



The Carmel Pine Cone

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April 3-9, 2026

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Casanova fire cause ‘undetermined’

■ Resident who lost everything searches for cat

By MARY SCHLEY

WHATEVER SPARKED the early-morning March 9 fire in Monterey that killed one elderly resident, injured seven, destroyed six apartments and displaced more than 80 people is undetermined, according to a Monterey Fire Department report released last week. Meanwhile, those who lived in the Casanova Avenue complex, which is owned and managed by the Housing Authority of the County of Monterey, continue to try to find new homes and rebuild their lives.

An alarm, then banging

Brooke Falk, a 61-year-old woman who escaped with her life as her third-floor apartment burned — and who is holding out hope her tabby cat, Sassy, survived — is one of the few who lost everything in the blaze. She’s staying in a Marina hotel, with the help of a local nonprofit, while

See FIRE page 31A



PHOTO/MONTEREY FIRE

Aerial photographs dramatically illustrate the catastrophic damage a March 9 fire did to a Monterey apartment building.

MANY CHARITY LEADERS DOING QUITE WELL

By KELLY NIX

FROM CARING for animals to ensuring homeless people have shelter and services, there are hundreds of charities in Monterey County that offer immeasurable help to those in need. For their part, many heads of local nonprofit organizations are well compensated.

The Pine Cone this week reviewed tax forms for dozens of Monterey County nonprofits — many of which have direct impacts on Monterey Peninsula residents — to find out how much their executive directors and CEOs are being paid. The information was drawn from publicly available Form 990s that tax-exempt organizations must file annually with the Internal Revenue Service.

This article focuses on nonprofit heads’ salaries and other compensation, as well as organizations’ revenues minus expenses. The amounts listed for heads of nonprofits include all compensation, including benefits. Most of the 990s reviewed for this story were filed in 2025.

Topping the list of highest-paid local nonprofit leaders is former president and CEO of **Montage Health**, Dr.

See CHARITIES page 21A

Work proceeds in Pit as art association frets

■ Feared historic gallery would collapse

By MARY SCHLEY

AS CONSTRUCTION workers for the Carmel Art Association began installing piers under its nearly century-old gallery to prevent further damage from work in The Pit, representatives of the gallery complained that soil compaction on the site threatened to collapse their building.

Meanwhile, demolition of the partially built garage at the site at Dolores and Fifth is complete as Esperanza Carmel, Patrice Pastor’s local development company, prepares to start building its mixed-use Ulrika Plaza complex.

Red tag demanded

Throughout Leidig/Draper’s former ownership and continuing since Esperanza purchased the blighted property in 2020 for \$9 million, representatives of the Carmel Art Association have complained about damage to their building and resistance from the owners and their insurance companies to take responsibility for it. The Carmel Foundation has made similar complaints.

While neither has received any payouts, the foundation has repaired its housing complex, and the art association started shoring work March 20 after its engineer said the need was urgent.

This week, Jeff Becom, the CAA member in charge of the building and grounds, recalled the jarring and shaking that occurred during the recent demolition.

“Living through the process of knocking down a series of large concrete pillars was an experience no one should have to endure,” he told The Pine Cone. “The CAA staff and visitors were all traumatized by the great crashes that occurred several times a day for weeks.”

He also said the excavator operators in charge of stacking and removing the broken concrete would lift them

as high as possible and then drop them on the remaining slab to break them, resulting in loud bangs that shook the gallery.

When Becom complained, Ulrika Plaza project manager Joseph Nepdo told him the pieces should have been stacked instead of dropped and that he had “instructed the contractor to stop this practice and to place the concrete carefully,” according to an email thread.

See PIT page 24A



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

The Pit at Dolores and Fifth has been cleared and is ready for construction to begin on Patrice Pastor’s Ulrika Plaza — but getting that done was traumatic for some of the neighbors.

Dale Byrne says he won’t run for re-election. See page 27A.

Sacramento looks to cut construction costs

■ Pre-fab homes, taking the stairs

A PACK of California lawmakers want cheaper housing, and to do it, they’re coming up with some unusual ways to cut costs, including rewriting the fire code and putting the full faith and credit of the state behind manufactured homes.

The latter idea came out of a package of bills unveiled last week, written to entice developers into erecting more homes that are made in factories and then transported to the building site for final assembly. The proposed legislation has the backing of a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers who want to clear some of the hurdles that have kept

in rents in recent years. California is more expensive for a multitude of reasons, including the state’s regulatory climate, municipal permitting, and labor costs. Some of the bills target this red tape, but others take a more out-there approach.

Fire marshal objects

One of California’s youngest assemblymembers, Alex Lee, 30, from Milpitas, is a big-time YIMBY (yes in my backyard) guy, and this session he wants to eliminate the two-staircase requirement in apartment buildings with more than three stories.

See STAIRS page 18A

Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

pre-fab manufacturing from taking off in the state.

A San Francisco Bay area progressive is gunning for a more controversial way to trim the fat — take the stairs. The plan is to change the state’s fire code to allow apartment complexes over three stories to have only one staircase. Unsurprisingly, firefighters hate the idea.

Biggest expense

The unconventional tactics come at a time when affordability is a top priority in Sacramento and housing is the largest expenditure for virtually all households. Land is expensive in California, but high rents and home prices are also tied to the fact that building multifamily housing in the Golden State has become prohibitively expensive.

A report out last month from UC Berkeley’s Turner Center found apartment construction costs in the state regularly exceed \$400,000 to \$500,000 per unit, and those figures spike even further in the big metro areas. The price tag is two to three times more expensive than in places like Texas, where major metro areas have seen a decrease

Owl he needed was love



PHOTO/SPCA

This little guy is one of five screech owls that were rescued in March and are set to be released back into the wild next week. See page 16A.

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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

One for each

She didn't need a dog, but out of the kindness of her heart, she agreed to dog-sit her daughter's Goldendoodle, Moose, for a month. By the end of the dog's visit to her Carmel Valley home, she was in love, and when her daughter came to retrieve Moose, Mom said, "I think I need to have my own little Goldendoodle."

Surprised but pleased, her daughter introduced Mom to the breeder, who added her name to a six- to eight-month waiting list.

"When I finally met my Charlie, I learned he and Moose are cousins, which makes for the sweetest story," Mom said. "I had fallen in love with Moose, and now I have my own."

In anticipation of her puppy's arrival, she thought of a few nice names, but decided to see him before making her decision.

"When I met him, we kept looking into one another's eyes, and I felt Charlie was the name that went with this little cutie pie," she said. "He's now 9 years old, and the name still suits him."

In anticipation of Charlie, she read a book about how to raise him, which advised her to create his own,



separate place to sleep. But he wasn't having that, so she paid attention to his heart and her wisdom instead. Charlie sleeps in her bed.

"Dogs are each so different," she said. "Charlie is one who loves to cuddle, and I love it too, so I keep him close by."

Charlie loves the beach, but when his person throws a ball toward the shoreline, he races after it just far enough into the water to retrieve it. When it goes in too far, he lets another dog get the ball and waits for him to bring it to him. Which sometimes happens.

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Water district customers getting \$\$ back

By KELLY NIX

MORE THAN 30,000 property owners should be getting checks this week from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, which was ordered by an appeals court in late 2024 to refund customers over a “double dipping” scheme.

Water district general manager David Stoldt said the district mailed about 32,000 checks to customers, many of whom started receiving them this week.

“The total refund pool was \$3.4 million,” Stoldt explained. “The typical check was in the \$40 to \$70 range.”

Water district customers have the Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association to thank for the money. In 2021, the group filed suit against the district for its

“water supply charge,” a fee the district included on property tax bills. Monterey Superior Court Judge Carrie Panetta in early 2023 ruled that the charge was invalid, and an appeals court in September 2024 agreed.

‘Holding to account’

The water district stopped collecting the charge, which on average amounted to about \$55 per year, following the appellate court decision. The district agreed to the creation of a fund of about \$3.4 million, a portion of which is being distributed to homeowners who paid the charge.

Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association president Rick Heuer told The Pine Cone this week that the refunds are a result of “holding the water district to account for failing to follow its own ordinances.”

“We raised the issue more than five

years ago and the district ignored us, so we were forced to go to court,” Heuer said. “They lost in the first court and again at the appeals court — a complete waste of rate-payers’ money. The district kept collecting the illegal charges throughout the entire court process.”

The checks, Heuer said, are a “small part” of the total amount the water district “illegally collected.”

“Unfortunately, state law is skewed toward government agencies and that is what we were limited to, but more than \$3 million will be refunded.”

Fee overturned

The row began after the state’s public utilities commission in 2009 told the water district it could no longer collect an 8.325 percent “user fee” that Peninsula utility California American

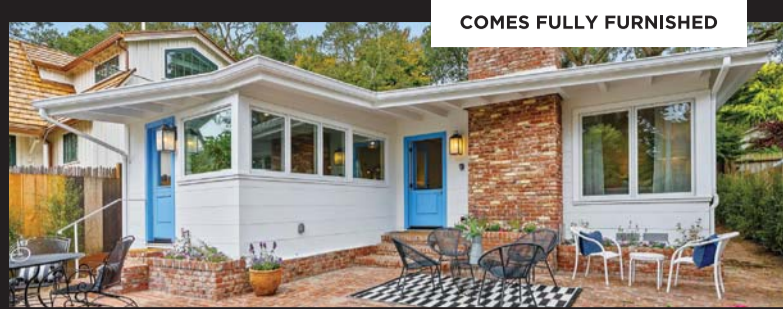
Water added to customers’ bills, and which was remitted to the water district. The fee generated about \$3.7 million for the district, which was a significant chunk of its annual expenses.

When the fee was canceled, the district, to make up for the lost revenue, began collecting the water supply charge. In 2016, however, the state Supreme Court overruled the public utilities commission and allowed the old user fee to go back into effect. However, instead of ceasing the water supply charge — which was spelled out in a sunset provision — the district continued to collect both fees, which the taxpayers’ association argued violated the district ordinance and amounted to “double dipping.”

Stoldt said it cost the district, which is to say taxpayers, \$140,000 to mail the checks.

\$3.4 million returned to customers after court finds ‘double-dipping’

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Police & Sheriff's Log

Please stop being our guests

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.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found earring at Scenic and Martin.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found wallet at Mission and Fifth.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 25-year-old female from Salinas was arrested at Junipero and Ocean at 1824 hours for DUI. She was booked into Monterey County Jail.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle towed from Sinex Avenue for expired registration over six months.

Pacific Grove: Dispatched to a possible domestic incident on Laurel Avenue.

Carmel Valley: A juvenile was reported missing from an El Potrero Road residence.

Carmel Valley: A report of civil harassment between ex-spouses on Schulte Road.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Investigated a report of a possible domestic dispute at San Antonio and 13th. Verbal only.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury accident at Mission and Sixth with an info exchange. Parties agreed to handle privately.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost iPhone.

Pacific Grove: A report of harassment in the 1200 block of Forest Avenue. A business at the location admonished a male.

Pacific Grove: Peace disturbance on David Avenue.

Carmel area: Deputies responded to a reported verbal domestic on Pescadero Road. A 28-year-old male was arrested.

See **POLICE LOG** page 9RE in the Real Estate Section

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The gavel falls



Verdicts, pleas and sentencings announced by Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine Pacioni

Feb. 18 — A Monterey County jury found Noel Ledesma, 44, a former resident of Soledad and Yuma, Ariz., guilty of the 2010 first-degree murder of Yvette Martinez.

In early 2010, Martinez and Ledesma dated, but they subsequently broke up. Despite the breakup, they remained connected to each other. For months, Ledesma attempted to persuade Martinez to get back together with him. However, in mid-September, Martinez began dating another person.

On Oct. 9, 2010, Martinez went out with friends and her then-boyfriend. She went out drinking in Salinas and then went to a corn maze with her boyfriend. She saw a different friend at a Salinas restaurant before heading home. Throughout the night, Ledesma was calling and texting Martinez's cell phone, but she largely ignored his texts and calls. As the

night progressed, Ledesma became angrier that Martinez was not responding to him. He told her that his friends were ridiculing him and laughing at him.

A little after midnight on Oct. 10, 2010, Ledesma went to Martinez' home in Greenfield and waited there for hours. At 3:11 a.m., Martinez arrived back at her home but did not make it inside. She was never seen alive again.

That morning, Martinez' phone was disconnected from her cellular network for the whole day, the only time in the prior six months her phone was ever meaningfully disconnected from the network. For a brief period of time in the afternoon, Martinez' phone reconnected to her network, and her

See **GAVEL** page 47A



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Carmel Valley home burns down, family is displaced and \$\$ is raised

By CHRIS COUNTS

JUST AFTER sunrise March 28, a kitchen fire erupted at 47 Boronda Road in Carmel Valley, quickly spreading to engulf the entire structure. While a family and their three children were safely evacuated, the home was destroyed.

According to an online account, at 6:40 a.m. a caller reported that her kitchen was on fire and her father was trying to put it out, but they had to evacuate "due to heavy flames and smoke." Cal Fire responded to the incident.

"The Alston family — George, Kenyatte, and their three children — were awakened by smoke alarms as a sudden kitchen fire engulfed their home," according to Jennifer Melvin, who three days later started a GoFundMe campaign to raise money for the displaced family.

"George was airlifted to the hospital for smoke inhalation and is now doing okay. Kenyatte and the children are safe and temporarily staying with neighbors, but their home and all their belongings were lost in the blaze," Melvin said.

'Every dollar helps'

She said the funds raised will help give the family "a financial bridge while they get back on their feet." The money will be spent on temporary housing, medical costs not covered by insurance, clothing, toiletries, household items, electronic devices for school and work, and cleanup and recovery costs. "Every dollar helps the

Alstons move forward after this devastating loss," she added.

Melvin also gave an update on how the family is faring.

"With a few days to adjust, the Alstons are finally getting some sleep," she added. "After the shock of having their lives instantly uprooted, they now have clear priorities for next steps. Thanks to your



PHOTO/FACEBOOK

A home at 47 Boronda Road in Carmel Valley erupted in flames March 28, but the family escaped.

generous donations, they are going toward covering typical rental move-in costs and the immediate needs of restarting a household. They are immensely grateful."

The fundraiser started March 31, and in just two days had collected more than \$11,000.

According to online real estate data, the five-bedroom, three-bath home on 1.1 acres was built in 1954. On Facebook, several people shared memories of the house, which one said was built by longtime local Donald Saxby.

The cause of the fire is unknown.

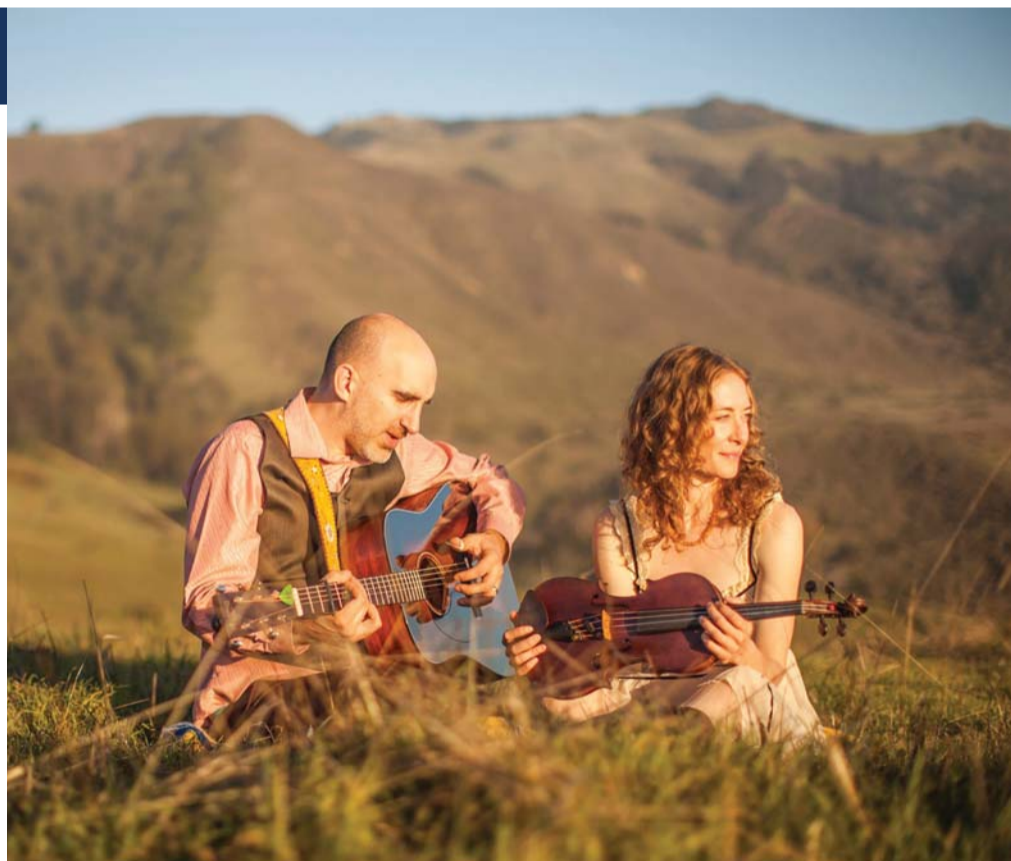
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All Saints' marks 75th anniversary of building and gardens

By ELAINE HESSER

IF YOU search The Pine Cone archives for “All Saints’ Episcopal Church,” you’ll find more than 3,600 mentions, starting with its first appearance in February 1915 — the month the paper was founded.

According to the church’s history, “The congregation originated informally on Sept. 25, 1907, when a small group of Episcopalians, supported by the Carmel Missionary Society, began holding Sunday services at the Carmel bathhouse. Services soon relocated to the Pine Inn hotel, with regular gatherings solidifying around 1910.” The next year, they met several times at the Forest Theater.

Along with the Church of the Wayfarer, established in 1904, and, of course, Carmel Mission, All Saints’ is one of

the oldest congregations in town. Its building at Dolores and Ninth — which provides space for numerous community activities — turns 75 this year, and a celebration is brewing, said Rev. Amber Sturgess, the church’s rector (priest), who has been with the congregation for 10 years.

Sold to city

In 1912, at Monte Verde south of Ocean Avenue, All Saints’ began work on its first sanctuary, which cost about \$1,200. It was designed by San Francisco architect Albert Cauldwell and completed by local master builder M.J. Murphy, who also added a bell tower and vestibule in 1928.

In less than two decades, however, the congregation outgrew its original edifice, which was purchased by the

village in 1948 for \$40,000 to begin a new life as one of the most charming seats of city government around. Pine Cone articles from the period seem to suggest that the congregation continued to use that building for services and events until the new sanctuary was ready.

The structure at Dolores and Ninth was dedicated by Bishop Karl Block in winter 1951, assisted by then-rector Rev. Alfred Seccombe.

“The design for the new church featured a predominantly native redwood interior with soaring beams and an organically integrated use of local Carmel materials in a contemporary structure honoring its environment and history,” the church says.

