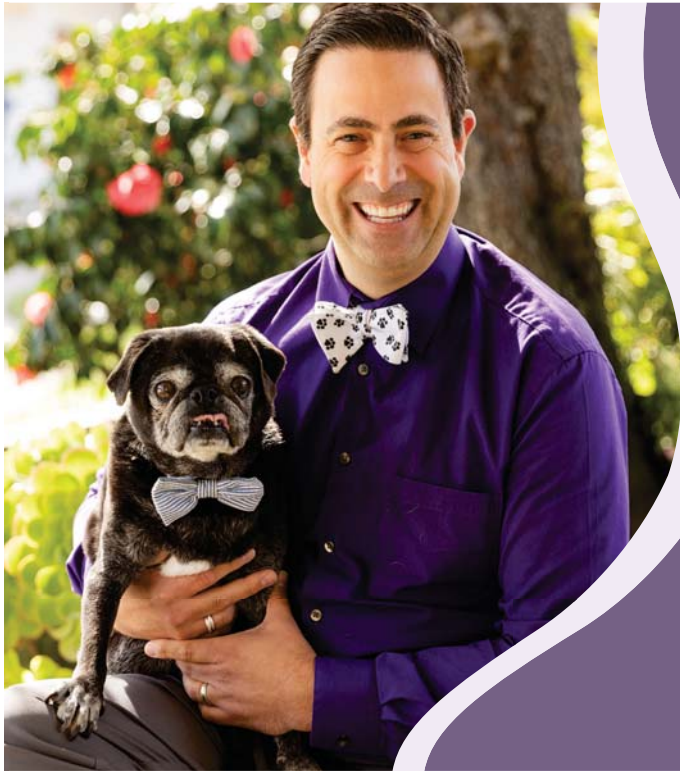
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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

MEN from page 37A

ened hair follicles” and stimulate hair re-growth.

One day

One of the most appealing aspects of the Daddy Do-Over is that it typically requires only one day. Procedures are done in Korman’s outpatient surgery center in Mountain View.

The consultation is done either by Zoom or in person. The client discusses his concerns and Korman helps create realistic expectations.

He said he’ll see the patient at least twice before operating. After the surgery, the patient can go home and complete their post-operative follow-up in the Carmel office.

Within a few days, Korman said, most patients can “go for a stroll,” but swim-

ming and other strenuous activities might have to wait three weeks.

“These are low-risk procedures in healthy people,” Korman noted. Costs start around \$10,000 and are not covered by insurance.

He said with body contouring, there are some advantages to having the procedure done before the age of 60., but it’s common for people to have face procedures in their 60s and 70s.

Korman’s expansive and cheerful medical suite in Carmel Rancho also offers services as Wunderbar medspa, where men and women can book facials, laser treatments, Botox injections and dozens of other appearance-enhancing options.

You can learn more about his services at kormanmd.com. And in light of the growing number of men having work done, having a great father figure takes on a new meaning.



Dr. Joshua Korman is shown in his Carmel Rancho office, where he conducts pre- and post-op visits and has an in-house medical spa.



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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

SKIN from page 34A

and where it appears: in folds and creases, like the inner elbows, eyelids, necks, hands, and backs of knees.

It can affect anybody, though babies and young children are especially vulnerable, with an estimated 10 to 20 percent of kids in the United States affected at some point. For many children, it’s part of what pediatricians call the “atopic march,” a progression of allergic diseases that includes asthma, food allergies and/or hay fever. Happily, “a lot of kids that have childhood eczema tend to grow out of it,” Lucero said.

“It’s very common and very itchy,” said Lucero. She pointed to “extremely dry skin” — caused by things like irritating detergents, harsh chemicals, and heavy

scrubbing — as a trigger for the condition. Summer highs, winter lows — even sweat can set it off, according to Lucero, between the salt, body heat, and the rub of damp clothes that causes friction in pits, folds, and creases.

Like allergies and asthma, eczema may result from an overreactive immune system but is not an autoimmune disorder. A flare-up is a painful but temporary, remediable conflict in that delicate truce between your skin and its environment.

Cells gone rogue

Psoriasis is different. It’s an autoimmune disease, meaning the immune system actually attacks the body, including its best comrade — the outermost protective layer — resulting in an outbreak. Common battlefields are the scalp, knees and

elbows, not to mention around the belly button or upper buttocks, and on fingers, toes and nail beds.

The resulting overproduction of skin cells creates thick, scaly “plaques” that may itch, feel sore, sting, or bleed easily, “since inflammation causes blood vessels to grow closer to the surface of the skin,” said Lucero. Like eczema, psoriasis can run in families. It likes a surprise reveal, often during middle age.

Anything that triggers the immune system can set off the inflammatory response that causes skin cells to go rogue, including injuries, common infections, and weather extremes.