“The altar and accompanying panels were designed and sculpted from rare woods by Alec Miller. The magnificent stained-glass windows were designed by the San Francisco firm of Harold Cummings and featured the natural tones of the Carmel environment to complement the indigenous materials of the nave.” Renowned landscaper Thomas Church — who worked on portions of Stanford University, Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz — reportedly created the courtyards and gardens.

Community connections

Almost since its beginning, it has been a center of Carmel life, hosting lectures, concerts, civic groups, fundraisers, and, of course, weddings, baptisms and funerals, as succeeding generations filled its pews. And its congregation has always supported activities not only for those who attend services, but for people in surrounding communities.

Those efforts include the founding of St. Dunstan’s Mission in Carmel Valley in 1955 — now St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church — and St. Matthias Mission, also now a church by that name, in Seaside in 1956. Marina’s Epiphany Lutheran & Episcopal Church can also trace its beginnings to All Saints’ work.

In 1958, the Carmel church’s rector, David Hill, became an original trustee of York School in Monterey. All Saints’ Day School, now in Carmel Valley, was launched in the early 1960s.

The church owns Santa Lucia Chapel and Campground in Big Sur and a two-story retreat cottage on Lincoln near Ninth, as well.

All Saints’ is a longtime participant in the Carmel Bach



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PHOTO/COURTESY ALL SAINTS' ESPISCOPAL

Rev. Amber Sturgess has been leading the congregation at All Saints’ Episcopal Church for 10 years.

Festival — organ recitals dating at least to the third gathering, in 1937, were highlighted in The Pine Cone — hosting more than a dozen concerts annually. The Monterey Symphony comes to perform chamber music, choral group I Cantori di Carmel has its offices there, and the singers of Madrigalia also use its facilities.

The church’s website advertises weekly prayers and readings with a local chapter of the Catholic Friends of St. Benedict, and it has been the home of St. John’s Greek Orthodox Church since 2016.

In addition, the congregation houses homeless men once a month through the nonprofit I-HELP, through whom the Greek Orthodox congregation welcomes homeless women once a month.

The Carmel Residents Association meets there, too.

Art and a roof

The church will mark its 75th birthday with a special anniversary celebration on July 26, 2026 — just after the Bach Festival — and will launch a campaign to raise \$500,000 for a new roof and other improvements. The festivities will also feature the unveiling of a new painting commissioned from local artist Elizabeth Barlow.

According to a spokesperson for Barlow, the 8-by-5-foot painting, titled “Transfiguration,” depicts white calla lilies, “enduring symbols of hope, transformation, and resilience,” that also reflect “the natural beauty that surrounds the church itself.”

Zen Center loses meditation hall

By CHRIS COUNTS

A SIMPLE but beloved structure used for meditation and reflection at Tassajara Mountain Zen Center was destroyed in a fire March 27. The cause of the blaze is unknown.

Most of the 30 residents on site were asleep when the fire broke out.

“At around 11:30 p.m. last night, the Tassajara zendo caught fire. No one was hurt, but the zendo burned down completely,” the center reported, referring to the meditation hall. “Some of the library was also destroyed.”

Cachagua Fire was first on scene, with Cal Fire, Monterey Fire and others soon responding.

Quick action helps

Before firefighters arrived, the Zen Center’s staff was doing everything possible to contain the flames and keep them from spreading to other buildings.

“The staff at the Tassajara Mountain Zen Center should be incredibly proud. Their initial fire attack efforts helped keep the

fire contained, buying critical time for responding apparatus to arrive and preventing further damage,” Cachagua Fire said. “Thanks to their quick actions, only the zendo and a cherished Buddha statue were lost.” The statue had survived another

See ZEN page 23A



PHOTO/TASSAJARA MOUNTAIN ZEN CENTER

The meditation hall at Tassajara Mountain Zen Center was lost to a fire March 27.

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County slashes brush at Jacks Peak Park

By CHRIS COUNTS

PEOPLE LOVE having parks in their neighborhood, but that increases the risk of wildfire — which is the case for those who reside near Jacks Peak Park in Monterey.

To lower that risk, Monterey County Parks is creating a “shaded fuel break” by thinning — but not clearcutting — 100 to 300 feet of vegetation on both sides of the mile-long road through the park.

“A shaded fuel break is a strategic, maintained strip of forest land where brush and small trees are removed, but larger, mature tree canopies are left intact,” according to the county.

The work started in January and is expected to be completed next month. The project is funded by property taxes paid to the Cypress Fire Protection District.

Forest is thinned

The strategy is focused on removing “ladder fuels” that allow fire to climb into the canopy. Trees are thinned so their crowns don’t touch, with smaller ones being removed. Chaparral is also cut back, but enough shade is left to “maintain higher fuel moisture levels and reduce the regrowth of flashy fuels.”

County Parks Chief Bryan Flores reported that the work was done to make the adjacent neighborhood safer.

“Jacks Peak Park was identified for this project due to its proximity to a number of housing developments on both the Monterey and Carmel Valley sides of Jacks Peak,” Flores said. “The break serves a very important purpose of slowing down a wildfire from either side while allowing firefighting personnel to access the area from Monterey or Carmel Valley.”

Workers have mostly been removing blackberry and poison oak, along with lots of dead wood, which had been choking the habitat and preventing wildlife from thriving.

“There is so much dead wood on the ground,” Flores said, “that all gets ground down and mulched.” As workers reduce the density of the vegetation, wildlife is returning to the park, he added.

Cal Fire Capt. Greg Leonard said there’s a lot of work for crews to do at the site. “This is the first time such a fuel break has been done at the park and crews are encountering a tremendous amount of large fuels to mitigate as well as the oak tree stands that require time to limb up properly,” Leonard said.

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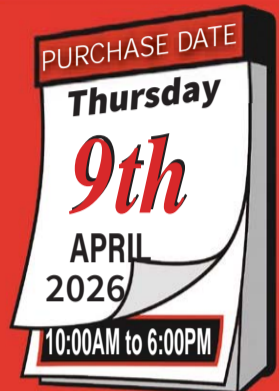
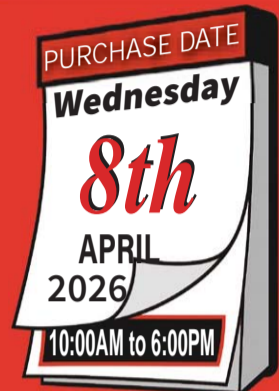
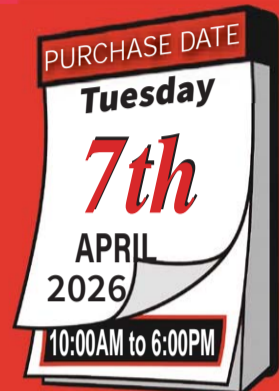
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Lighthouse Cinema to reopen this weekend after makeover

By CHRIS COUNTS

AFTER A splurge on a new film projector, the countdown to screening films again began at Lighthouse Cinema. "Movies return the first week of April," theater owner Ayman Adeeb recently announced.

Adeeb told The Pine Cone he's hoping to reopen for movies by Friday or Saturday. Three or four films will be screened at a time, at 3 and 7 p.m. every day.

Opened in 1987 by John and Sal Enea, the theater hasn't shown films since mid-January due to technical troubles.

Hasn't been easy

Adeeb, who is also a dentist, bought Lighthouse Cinema for \$2.5 million last July. He's faced challenges in his efforts to bring films back.

"I invested everything I could to renovate the theater, build the restaurant and bring this historic cinema back to life," he said. "It hasn't been easy — when our projectors failed, I took out another loan and invested \$400,000 to install two brand-new ones."

Bring friends

The theater owner urged locals to support the business, and "bring their friends."

"When I bought Lighthouse Cinema, I did it because I believed our community deserved a place to gather, enjoy movies and create memories together," he explained. "The truth is simple — a local cinema can only survive with community support."

Besides buying a new projector, Adeeb has also added outdoor seating, new flooring, a new heating system, and

renovated the restrooms. In addition to showing contemporary blockbusters, he's planning to screen classic films as well. He's expanded the food and drink menu, and he's seeking new and creative uses for the space when films aren't being screened, such as hosting karaoke, open mic nights, salsa nights, bingo, improv shows, and even gatherings for collectors of Pokémon and baseball cards.

P.G. COUNCILMEMBER SUDDENLY DEPARTS

By KELLY NIX

PACIFIC GROVE City Councilman Paul Walkingstick — who received more votes than his five competitors during the November 2024 election — announced his resignation from the panel during Wednesday's council meeting.

Walkingstick told the public it would be his last meeting, adding that it's been an honor to serve, but that his attention was needed elsewhere.

"I'm going to be leaving city council so that I can take care of family business," said Walkingstick, who appeared at the meeting remotely due to a family emergency. "This is not a decision I came to lightly, and it is extremely disappointing."

In a letter sent to city manager Matt Mogensen and his council colleagues before the meeting, Walkingstick elaborated on the reason for his departure. "I need to tend to my family, and I can't provide the level of attention to city business that the people of Pacific Grove deserve while simultaneously meeting my family's needs," he said. "This is a tough decision but one in which I need to be sober and honest about the quality of work I can provide the people of Pacific Grove while living up to my responsibilities at home."



Paul Walkingstick

Step aside

Walkingstick also spoke to The Pine Cone about his decision. "Instead of simply becoming an uninformed vote, I decided to step aside and allow someone else to step forward who can devote the time and attention necessary to do a good job for the people of Pacific Grove," he explained.

A political newcomer, he received 21.1 percent of the vote in the November 2024 election, putting him in first place over his challengers.

Councilmembers on Wednesday praised Walkingstick's time on the council and the contributions he and his wife, Christine, have made to the city.

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Ballot measure group deletes misinformation about election cost

By KELLY NIX

A PACIFIC Grove community group that's urging voters to increase the pay for members of the city council removed erroneous information on its website about the price of holding a special election in June after The Pine Cone reported on the cost.

City councilmembers in February decided to hold a special election June 2 to allow citizens to decide whether to increase their monthly pay from \$420 to \$897 for members of the council and from \$700 to \$1,645 for the mayor. The panel has not had a stipend increase since 1998.

'Improving accuracy'

A group started by former P.G. Mayor Bill Kampe called PG Citizens for Sensible Government to promote the proposed pay hike, per Measure C, stated on its website that there would be no cost difference between holding the June special election or putting Measure C on the Nov. 3 general election ballot, which will include races for the city's mayor and several council members, along with numerous state offices, the governor of California and a congressional seat.

"There is no meaningful financial reason for the delay," PG Citizens for Sensible Government claimed on its "get the facts" page.

However, The Pine Cone last month asked Monterey County registrar of voters Gina Martinez about the cost of the special election, and Martinez estimated it would run about \$63,000. Alternatively, Martinez said that putting Measure C on the November ballot would amount to a "negligible" cost.

Faced with the registrar's figure, PG Citizens for Sensible Government last week removed the language from its website.

"We are committed to improving the relevance and accuracy of content as needed," Kampe said. Regarding the cost of the election, he said it's added the group's perspective under a section on the website entitled "Why June?" The former mayor said that a "number of persons" contribute to the group's website.

'Transparency sought'

Former P.G. city councilman Luke Coletti heads Transparent Pacific Grove to promote government transparency. In a March 26 letter to Kampe and the city council, he responded to the deletion of the erroneous election information.

"Thank you for removing the misinformation you had included on your website," Coletti said.

Transparent Pacific Grove launched a signature-gathering campaign in March to require voter approval of compensation and benefits for the mayor and councilmembers. The group is collecting signatures to get the initiative on

the November ballot, which it says would "ensure accountability and transparency through direct voter oversight at elections where voter participation will ordinarily be the highest."

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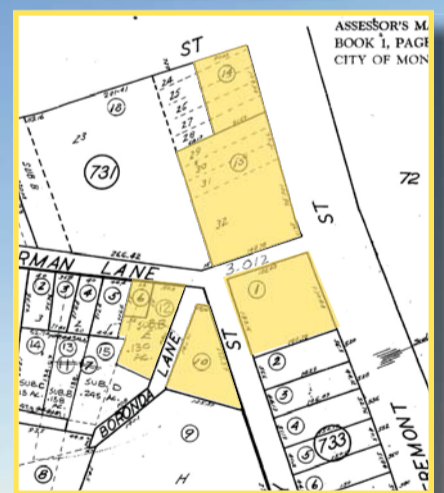
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800 fire-prone trees come down

By CHRIS COUNTS

PERHAPS NO tree around here has more detractors than the eucalyptus, which in North County was recently targeted by an ambitious campaign to cut down more than 800 full-grown specimens — at a cost of about \$2,000 each.

The work was done between July 2024 and September 2025. The cost was split between homeowners and taxpayers. About half the trees were in Prunedale, while most of the others were split between Royal Oaks and Aromas. A few trees were also removed in Castroville, Oak Park and Salinas.

The numbers were included in a presentation made by Marilyn Vierra, chief of staff for District 2 Monterey County Supervisor Glenn Church, at the Monterey County Board of Supervisors meeting March 24. Church has led the effort to remove the nonnative trees, which were brought here in the 19th century from Australia for wind

breaks and as an alternative timber source, but today are considered a serious fire risk.

"While these trees are iconic, they do, in their thousands, present particular risks to both property and life," Vierra told supervisors.

Risky business

According to Vierra, eucalyptus contain flammable oils and shed their bark profusely, making them particularly dangerous during fires. They are also tall and possess shallow root systems, making it easy for them to topple over, especially in high winds.

"There is concern about the danger they pose to property and life in the case of a wildland fire," she explained. "By eliminating eucalyptus from buildings and driveways, the fire threat is significantly mitigated," she said.

Vierra noted that Church made increased wildfire protection one of his

See EUCALYPTUS page 19A

'There is concern about the danger they pose to property and life'

Accused car thief arrested in the act

By MARY SCHLEY

A 41-YEAR-OLD Soledad resident was arrested at the Salinas courthouse last Tuesday after he was seen driving a stolen car as he arrived for a hearing in several other open criminal cases, according to Monterey County Sheriff's Cmdr. Andy Rosas.

Law enforcement officers saw Ricardo Otero "pull into the Salinas Courthouse parking area driving a vehicle that had been reported stolen out of San Jose," he said.

Lengthy history

"Deputies contacted Otero outside the courtroom where he was scheduled to appear for a pending auto theft case," and arrested him for new counts of vehicle theft, commission of a felony while released on bail and driving with a suspended license. They booked him into Monterey County

Jail, but he has since been released on bail.

Otero has a lengthy criminal history that includes three open cases: an August 2022 charge of misdemeanor spousal battery and destroying a wireless device, a June 2023 case charging him with committing crime following serious felony convictions, vehicle theft and receiving stolen property, and a November 2024 case with similar allegations, along with committing second degree burglary while on felony bail, owning or operating a chop shop, possessing a stolen vehicle engine, and being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. Otero also has previous convictions under the three strikes law.

Because he was arrested March 24, the hearing set for that date in those three cases was continued to May 19, and a jury trial has been scheduled in July for the felony cases. The Monterey County District Attorney's Office has not filed a new case reflecting his March 24 arrest.

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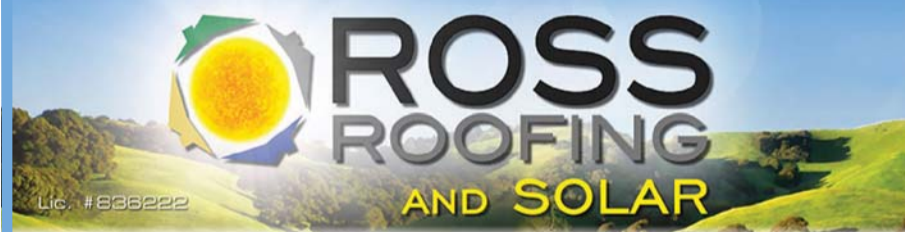
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STATE LEADERS SAY NO TO DRILLING

By CHRIS COUNTS

WITH GAS prices rapidly climbing in California — and opposition to offshore drilling keeping pace despite the pain at the pump — Assemblymember Dawn Addis and State Senator John Laird issued a formal warning this week over efforts by President Donald Trump to loosen restrictions on oil drilling in the Golden State.

“We will not stand by while the Trump administration prioritizes oil profits over our communities, coastal economy and environmental health,” the officials declared March 31 in a letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. “No amount of California oil will make up for the president’s reckless domestic and foreign policy decisions.”

The strong words come in response to the Trump administration’s action March 13 to invoke the Defense Production Act to make it possible for Sable Offshore Corp. to restart oil drilling near Santa Barbara. The state leaders argue “continued federal pursuit of offshore drilling expansion”

would risk harming the “health and well-being of our coastal residents” and be “devastating for our economy.”

“The Trump administration illegally directed the Sable Offshore Corporation to restart the damaged Refugio pipeline in Santa Barbara County and open our shores to dangerous drilling,” the officials said. “This is the very same pipeline that burst in 2015, spilling over 140,000 gallons of crude oil and damaging 150 miles of coastline and 2,200 acres of ocean habitat.”

No proper permits

The state leaders contend communities are still recovering from the 2015 spill. They also argue the work hasn’t been granted the proper permits. “With the pipeline reopened without the necessary permits and safeguards, this community now faces the threat of another spill,” the letter continues.

The White House appears ready for a legal fight. Just days before the Trump

See DRILL page 17A

Gonzales site of next CCC hearing

By KELLY NIX

LESS THAN a year after District 3 Monterey County Supervisor Chris Lopez was appointed to the California Coastal Commission, the powerful body’s next meeting will be in his backyard, so to speak.

The meeting for the coastal panel on April 15-17 will be held in the City of Gonzales, one of the cities in South Monterey County that Lopez represents.

Lopez, who was elected to the board of supervisors in 2018, suggested that meeting in the non-coastal city is an opportunity

to allow more people to directly engage in decisions that affect the region, including those involving agriculture, water and infrastructure.

“Coastal policy affects far more than the shoreline,” said Lopez. “Bringing the commission to Gonzales acknowledges the important role inland communities play in the long-term stewardship of our coast and shared resources.”

The three-day meeting, at the Dennis and Janice Caprara Community Center in Gonzales, is notable since coastal

See GONZALES page 17A

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Another housing plan seeks ‘builders’ remedy

By CHRIS COUNTS

JUST AS a proposal to build 90 homes at the former Carmel Valley Airfield is getting vetted with much fanfare, another to construct 74 homes near the mouth of Carmel Valley is moving forward — and the applicants of both are employing the builder’s remedy, which makes it possible for developers to sidestep some hurdles in the approval process.

The Carmel Valley Land Use Advisory Committee listened to a proposal March 16 to build 59 single-family homes and a 15-unit complex of affordable units at 26500 Val Verde Dr. The builder was identified as Carmel Rio Road LLC — the same LLC that was listed on previous projects proposed for the site, including one for 42 units and a scaled-back plan for 31 units.

The committee voted to recommend denial of the revised proposal due to flooding concerns. “The project is in the flood plain,” LUAC Chair Janet Brennan told The

Pine Cone. Carmel Valley Association President Marianne Gawain expressed concerns that the site is “unsuitable for development.”

A fait accompli?

“The Carmel Valley Association had been hopeful that the Val Verde Drive project might represent appropriate housing infill adjacent to a built-up area with shopping centers, medical services, schools and public transportation nearby,” Gawain said. “We have learned, however, that substantial portions of the project appear to be located within the flood plain or on a grade greater than 25 percent. Unfortunately, these problematic conditions were not acknowledged in the application and certainly no mitigation was outlined.”

While Carmel Valley resident Paola Berthoin conceded that its approval seems like a “fait accompli,” she warned the project would be a “big change for those currently living along this dirt road.”

Rescuers assist two hikers

By CHRIS COUNTS

EMERGENCY CREWS were busy in Big Sur over the past two weeks, responding to distress calls from hikers in two incidents.

The most recent rescue happened March 25 after a hiker sustained a broken ankle while walking along the Ewoldsen Trail “in a remote area” in Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park. The call came in around 3:20 p.m., and in response, a California Highway Patrol helicopter was sent down the coast.

“A crewmember was inserted by hoist to the location and confirmed the hiker had sustained a broken ankle,” according to the CHP. “The hiker was extracted by hoist utilizing a rescue vest. The person was subsequently delivered to an awaiting ambulance on Highway 1 at Vista Point and further treated for injuries.”

‘Severely fatigued’

Monterey County Sheriff’s Office’s Search and Rescue Unit reported that it was called out March 21 around 4:30 p.m. to find a hiker at Garrapata State Park who had become “severely fatigued and overheated and was unable to safely descend.”

State Parks employees and volunteers from Mid Coast Fire and Big Sur Fire joined the effort to locate and help the hiker.

“The patient was assessed and prepared for a hoist operation,” the team said. “A CHP helicopter conducted a successful pick-off, transporting the patient to a nearby roadway, where care was transferred to an ambulance for further medical evaluation.”

After the rescue, the team encouraged hikers to be mindful. “Always plan hikes within your limits, carry adequate water and nutrition, and be prepared for changing conditions,” the team advised.

Baby orphaned owls to be freed soon

By KELLY NIX

FIVE LITTLE owls that employees with SPCA Monterey County spent a lot of time caring for after a Prunedale tree the birds called home was cut down will soon be released back to the wild.

The barely 4-week-old screech owls were about 3 and a half inches tall and weighed as little as 110 grams — about the same as a deck of playing cards — when they were found. A person brought the birds, which were in “fair health,” to the SPCA.

The nonprofit’s Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation



PHOTO/SPCAMC

Center kept them healthy so they could eventually be returned to the wild.

SPCA spokeswoman Beth Brookhouser told The Pine Cone Thursday that the little birds will indeed soon return to their natural habitat.

“They are all doing very well. They are in an outdoor enclosure flying and hunting and doing everything owls need to do,” Brookhouser explained. “We expect to start releasing them next week.”

Surrogate mom

SPCA wildlife staffers fed them four times a day like their parents would, the SPCA said. They had a surrogate stuffed toy mother owl with them in the enclosure.

The SPCA expects to get many more wild animal babies in spring and summer.

“It’s not unusual for our dedicated team of staff and volunteers to care for over 100 baby birds in a single day,” it said. “All our rescues are only made possible by your generous, compassionate support.”

The SPCA Wildlife Center is the only full-service wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center in the county. Last year it rescued 2,863 injured, orphaned, or sick wild animals, many of them tiny babies, the nonprofit said.

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GONZALES

From page 15A

commission meetings are typically held in cities along the coast, where the commission has jurisdiction over land use planning, natural resources and visitor access. Gonzales, which is about 18 miles south of Salinas, has a population of only 9,000, but numerous growers, farm suppliers and food processing businesses are established there, including Taylor Farms, Mann Packing/Del Monte Fresh, HealthySoil, which manufactures products to improve agricultural crop production, and Ramsay Highlander, a harvesting equipment manufacturer.

Gonzales city manager Carmen Gil said in a statement that the city is honored to welcome the California Coastal Commission.

'Backbone'

"Hosting this meeting at the Dennis and Janice Caprara Community Center reflects Gonzales' growing role as a regional gathering place and creates an opportunity for broader public participation in important statewide discussions," Gil said in a statement to the press.

California State Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, a Democrat who lives in Hollister, appointed Lopez to the coastal commission in May 2025, saying he believed that it is essential for all Californians — "especially farm and agricultural workers who live, work and recreate along the coast — to have a seat at the table when

deciding its future."

"Agricultural communities and farmworkers are the economy's backbone all along the Central Coast, and their voices must be at the center of decisions about the coast's stewardship," Rivas said when he announced Lopez's appointment to the agency.

The three-day coastal commission meeting starts at 9 a.m.

The agenda can be viewed on the agency's website at coastal.ca.gov.

DRILL

From page 15A

administration issued guidance to restart the pipeline, the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel issued a memo addressing any conflict that might arise between the action and state law. "An order issued as an exercise of congressionally delegated authority or the President's constitutional powers has the force of federal law under the Supremacy Clause and may preempt contrary state law," said T. Elliot Gaiser, assistant attorney general for the Office of Legal Counsel.

Meanwhile, California motorists — caught between escalating oil prices resulting from the Iran War and the highest gas taxes in the country — are experiencing near-record prices. As of Tuesday, state drivers were paying an average of \$5.89 a gallon, with some stations charging much more. The nationwide average is \$4.08 per gallon.

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STAIRS

From page 1A

“From a fire safety standpoint, engineering safeguards such as comprehensive sprinkler systems, smoke detection, and passive smoke control strategies may reduce risks in single-exit designs. These measures, however, do not fully substitute for the redundancy of two independent stairways,” reads the report. “The presence of an additional exit is important for maintaining safety in the face of unforeseen failures, fire spread, or structural compromise.”

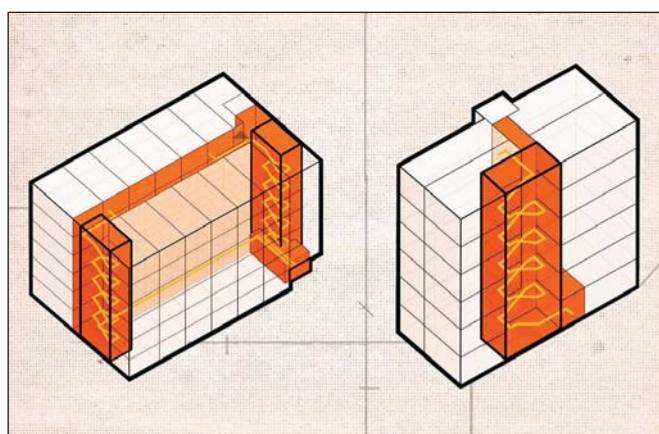
America has developed strict fire-adverse building codes over the last century in response to catastrophes. Today, two points of egress in multifamily housing four stories and up are almost universal.

Notable exceptions include New York City, Seattle, Honolulu, and recently Culver City, which eliminated the requirement in the name of affordable housing.

Subhead

Stairs cost a lot of money to build. According to a Pew Research Center study, second stairways account for 6 to 13 percent of total construction costs in four- to six-story buildings on small lots, which is what’s available in most urban areas. But is fire safety really where we want to save a buck?

Culver City did away with second stairs in September, and in October the International Association of Firefighters published an article titled “Single exits, multiple tragedies,” pointing to five recent, fatal fires in single-stairway buildings. The association said it released the piece to articulate why it disagrees with a growing



Schematics showing how a single-stair apartment building can be laid out (right), versus a double-stair building.

GRAPHIC/PEW CHARITABLE TRUST

movement nationally to cut the second stair requirement.

The California Fire Marshal’s report came about thanks to a previous bill Lee authored requiring the state to study the single-stair issue. The document has some recommendations if legislators choose to move forward with the idea, despite warnings from fire officials. Chiefly, the report states single-stair apartment buildings should max out at four stories, rather than going up to six, which is the current limit proposed in Lee’s bill.

Greasing the wheels on prefab

Another way to build homes faster and cheaper is modular construction, but it’s never caught on in California, with only a few thousand prefabricated homes produced in the state last year. One of the half dozen bills in the manufactured home package would make transporting the units easier.

Assemblymember Josh Hoover, a Folsom Republican, wrote legislation that would limit the Department of Transportation from putting too many requirements on trucking the pieces in the state, including exempting some companies from needing pilot cars. It would also allow bigger sections to be trucked and prevent local governments from layering on their own permitting requirements for prefab jobs.

Hoover calls it a “common-sense bill,”

and if passed, it would speed up construction times and drive down labor costs. Other ideas from lawmakers are a little more risky.

For decades, prefab manufacturers have failed to build on a large scale in the state, and pro-housing lawmakers think financing is the big barrier. As a result, California is considering entering the construction insurance business.

Lenders for prefabs are big fans of bonded projects, meaning they want insured promises, or surety bonds, to cover the costs if someone fails to complete a job. The problem with prefab projects is that no one wants to insure them because their financial track record is next to nonexistent.

Enter Palmdale Democrat Juan Carrillo’s bill AB 2166, making California’s taxpayers the financial backstop. What could go wrong?

The risk is pretty straightforward: If a factory goes bankrupt or fails mid-project, we’re on the hook, and the industry doesn’t have a perfect track record. California prefab builders Multitaskr, Connect Homes and Katterra have all either closed shop, liquidated or filed for bankruptcy in the last half decade. The most spectacular failure belonged to Katterra, which went up in flames after raising \$2 billion from

See **PREFAB** next page



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PENINSULA
FAMILIES
APRIL 17



BUNDLE &
SAVE

PREFAB

From previous page

investors with dreams of transforming homebuilding with robots and advanced automation.

That said, Plan Prefab's recent success story in Santa Monica is a shining example of how quickly and quietly prefab housing can be built — when done right. The 13-unit modular building unveiled last week was constructed in the company's factory an hour from town and assembled onsite in three days.

According to the Turner Center, prefabricated apartment construction can be up to 1.5 times faster than traditional methods because prep work onsite can happen simultaneously with construction in a factory. The same report also found prefab buildings up to four stories are 20 percent cheaper to build, but Santa Monica's new housing project doesn't bear that out.

The final price tag was \$1 million per unit, much higher than the aforementioned average per-unit cost of \$400,000-\$500,000 in California. Most of the money for

the low-income housing project came from a city loan that also had to cover the costs associated with the project starting as onsite construction and transforming into a prefab job. The cost overruns line up with a 2025 Rand report that found producing subsidized affordable housing projects in California can be 1.5 times more expensive than building market-rate homes.

Streamlining

Other bills in the package are more straightforward and aim to streamline the business. Those include legislation to create statewide building codes, so the same project can be built for San Diego or San Francisco, and prohibiting local jurisdictions from imposing building standards that exceed the state minimum on a factory-built housing project.

These are good ideas, as municipalities are a big reason housing costs so much in California. Again, according to Rand, municipal impact and development fees average \$29,000 per unit, compared to an average \$1,000 a unit in Texas. Sure, development fees help fill city coffers, but finally getting some new property tax revenue would also be a good source of income.

EUCALYPTUS

From page 14A

chief campaign goals and cited eucalyptus trees as a major threat. She also credited State Sen. John Laird with sharing Church's "dedication to address this concern," and said the state senator's help in moving the program forward was "fundamental."

Before the work was done, county officials consulted with the California Coastal Commission, as well as North County Fire Protection District and the Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District. The guidance helped create a timeline that avoided monarch butterfly overwintering zones and the bird nesting season.

Vierra said her office was "ground zero" for the program and received 91 applications for removing trees. She said applicants expressed their satisfaction with the program, which, she noted, "reinforced the safety risks of eucalyptus trees."

"The 50-50 cost-sharing model worked beautifully," she added.



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Breakfast with bunny

THE CARMEL Host Lions Club and the parents of children who attend the Monterey Peninsula Musical Theatre are collaborating on the 28th annual Breakfast with the Bunny set for Saturday, April 4, from 8:30 a.m. to noon in Devendorf Park at Ocean and Junipero. If experience is any guide, they'll serve some 450 people during the community event.

The Easter Eve celebration features a breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, orange juice and coffee. Tickets will be available on site and cost \$7 for children 12 years and under, \$14 for adults, and \$36 for a family of two adults and two children.

The breakfast represents the efforts of the Carmel Host Lions Club and other community organizations and businesses, including the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, and the Little Swiss Café, which provides the pancake batter, Lugano Swiss Bistro, which brings the scrambled eggs,

and Carmel Bakery, which provides the coffee and hot chocolate.

Breakfast can be followed by a visit to Bunnyland for face painting, a cupcake walk, carnival games with prizes, a show and dance on stage, creative themed crafts, and photo opportunities with Mr. Bunny. Visits cost \$10 per child.

In case of rain, the event will be held at the Carmel Youth Center at Fourth and Torres. And, as always, it's not an egg hunt.

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- 7:30 pm
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EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5

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11:00am - Traditional Worship Service with
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Good Friday Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
Friday, April 3rd 3 p.m. (No 8:30 a.m. Mass)

The Great Easter Vigil Saturday, April 4
8 p.m. (No 9 a.m. Confessions, no 5 p.m. Mass)

Easter Sunday

The Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord
Sunday, April 5th, Masses at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon

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EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5
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CHARITIES

From page 1A

Steven Packer, who was paid \$2,566,012 in 2024. Montage Health, the parent company of the nonprofit **Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula**, reported revenue of nearly \$72 million. CHOMP reported revenue of nearly \$44 million.

Packer retired in 2025, and The Pine Cone asked Montage this week how much new CEO Dr. Michael McDermott is receiving in salary and benefits. A spokesperson for the hospital refused to provide the information, saying that “executive compensation is disclosed in our publicly available Form 990 documents rather than on an interim basis.” A tax form disclosing McDermott’s salary in 2025 isn’t required to be made public until later this year.

Monterey Peninsula Country Club — a private social club in Del Monte Forest exempt from taxes — reported a net loss of \$4.7 million in 2024, about the same as the year before. General manager JJ West was paid \$753,523 for a 50-hour workweek.

Stevenson School, a private school in Pebble Beach, reported revenue of about \$4.9 million. President Daniel Griffiths was paid \$733,221.

The **Monterey Peninsula Foundation**, the fundraising arm of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am annual golf tournament, reported a net loss of more than \$2 million. The year before, it reported a loss of more than \$700,000. Its

longtime CEO, Steve John, was paid a total of \$644,013, according to tax forms filed in January.

The **Monterey Bay Aquarium Foundation** reported revenue — after expenses — of \$84.6 million. The Monterey Bay Aquarium collected more than \$74 million in admission fees, tours and events. Its co-founder, Julie Packard, was paid more than \$470,646 in 2024 to work 28 hours per week, about \$26,000 more than the previous year. The aquarium’s highest-paid employee was chief development officer Christina Fekeci, who was paid \$474,067.

Goodwill Central Coast, which operates shops and donation sites in Seaside, Monterey and numerous other locations, reported a loss of nearly \$84,000. Its president and CEO, Thomas Moran, earned \$471,649.

Big Sur’s **Esalen Institute**, a nonprofit retreat off Highway 1 that was started in the 1960s and frequently visited by the Hollywood set, said its revenue was more than \$480,000. Camille Wright, the institute’s then-CEO, was paid \$468,423, its most recent tax forms indicate.

The **CHP 11-99 Foundation**, a statewide nonprofit that for years has been a beneficiary of a Monterey Peninsula Car Week fundraising event, reported having more than \$5 million in the bank after the bills were paid. Stephen Harrington, the CEO of the organization, which offers financial aid to officers and their families amid injuries and deaths, was paid \$443,631, tax forms show.

Community Foundation for Monterey County — which manages, invests and distributes funds donated by individuals and businesses — reported revenue, after

expenses, of more than \$50 million. Its CEO, Dan Baldwin, was paid \$441,996.

Cypress Point Club, in Del Monte Forest, reported revenue of about \$5.2 million. Golf course superintendent Jeffrey Markow was paid \$416,446, while clubhouse manager Allan Morrison received \$260,179.

Santa Catalina School, a private school in Monterey, reported a deficit of more than \$4.5 million. Head of school Barbara Ostos received \$411,818.

SPCA Monterey County, the organization founded in 1905 that rescues and rehabilitates animals, reported a revenue of nearly \$8.2 million. It paid CEO Scott Delucchi — who has led the organization since 2016 — \$385,118.

Monterey-based **Central Coast VNA & Hospice**, which offers home health and hospice care to residents in Monterey County and other counties, had a net income of \$394,906. CEO Jane Russo made \$332,785.

The **University Corporation at Monterey Bay**, a nonprofit that supports Cal State Monterey Bay, reported revenue of \$6.5 million.

The **Otter Student Union at CSU Monterey Bay**, a nonprofit that raises and manages funds for the 70,200-square-foot student union at the university in Marina, reported a net loss of more than \$135,000. Its ex-officio director, Ben Corpus, was paid \$343,381. Babita Gupta, a director, received \$286,544 in pay, while the organization’s ex-officio executive director, Jeff Rensel, was paid \$164,915.

Continues next page

HE IS RISEN

HOLY WEEK

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April 3 | 7PM | Sanctuary
A contemplative worship experience with communion.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5
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11AM | Sanctuary
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Carmel Mission Basilica

GOOD FRIDAY
Celebration of the Lord’s Passion 1:00 p.m.
Tenebrae 7:30 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY
Easter Vigil 8:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY
Masses 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

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carmelmission.org

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Easter

at Church in the Forest

Easter Sunday Services
9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Communion at both services
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Easter Vigil: April 4th at 7:15 p.m.
Easter Sunday: April 5th at 10 a.m.
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9TH & DOLORES — CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

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From previous page

The Carmel-based **Monterey County Symphony Association** reported it had more than \$300,000 after expenses, according to its most recent tax form. Executive director Nicola Reilly made \$250,060.

The **Carmel Bach Festival**, which reported a deficit of about \$909,000, paid executive director Nathan Lutz \$118,091. The festival, founded in 1935, reported a loss of nearly \$1.3 million the prior year.

Pacific Repertory Theatre, which offers plays and productions, reported \$9.5 million in revenue after expenses. PacRep, which does not list founder Stephen

Moorer's salary on its most recent tax forms, last reported his salary in 2014, when it was \$78,843.

Pacific Grove's **Peace of Mind Dog Rescue**, which finds homes for pets whose owners can no longer care for them, reported a deficit of about \$172,000. Medical director Dr. Erin Trannel received about \$185,000, while executive director Carie Broecker was paid about \$134,000.

Carmel Art Association, which promotes local artists, indicated revenue of more than \$580,000. It did not list any pay but reported \$391,225 in salaries, compensation and employee benefits.

Carmel's **Sunset Cultural Center** reported a net loss of about \$324,000. CEO Elizabeth Bowman was paid \$166,893, tax forms indicate.

Carmel-by-the-Sea Public Library Foundation, which offers supplemental funds to Harrison Memorial Library, told the IRS it had revenue of more than \$7.4 million. Executive director Alexandra Fallon was paid \$212,880.

The **Monterey Jazz Festival**, founded in 1958, told the government it had a net loss of \$733,000. The three-day festival's artistic director, Darin Atwater, took home pay amounting to \$176,563.