And you might be surprised by your dermatologist’s opener.

“One of the first things I ask my patients is about their joints. Are they experiencing stiffness in the morning that lasts more than one hour? I look at their fingers, toes, and nails, and I ask about tendon pain, like in the Achilles or elbows,” said Lucero.

It turns out that one-third of psoriasis patients develop psoriatic arthritis, or PsA, according to Lucero. Some cases are more severe than others — a few joints here and there with intermittent discomfort — ladder up to widespread, chronic pain, all leading to a referral to an orthopedic specialist.

In many cases, psoriasis appears like an unwelcome oracle. Flare-ups can presage serious inflammatory conditions like high cholesterol, heart disease, bowel syndromes and metabolic disorders like obesity and diabetes. Somewhat confusingly, psoriasis may also be caused by one of these conditions, or it can be a reaction to certain medications used to treat them.

Emotional element

Stress can trigger eczema and psoriasis, too.

Lucero acknowledged the emotional toll of both conditions, explaining that location and surface area matter when prescribing a course of treatment.

Having it in some exposed places — the face, head, neck and hands — may be “debilitating” to patients. She discussed several ways to speed up healing beyond typ-

ical treatments, reassuringly noting that hair loss associated with scalp psoriasis is temporary.

Mild cases of eczema and psoriasis are typically treated with topical creams in steroid or non-steroid varieties. Corticosteroids, like hydrocortisone, can be used to treat some skin conditions.

“I typically prescribe twice-daily application for two weeks, with a week off, then another two weeks back on, for the full course of treatment,” said Lucero. Even when applied topically, corticosteroids put strain on the body. Too much can thin or damage the skin, and Lucero said that the week off is a precautionary measure. Patients can expect some relief in days.

For moderate and severe cases, she said, “I often prescribe topicals simultaneously, because biologic medications” — typically injected at the site for a few weeks or every few months for chronic cases — “take time to build up in the system.”

A variety of options for phototherapy, or light therapy, are available. Lucero mentioned using a light box, a vertical booth patients step into to soak up a very narrow band of ultraviolet light under medical supervision. Sessions last only a few minutes and protective goggles are worn.

The procedure reduces inflammation, making it effective for eczema, psoriasis, and some other conditions. A full course of treatment may include several visits over six to eight weeks.

The excimer laser, a smaller device that beams the same kind of UV light, is used to spot-treat psoriasis, calming inflamed areas and signaling skin cells to stop over-producing.

Lucero is a welcome new arrival to the Peninsula — home to numerous cardiologists, dentists, even a canine cancer specialist, but few dermatologists.

With a reported new-patient waitlist of six months, she gladly shared some preventive advice for folks concerned about dry skin — a primary trigger for eczema.

“The No. 1 thing is to try to not take showers that are too hot or too long. Both of those things really dry out the skin. You don’t have to take a cold shower, but try to turn it down a little bit, closer to lukewarm,” said Lucero.

And scrub gently, she added. Limit loofah-ing and other manual exfoliation to once or twice weekly.

Secondly, “Always apply moisturizer, ideally within the first few minutes after your shower,” said Lucero. Bonus points if you apply it while your skin is still damp, to lock in a little extra moisture.

Oh, and don’t forget your sunscreen.



Dr. Renee Lucero

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

DOGS from page 36A

“If you’re confident you can fully remove a tick, I generally don’t recommend it. When you try to pull it off, you can break it. If its jaws are still attached, it can still transmit disease and cause infection.”

Ticks also present public health concerns, he said, because many of the diseases they carry can spread to people.

On the surface

A clean and healthy coat contributes to dogs’ well-being and makes them more appealing. However, unless there’s dirt from a hike or day at the beach, most healthy dogs need a bath no more than once a month.

“But if a dog has recurring allergies, bathe him regularly with a medicated

shampoo, and consider introducing a protocol of omega fatty acids — fish oils — to his diet,” said Dominguez. “I also recommend fish oil in support of skin and heart health and to help with arthritis pain.”

Dogs seem to love the taste of fish oil, and it’s available from veterinarians and pet shops. Human-grade fishoil is fine, too.

“The brand is less important. It’s more about making sure your dog is getting enough,” Dominguez said.

“One of the most common reasons I see new clients is because they feel their vet didn’t resolve a chronic ear or skin problem,” he said. “Yet it’s typically less that the advice wasn’t working and more that the client didn’t have a clear understanding of how important follow-up is to mitigate or manage ongoing problems. As with humans, it’s a lifelong process.”



Unless your pup’s getting gnarly at the beach, monthly baths should be sufficient.

KITCHEN from page 38A

the onion’s astringent properties.

Liberally use olive oil in a pan over medium heat.

Season with salt and freshly cracked black pepper.