The **Monterey County Film Commission** reported revenue less expenses of more than \$100,000. Its 2025 tax form doesn't indicate the salary for film commissioner Karen Nordstrand, but in 2023 she was paid \$92,898.

The **Arts Council for Monterey County**, which promotes and supports local art through grants and education, said it lost \$110,445 after bills were paid. Executive director Jacqueline Atchison was paid \$167,660.

Monterey Museum of Art on Pacific Street reported

a loss of about \$615,000 and \$576,000 the year before. Executive director Corey Madden made \$209,891.

Monterey County Youth Museum, known as MY Museum, had revenue after expenses of \$59,957, and executive director Lauren Cohen was paid \$136,019.

Animal Friends Rescue Project, based in Pacific Grove, reported a loss of more than \$275,000. It paid executive director Laurie Machado \$46,175 for a 40-hour week.

Monterey-based **Golden Oldies Cat Rescue** reported revenue of \$88,988, with executive director Margaret Slaby earning \$36,963 for a 30-hour work week.

Wildlife conservation group **Ventana Wildlife Society**, known for its work with California condors, reported a loss of about \$100,000. Executive director Kelly Sorenson made \$161,779.

Seaside-based **Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County** reported revenue of about \$1.1 million. President and CEO Ron Johnson received compensation of \$231,989.

Meals and homeless services

The **Carmel Foundation**, which provides meals, housing and activities for those 55 and older, reported a loss of about \$373,000. President and CEO Kim Stemler made \$128,932.

Monterey-based **Community Human Services**, which offers mental health, substance abuse and homeless services to county residents, had about \$3.3 million in revenue. Its CEO, Robin McCrae, earned \$180,570.

More non-profits coming next week.

*J. Corinne Price*

During childhood, living in the South Pacific with her parents and sister, Barbaree, Corinne had already made up her mind she wanted to go and live in the United States. So, after finishing high school in the Netherlands (Corinne was born into a Dutch family) she took off and landed in Soledad for her big adventure in California (1966). After finishing her education at San Francisco State University, where she met her beloved husband, Bob, Corinne started teaching in the Creative Living program at the Salinas Adult School in 1971. Within just several years she became director/principal of the entire Salinas Adult Education Program.

At that time, classrooms were scattered all over Salinas and Corinne's dream was to have one building where all courses could be taught. The project started in 1985, and the beautiful red brick building's grand opening was September 1990. Corinne was able to achieve this goal, mainly due to her strong determination, relentless drive and powerful communication skills. For this she had to overcome many obstacles which included designing the school, securing funding and ultimately realizing its construction. Up until today, adults in the Salinas area can attend classes like Adult Basic Education, a High School curriculum, English as a Second Language plus Citizenship Program and many Career Technical education programs, to name a few.

This can truly be called a legacy and in 2008 Corinne was recognized as the Adult Education Administrator of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators. 2008 was also the year during which she retired to enjoy a well-deserved and relaxing time from a life that wasn't always easy. Her dear husband Robert (Bob) Price had been severely injured in a tragic accident that took her mother's life. As a couple they were able to bond together and overcome this mentally and for Bob physically difficult situation. Once again Corinne showed her strength as she was both taking care of her husband, supporting him greatly, while having a very demanding job.

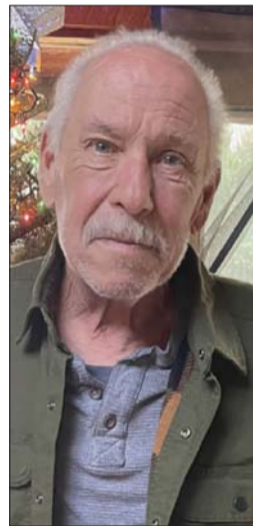
In 2018 she was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, a challenge she faced with strength and resilience. She continued to enjoy the things that meant the most to her: travel, meals with old and new friends, and time with her family in the Netherlands or in California. Our strong, independent and inspiring Corinne has passed away. She will be greatly missed, however the good she did and the joy she brought will live on in our hearts.

PHILIP (PHIL) DAVID ALLEN

Philip (Phil) David Allen, 66, of Carmel, CA passed away peacefully at home on Feb 21, 2026, with his wife by his side, surrounded by his children and dear friends. Born in Oklahoma City, OK on July 15, 1959, to Chief Warrant Officer 4/USA Donald and Gisele (Gigi) Allen, he grew up as a bilingual military dependent which afforded him the wonderful opportunity to experience life in France, Germany, Ethiopia, Kansas and Oklahoma. In 1987 he met the love of his life, Diane Polzin. They married in April 1988, moved to Washington State to have their children and Phil began his welding trade as a member of the Millwright Union. In 1992, they returned to the Big Sur area of Monterey County. He was a certified welder working with Dan Woods Design until opening his own welding company, Big Sur Steel, in 2001, concentrating on constructional and ornamental metal. His work can be found all over the peninsula, from the clock tower at Leguna Seca Raceway to custom homes surrounding Big Sur. Phil loved all things outdoors, from hunting, fishing, camping, enduro riding, clam digging to snowmobiling and skiing. If he was outdoors he was in his happy place.

Philip is survived by his devoted wife of 38 years, Diane; his children, Jennifer, Theresa, Elizabeth, Amy and Johnny Thomas (JT) Allen and several grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Linda Hawk; brother-in-law, John; niece, Tara; and nephew, John, from Florida, as well as his aunt, Marcelle Cousin, from Orleans, France and many French and American cousins. He was preceded in death by his grandparents from Oklahoma and France, his parents and other dear family members from France and Oklahoma.

A celebration of Philip's life will be held at a future date. The family expresses sincere appreciation for the heroic efforts of the Natividad ICU, Monterey County paramedics and Home Connect Hospice.

**JAMES 'JIM' G. CUNNINGHAM, SR.**

James "Jim" G. Cunningham, Sr. passed away on Feb. 20, 2026, in Monterey. He was 88. We lost a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and friend. Jim was born on May 1, 1937, to Harold and Vera Cunningham in Washington. His family moved to the Monterey Peninsula when he was a young child. He was the eldest of three children. He attended Pacific Grove schools and graduated from Pacific Grove High.



In December of 1957, Jim married his wife of 68 years, Rosalind "Roz" Arcoleo. Together they raised three children. He wanted to provide the very best life for his family. He started his own business, JR Electric, as an electrical contractor. His knowledge and professionalism in the trade gave him a well-known name in his field. In his later years, he took an interest in owning and operating his backhoe service. He also started JR Racing. His love of building racing bikes for flat track and motocross led him to meet and work with prestigious professionals in the motorcycle industry.

If you knew Jim, he'd always have a furry companion with him, which he would take everywhere including long afternoon drives down the coast and by the wildflowers and lavender fields with his wife, Roz. He was a man of the great outdoors, loved hunting, fishing in the rivers with friends, the 49ers, great music, "the best" and his family. He was a great dad, pops and papa who will dearly be missed.

He was preceded in death by his younger brother, Chris; his father, Harold and his mother, Vera. He is survived by his wife, Roz; daughters, Jana Phares and Julie Compton; his son, Jimmy (Annette) Cunningham; his grandchildren; great-grandchildren; his sister, Pat Graham; several nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

Cheers to you, Pops. We love you!

A service will begin at 11 a.m. Friday, April 10, 2026, at St Angela Merici Catholic Church, 362 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Carmelite Monastery of Carmel, 27601 Highway 1, Carmel, CA 93923 or visit www.carmelitesistersbythesea.org

ZEN

From page 9A

fire in 1978.

It's uncertain if the Zen Center's insurance will cover the damage.

"We do have insurance, but it is not yet clear what will be covered or what the full impact of the fire will be," according to Tassajara. "We still hope to open for the summer guest season, but a full assessment is needed before we can confirm."

The San Francisco Zen Center, which founded Tassajara in 1967 and owns it today, launched a fundraising campaign at giving.sfzc.org/campaign/783955/donate.

"We are very sad to lose such a precious piece of our history, but it could have been so much worse," the San Francisco Zen Center announced. "We appreciate the outpouring of love and care, so we have quickly put together this fundraiser — there will be significant costs to rebuild."

Not surprisingly, several people with ties to the Zen Center took a philosophical view of the tragedy and leaned on their Buddhist teachings. "What a profound lesson in the state of impermanence this is for me," said one, while another suggested that "what rises from the ashes will be blessed indeed."



CHARLES E. CORDOVA

Resident of Carmel, CA

Charles E. Cordova passed away on Dec. 21, 2025, at the age of 79. Charlie was the youngest of five children and grew up in Campbell, California with a strong sense of family, competition and community that shaped his life.

Charlie graduated from Campbell High School in 1964. This is where he met many of his lifelong friends. He was a dedicated athlete, playing both football and basketball. After graduating from high school he continued his education and athletic participation at West Valley College. He transferred to Chico State University for his junior and senior years in college where he not only earned his degree, but met another group of lifelong friends.

Following graduation Charlie remained in Chico for a few years, where he opened his own trophy business. He eventually returned to San Jose where he devoted himself to supporting young people as a counselor at Willow Glen High School. While at Willow Glen he also coached softball and basketball. Charlie left a lasting impression on the students and athletes he encountered with his guidance, leadership and steady encouragement.

When Charlie left Willow Glen High School he started a very successful career as a textbook salesman for major educational materials developers. While selling educational materials Charlie furthered his entrepreneurial spirit by opening an Italian restaurant in Carmel. This was a reflection of his love of bringing people together. Upon retirement from the world of education, Charlie started another career as a salesman with a local garbage company.

Outside of work, Charlie loved golf and spent many happy hours on the courses enjoying the game and the friendships that came with it. He will be remembered for his commitment to family and friends, passion for sports, dedication to mentorship and the many lives he touched throughout his journey.

Charlie is survived by his sister, Irene; several nieces and nephews and countless friends who remember him fondly.

Kent DeWitt Murtland

Kent DeWitt Murtland, from Rapid City, SD, loving husband and father, passed away peacefully on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026, at Edgewood Memory Care in Spearfish, SD. He was 70 years old. He will be remembered for his quick wit, love of a good joke or prank, and for his passion of helping people, kindness to friends and family and his love of Jesus.

He was born Nov. 22, 1955, in North Carolina to Dr. Richard and Jane Murtland and raised in Carmel, CA. He graduated from Robert Louis Stevenson School in Pebble Beach, CA in 1973 and completed University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA in 1978.

Upon returning home from UOP with a business degree he began working at MJ Murphy Lumber and Hardware in Carmel Valley Village. While attending Carmel Valley Baptist Church he met Kathleen Elizabeth Hall (Kathy). They were married on Nov. 8, 1980, at the First Baptist Church, Terrell, Texas. Kent and Kathy set up their first home in Carmel Valley Village close to Kent's work at MJ Murphy and welcomed their first child, a son, Taylor Mason, in 1982.

Kent accepted a management position with Hayward Lumber in the summer of 1982, and they moved to Pacific Grove, CA, about 30 miles down the road. They enjoyed Pacific Grove, Butterfly Town, U.S.A., and life was good. They welcomed a daughter, Tiffany Michelle, in 1985 and another son, Richard Lee, in 1989.

Kent enjoyed managing lumber yards and accepted a position with United Building Centers, Pierre, SD in 1993. Life in the Midwest offered many new opportunities for Kent such as kayaking the Missouri River, field dressing pheasants and many new places to hike in the beautiful Black Hills.

Kent loved playing guitar, leading worship and was ordained as a deacon at Capital Heights Baptist Church, Pierre. He served as a Young Life leader in California and was a member of the Gideons Ministry, helping place Bibles where needed. He continued to encourage friends to be active in church and the community.

Kent is survived by his wife, Kathy; his children, Taylor Murtland, (Brenda Bray), Tiffany Smart and Richard Murtland (Ushashi); along with his sisters, Candace Grant (Gary) and Cynthia Hebert (Jim).

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Alzheimer's Association nearest you, or to Landmark Community Church, 3777 Anderson Road, Rapid City, SD 57703.

A Celebration of Life will begin at 1 p.m. April 15, 2026, at Landmark Community Church, 3777 Anderson Road, Rapid City, SD 57703.

Committal will be a family event at Point Lobos, CA in late summer.

Cremation arrangements are under the care of Fidler-Isburg Funeral Chapel & Isburg Crematory of Spearfish. Online condolences may be written at www.fidler-isburgfuneralchapels.com.



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CARMEN LOPEZ NEELY

Carmen Lopez Neely, 87, of Carmel Valley, CA, passed away on March 13, 2026. She was born in Fresno, CA, and grew up in a loving, bilingual family. In the early 1960s, Carmen moved to Soledad, CA. There, she married Gordon Gutierrez and became a devoted mother to their daughters, Cathy and Michelle. She filled her daughters' childhood with ocean trips, park visits, books, games and her famous baked spaghetti and tacos. Carmen balanced family life with ambition. She commuted to San Jose State University to earn her B.S. in accounting in 1974, while working full-time and mothering two young daughters. She will be remembered for her work ethic and her talent for numbers. She began working as a cashier and bookkeeper as a teenager. Later, she broke barriers as a Hispanic woman in the accounting field.



She began her auditing career with the California State Board of Equalization, championing small businesses and catching fraud. After marrying the love of her life, Otto Neely, Carmen embraced the adventures of a military family. Otto's Army career took them from Fayetteville, NC, to Ft Huachuca, AZ. Carmen successfully advanced her own impressive career, serving as an auditor for the State of North Carolina and the Army Audit Agency. Eventually, she joined the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), where she held the highest security clearances and proudly served under three directors, including Leon Panetta.

At age 43, Carmen and Otto welcomed a miracle child, Jennifer. Tragically, Jennifer passed away before her first birthday while Otto was deployed overseas. Carmen faced this loss with courage and compassion. She founded a chapter of the Bereaved Parents Society to help others. When Otto was reassigned abroad, Carmen's determination kept their family together. Later, Carmen's granddaughter Ruthie (Ruth Lichtenberger) was born to Michelle, bringing renewed joy and healing. Carmen played a significant role in Ruthie's upbringing. She offered steady care and warmth alongside Michelle and Karl. She viewed Ruthie as another daughter.

Carmen is remembered for her kindness, unmatched tenacity and boundless love for her family. She is also remembered for her strength, generosity, faith and the deep sense of home she created for those she loved. The importance of higher education was central to Carmen's values. She supported her family through school and college and strongly encouraged pursuing university degrees. She valued travel and embraced life's adventures wherever their careers and vacations took them. She visited numerous countries across North America, Europe, Asia and the Pacific, sharing these adventures with family and instilling her love of travel in her daughters and granddaughter.

Carmen is survived by her husband, Otto Neely; daughters, Cathy and Michelle Gutierrez; grandchildren, Ruth and Ari Lichtenberger; son-in-law, Karl Lichtenberger; great-grandsons, Cyrus and River Neemy; siblings, Connie and Dennis; stepsons, Bryan Neely and Christopher Neely; and many nieces and nephews.

Services: Viewing from 9 to 11 a.m. April 3 at Struve and Laporte Funeral Chapel in Salinas, with graveside service and burial to follow.

A community memorial will begin at 11 a.m. on April 18 at Carmel Presbyterian Church.

PIT

From page 1A

But then came the soil compaction that's needed to prepare the ground in The Pit for new construction. On Thursday, Becom sent an email to city administrator Brandon Swanson declaring that "an emergency situation" had unfolded due to vibration and banging from the compaction and demanding that the city "respond immediately."

"Based on the expert opinion of our soils engineer, the shaking coming from The Pit could easily cause a catastrophic collapse of our building," Becom said. He reported the gallery's manager, Renee Ruzicka, "says that her staff must not remain in the building under these conditions" and that customers ran from it in fear for their safety.

"Every part of the CAA's building was shaking and rattling," he said. "Even the dishes in the kitchen at the far south end of the gallery were jumping up and down."

Becom said he had received no assurances from Esperanza Carmel or its contractor that they would do more to protect the gallery, and he demanded that Swanson issue a stop-work order until the art association's installation of shoring wraps up April 5.

"CAA's foundation has been under repair since last Friday, March 20. To accomplish this repair, the sand beneath much of the nearly 100-year-old reinforced concrete north wall is being removed to allow for the installation of the

piers," Becom said, and soils engineer Sam Grice said its building "could collapse at any moment."

"These severe vibrations coming from The Pit could be the trigger that causes new and significant damage to the CAA," Becom wrote. "The city must take action right now!"

'Responsive and responsible'

Swanson said Tuesday that he conveyed the CAA's concerns to the owner and the contractor. "Swenson was very accommodating — they have been very responsive and very responsible," he said. "We got it sorted that night."

With cooperation from the property owner, "they were able to find an alternative method for compactions using a large roller, with no vibration, and tractors with big rubber tires."

"They've been getting the compaction they need without the vibration," Swanson said. "No vibrating happened after Jeff reached out to me."

But in an email, Becom told his engineers the agreement had been for no work until their foundation work is complete.

"Today Swenson was back with a non-vibrating roller trying out an alternative to the vibrating machine," he said in the March 30 email. "I had said this option would be OK to try, but not before your pier installation is complete."

CAA board member Polly Osborne also asked Napdo to cease all work until the shoring is done. "Two serious issues loom over us: 1) The vibration caused by the compacting could collapse his pier excavations, and 2) the liquefaction under our building could cause catastrophic failure at any time," she wrote. "Let him finish undisturbed, so at least we have some protection."

Napdo responded that Swenson Builder's subcontractor needs to stay on schedule and is coordinating with CAA's engineer.

Foundation works on foundation

Kim Stemler, CEO of The Carmel Foundation, said vibration hasn't been an issue for its Haseltine Court complex.

"We're nearing the finish line on repairs to the Haseltine apartments following the 2019 incident involving the foundation. At this point, the remaining work is limited to installing a new stairway and some minor electrical



RENDERING/ESPERANZA CARMEL

With site preparation at The Pit complete, Patrice Pastor's real estate company can get started building the project he calls Ulrika Plaza.

adjustments, which we expect to complete within the next week or two," she said. "We have not experienced vibrations — and thus, no related issues."

Meanwhile, representatives of the art association and The Carmel Foundation met Monday with those from Leidig/Draper's insurance company, Esperanza Carmel lawyers and others in their first mediation session, presided over by a retired Monterey County Superior Court judge, according to a CAA member.

"We are currently in discussions with the insurance company, along with the Carmel Art Association, and are working toward a resolution," Stemler said. "Our hope is to be fully reimbursed for the costs associated with these repairs."

And the Ulrika Plaza project, which includes underground parking, retail space divided among 14 shops, and a dozen one- and two-bedroom apartments ranging from 622 square feet to 1,863 square feet, is proceeding, Swanson said.

The city received everything it needed to issue the permit for building the foundation, "and then there's still minimal final comments on the rest of the project," he said, before the final building permit for construction is issued.



ROSALIE FERRANTE

Rosalie Ferrante, known to many of her loved ones as "Ro," "Auntie Ro Ro," "Teeter" and "Auntie Teetee," passed away peacefully on March 20, 2026, in San Antonio, Texas at the age of 80.