Snap the asparagus (imagine me demo-ing like your mom). No need to use the woody end. Everyone thinks you need to, but it makes your soup taste like bark. Cut the good part uniformly and add it to the pan with the onions.

Cover the onions and asparagus with about 1 inch of water. That seems to be the magic amount.

Let that simmer for about 20 minutes, because the more that you cook it, the more flavor will come out. If you undercook it, it will still have a raw bite. My guess would be about 20 minutes.

Here’s a trick: Transfer the solids into the blender, and just add enough liquid to

get the consistency you want.

Blend on medium and add a tablespoon or two of butter to each batch as you blend. Trickier still: Put a small bit or handful of raw spinach with each batch in the blender to kick up the color.

Serve with a little olive oil drizzle and a nice garnish such as a reserved asparagus tip, or try a trade secret: use the inside leaves of a celery stalk or any other leafy green.

And who doesn’t love a crouton (if you’ve got some around)?

You can make this ahead of time and pour it into a bowl in an ice bath to keep the color. Reheat gently to serve.

Always check seasoning and consistency.

Substitute 10 ears’ worth of corn stripped off the cob for the asparagus and you have to-die-for corn soup.

If you make either of these soups extra thick, they could be used as sauces.



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

KATE MILLER M.A.

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

With over 25 years of experience, Kate has served as a consultant for local schools, law enforcement, and private organizations, impacting hundreds of students and creating programs that promote growth and positive change. She has also achieved great success working with adults navigating challenging life circumstances, offering expertise in the following areas:

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Young phenom rocks Golden State, James Lee Stanley visits Wave Street

AN ACCLAIMED singer, guitarist and songwriter who has recorded more than two dozen albums since his debut in 1973 at the legendary McCabe’s Guitar Shop in Santa Monica, **James Lee Stanley** plays Friday, 7 p.m., at

Institute in Monterey.
The event will be an “unforgettable evening of masterful guitar, razor-sharp wit and genre-defying songs,” according to promoter **Steve Vagnini**. He said Cioper would open the night with “rootsy, soul-infused originals.” Tickets are \$25. The venue is at 774 Wave St. For tickets, visit [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search for James Lee Stanley.



Singer and guitarist Dan Cioper opens for James Lee Stanley Friday, 7:30 p.m., at Wave Street Studios in Monterey.

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

Wave Street Studios in Monterey. Local singer and guitarist **Dan Cioper** opens the show.
Before achieving success as a musician, Stanley lived in Carmel Highlands and attended the Defense Language

■ A legend is born

Golden State Theatre in Monterey welcomes three shows this week, including one by an up-and-coming rocker, singer and guitarist **Marcus King**, who plays Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Nominated for a Grammy Award in 2020 for Best Americana Album, King serves up a potent mix of blues, Southern rock and soul. The South Carolina-based musician burst on the scene a decade ago when, at 18, he was filmed jamming in a guitar shop. Thanks to the young guitarist’s performance, the video racked up a couple million hits on YouTube.

Tickets start at \$59.50. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit [goldenstatetheatre.com](https://www.goldenstatetheatre.com).

Also at Golden State is a “battle of the bands” Friday, 7 p.m., between **The Fab Four**, a Beatles tribute act, and **Jumping Jack Flash**, a group that covers the Rolling Stones — and a show Saturday at 7 p.m. by blues singer and guitarist **Tab Benoit**.

■ Sax takes centerstage

Saxophonist **Paul Contos** will be the guest of honor Sunday at 1 p.m. when Embassy Suites in Seaside hosts its monthly jazz jam.

Singer **Lee Durley**, who co-hosts the musical gath-

See MUSIC page 45A



A three-time Blues Music Awards winner, singer and guitarist Tab Benoit plays Golden State Theatre in Monterey Saturday at 7 p.m.

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THIS WEEK feels like a lull before Car Week’s motorcade of automobile lovers arrives on the Monterey Peninsula. It’s also a perfect time to enjoy the bounty of fresh vegetables and fruits at our farmers markets and from the kitchens of local chefs.

Case in point: MEarth — the Carmel Valley nonprofit that teaches about environmental stewardship — is having a Native Pizza Workshop Aug. 7 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Led by chef Christina Lonewolf, owner of catering and indigenous cuisine company Chieftess, “this hands-on cooking experience explores the flavors of the Central Coast — both past and present,” organizers said.

Workshop participants will make pizza dough using flour made from Big Sur foraged acorns — a major food source for some of the Peninsula’s earliest residents. Fresh toppings will be harvested from MEarth’s organic garden, and there will be duck prosciutto from The Meatery and artisan cheese from Carmel Valley Creamery.

Cost is \$128 for “omnivores” and \$120 for vegetarians, and you can register at mearthcarmel.org under the “events” tab.