She was born Dec. 5, 1945, in Monterey, California to Victor and Virginia Ferrante, who preceded her in death. She graduated from Junipero Memorial High School and Cal State Hayward, and went on to earn a master's in library science from San Jose State University. Rosalie lived a life rooted in learning, service and connection. She dedicated many years to her work as a teacher, librarian and nonprofit leader, leaving a lasting impact on the communities she served.

Rosalie is lovingly remembered by her sister, Marilyn Canady of San Antonio; her brothers, Joseph (Sherri) of Redmond, Washington and Victor (Leslie) of Carmel; nieces, Elissa Harrell (Kyle) of San Antonio, Mackenzie Ferrante (Michael Benedict) of Princeton, New Jersey, and Mia Ferrante of Carmel; nephews, Danny Canady of San Antonio and Kevin Canady of Nashville, and Rico Ferrante (Kierstin) of Lake Havasu, Arizona and Alex Ferrante of Honolulu; five great-nieces, six great-nephews and many additional beloved extended family members and cherished friends. She was preceded in death by her brother, Peter Ferrante and her brother-in-law, Elmer Canady.

She held a deep love for the Monterey Peninsula and took great pride in her Sicilian heritage. Rosalie was the family historian, preserving stories, photos and traditions. She was also known for her baking — especially her cakes — and was a passionate sports fan who rarely missed cheering on her beloved San Francisco 49ers and San Francisco Giants.

In 2023, Rosalie relocated to San Antonio to be closer to her sister's family, who lovingly cared for her in her final years — a reflection of the deep bonds she nurtured throughout her life.

A gathering to celebrate Rosalie's beautiful life will be held at a later date. Questions can be directed to Victor at wdworkr@hotmail.com.

DANIELE (DANIÈLE) HOGGE VAGNINI

SEPTEMBER 5, 1927 – MARCH 23, 2026

Daniele (Danièle) Hogge Vagnini, a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and member of the Carmel community, passed away peacefully on March 23, 2026, at Merrill Gardens in Monterey. She was 98.

Born on Sept. 5, 1927, in Liège, Belgium, Daniele was raised in the French-speaking region of Wallonia. Her youth was shaped by the challenges of World War II.

In the years following the war, she met her future husband, Livio "Lee" Vagnini, during his work in Europe. The two married and began a life together in Frankfurt, Germany where they raised three children — Alex, Stephen and Rick before moving to Washington, D.C. in 1960. After living in McLean, Virginia for eight years they relocated to Athens, Greece in 1968 where they lived for five years before eventually moving to Carmel, California where Daniele resided for the last 40-plus years of her life.

After settling in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, Daniele volunteered for many years at the SPCA Monterey County, where she ran the SPCA Benefit Shop in Carmel.

Deeply connected to her French-speaking roots, Daniele was also an active member of the Alliance Française. She served both as president and secretary, helping to foster an appreciation for French language and culture in the Carmel area.

She is survived by her children, Alex (Leslie) Vannini of Fresno, Stephen (Cynthia) Vagnini of Monterey and Rick (Kathy) Vagnini of Atascadero; six grandchildren, Marcus Vannini of New Hampshire, Skylar Vagnini of Monterey, Cyrus and Maya Vannini of Fresno and step-grandchildren, Layla Leger of Monterey and Adessa Johnson of McKinleyville; as well as nine great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Daniele was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Lee Vagnini, who passed away in 2007.

A private family service will be held. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the SPCA Monterey County.



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Bike thief failed to outrun technology

By KELLY NIX

AN APRIL Fool's Day burglary in Pacific Grove turned out to be a joke on the thief, who was arrested after the owner of two stolen bicycles found them with the help of an Apple AirTag tracking device.

Pacific Grove Police said that on Wed., April 1, two bicycles were taken from a locked room of the Rosedale Inn, 755 Asilomar Ave. At about 1:30 p.m., the owner of the Aventon e-bike and Ozark bicycle got an alert on his phone that an Apple AirTag attached to one of the bikes had moved from its location.

"Acting quickly, the victim followed the real-time location updates into the City of Monterey, where both bicycles were located inside an unoccupied vehicle in the 2500 block of Garden Road," PGPD said. "Officers from the Monterey Police Department responded and remained with the vehicle while the victim returned to file a police report."

Recovering and identifying

Not long after that, police said transient Sunil Dutt Pal, 50, returned to his car and was arrested by officers.

"During the investigation, Pal admitted to burglarizing the property," PGPD said.

The bicycles, valued at about \$1,645, were returned to the owner, and Pal was taken to Monterey County Jail in Salinas, where he was booked.

PGPD said it has had prior contact with Pal, "including a recent arrest for domestic violence."

The police department said, "even secured areas can be vulnerable, and technology, especially when paired with quick action and reporting, can significantly improve the chances of recovering stolen property and identifying suspects."

Pal has already been released from jail, according to inmate records.

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

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Editorial

Robot cars are here

IF THE sudden return of high gas prices has you thinking of buying an electric car, we have some advice for you.

The \$7,500 federal tax credit may have expired, but electric vehicles still save quite a bit of money on fuel — especially in California, where the average price of a gallon of gasoline is back near \$6, or 23 cents a mile (if your car gets 26 miles per gallon). If your house has solar panels, you can charge an EV for practically nothing, and even if you have to go to one of those commercial charging hubs, the price can be as low as 12 cents a mile, or half of what you pay at the pump.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the average U.S. driver who owns an electric car saves \$1,000–\$1,500 per year compared with what they would spend to fuel a comparable gas car. And if you charge your car at home, you can wake up every morning with a full tank, eliminating trips to the gas station.

But those aren't the only savings and conveniences. Electric cars require practically no maintenance — no oil changes, no tune-ups and fewer brake jobs. And nobody can steal the catalytic converter, because they don't have one.

Meanwhile, there are the environmental benefits, though not as much as true believers would like to claim. EVs produce no exhaust, dramatically reducing local air pollution and eliminating the possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning. But they're not carbon neutral — not by a long stretch, since the electricity they use has to come from somewhere, and often that means from a fossil-fuel-burning power plant.

Back to the good stuff: Electric cars offer a smooth, quiet ride and instant acceleration when you need it, and you can turn on the heater or air conditioner without having to run a big engine.

The biggest advantage of them all, however, comes from only one type of electric car. Teslas can drive themselves, with virtually no input from the driver.

This remarkable technological advance has only existed since Tesla released version 14 of its "Full Self-Driving (Supervised)" software early last year, and it seems that very few people have tried it and understand what it can do. But once you get behind the wheel, it quickly becomes clear that this software drives your car much better — and way more safely — than any human driver ever could. Because it utilizes seven cameras that are looking in all directions simultaneously, it spots many hazards that human drivers might see too late, or not at all. Its computer also processes those inputs faster than any human could, and it never gets angry or sleepy or distracted or drunk.

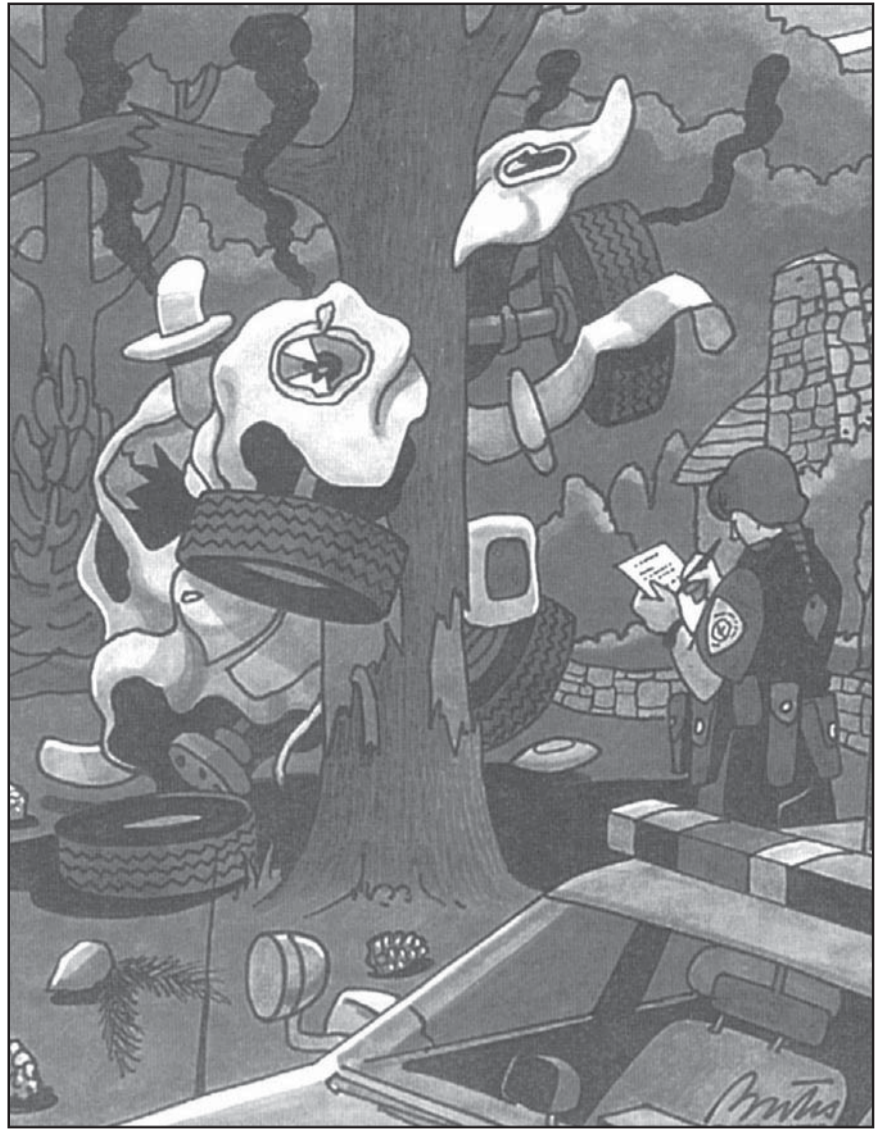
Case in point: When a bicyclist was killed on 17-Mile Drive several months ago, the accident happened because an oncoming driver didn't notice him before turning directly into his path. If that car had been a Tesla in FSD mode, the accident would not have happened.

Or think about those times a motorcyclist suddenly zooms past you between lanes on a freeway. Most drivers don't notice them until they're already passing, making it possible to hit them while innocently changing lanes. But an FSD Tesla, which has three cameras looking backward, will see them coming from quite a distance and take steps to avoid a collision.

There are reports of Teslas traveling thousands of miles — all the way from Florida to California — with no driver inputs. We don't think the cars are quite that good. But you can use Tesla's Full Self-Driving software 99 percent of the time in complete safety without so much as touching the steering wheel or pedals. Truly, it's an amazing invention.

Accidents can still happen, of course, but the sooner every car is equipped with Tesla's technology, the sooner this country can start saving thousands of lives and billions of dollars in property damage a year.

BEST of BATES



"Fourth tree NE of Carmelo and Eleventh ... four pine cones on ground, bark missing on two sides, one cracked lower limb"

Letters to the Editor

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

The Pine Cone only accepts letters to the editor by email. Please submit your letters to mail@carmelpinecone.com

Former mayors speak Dear Editor,

As former mayors of Carmel-by-the-Sea, we have a firsthand understanding of the responsibilities and norms of the office. The mayor serves as the presiding officer of the city council and, once decisions are made, as its public spokesperson. At times, that role requires setting aside personal views to convey the official position of the city.

For that reason, we were troubled to learn that the current mayor unilaterally submitted a five-page letter to the state opposing the city's revised housing plan after voting with the council to submit it. Disagreement is part of the governing process, but once the council has taken formal action, the expectation is clear: The mayor speaks for the council, not in opposition to it. Any significant divergent guidance should be explored and addressed openly with the council itself.

This departure from that responsibility is deeply inappropriate. It risks undermining the credibility of the city with state officials, creates confusion about the council's position and erodes trust in the integrity of our local decision-making process. The office of mayor carries with it an obligation to represent the council faithfully, and that obligation must be honored.

Dave Potter, mayor, 2018-2024
Sue McCloud, mayor, 2000-2012
Ken White, mayor, 1992-2000

Resident involvement Dear Editor,

Before running for mayor, Dale Byrne cofounded Carmel Cares, a beautification group powered by resident involvement. In last week's column in *The Pine Cone*, he stated that his entire mayoral term has been focused on encouraging "resident involvement" in governance. Perhaps the most impressive "resident involvement" in our village history comes from another group Byrne cofounded, Affordable Housing Alternatives.

Through the meticulous study of the physical environment and exhaustive community participation, AHA's "resident involvement" has accomplished what no other California community group has: a brilliant housing plan update, which experts say is worthy of American Planning Association awards and national emulation and which promises to deliver quicker, better housing. Why, then, does the mayor's column last week then go on to oppose the "resident involvement" update that he

See **LETTERS** page 30A

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July 3, 1952

Novelist bucks publishing trends with tales of cowboy life

CARMEL'S MOST famous former mayor hasn't made a Western since 1992, and TV shows like "Gunsmoke" are ancient history for most Americans — but one Carmel Valley author who loves the genre is still spinning tales of cowboy life.

Tom Walters grew up in Turlock, and his childhood memories hint at what he finds appealing about late 19th century life west of the Mississippi — especially in the small settlements that dotted the open spaces.

"It was a nice place to grow up. I was related to half the town," Walters recalled.

And, he said, "I used to go to the Saturday matinees and watch Western movies with all the other kids in the neighborhood. Roy Rogers, Hopalong Cassidy, Red Ryder, Gene Autry — they were all great."

Bad decision

Walters' upbringing wasn't all golden prairies and rugged mountains, however. When he was a teen, he attended boarding school in London, thanks to his stepfather's Air Force career. One of the teachers had students read plays in class and then took them to see professional productions.

Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

"It's amazing what a good teacher can do for you," he said. Back home, when he graduated from high school, his parents — like many of that generation — offered three choices: Get a job, go to college, or enlist in the military.

"I decided to join the service. It was a horrible mistake," Walters laughed, although he conceded, "I learned a lot about life."



PHOTO/COURTESY TOM WALTERS

Carmel Valley Ranch resident Tom Walters is a fan of Western movies and books, and has published seven novels in the genre.

He went to Modesto Junior College and the University of the Americas in Mexico before finishing his bachelor's degree in English at Cal State Stanislaus. Then, after getting married and deciding he needed to "get responsible," Walters went into teaching high school — with a couple of extracurriculars.

"I wanted to coach," he said, and he worked with the football team. Then, there was soccer. Kids wanted to play, but nobody else wanted to coach them, so Walters learned as he went.

After seven years of teaching, he moved into school administration, but once their kids were in college, he and his wife, Joanne, wanted to see more of the world.

Their home in Santa Cruz became the jumping-off point for a series of short-term jobs in Turkey, Denmark, Japan, Zambia and Belgium.

"I'd get an offer to 'fix a school' for a

See **LIVES** next page

From the mayor's desk —

Choosing the right path forward

By DALE BYRNE

AS I'VE shared in recent columns, Carmel is at an important moment. We are facing decisions that will shape this village for decades. They call for careful thought, a clear understanding of the full picture, and constructive dialogue.

Last week's front-page article in The Pine Cone and comments around my housing element amendment public comment brought many of these issues into focus. I shared my perspective publicly to help frame the conversation and highlight areas that deserve consideration. You may see a full-page ad by a resident in this week's Pine Cone that shows my public comment. My goal remains the same: to contribute to a thoughtful and informed community

dialogue about what comes next.

■ What history teaches

Housing, parking, civic infrastructure, neighborhood character, and quality of life are closely connected. Decisions in one area affect the others. In the past, proposals have been considered, debated and often set aside, while underlying challenges remain. That history is worth keeping in mind. When complex issues are addressed in pieces rather than as part of a broader approach, the problems can become more difficult to resolve over time.

My concern is less about any single proposal and more about how the pieces fit

See **MAYOR** next page

A career spent spreading joy

MOST PAINTINGS by Emily Hull-Parsons are unapologetically designed to massage your knotted gloom into a glow you probably haven't felt since you saw "Snow White" on the big screen as a 5-year-old.

Her radiant landscapes and seascapes are a bubble bath for the mood — velvety dirt paths meandering through undulating hills, the bay beckoning from behind fluffy dunes, a trail leading toward a mysterious forest, a foamy wave exploding over boulders ... golden clouds hovering over a blooming hillside. Her floral bouquets — each a kaleidoscope of nature — are a Valentine's dream.

Her portfolio is bending, swirling, spiraling toward equally luminous abstract art, inviting your own interpretation.

"My paintings are about taking time to slow down, look at the world, appreciate

her college studies as an interior design major. Then, as a wife, she never rekindled her dream.

"Photographers made a lot of sepia photos in the 1950s, and my mom did all the tinting for my dad's images. That became her thing," Parsons remembered. "She also handled all of the arrangements for Dad's wedding shoots."

But Mom remained a free spirit. After Bruce died, she took up lawn bowling, became the 1990 U.S. Women's Open champ and traveled internationally.

'Tractor town'

Parsons recalls her hometown — East Moline, Ill. — as "a tractor town" (home of International Harvester and John Deere farm equipment) with a mostly uninspiring high school.

"I don't even remember an art department there," she said. "Kids who came out of my high school were expected to go work in the factory or be wives. They didn't seem to aim very high for us."

Among 710 graduates,

Emily Hull was one of three who went on to the University of Illinois, where, instilled with a need to be "practical," she majored in accounting, had a straight-A report card, and discovered something about herself.

"By the end of my first year there, I had decided, 'If I have to do this for the rest of my life, I'll shoot myself,'" she said of her relationship with numbers and ledgers.

When she changed her major, she chose art education — for reasons she still can't explain.

The decision was a game-changer, at least for her college experience.

"The University of Illinois has a really intense business school, and all those students have a whole bunch of homework every night," she recalled. "I suddenly had art labs all day, without all of that homework, so I was the one going from room to room every evening saying, 'Hey, can anybody go out tonight?'"

Teepees

With an education degree in hand, she taught high school art to "stoned freshmen" in a Chicago suburb.

"After a semester of that, I said, 'I don't think so,' and enrolled in graduate school," she said. In two years at the University of Iowa, she earned two master's degrees in counseling.

She also entered what she calls "my outdoorsy phase," joining the Iowa Mountaineers, an adventure club that, in 1977, took her to Missoula, Mont., where she experienced a 40-below-zero winter.

"We were living in teepees and cabins, and the weather was brutal," she said. "But a lot of the friends I made there happened to be from Carmel, and that's how I met Carmel native

Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

the joy of life," Parsons wrote in an artist's statement that identifies her muses as "nature's gentle shapes, glows of light, sensuous hills, peaceful ocean ..."

"Color evokes emotion," she proclaimed.

CEO of fun

If you wonder what kind of brain sails this way, even through dark and troubled times, consider that Parsons has been perpetually cheerful since childhood. At an early age, she anointed herself "the one in charge of making sure everybody was having fun, all the time. I always wanted to make everybody laugh. I saw that as my job."

Bruce Hull, her dad, was a professional photographer. Her mom, Nancy Owens Hull, had an artistic mind, but duties on the home front during World War II truncated



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

Emily Hull-Parsons had a career dedicated to spreading happiness, a trait that also infiltrates her affordable acrylic art.

See **ARTIST** page 36A

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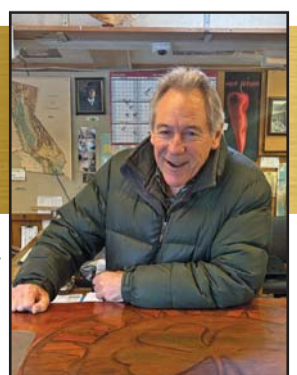
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MAYOR

From previous page

together. This housing process presents an opportunity not only to meet state requirements, but to take a more integrated approach — one that considers housing, parking, infrastructure, and long-term community needs together. That kind of planning can better serve seniors, workforce residents, and the small businesses that help define Carmel.

■ A clear vision

Carmel has several major initiatives underway. Each is important on its own. Bringing them together within a clear framework can help ensure today's decisions align with tomorrow's needs. A comprehensive plan is not about slowing progress. It is about creating clarity so the steps we take now support a cohesive and sustainable future. In a village with limited resources, that alignment is especially important.

The State of California is increasing its enforcement of their strict mandates on housing and other areas. It is more important than ever that our approach is not only compliant, but also practical and durable over time. In this

town, it is not always easy to raise questions or consider tradeoffs, particularly on issues that matter deeply to people. But thoughtful discussion is an essential part of sound decisions. My responsibility is to consider these issues and share my perspective as part of that process. That includes raising questions, weighing options, and helping ensure decisions are made with a full understanding of their long-term implications.

■ My path forward

After a great deal of thought, that same sense of responsibility has led my wife, Margaret, and me to make an important personal decision. I will not be seeking another term as mayor. This is not a step away from Carmel for me. It is a decision about where I can be most effective in contributing to the community and the broader Monterey Peninsula. My instincts will always be to build, organize, and help bring people together around practical solutions.

Between now and the end of my term, my focus will remain on strengthening our city hall team, advancing a responsible budget, refining our capital improvement program, and positioning the city for what comes next.

November will bring important choices and new opportunities for leadership. I encourage those who care deeply about Carmel to stay engaged and consider stepping forward. This village has always been shaped by people who show up. That remains our greatest strength, and it gives me confidence in what lies ahead.

To hear a podcast generated from this column go to [cli.re/pathforward](https://www.carmelvalley.com/pathforward).

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

LIVES

From previous page

year or two and then move on," he said. It was fun, but eventually, his wife said it was time to stop, and that was that. However, home turned out to be a place they couldn't go back to.

"Santa Cruz had changed a lot. We enjoyed it while the kids were growing up," but it's a young person's town, he said. Carmel and its surroundings were a better fit, and the couple moved here about nine years ago.

Cowboy coffee

In Carmel Valley Ranch, Walters seems to see an echo of his small-town upbringing.

"Everyone looks out for everyone else," he said. "They're such great neighbors."

When Covid struck, he thought about a Western novel he'd written and stuck in a desk drawer. He gave it a look.

"It was terrible," he confessed. "But there were some nuggets within the awful writing." After reworking it, he was rejected by more than 30 literary agents who weren't interested in Westerns. One advised him to turn to small publishing houses that were friendly to the genre.

He got a "maybe" from one publisher, who said he was taking some time off, but would read the book while recovering from surgery.

"Two weeks later, I got a one-line email that said, 'I'll publish it,'" Walters recalled.

"Vengeance in Sagebrush," was followed by six more books, and all but one (a collaboration) were set in and around the Sierra Nevada in the 1880s.

He embraces historical research, where he gleans tidbits like cowboys were "really into coffee culture," something that percolates through the first chapter of his "Shiloh: Righteous Retribution." Three robbers — one of whom actually wears a black hat — have a heated discussion about whether to spike the day's first cup with whiskey.

"I like the atmosphere of ranches and old cowboy towns," Walters said. He also enjoys visiting the beautiful high desert and mountain locations where his stories are set. In addition, he recently spent a few days in Tombstone and saw a reenactment of the shootout at the O.K. Corral.

"I thought it would be hokey, but it was really good," he said.

Plenty left

Rewatching favorite movies like "Shane," which he called "one of the best Westerns ever made," is on his agenda. He also loved "Lonesome Dove," by the late author Larry McMurtry. The novel, which garnered a Pulitzer Prize, became an award-winning 1989 miniseries, one of a handful of popular works — like the TV series, "Yellowstone" and the 2015 film, "The Revenant" — that have helped keep the mystique of the Old West alive in our collective psyche.

For Walters, 84, there's still plenty to mine, and he's planning to keep on doing it.

"Writing is an interesting thing to do," even if his works don't get published, he said. Besides, he explained, his characters often "won't leave him alone."

"You wanna say 'goodbye,' but they stay in your head."



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The Carmel Foundation Celebrates 75 Years of Community



This article is part of The Carmel Foundation's monthly column in the Carmel Pine Cone, sharing stories and insights to support healthy aging.

The Carmel Foundation Wellness Center: A Community Effort

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Wellness Center Open House & Ribbon Cutting.

For more than 75 years, The Carmel Foundation has been rooted in a simple idea: neighbors caring for neighbors. In 1950, a group of Carmel residents recognized what older adults need—connection, purpose, movement, creativity, and the ability to age in place. They didn't have research to support them. They just knew. Today, research has caught up, confirming how essential these elements are to extending not only lifespan, but healthspan.

When the opportunity arose in 2023 to purchase the former Red Cross building, we weren't entirely sure what it would become. Over time, with input from our members and community experts, the vision became clear: a dedicated Wellness Center to expand opportunities for strength, balance, and overall well-being.

This project came to life in a uniquely community-driven way. Rather than building all at once, it grew piece by piece—supported by individuals who stepped forward to fund and shape specific elements. The Carmel Chamber Leadership Class of 2025 also played an extraordinary role in what is now the Jill Sheffield Wellness Studio.

To our staff, board, volunteers, donors, and members—thank you.

As we look ahead, we are close to completing this vision. We still need to raise approximately \$120,000 to fully realize the Wellness Center. If you would like to be part of bringing this to completion, we welcome you to visit, tour, or support in a way that is meaningful to you.

As one member says, we are the Carmel FUNDation—and this is just the beginning.

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Pacific Grove Advanced Chiropractic HEAD AND NECK PAIN A CHIROPRACTIC MESSAGE from Dr. Steven MacDonald, D.C.

Dr. MacDonald's specialty is the Cervical Spine and Skull alignment. The skull and the cervical spine (Cranial-Cervical segment) must be in alignment to keep the rest of the body in balance. This section of the spine houses and protects the most important area of the central nervous system—the brain and brainstem. There are also so many life forces housed here, often called the mouth of God where the skull meets the cervical spine. The nervous system, Cerebral spinal fluid, circulatory system must be able to flow freely here to keep us healthy. Head and neck injuries and stress can misalign this area and interfere with these systems. Old and new injuries can hurt this spinal alignment and then be the cause of many of the symptoms people have today and distort posture later in life. Headaches can occur, balance problems, middle ear problems, neck and shoulder pain, mid and low back pain, poor memory, brain fog, blurred vision, speech, mood, depression, numbness and tingling, constipation, Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue. Cranial-Cervical misalignment can hurt every system in the body. It's not something to take lightly.

The NUCCA UPPER CERVICAL system of chiropractic can gently and specifically treat the Cranial-Cervical spine to be of help to all problems people can experience. This treatment can also correct full spine, pelvis and leg length imbalances.

The NUCCA chiropractic care entails a 3-dimensional x-ray evaluation and analysis to determine specific spinal misalignment measurements, so that the proper gentle adjustment can be given.

The goal of treatment is to offer relief from the problems many experience. Treatment can help a person be healthier and more active. This care should be part of any other care one receives for their health care.

Steven N. MacDonald, D.C.

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A Panel from Area Agency on Aging



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Public Comment on the Proposed Housing Element Amendment

Submitted by Dale Byrne, Carmel Resident and Mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea

Introduction and Purpose

I am submitting this comment as a Carmel resident and as Mayor, having followed the Housing Element process closely over the past several years. I strongly support housing production, including affordable units, in Carmel. We need them, and among all those in need, our seniors are the most urgent priority. Long-time residents who built their lives here are increasingly priced out as rents rise beyond fixed incomes. I also want to thank the volunteers and staff members who have worked on this amendment over the past couple of years. Their research and program development work was valuable and can play an important role in Carmel's future housing production. Our overall objective should not be to meet minimum compliance thresholds, but to deliver housing at a scale that meaningfully serves Carmel's seniors, workforce, and others in the community in a highly difficult housing environment.

Carmel's Approved Strategy

Carmel's Housing Element was approved by HCD based on a clear strategy: use city-owned sites, engage experienced affordable and market-rate development partners through a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process, and complement that approach with creative programs such as mixed-use, live/work units, church-based developments, and ADUs. That framework has precedent across California and was designed to deliver results at the scale necessary to satisfy the required numbers.

The Proposed Shift

This proposed amendment shifts away from that strategy by removing city-owned sites and the RFP process, relying primarily on refined versions of smaller, voluntary mixed-use programs and church sites. Removing the RFP process also removes the ability to motivate developers to provide other civic resources as part of their projects. The question is whether this revised approach can realistically produce the number and type of housing units Carmel needs, not just what our assigned RHNA number requires, and within the required time frame.

City-Owned Sites as Strategic Assets

City-owned parking lots are highly valuable land and by most measures, the only locations capable of addressing both our housing needs and our long-standing parking constraints through integrated, structured solutions. It is not clear that there is broad community consensus to remove these sites from consideration, particularly given the widely acknowledged and growing parking challenges in Carmel today.

What We Risk Walking Away From

A well-structured RFP process using city-owned land is not just a housing tool. It is a rare opportunity to solve multiple long-standing challenges at once. Could public-private partnerships built around city-owned land deliver all of the following simultaneously?

- Dedicated senior housing with appropriate amenities and parking
- Workforce and affordable housing for first responders, teachers, artists, and other essential workers
- Market-rate housing that cross-subsidizes affordable units
- Underground parking for the additional housing units and the public to address one Carmel's most chronic long-standing challenges
- Hotel rooms that could generate Transient Occupancy Tax revenue at a meaningful scale
- A new civic campus consolidating our aged police station, public works facilities, and perhaps City Hall staff into a modern one-stop center for city services

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. It is precisely the model well-capitalized development partners bring to city-owned site RFPs across California. The City contributes land value. The developer contributes financing, expertise, and market relationships. Parking revenue and TOT income service development costs over time, potentially eliminating the need to float general obligation bonds, draw on the general fund, or seek property tax increases requiring approval by property owners. Included in both the current and proposed plan is a practical and economically powerful hotel key transfer strategy. Under this approach, older or

underperforming hotel rooms could be retired and converted into long-term housing, including both market-rate and potentially deed-restricted units. Those hotel "keys" would then be transferred to new, purpose-built hotel rooms on an appropriate site.

This creates a dual benefit. It increases housing supply by converting existing units into residential use, with existing parking lots, while allowing new hotel rooms to be built in a more suitable location where they can generate significantly higher Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue. That increased revenue can help support public improvements, infrastructure, and potentially offset development costs.

Critically, this strategy depends on having appropriately located sites to receive the keys with sufficient scale, which city-owned properties are uniquely positioned to provide. Without those sites, the hotel key program becomes a piecemeal basis and far more difficult to implement at a meaningful scale.

By removing city-owned sites from this amendment before this approach is tested, we risk closing the door on a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

Feasibility of the Proposed Approach

The alternative approach outlined in the amendment relies only on ADUs, mixed-use conversions, and other voluntary programs. While these tools can contribute incremental units, their ability to deliver housing at scale, and to serve the intended populations, is uncertain.

ADUs are assumed to play a significant role in unit production. However, ADUs are typically not deed-restricted and are often used for purposes other than long-term housing for seniors, workforce residents, or other priority groups. They may be used for periodic stays by friends and family, home offices, 30-day rentals where permitted, or higher-rent market uses. As a result, there is a meaningful risk that a substantial portion of projected ADU production will not translate into housing that serves Carmel's identified needs.

The proposed plan also relies heavily on commercial-to-residential and live/work conversions. While these may appear straightforward in concept, the practical realities are often far more complex. Even a modest change of use, such as adding a residential unit to an existing commercial space, can trigger significant building code requirements.

These may include full fire sprinkler systems throughout the entire structure, ADA compliant restrooms, accessibility upgrades, and other life-safety improvements.

These requirements can materially increase project costs, reduce usable space, and extend approval timelines. Similar projects have taken over five years to move through Carmel's system. In some cases, they may render projects financially infeasible altogether. As a result, there is a meaningful risk that a substantial portion of these projected units will not be realized or will be delayed well beyond this planning period.

While innovative methods were used to survey downtown Carmel properties, in the end, there appears to be no written confirmation that building owners are firmly committed to participating in any of these programs and it doesn't seem that the amendment has accounted for this in its projections.

Parking Constraints and Real World Experience

The proposed approach assumes that mixed-use and residential projects can be delivered without on-site parking. Recent experience suggests otherwise. A recently approved mixed-use project that would have produced some of the first apartment units in decades faced significant community concern regarding parking impacts, ultimately requiring the addition of parking that greatly increased project costs and created significant delays.

This raises a practical question. If that project, which actually used city-approved parking requirements, encountered resistance and added cost due to parking constraints, how likely is it that a larger number of smaller projects, each adding incremental demand to already constrained downtown streets, will move forward smoothly and at scale? If these projects require added parking to gain approval, their financial feasibility would be eliminated. If they proceed without parking, they risk increasing pressure on an already limited public parking supply. Either outcome calls into question whether this approach can reliably deliver housing units at the scale and pace required.

Risk of Non-Performance

What is the Builder's Remedy exposure if this approach falls short? If we do not meet our obligations at scale, we risk losing local control over development in ways that could have far greater impacts on community character than a well-planned project delivered through an RFP process.

A Non-Binary Path Forward

This does not have to be a binary choice. The programs included in the amendment have value and were part of the original strategy. The question is whether they should replace the RFP approach or be layered alongside it. Pursuing both would provide multiple paths to success and increase the likelihood that we meet our obligations. The smaller programs could begin producing incremental units immediately while the RFP process moves forward in parallel, providing near-term production alongside long-term transformational capacity.

Questions for Consideration

Before adopting this amendment, I respectfully ask that the following questions be addressed on the public record:

1. What is the realistic unit yield and income level of the proposed program-based approach, broken down by program type, and how many of those units are expected to serve seniors and workforce households?
2. What assumptions does this approach rely on regarding actual verified building owner participation, required code revisions, and staff processing capacity?
3. What analysis has been done of the true costs and feasibility of live/work and mixed-use conversions in Carmel's permitting environment, including coastal zone considerations and change of use triggers?
4. Is there sufficient appropriately located land for the hotel key program to operate at a scale that meaningfully contributes to our mandated numbers at the prices assumed?
5. What civic, fiscal, and community benefits would be foregone by removing cityowned parking lots from the sites inventory before a competitive RFP has been attempted?
6. Has the Builder's Remedy risk been formally evaluated and disclosed to the public?

I would also ask whether the proposed amendment represents a credible and compliant path to meeting Carmel's housing commitments, or whether it introduces the very compliance risk the original approved strategy was designed to avoid. Why not layer the updated programs on top of the original city sites and RFP process to assure a higher likelihood of success?

A Final Thought on Our Seniors

Carmel's senior residents deserve to age in the community they helped build. That is not a sentiment. It should be our planning obligation. The Carmel Foundation's 50 units represent a fraction of what is needed, and the gap is growing as rents rise and fixed incomes do not keep pace. What if a well-structured RFP process for city-owned sites could realistically deliver 150 or more additional senior units in a purpose-built setting with appropriate services and amenities? A collection of scattered voluntary programs heavily dependent on unregulated ADUs and complex commercial conversions is a far less certain path to that same outcome. Which approach gives Carmel's seniors the best realistic chance of staying home? I would ask the Council to keep that question at the center of this discussion.

Carmel has a genuine opportunity here, not just to meet a state mandate, but to solve parking, civic facilities, senior and workforce housing, and long-term revenue generation in a single integrated effort that could cost taxpayers nothing, all made possible because it is our land that gives us this leverage. I hope we do not foreclose that opportunity without fully understanding what we would be giving up.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Byrne

Carmel Resident and Mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea
dbyrne@cbs.us

LETTERS

From page 26A

endorsed and just recently voted to submit to the state?

Mary Condry, Carmel

The mayor's dealings?

Dear Editor,

For the past few months, I have observed (mostly by reading The Pine Cone) an incredible collaboration between the housing alternatives group, city staff, city council, and Mayor Dale Byrne to produce a housing element that suits our village, as well as satisfies the requirements set out by Sacramento. In the past few weeks, the mayor, using the bully pulpit provided by The Pine Cone, has been trying to derail this months-long effort. Word on the street is that there is already a developer in talks with the mayor and the developer is actively trying to scuttle the new housing proposal by sending opposition letters directly to Sacramento, bypassing citizens and local government. I voted for Byrne because I believed he had the best interest of Carmel residents at heart. I ask now that he be forthright and public about his dealings.

Chris Wagner, Carmel

'Sacramento nonsense'

Dear Editor,

My opposition to another Carmel Valley development is centered on an existing problem: traffic.

Curving, hilly, two-lane, 50 mph Carmel Valley Road has more than 200 existing driveways from Highway 1 to the village. Exiting from homes, schools, churches, shopping centers, a fire station and a growing number of

businesses is difficult and dangerous. A third "merging lane" was added in some places. Crossing to that third lane is treacherous. Some speeding drivers think the third lane is for passing. Tailgating is prevalent, irritating and unsafe.

I'm told more than 1,000 new units are already approved, including Rancho Cañada, Hacienda Carmel, Quail area, September Ranch, et al. Even 90 more units with over 200 trucks and cars will make a bad situation worse. Further, we are told additional development is dictated by the state. Thus, Monterey County is "following orders." Sacramento nonsense.

Ron Read, Carmel Valley

C.V. trail needed

Dear Editor,

It's interesting to read that Patrick Orosco, the very person proposing a 90-unit subdivision in tiny Carmel Valley Village, can speak with reckless abandon of Carmel Valley traffic being at the "point where it's at saturation." It seems the California Builders Remedy legislation must have override powers when it comes to existing master plans and traffic triggers. Nevertheless, perhaps there is an opportunity presenting itself. It would be wonderful if this development, hopefully much smaller than currently proposed, included, as a cooperative effort, a recreation trail for pedestrians and bicycles. The trail could stretch from the development location, through the village and extend to Garland Park, or better yet to Mid Valley Shopping Center or beyond. Mitigation of traffic impact would be only one of the many benefits of the trail. There are numerous examples of similar, successful trail projects throughout California.