Rosemary & Thyme, a local tea party catering business owned by Dot Findlater (left), will have its first garden tea at historic Casa Serrano in Monterey. Guests are encouraged to dress up and don fetching chapeaux as they enjoy classic British tea, finger foods and other comestibles.

Love thy neighbor

The Quail’s chef Goran Basarov is celebrating the best of summer with “Love Thy Neighbor” — an ongoing Wednesday night dinner series designed to entice folks who live nearby to visit the Covey restaurant. The three-course prix fixe menu for July 30 starts with a choice of heirloom tomato gazpacho, stone fruits and avocado with crème fraiche, or nectarines and cucumber with sesame and smoked roe.

Grilled Niman Ranch Pork and fresh corn, roast halibut with zucchini, and a duck dish are main-dish options, and the meal finishes with either ricotta-and-nectarine cheese-cake or a chocolate-cherry dessert. It’s still priced at \$59 per person exclusive of tax and tip, and reservations are recommended. Call (831) 620-8860 to make yours.

Almost time to taste

The Carmel Chamber of Commerce’s annual food-and-wine fundraiser at the Carmel Mission — the Taste of Carmel — may be months away, but the chamber is already selling tickets and seeking vendors to participate

in the Oct. 2 event. The theme this year is Boots, Bottles & Bites, with guests urged to dress appropriately and be ready to boogie.

Some 70 restaurants, wineries and other purveyors are expected to take part in the party, which typically draws hundreds of guests for a silent auction, abundant small bites and sips, and dancing in the Mission courtyard.

Soup to Nuts

Just over two dozen restaurants and 18 wineries have already committed to being there, but the chamber is looking for additional talented and highly regarded local establishments to sign on. Registration is available at tasteof-carmel.org/food-wine.

General admission tickets include a wine glass and entrance at 6 p.m. and cost \$175 each until Sept. 12, when they increase to \$200, while VIP Lounge tickets offer 5

p.m. entry, valet parking and exclusive lounge access all night for \$250 until Sept. 12, after which the price is \$300. (Chamber members receive a discount on both options.)

A \$10,000 Luxury Hospitality Suite is on offer, too, with one spot left for “an unparalleled evening of culinary excellence and fine wines.”

“Designed for those who seek the finest experiences, our private suites offer first-class amenities to elevate your night,” the chamber says. While tickets can be purchased through carmelchamber.org, those interested in the suite should contact Kimberlie Guerrieri at membership@carmelchamber.org or (831) 624-3876.

Taste of Carmel is a 21-and-over event and cannot accommodate pets. The party runs until 9 p.m., and the Carmel Mission is located on Rio Road.

Northern exposure

San Francisco area PBS station KQED sent its “Check

Continues next page



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Nectarines & Cucumber sesame, smoked roe	Thirty Eight North Duck muhammara, mustards, heirloom grains	

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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

Please! Bay Area” squad back down here to try some more local delicacies. Hosted by Leslie Sbrocco, each episode had guests describing favorite restaurants and then trying out each other’s choices. They visited El Bistro by the Sea at Mission and Fifth, Julia’s Vegetarian restaurant in Pacific Grove, Schooners in the Monterey Plaza hotel, and The Meatery in Seaside.

El Bistro’s brunch menu was a crowd pleaser. Chef/owners Jose Luna and Judith Avila talked about how food is their “love language” and the joy they get from pleasing diners. The show’s guests went positively gaga for cinnamon-roll brioche French toast, and for a savory breakfast, chilaquiles — a dish with tortilla chips,

sauce and eggs — got rave reviews.

At Julia’s Vegetarian restaurant at 1180 Forest Ave., Martin Gundersen, its self-described “caretaker,” talked about cooking with exotic mushrooms and locally sourced vegetables.

Unsurprisingly to anyone who’s had it, the yellow coconut curry with squash, carrots, cauliflower and brown rice was a huge hit, as was the “Buffalo wing” cauliflower.

Schooners seafood pasta and cioppino were praised for their generous portions of fish and shellfish, affirming executive chef Michael Rotondo’s love of fresh and seasonal products — including Monterey Bay anchovies.

Butcher block

Todd Fisher’s Seaside outpost, The Meatery Butchery and Eatery, uses every

inch of its small space. The butcher case is jammed with exceptional cuts of meats and house-made sausages. Pates, sauces, pickled vegetables, and heat-and-eat dishes and sides to go are also on offer. But the lunch menu was the star.

The Goomba Italian sub, a pastrami Reuben that uses Brussels sprout slaw, and the 18-hour smoked brisket, were highlighted along with pate de campagne, macaroni and cheese, and the loaded Caesar salad.

To view the episodes, visit tinyurl.com/mjh2du9c.

■ Gettin’ jazzy

Adding to the sunshine, the relaxed Carmel Valley Village atmosphere and the abundance of great wine, McIntyre Vineyards is offering afternoon jazz on Sunday afternoons from noon to 4 p.m. through the end of September in its new tasting room. (An exception is Aug. 17 during Car Week, when the patio is reserved for wine club members.)

Located at 24 E. Carmel Valley Road in the former Boekenooen location, the McIntyre tasting room boasts a spacious interior and lovely patio perfect for sunny Sunday afternoon jazz, a chilly frosé, a glass (or bottle) of red or white, or a tasting flight (or all of the above).

Enjoying the music is free, but reservations are a good idea. Call (831) 574-3042 or visit mcintyrevineyards.com.

■ Teatime in the garden

Rosemary & Thyme High Teas catering and pop-up service is having its first



Schooners in the Monterey Plaza hotel, helmed by executive chef Michael Rotondo, was one of four local restaurants recently featured on KQED’s “Check Please! Bay Area.”

garden event Sunday, Aug. 3, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the historic Casa Serrano, 412 Pacific St. in Monterey. Described as an “elegant afternoon,” organizers say it will be “a delightful experience to share with friends and family.”

Traditional English tea will be served alongside finger sandwiches — cucumber and mint cream cheese, ham with apple butter and cheddar, and basil chicken salad with lemon zest. Citrus Blossom Scones, clotted cream and jam and assorted petit

See FOOD next page





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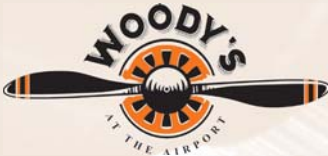


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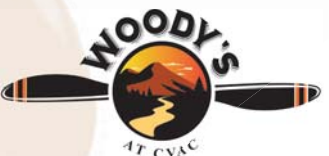
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MUSIC

From page 42A

ering, called Contos “a world-class performer.” The musician has directed the Next Generation Jazz Orchestra and the Monterey County All-Stars, and he’s an artist-in-residence for the California Arts Council.

“He will be accompanied by **Ayana Bradley** on keys, **Dennis Murphy** on bass and our own **Jim Vanderzwaan** on drums,” Durley said. “This promises to be an exceptional afternoon of jazz — after his opening set, professional musicians are welcome to participate.”

Embassy Suites is located at 1441 Canyon Del Rey Blvd.



Singer and guitarist Marcus King takes the stage Tuesday, 7 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

■ Show me the \$\$

The Money Band wraps up Carmel Plaza’s Summer Live music series Friday at 5 p.m.

The last of three shows in this summer’s series shines a spotlight on one of the Monterey Peninsula’s best-loved cover bands. Led by singer Zoe Alexander, the group specializes in “electrifying renditions of No. 1 hits from the 1950s to the present.”

The event is free. Carmel Plaza is located at Ocean and Mission.

Live music July 25-31

■ Big Sur

Big Sur River Inn — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (folk, Saturday at 12:30 p.m.), **Along Came Betty** (jazz, Sunday at 1 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Victor Veysey** and bassist **Kemen Waddell** (funk, jazz and country, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 46800 Highway 1.

Fernwood Resort — **The New Wave Band** (late ’70s and early ’80s pop and rock, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

■ Carmel

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

The Carl Cherry Center for the Arts — pianist **Rick Forschino** and friends raise money for the nonprofit center (jazz, Saturday at 3 p.m.). Tickets are \$60. The center is located at Fourth and Guadalupe. carlcherrycenter.org

Cypress Inn — singer and pianist **Dino Vera**

(jazz, blues and r&b, Friday at 7 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Loktionov** and singer **Debbie Davis** (cabaret, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.), **The Andrea Carter Trio** (jazz and pop, Sunday at 11 a.m.), **David Morwood Jazz Band** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer

FOOD

From previous page

fours and British biscuits are also on the menu. Rosemary & Thyme owner Dot Findlater makes the small bites and plates them on vintage china, and guests sip tea from a colorful and whimsical collection of cups. “Hats and floral flair” are encouraged “to celebrate the sunshine in true English fashion.”

There will be a drawing for gift baskets to benefit the nonprofit Monterey History and Art Association, which owns Casa Serrano. The association’s decorative arts collection is housed in the 182-year-old building. Tickets are \$75 per person and you can reserve them at rosemaryandthyme-highteas.com.

■ Wine cellar win

“We are deeply honored to receive the 2025 Wine Spectator Best of Award of Excellence,” said Ted Balestreri, co-owner and CEO of The Sardine Factory. Once again, the restaurant has been recognized by Wine Spectator magazine with a “Best of Award of Excellence Award.” The honor was given to 1,701 restaurants this year. It’s a step above the Award of Excellence, given to 2,010 eateries, and one step below the Grand Award, with 97 winners.