Jim Dunn, Carmel Valley

Sell Flanders Mansion

Dear Editor,

We all deeply value Carmel's historic character and the irreplaceable cultural assets that define our community. Among these, Flanders Mansion stands as one of our more significant architectural treasures. Precisely because of its importance, I believe the time has come for the city to sell the property to a qualified private owner who can restore and preserve it in a way the city has been unable to achieve after decades.

For more than 50 years, the Flanders Mansion has remained vacant, deteriorating steadily despite the city's best intentions. The problem is the city does not have the financial capacity, staffing resources, or long-term operational resources needed to rehabilitate and maintain this historic building. As a result, the mansion continues to decline, an outcome none of us who care about preservation can accept.

A private sale, with strong and enforceable historic preservation covenants, offers the only realistic path to saving the mansion before its condition worsens beyond repair. A qualified private steward can invest the substantial funds required for restoration, provide ongoing maintenance, and bring the property back to life in a way that honors its architectural and cultural significance. This approach is not a loss for preservation; it is the most effective preservation strategy available.

Importantly, selling the mansion does not compromise the Mission Trail Nature Preserve or public access to its trails. The city can, and should, retain control of the surrounding open space while ensuring that any buyer adheres to strict preservation standards. This balanced approach protects both the natural environment and the historic structure, as well as the local neighbors who want private ownership once again.

Preservation is about safeguarding the past for the

future. After decades of inaction, the status quo is no longer preservation — it is slow deterioration. A responsible sale is the only path that ensures the mansion is restored, protected and appreciated for generations to come.

Carolyn White, Carmel

The rich and the poor

Dear Editor,

In scripture, generosity toward the poor is commanded, but it is to rise from a conscience pierced and softened by God, not from coercion by the state. Paul urges believers to give "not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7), and the early church's radical sharing flows from hearts seized by grace, not from imposed levies (Acts 4:32-35). Zacchaeus offers restitution and generosity freely after encountering Christ's mercy (Lk 19:8-9), a picture of transformed stewardship rather than forced extraction. Biblical justice certainly calls us to defend the poor (Prov 14:31; Jas 1:27), yet it insists that true righteousness is rooted in worship and repentance, not merely in redirected tax flows.

At the same time, every human being implicated in a "mansion tax" debate — wealthy homeowner, tenant, bureaucrat, activist, developer — is a unique and infinitely precious image-bearer of God. Humanity is created "in the image of God" (Gen 1:27), and the Lord knows each person by name and story (Isa 43:1; Ps 139:1-4). When policy frameworks divide the world into demonized and valorized classes — "the rich" as villains, "the poor" or "the homeless" as automatic saints — they transgress this fundamental truth. God shows no partiality (Deut 10:17; Rom 2:11), and in Christ the decisive identity is not rich or poor, owner or renter, but beloved sinner summoned to repentance and life (Gal 3:28).

A critical tax approach that uses a mansion tax to punish one class and reward another may gesture toward justice, but it risks training our hearts to hate neighbors instead of loving them. The law may curb excess and fund mercy, yet Christians must protest any rhetoric that forgets the face of the individual before God. Each taxpayer and each beneficiary is someone for whom Christ died (Rom 5:8), someone whose worth is inscribed not in an assessment roll, but in the wounds of the Lamb (Rev 5:9).

Tyson Holmes, Carmel

Chavez did good

Dear Editor,

I read your March 20 editorial, "The Infamous Cesar Chavez," with keen interest. As you noted, his birthday has been a U.S. federal commemorative holiday since 2014 and has been celebrated even longer in California. As a longtime school teacher, I've dedicated lessons to Chavez and witnessed more than a few student projects inspired by the UFW, some even with input from Dolores Huerta, herself. These recent revelations are shocking, as they force us to reflect on the true legacy we honor in our classrooms and communities.

I respect The Carmel Pine Cone and look forward to each issue as a resident interested in connecting with my community. I was disheartened to see your editorial ignore the suffering of those Chavez targeted — including Huerta — and focus instead on criticizing the left, their vaunted information outlets (The New York Times: "an authoritative left-wing source"), and the rush to canonize their heroes. While every media outlet has its biases (Fox? MS NOW?), journalism should prioritize the full story, regardless of the influence or complexity of figures such as Chavez. Dismissing trauma for the sake of owning the libs undermines meaningful dialogue and the healing process.

In line with your idea that venerating Chavez is ill-conceived, is it problematic that schools and monuments are named for Washington and Jefferson? The inevitable renaming of buildings in our not-too-distant future comes to mind as well, and you don't need this teacher to explain that! I'll never buy the "times were different then" argument. Be better.

John Schubert, Monterey




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FIRE

From page 1A

she searches for a place to live.

Falk moved from a Pacific Grove studio into Casanova Plaza in February 2023 after a five-year wait on the housing authority's list. "I was excited because it was the first time I'd been in a huge apartment complex like that," she recalled.

Cat woke her

The 46,000-square-foot, 86-unit building, which was constructed in 1972, was intended for senior housing, according to Falk, a longtime Monterey Peninsula resident. She worked as a caregiver but is on disability after being injured on the job when a patient fell on her, fracturing several of her vertebrae.

Early the morning of March 9, Falk and Sassy had fallen asleep when, around 3:30, the cat awakened her.

"She stood up and put her ears back, and she jumped up and went underneath the bed," Falk recalled.

She heard an alarm sounding somewhere, followed by banging. Falk recalled making her way to the front door and opening it to be greeted with a dense, black cloud of smoke. She couldn't see anything, she said, but was found by a neighbor, Lino Chavez, who called her name and reached for her hand in the darkness.

"He's my guardian angel," she said. "He literally pulled me out."

But she first tried to save Sassy, who was hiding under the bed. Falk grabbed a spray bottle filled with water to try to flush her out, but it didn't work.

"I couldn't reach her, and all the time, he's yelling, 'We have to go! We have to go!'" she said. "I'm so sad — I failed her."

She said she and Chavez were among the last residents to escape the burning building, gagging, coughing and covered in soot, and join the crowd on the sidewalk below. "I'm barefoot, walking around in a little nightie and no underwear, and I look down, and I'm still holding that water bottle," she said. "I didn't think to grab my purse or my keys or my shoes that were all right by the door."

The fire had started in a nearby third-floor unit, according to Falk, who said the tenant told her an electric recliner had caught on fire.

On the street and cold, and without her glasses, Falk described being disoriented and wandering, somewhat in a daze, as she searched for a bathroom. She was heading for the nearby Chevron station when a paramedic caught up with her and told her

she needed to go to the hospital.

During that time, a friend who'd lost sight of her told a firefighter she might have reentered the building to try to find Sassy. After fire crews made their way into her apartment and opened the sliding glass door to the balcony, some residents across the street later said they'd seen the cat jump from the railing and land on the grass below, according to Falk.

"She collapsed completely, with all four legs spread out, on her belly," Falk said they told her, and after several attempts to regain her footing, the soot-covered cat finally got up and headed for a wooded area nearby.

After being treated for smoke inhalation and other issues at the hospital, and then checking in to the Hyatt, where the housing authority had arranged temporary stays for the dozens of displaced residents, Falk said a friend drove her back to the complex so she could search for Sassy.

More than three weeks later, and after a firefighter told her he'd found no remains in the apartment, she continues to return daily to look for her cat, with help from friends.

"I've gotten a tremendous amount of calls and pictures and gone to a bunch of sightings, but it's never her," she said Wednesday. "When do you stop looking?"

While enduring the heartbreak of losing her feline best friend, Falk is also looking for a new place to live and to replace everything she lost. After several days at the Hyatt, the housing authority moved the victims to a motel in Marina, and the non-profit All-In Monterey has been collecting necessities for them and helping to cover their lodging costs.

"I lost everything. Before they gated off the property, I was able to have a fireman take me up to my unit, and it was like a bomb went off," she said. "There was no ceiling. The roof had caved in."

"How do you start over completely at 61?" Falk asked.

Housing authority responds

Amid complaints they're not doing enough to help the Casanova Plaza residents who remain displaced, officials from the housing authority this week pointed out they paid for the Hyatt rooms and have continued working daily to help their former tenants find new homes.

As of Tuesday, 32 residents had secured "longer-term housing," according to the organization.

"Even though Casanova is a market-rate property and not a public housing site, HACM staff have been working daily to support residents during this difficult time, including helping residents identify

and access available housing assistance resources where appropriate and partnering with All-In Monterey, which is helping provide furniture and other essential household items," they said. "Displaced residents continue to receive on-site support from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. seven days a week, with hours extended as needed."

That support includes working with property management companies and others to locate and facilitate housing, transportation, daily meals, laundry service and furnishings.

The housing authority is collaborating with All-In Monterey, the Central Coast Center for Independent Living and the Veterans Transition Center.

"While these efforts help move the process forward, placement ultimately depends on available inventory and resident acceptance of units offered," the organization said. "Many residents are seeking housing specifically within the City of Monterey, where options are more limited and competition is high."

In the meantime, insurance adjusters are conducting their investigation, after which residents whose apartments were not destroyed will be able to retrieve their belongings.

MFD investigation complete

Division Chief Justin Cooper led the investigation but was unable to conclude what started the fire, which originated in the living room of unit 311 and led to the death of 95-year-old Doreen Ellis, whose

bedroom in unit 309 shared a common wall, according to Monterey Fire. Ellis and another victim had been transferred to the burn unit in a trauma center in Santa Clara, while six others were treated at Community Hospital.

A fire engineer had found Ellis "on the bed inside the bedroom, with the apartment fully charged with smoke and active fire present," according to Cooper's report. "Reported injuries included thermal burns to the head and face, soot and smoke inhalation." She died nine hours later.

After inspecting the building, which predated the requirement for automatic fire sprinklers, Cooper could not find conclusive evidence of a single source. The housing authority has said Casanova Plaza was a non-smoking building, and the report makes no mention of cigarettes.

"Due to multiple plausible ignition sources within the area of origin such as motorized recliner electrical components, battery power units, a candle holder, a gas wall heater, and the extent of the fire damage obscuring critical evidence, the first item ignited and the ignition sequence could not be conclusively established," he wrote.

Based on market rates, Cooper estimated the structural losses at just under \$500,000 per unit and the content losses at \$80,000 per unit, while the value of the structure and contents saved totaled \$45,640,000.

"Final loss values are subject to insurance adjustment and appraisal," he noted.

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The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

Stevenson, Carmel boys compete for chance to ace their tennis seasons

DON QUIXOTE had more success battling windmills than Monterey County's boys tennis opponents have experienced over the years against the Stevenson Pirates, who are highly likely this year to win their 40th league championship title since 1981.

If they capture the Pacific Coast Athletic League's

Page (now playing on UCLA's club team), from its 2025 roster (12-0 in the Gabilan), and lost its No. 4 player, Jacob Forste, who returned to Europe for his senior year.

But head coach Matt Rymzo believes he has as many as six players worthy of competing for four singles spots in a sport that allows just four. The two who get bumped off the singles ladder will deepen an already talented pool of doubles candidates.

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

Gabilan Division crown again, the Pirates will redecorate their trophy case for the fifth year in a row and the eighth time in nine seasons.

Stevenson graduated its No. 1 singles player, Cameron



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Georges Guerree, a Carmel junior, steps into the No. 1 singles position for the Padres, where he'll be tested by the county's best players.

Tasuku Nagashima, juniors Ryan Barsamian, Alan You and Moritz Manchot, sophomore Mason Brieker, and freshmen Diego Montano and Lukas Brandt.

A powerful start

As for that quest for a fifth-straight league trophy, the Pirates made an early statement in the Gabilan Division with decisive 5-2 victories over Pacific Grove (previously 9-0) and Carmel.

Those results, plus Tuesday's Gabilan Division conquest of York and non-division wins over Scotts Valley and Soquel, put the Pirates at 5-0 overall, 3-0 in the division.

Stevenson and Carmel played their rematch on Thursday (result unavailable at press time).

See **TENNIS** next page



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Junior Lyke Yoon, Stevenson's No. 1 player, will have to defend that lineup position via challenge matches when two formidable teammates return from an injury and an illness.

Sidelined players to return

Lyke Yoon, a junior in his final year of eligibility, began the current week as Stevenson's No. 1 singles player but will have to defend that perch when sophomore Ben Smith (an experienced tournament player) returns from a shoulder injury. Varsity veteran Daniyal Alvi also figures into the mix when he recovers from an illness that has sidelined him for all but one match this year — a 6-2, 6-0 victory over Scotts Valley's Aditya Hannon on March 5 (opening day), when he played No. 2 in the Pirates' lineup.

"We have a nice distribution of upperclassmen and youth, and I haven't ever had that kind of balance before," said Rymzo, whose 14-player varsity roster includes four seniors, four juniors, three sophomores and three freshmen.

"I like the youth, I like the energy, and I like our senior leadership," he added.

Yoon (aggressive baseline player, good forehand), Smith (left-handed, a built-in asset) and Alvi (expected to return this week) are projected to settle into the top three spots — the order will be determined by challenge matches — with sophomore Julien Hermans, senior Vincent Pierre (missed last season with a knee injury), and freshman Baden Faulkner (6-foot-4, all-court baseliner) jockeying for No. 4.

The players who fill the three available doubles slots will be a season-long experiment to find out which pairings work best. Other contenders for those positions include senior Wolfie Egan and

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TENNIS

From previous page

Carmel's starting lineup is settled, said coach Brian Cory, since the Padres have only 10 players on the roster this season. The singles positions are filled with three juniors and a freshman, and the doubles teams are populated with two seniors and four sophomores.

"Stevenson is the favorite to repeat as the league champion, but we're hoping to compete for second or third place with our small roster," Cory said.

Padres are tenacious

"This Padre team is gritty, young and hungry to compete and win," said the coach, whose squad has Gabilan victories over Monte Vista Christian (5-2) and York



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Varsity veteran Christophe Fort holds Carmel's No. 2 singles slot in his junior year.

(4-3), and losses to Stevenson (5-2) and Pacific Grove (4-3). Carmel was scheduled for division rematches with Pacific Grove on Tuesday and Stevenson on Thursday, and a non-division match against Soquel on Wednesday. (Results unavailable at press time.)

Junior Georges Guerree, a team captain, moved into the No. 1 singles position this year — where his determination and all-court game are assets.

"Georges is a very good competitor," Cory said. "He tries hard and hates to lose, but stepping up to play No. 1 is a tough transition for him."

His co-captain, junior Christophe Fort, has similar attributes, said the coach, and is expected to improve as he gains experience against opposing No. 2 players.

Another junior, Brad Barstad, uses his height to impose his will on opponents and is expected to become more formidable as he gains consistency.

Freshman Leo Iranmanesh is "a gritty grinder," Cory said of his No. 4 player. "He needs more experience, but he loves to battle, never gives up, and he'll get better as the season goes on."

Sophomores dominate doubles

The Padres' doubles combinations currently feature all-sophomore teams at No. 1 and No. 2, and a senior tandem at No. 3.

"We're still mixing it up, trying to find the right combinations to compete," he said. "They're all learning doubles strategy and working together as a group to maximize their skill sets."

The No. 1 team as the week began was composed of Van Myrold and Cole Sciuto, with William Walker and Ely Popky as the No. 2 pairing. All are 10th-graders.

At No. 3 doubles are Michael Dowse and Nathan Savoie, both seniors.

"Our team morale and camaraderie have been awe-



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Stevenson's wealth of singles players creates strong competition, but Julien Hermans, a sophomore, is likely to earn a spot in the lineup.

some," Cory said. "The players know they're playing for their Padre pride, and I expect them to compete hard for the rest of the season."

"They're all playing higher in the lineup than expected, which will be a great experience for them," he said. "Our goal hasn't changed — we'd like to finish at least second in the Gabilan, and give ourselves a shot to make the CCS team tournament."

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

Library foundation fundraiser focuses on power

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL Public Library Foundation's annual fundraiser this year is "The We the People Edition: The Pursuit of Liberty and America's 250-Year Battle Over Power," a conversation between constitutional scholar, podcaster and best-selling author Jeffrey Rosen and Amanda Tyler, professor of constitutional law at UC Berkeley. The event will take place April 28 at 8 p.m. in Sunset Center at San Carlos and Ninth.

Rosen, professor and CEO emeritus of the National

Constitution Center, "explores how the Constitution has guided our nation through its most turbulent periods, addressing challenges to civic dialogue, access to information, and freedoms that define our democratic society," according to the nonprofit foundation, which helps fund the libraries and is heavily involved in the renovation of the nearly century-old building at Lincoln and Ocean.

The George Washington University professor and host of the weekly "We the People" podcast "offers compelling and relevant perspectives on history, law and politics, bringing historical context to contemporary civic and legal issues," the group said. Rosen's books include bestsellers "The Pursuit of Happiness: How Classical Writers on Virtue Inspired the Lives of the Founders and Defined America," and "The Pursuit of Liberty: How Hamilton vs. Jefferson Ignited the Lasting Battle Over Power in America."

Tyler holds the inaugural Thomas David & Judith Swope Clark Chair in Constitutional Law at the UC Berkeley School of Law, and her research and teaching interests focus on the Supreme Court, federal courts, constitutional law, legal history, civil procedure and statutory interpretation. With Ginsburg, she co-authored "Justice, Justice Thou Shalt Pursue: A Life's Work Fighting for a More Perfect Union."

Prior to joining Berkeley Law in 2012, Tyler served on the faculty of the George Washington University Law School and was a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, New York University School of Law and the University of Virginia School of Law.

Tickets can be purchased at carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org, with standard admission priced at \$45 to \$75, including wine tasting, the program, and a book sale and signing starting at 7 p.m. VIP admission is \$175 and includes hors d'oeuvres, wine, an advanced book sale and signing beginning at 6:30, and VIP program seating.

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Cherry Center explores the ‘Threads of Influence’

AN EXHIBIT opening Friday at the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts, “Learning Curve: Threads of Influence,” explores the relationships between fine art photographers and their mentors, as well as their students.

According to the center, the show delves into “the revered ‘arch of inspiration’ that exists between teacher and student, mentor and mentee, and sensei and seito.” The show was curated by award-winning photographer Richard Murai, whose honors include Best of Show at the Center for Photographic Art’s 2015 International Juried Portfolio Competition.

Included are images by Edna Bullock, Murai, Ann Jas-trab, Kenneth Parker, Brian Taylor and others — along with pieces by their mentors and/or students. Also, there will be a free panel talk April 12 at 2 p.m.

The center is located at Fourth and Guadalupe and its website is carlcherrycenter.org.

■ Raising a glass

As part of First Friday in downtown Pacific Grove April 3, Artisana Gallery is marking its latest milestone with a festive gathering starting at 6 p.m. Featuring jewelry, pottery, paintings and photography by local artists, the gallery, at 612 Lighthouse Avenue, has long been a spark behind the monthly event.

“We are celebrating 18 years in business, and the public is invited to join us for refreshments, fun and community,” the gallery said.

■ Grants for arts groups

Many arts groups rely on the generosity of taxpayers to keep their missions alive — including the beneficiaries of grants handed out by the Arts Council for Monterey County.

The group is accepting applications for its spring community arts grants through April 13. According to the group, the grants “are designed to empower local nonprofit organizations to bring vibrant public arts and culture programs to life across the region.”