The restaurant’s wine list fea-

and guitarist **Kip Allert** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Saturday and Thursday, both at 6 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive.

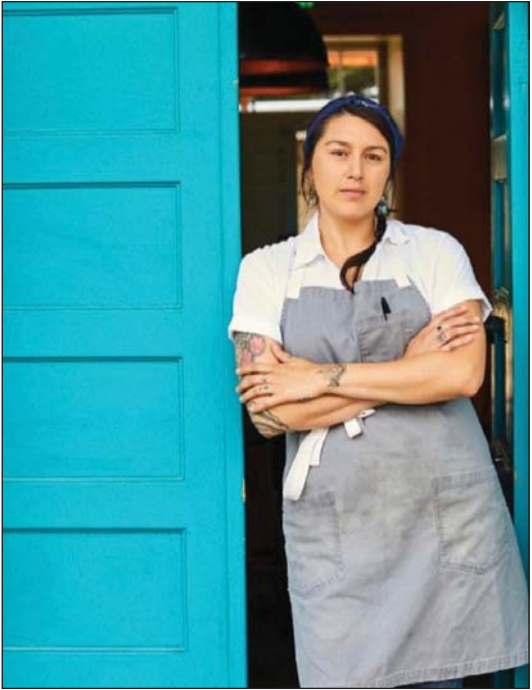
La Playa Hotel — guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Tuesday at 5 p.m.). Camino Real and

See **LIVE** page 47A

tures more than 2,000 labels and 15,900 bottles. Bottles and glasses are available at virtually every price point to accompany the fine dining for which The Sardine Factory is known.

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



Chef Christina Lonewolf, owner of catering and indigenous cuisine company Chieftess, will lead a “hands-on cooking experience that explores the flavors of the Central Coast — both past and present,” at MEarth on Aug. 7, making pizzas using local ingredients.

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Siri’s Song
by Paul Martin



I’m singing Siri’s Song,
and you can sing along,
She’s the lady in my iPhone
and she takes good care of me.
I seek solutions ‘til I’m weary,
then I remember to ask Siri,
she has a wealth of information,
and she shares it all with me.
I ask her simple questions,
to see if she understands that,
she is not a real live person,
she says, “I think, therefore I am.”
I ask her if she’s happy,
she says, “I’m glad to be alive,”
and “I’ll forget you said that,”
to questions she don’t like.
When I ask about her family,
she says, “You’re enough for me.”
She says, “She can’t grow older,”
she’s the age she’ll always be.
If you could have a husband,
would you like to be a wife?
“It’s nice of you to ask,” she says,
“but I prefer the single life.”
She wakes me in the morning

and she greets me cheerfully,
I ask “who is this calling?,”
she says, “it’s Siri, naturally.”
I ask her how she feels today,
she says, “I’d answer if I knew,”
I ask how long she plans to work?,
she says “as long as I have you.”
She says, “I aim to please,”
when I say “Thanks for all you do.”
When I ask if she gets lonely,
she says, “not really, I have you.”
Will she ever leave my iPhone?
would she like to be set free?
She says that she prefers to stay
and take good care of me.
She reminds me of a Genie,
who is summoned from a jug,
I need only make a wish
and out my Siri comes.

Chorus:
I’m singing Siri’s Song,
and you can sing along,
She’s the lady in my iPhone
and she takes good care of me.

Musical version can be heard on Spotify, Apple, Cdbaby, www.Myprayers.net

Music Credits
(P) 2013 Lyrics written and music composed and performed by Paul Martin.
Produced and arranged by Paul Martin and Daryl Kojak.

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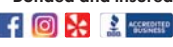
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LIVE

From page 45A

Eighth.

Links Club — **Octane** (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.

Mission Ranch — singer and pianist **Maddaline Edstrom** (jazz, Friday through Sunday at 5 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Loktionov** (jazz, Monday through Thursday at 5 p.m.). 26270 Dolores St.

Carmel Valley

Bernardus Lodge — pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea's Fault** (jazz and pop,

Saturday at noon), singer and pianist **TJ Kuenster** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at noon), singer and guitarist **Jewel Arianna** (Tuesday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Wednesday at 5 p.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Edgar's — guitarist **Dan Cortes** ("American roots and traditional Mexican," Friday at 5 p.m.). At Quail Lodge, 8205 Valley Greens Drive.

Folktales Winery — singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (rock and blues, Saturday at 4 p.m.), **Burnout** (rock, Monday at 5 p.m.), **The Peter Martin Trio** (jazz, Tuesday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Morgan Kane** (Wednesday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Moshe Vilozny** (Thursday at 5 p.m.).

See CONCERT page 49A



The Fab Four pays tribute to the Beatles Friday, 6 p.m., at Golden State Theatre in Monterey. A Rolling Stones cover band, Jumping Jack Flash, will also perform.

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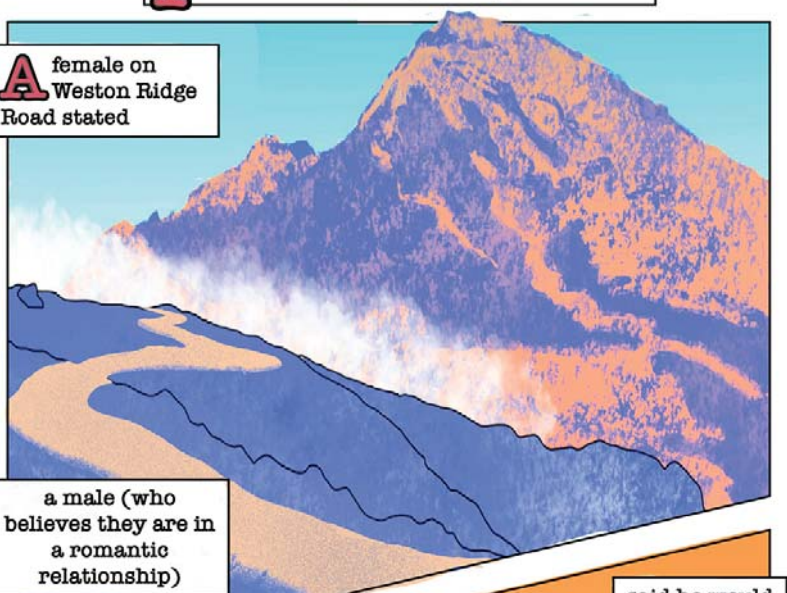
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Road stated

a male (who
believes they are in
a romantic
relationship)

said he would
hire men to
kill her
husband.





Case continues.

CONCERT

From page 47A

8940 Carmel Valley Road.

McIntyre Vineyards — guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Sunday at noon). 24 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Trailside Cafe — saxophonist **Roger Eddy** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

■ Monterey

Albatross Ridge Winery — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **RJ DeMarco** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Sunday at 2 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

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

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Estéban Restaurant — singer and guitarist **Katherine**

See **TUNES** next page

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Continues from previous page

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TUNES

From previous page

Lavin (Sunday at 10:30 a.m.), guitarist **Catherine Broz** (Spanish and classical, Thursday at 5 p.m.). Casa Munras Hotel, 700 Munras Ave.

Hyatt Regency Monterey — mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and instrumentalist **Reija Massey** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.

InterContinental Hotel — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Friday at 7 p.m.), mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Saturday at 7 p.m.), guitarist **Terrence Farrell** (Latin music, Sunday at 9 a.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 750 Cannery Row.

Jack's Terrace — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Reija Massey** (Friday at 6 p.m.). At the Portola Hotel, 2 Portola Plaza.

Melville Tavern — **The Chuck Brewer Duo** (rock and blues, Tuesday at 6 p.m.). 484 Washington St.

Midici Pizza — singer **Miranda Perl-Astrup** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Sunday at 8 p.m.), singer **Lauri Hofer-Romero**, pianist **Bill Spencer** and guitarist **Sam Nilsson** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

Monterey Plaza Hotel — pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Tom Gastineau** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Monday 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 Brewpub — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Reija Massey** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Ryan Sesma** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). At the Portola Hotel, 2 Portola Plaza.

Puma Road at Portola Plaza — singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Adam Behan** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

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

Sly McFly's — **The Hackjammers** (pop and rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **3-Mile Smile** (classic rock, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

■ Pacific Grove

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

Lucy's on Lighthouse — singer and guitarist **Lisa Long** (Saturday at 2 p.m.), **River Voices** (Americana, Sunday at 2 p.m.). 1120 Lighthouse Ave.



Blues singer and guitarist Carolyn Wonderland performs Sunday afternoon in Seaside's Laguna Grande Park.

Julia's Vegetarian Restaurant — singer and guitarist **Rags Rosenberg** (Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Smith** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave.

Pop & Hiss — **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Saturday at 7 p.m.), weekly bluegrass jam with **The Otter Opry** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 215 Forest Ave.

■ Pebble Beach

The Inn at Spanish Bay — **The Al James Duo** (r&b and rock, Saturday at 2 p.m.). 2700 17 Mile Drive.

■ Seaside

Laguna Grande Park — singer and guitarist **Carolyn Wonderland** (blues, Sunday at 1 p.m.). 1249 Canyon Del Rey Blvd.

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

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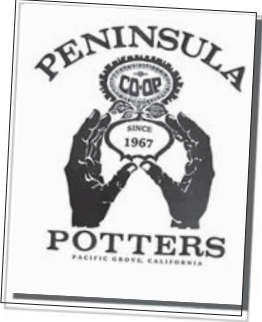
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Sundays – Jazz brunch with the Andrea Carter Trio, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Terry's Restaurant + Lounge, inside Cypress Inn, Lincoln and Seventh, Carmel-by-the-Sea. For more information, please contact Cypress Inn, (831) 624-3871.

July 25 & 26 – Trunk show of handmade fine jewelry by Carolyn Tyler. See the collections 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Weber Goldsmith Gallery, 107 The Crossroads Blvd., Carmel. Details: (831) 626-7600

July 25 – Wine & cheese pairing by The Cheese Shop's Kent Torrey. Indulge in a delightful selection of cheeses, each handpicked to pair with four Morgan wines by Kent Torrey, owner and cheese-monger of The Cheese Shop Carmel. 3 to 6 p.m. | Taste Morgan | The

Crossroads Shopping Center, Rio Road at Highway 1, Carmel.

July 26 – Cherry Jam in the Garden is presented 3 to 6 p.m. at the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts, Fourth and Guadalupe, Carmel-by-the-Sea. This benefit for the center will feature live music by **Rick Forschino and Friends** and wine from **Scheid Vineyards**, plus light fare. A silent auction and raffle prizes include original artwork and a three-day, private residential artist's retreat in Cachagua. Tickets are \$60 and can be purchased at Eventbrite.com

July 30 – The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB) presents a dinner by Mr. Michael Ipson, retired international banker, whose topic is **"The Breadth of U.S - China Relations"**, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Monterey. To register and learn more visit <http://www.wacmb.org>.

Aug. 3 – The Monterey County Composer's Forum presents **"Endless Light"** at 3 p.m. Hear new music by **Ettinger, Gatica, Kaiser, Macy, Ovens, Rosemann, Tabbaa, Victorine and Yramategui**. Guest artists include **Laura Schwingle**, soprano and **Paula Haro**, dancer. Hidden Valley Music, 104 West Carmel Valley Road. Admission \$20. Info: macy@macalester.edu

Aug. 22 – Liz Longley New Life Tour is presented 7:30 p.m. at the Golden Bough Playhouse Founders Theatre, Carmel-by-the-Sea. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Tickets available at www.PacRep.org or call (831) 221-0100.

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GAVEL

From page 4A

discharged a firearm during the commission of many of these offenses.

On June 4, 2024, Garcia approached three men who were walking over a bridge in King City, pointed his semiautomatic firearm at them, and demanded their phones and wallets, which they surrendered. Garcia then ran and entered the passenger seat of a black Mazda, which was being driven by his female friend.

At 7:15 p.m., a Greenfield Police Officer spotted the black Mazda traveling northbound on Highway 101. Other units from Greenfield Police Department and King City Police Department joined in and initiated a traffic stop on the Mazda with lights and sirens. The Mazda failed to stop and continued to evade officers for eight miles, traveling at speeds ranging from 55 to 72 miles per hour.

Near Soledad, the Mazda slowed and pulled to the shoulder. Before the car came to a complete stop, Garcia opened the passenger side door and began to step out of the vehicle with his .40-caliber semiautomatic firearm. The lead King City patrol vehicle stopped directly behind the Mazda. The

five other patrol vehicles stopped as well. Garcia pointed his firearm directly at the lead King City patrol vehicle and began firing at police. In total, Garcia fired four shots. The lead King City police officer and six other Greenfield and King City officers were present on scene. All of the officers were within 50 feet of Garcia when he shot at them.

Two King City officers returned fire. Garcia ran northbound on Highway 101, toward a shopping center in Soledad, continuing to shoot behind him and in the direction of officers as he tried to flee. He ultimately stopped shooting when he was struck by gunfire and fell to the ground, dropping his firearm out of his reach.

Garcia was transported to Natividad Medical Center, where he was treated for his injury. Recovered at the scene was a .40-caliber semiautomatic firearm with three rounds in the magazine and one in the chamber of the firearm. Due to a prior felony burglary conviction, Garcia was prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition.

Garcia faces up to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

This case was primarily investigated by district attorney investigators Matt Costa, John Magana and Daisy Gurley, and California Highway Patrol investigator Charles Rodriguez with the assistance of the California Highway Patrol Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 7
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Lincoln btwn Ocean & 7th

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13
Chamber Mixer with Prancing Ponies
5:00pm - 7:00pm
Carmel Plaza

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21
Leadership Carmel &
The Carmel Foundation
New Wellness Studio Ribbon Cutting
5:00pm - 7:00pm
8th & Dolores

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28
Carmel Chamber of Commerce
Visitor Center Ribbon Cutting
5:00pm - 7:00pm
Carmel Plaza, 2nd Floor

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