Up to \$7,500 annually is available to support both new initiatives and existing programs. Eligible groups must have annual revenue of less than \$3 million.

“We are proud to support the vision of our local organizations that work tirelessly to enrich our community through the arts,” said Jacquie Atchison, executive director

of the arts council. “Whether it’s a mural, a performance or a community workshop, these grants help ensure that arts and culture remain accessible to everyone in Monterey County.”

For more details, visit arts4mc.org.

■ Feel the energy

The fine art of Ikebana flower arranging is highlighted at Venture Gallery in Monterey, which hosts a demonstration by expert Sachiko Yokata Saturday at 3 p.m. The event is part of a monthlong celebration of spring at the gallery, which is located at 260 Alvarado St.

“The season of spring invites one to feel the promise of new growth, and a joyous burst of blooms and opportunities that longer days bring,” the gallery’s Edi Matsumoto said. “The member artists of the gallery are feeling this energy and are sharing it — during the whole month of April, they will feature spring-themed art and live artist demonstrations.”

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

Also participating in First Friday is the Pacific Grove Art Center, which hosts a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Five shows are on display there through April 23 — including “Emerging Narratives” by painters and printmakers Robynn Smith and Eva Bernstein, which explores “the power of visual language” to tell stories. Singer and keyboardist Glenn Leon-Guerrero will play old-school R&B at the reception. The art center is located at 568 Lighthouse Ave.



Painter Dee Steiner’s “Serenade” is featuring in a show that opens Saturday at Venture Gallery in Monterey.

The Carmel Pine Cone

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ARTIST

From page 27A

Rob Parsons," who became her husband. "I moved with him to the Monterey Peninsula the following year."

The couple settled in Toro Park and became parents to a son and daughter.

Rob, who worked for the Bureau of Land Management, Monterey County Surveyors, and Salinas Valley Surveyors, contracted melanoma and passed away in December 2006 at age 57.

On the Monterey Peninsula, Emily Parsons renewed her appetite for spreading joy — first in business, then in art.

In 1988, she founded Creative Solutions, an innovative consulting company whose clients over a 30-year period were philanthropists, nonprofits and community groups.

"It was all about figuring out what an organization needed, then coming up with an outside-the-box solution for them. I absolutely loved the problem-solving — that was the creative part," said Parsons, who consulted for Friends of the Sea Otter, Planned Parenthood, Natividad Hospital and Monterey Peninsula College, among others.

She also served for 10 years as executive director of the William McCaskey & Adeline Dinsmore Chapman Foundation, which funded education programs on the Monterey Peninsula.

When her mother died in 2011, Emily Hull-Parsons inherited the art supplies Nancy Hull never used.

Painting for Nancy?

"My mom didn't paint because she decided she wasn't going to be good enough," she said. "So, when I retired in 2014, I thought, 'I've probably got 30 more years ... what am I going to do with them?'"

"And when I started painting, I wondered, 'Am I painting for Nancy?'"

Early days at the easel were an exer-

cise in artistic growth. She recalls a class at MPC in which the instructor liked to circulate among the students, doling out compliments.

"She looked at my painting and said, 'My, you certainly have a lot of paint on that canvas,'" Parsons laughed. "After that, we'd all check out each other's work and say, 'a lot of paint on that canvas!'"

When Covid struck, Parsons challenged herself to finish a painting a day for 30 days (part of a fundraiser) and offer them at affordable prices.

"I sold something almost every day — usually to somebody local — and I've continued to sell my work cheap ever since," she said. "I tend to paint quickly, and those paintings pile up. If somebody likes one, I want them to take it home."

Her mission to spread joy also extends to volunteerism. She's a certified retirement coach who has taught multiple classes at CSU Monterey Bay through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), including "Daily Practices for Happiness," "Finding Purpose," "Healthy, Happy Retirement," and "Navigating Life Transitions."

She also has served as a docent at Point Lobos.

A long-awaited reunion

Twenty-plus years ago, Parsons reunited with her eighth-grade boyfriend from that Illinois "tractor town." Tom Gould is a retired internet technology executive for John Deere.

"He asked me to marry him on top of the Eiffel Tower, which was very romantic," she said.

Emily's daughter, Leah, is a two-time mom in Denver, and her son, Chris — an engineer — is the father of two in Los Angeles. Tom brought two daughters of his own into their union, plus two of his own grandchildren.

Parsons shows her art at Monterey Peninsula Art Forum (425 Cannery Row) and Avant Garden (13766 Center St., Carmel Valley Village). Images of her work can be viewed at emilyhullparsons.com.

The Carmel Pine Cone



APRIL 3, 2026

WOMEN
IN BUSINESS

Inside this week's Pine Cone!

The Monterey Peninsula is home to hundreds of small businesses, including many owned and run by dynamic, entrepreneurial women whose success stories are an inspiration to us all.

Mark your calendar to be a part of our next Women in Business on September 4th!

Food & Wine
Galleries and Art

This Week

Live Music,
Clubs and Events

Husband-wife duo plays Sunset, Golden State hosts tribute show

A HUSBAND-and-wife duo whose soulful sound has been a big hit with country music fans, **War & Treaty** takes the stage Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Sunset Center.

Showcasing the talents of singers **Michael and Tanya Trotter**, War & Treaty was nominated for a Grammy

including "Plus One," which was released last year.

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



War & Treaty, featuring singers Michael and Tanya Trotter, plays Friday at Sunset Center. The duo was nominated for a Grammy Award three years ago.

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

Award for Best New Artist in 2023, and they've twice been named Duo/Group of the Year by the Americana Music Honors & Awards. Their music has been described as "a gumbo of soul, blues, country, folk and gospel." The duo has recorded five studio albums since their first in 2016,



Classical guitarist Richard Devinck performs Thursday, 6 p.m., at the InterContinental Hotel in Monterey.

Phil Collins forever

Paying tribute to a singer and drummer who won over progressive rock fans with Genesis before scoring numerous pop hits as a solo act, **The Phil Collins Story** comes to Golden State Theatre in Monterey Friday at 7 p.m.

"Sing along, clap along, and feel every beat," suggested the tribute group, which is led by singer **Seth Eliser**. "It's a high-energy, hit-packed party that takes you on a nostalgic ride from Phil's chart-topping days with Genesis to the unforgettable solo anthems you know by heart."

A Grammy and Academy Award winner, Collins had a string of pop hits in the 1980s, starting with "In the Air Tonight" and "You Can't Hurry Love." He's 75 and no longer performs.

Tickets start at \$42. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com.

Choral kids

Celebrating choral works for more than four decades, **I Cantori di Carmel** is launching a year-round classical youth chorus and hosting auditions for singers ages 9 to 14. "This season, they'll be singing 'Carmina Burana' with the I Cantori di Carmel chorus and orchestra," the choral group announced. "This musical adventure includes classical vocal technique, musicianship, language and diction, and ensemble performance."

Auditions are open through March. For more details, visit icantori.org/programs.

Live music March 27-April 2

Big Sur

Big Sur River Inn — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (folk, Saturday, 12:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Victor Veysey** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 46800 Highway 1.

Fernwood Resort — **Midheaven, Give Me A Dollar** (indie rock, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

See MUSIC page 42A



Hello Sunshine

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FOOD & WINE

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HERE'S A fun Easter-adjacent conversation starter for Sunday: Nowhere in the nursery rhyme does it say that Humpty Dumpty was an egg.

While you're pondering — or googling — the implications of that, here's another list of spots to celebrate the spring holiday. Once the leftover hard-boiled eggs are in the fridge, you can make plans for an upcoming wine dinner, a fundraiser for young golfers, and a class in making pie crusts you can be proud of.

carrots, with carrot cake for dessert. And, as an alternative to the classic mimosa, try the maracuyá (passion fruit) peach bellini.

Soup to Nuts

For reservations, call (831) 620-7454, or visit OpenTable.com.

Anton & Michel

In the Court of the Fountains between Ocean & Seventh, Anton & Michel will offer an Easter brunch from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It starts with champagne, a mimosa, bloody mary, or orange juice. That's followed by Caesar salad or lobster bisque, a choice of wild mushroom risotto, braised lamb shank, filet mignon, seafood fric-assee, sesame-crust ahi tuna, or baked chicken breast, and a selection of desserts with coffee or tea. Adults eat for \$75 and

■ Holiday celebrations

Terry's Restaurant + Lounge in the Cypress Inn at Lincoln and Seventh has added special holiday menu items to its brunch and dinner menus for Sunday. At brunch, you can order smoked salmon Benedict, and there's pork roast stuffed with spinach and goat cheese for dinner. At both meals, you can choose an Easter salad featuring quail egg, feta cheese and glazed

Continues next page



You don't have to hunt for Easter eggs at Old Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey. Festive decorations and bustling candy shops have them front and center, along with views, dining and ocean excursions.

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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

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Quiet day at home

In addition to a full-service grocery and thriving butcher shop with great cuts of lamb, pork loin, and prime and choice beef, Bruno's Market at Sixth and Junipero is offering Easter ham plates to go for \$19.99, and you can drop into Surf N Sand liquors next door to pick up a great bottle of wine or ingredients for a DIY mimosa bar.

Portola buffet

Portola Hotel at the foot of Alvarado Street in Monterey will host an elegant Easter brunch on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the De Anza Ballroom.

Guests can enjoy a lavish buffet featuring holiday favorites such as cinnamon swirl French toast with fresh spring berries, wild king salmon with sweet peas and wild mushrooms, maple-glazed ham, and apple crisp. Additional offerings include traditional eggs Benedict, cage-free scrambled eggs, a smoked salmon display with all the trimmings, peel-and-eat shrimp, artisan cheeses and cured meats, and sides like potatoes au gratin, cheese tortellini in creamy pesto, and sautéed organic spring vegetables.

Family-friendly festivities include Easter egg hunts at 10 a.m. and noon, live piano music by Dave Conley throughout the event, and Easter Bunny appearances from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Pricing is set at \$89.95 for adults, seniors 65 and older dine for \$74.95, youth ages 6-12 pay \$29.95, and younger kids eat free

Prices exclude tax and 20 percent service charge.

Make reservations by calling (831) 649-

Wharf outings

Old Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey invites locals and visitors to celebrate an "Egg-cellent Easter Weekend" on Saturday and Sunday.

The event will feature festive décor for photo opportunities, with the Easter Bunny available to pose with kids (of all ages) on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Worried that the baskets at your house



Terry's Restaurant + Lounge in the Cypress Inn has some special menu items for Easter, along with a sparkling passionfruit cocktail to kick things off.

might be a little light on sweets? Fear not. Carousel Candies, celebrating its 66th anniversary, will offer colorful chocolate bunnies — including sugar-free options — as well as eggs in rocky road, peanut, chocolate fudge, and vanilla nut flavors, plus

Continues next page



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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

the somewhat-polarizing marshmallow Peeps. They're also available at Wharf Chocolate Factory. Candy World will feature an assortment of chocolate eggs.

Several restaurants will offer special Easter menus, and visitors can enjoy whale watching, fishing trips, sailing and glass-bottom boat tours, too.



Sharon Runde of Sugar Science will lead classes in making the perfect pie crust later this month. After hearing her hard-earned tips, students will try their hands at making tasty, beautiful pastry.

■ A happening that's not Easter

PlumpJack Estate Winery, the brainchild of Gov. Gavin Newsom and Gordon Getty, will be featured during an April 8 wine dinner at La Playa hotel in Carmel. While Newsom and Getty no longer own the enterprise, it continues to turn out highly respected and rated wines, including three reserve cabernets sauvignons that earned perfect 100-point scores from Robert Parker's Wine Advocate.

PlumpJack is also well known for making the bold move in the 1990s to begin screw-capping its high-end wines so they wouldn't be spoiled by "cork taint," a phenomenon more formally known as trichloroanisole, which creates undesirable flavors and aromas in bottled wines. Getty and the winery's general manager introduced the caps with the flagship 1997 reserve cabernet sauvignon, and PlumpJack — now owned by several San Francisco-based LLCs — continues to bottle 50 percent of its estate and reserve cabs under screw cap and 50 percent under cork as part of a long-term experiment.

Several of its coveted creations will be showcased at La Playa during an evening that carries a \$450 price tag and kicks off at 6 p.m. with a reception offering tuna tartare, oysters with green apple mignonette and sauvignon blanc.

A spring-inspired first course of poached halibut with artichoke fritter and morel velouté, accompanied by 2024 reserve chardonnay, will follow.

Second will be glazed roast duck breast with parsnip purée and braised endive paired with 2022 merlot, and 2021 cabernet sauvignon will be paired with a main course of roasted prime ribeye with truffle pommes purée and sautéed spinach.



PlumpJack Estate wines will be highlighted during a three-course dinner at La Playa hotel April 8. A broad selection of varietals will be complemented by poached halibut, roast duck and other delicacies.

Savory pain perdu (the Frenchest of French toast) with fig mostarda, aged gouda, Point Reyes blue cheese, manchego and honeycomb — complemented by 2022 Adaptation petite syrah — will round out the feast.

Historic La Playa is at Camino Real and Eighth in Carmel. For more information and to reserve, visit laplayahotel.com/wine-dinner.

■ Growing young leaders

Registration is open for the 16th Annual Z Gal's Ladies Invitational & Leadership Luncheon, a fundraiser supporting girls youth development programs through First Tee — Monterey County.

The event is set for Tuesday at Tehama Golf Club. A 9-hole golf scramble begins with an 8 a.m. registration and 9 a.m. shotgun start, followed by a champagne reception which kicks off the leadership luncheon at noon. A lunch-only option is available for non-golfers.

The gathering brings together women leaders, golfers

Continues next page

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Easter Cards! Scarves!
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OPEN MON-SAT 11:30-7

DON'T FORGET...
BAUM & BLUME'S
PATIO RE-OPENS
FOR LUNCH SERVICE
SAT, APRIL 25!
CALL 659-0400 FOR
RESERVATIONS!

Carmel Host Lions Club 28th Annual



Pancake Breakfast in Bunnyland

Saturday, April 4th, 2026

8:30 am–Noon

Devendorf Park, corner of Ocean & Junipero

Breakfast with The Bunny

Join the Carmel Host Lions Club and Mr. Bunny himself for a wonderful Breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, orange juice, and coffee. \$7.00 for children 12 years old and younger; \$14.00 for adults; and \$36.00 for a family of 4 (2 adults and 2 children)

*Opportunity drawings for a bicycle, a tricycle, and Easter gift baskets

Bunnyland

Hosted by Monterey Peninsula Musical Theater
After Breakfast, visit "Bunnyland" for family fun!

- Face painting • Play fun carnival games and win prizes • Watch a show and dance on stage
- Get creative with themed crafts

Just \$10.00 per child for all-inclusive access to Bunnyland
(Breakfast not included)

THIS IS NOT AN EASTER EGG HUNT

Event sponsored by Carmel Host Lions Club, P.O. Box 3113, Carmel, CA, 93921

In case of rain, events will be held at the Carmel Youth Center, 4th & Torres

THE MONTEREY PENINSULA HAS SOME OF the world's best restaurants!



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Contact Meena: (831) 274-8655 | meena@carmelpinecone.com

From previous page

and community supporters for an inspiring afternoon of connection, mentorship and empowerment. Funds raised support First Tee's programs that help girls build confidence, develop leadership skills and learn life lessons through golf.

"This event is about creating access and opportunity for young women," said Jeremy Sarina, vice president of programs and golf operations for First Tee. "Support from the Z Gal's Invitational helps us provide consistent mentorship, character-building experiences and safe spaces

where girls can grow, learn and believe in their potential."

Golf-only registration is \$150 per person, lunch only is \$200, there's a hefty discount for foursomes who stay for lunch, and packages and sponsorship opportunities start at \$300. For details and registration, visit classy.org/event/z-gals-golf-invitational-and-ladies-leadership-luncheon/e725322. Questions can also be directed to development@firstteemontereycounty.org, or call (831) 800-3458.

■ **Easy as ...**

Most home cooks have a love/hate rela-

tionship with pie crust. You probably have — or maybe you are — that one relative whose pastry always turns out flaky and beautiful, while everyone else's shows signs of patchwork construction, scorched edges or overworked dough.

Sharon Runde, owner of Sugar Science, invites the hopeless and helpless to unravel the mysteries of pie dough during a hands-on class Saturday, April 18, at American Legion Post 512 at Dolores Street and Eighth Avenue.

Actually, beginners and longtime bakers alike can enjoy learning the science and techniques behind the perfect crust and will be guided step-by-step through mix-

ing and preparing their own to take home. Runde will share lessons she's learned the hard way, as well as covering creative edging designs.

Ingredients and tools are provided, and pie filling will be available for purchase so attendees can complete their ready-to-bake masterpieces.

The 90-minute sessions are \$45 each and are scheduled for 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Space is limited to six students per class. Register by April 17 at sugarsciencebaker.com/workshops.

This week's column was written by Elaine Hesser and Mary Schley.



Anton & Michel's terrace in the Court of the Fountains offers elegant outdoor Easter dining (you can sit inside, too), with a prix fixe menu that includes classic entrées, sides and desserts.

JOIN US FOR

Easter

Brunch starts at 10am - 2:30pm | Dinner Specials start at 3pm

PAN SEARED SEA BASS \$42
English Pea, Heirloom Carrots, Swiss Chard, Spring Celery Root Puree, Big Sur Citrus Gremolata

ROSEMARY RACK OF LAMB \$46
Dijon Toasted Pistachio, Del Mesa Garden Mint Jus, Scallop Potatoes

TRADITIONAL EASTER HAM \$38
Carmel Valley Honey, Bourbon Sugar Glazed, Roasted Glazed Carrots, Scallop Potatoes

SLOW ROASTED PRIME RIB NIGHT \$46
Monterey Bay Sea Salt, Secret Herb Rubbed Prime Rib, Swank Farms Butter Vegetables, Horseradish Creme Fraiche, Au Jus Sauce

SWANK FARMS SPRING ASPARAGUS RISOTTO \$34
English Pea, Fava Beans, Chanterelle Mushrooms, Parmesan Reggiano, Roasted Shallot



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TAKE BACK CALIFORNIA!

2026 CANDIDATE FORUM


Tuesday, April 21 | Meet & Greet 5:30 PM
Forum 6:00 PM

MEET THE CANDIDATES



MICHAEL GATES
Candidate for CA Attorney General


HERB MORGAN
Candidate for CA State Controller



STACY KORSGADEN
Candidate for Insurance Commissioner


SHANE LEWIS
Candidate for US Congress Dist 18


PETER VERBICA
Candidate for US Congress Dist 19


TUKA GAFARI
Candidate for US Congress Dist 19


SHANNON KESSLER
Candidate for State Assembly Dist 30



DENNIS SANCHEZ
Candidate for State Assembly Dist 29


JW PAINE
Candidate for State Assembly Dist 29

Featuring personalized video messages from Governorial Candidates, Steve Hilton and Chad Bianco!

Oldemeyer Center, 986 Hilby Ave., Seaside
Food and Refreshments are Provided
This is a FREE event! Donations are greatly appreciated!
Please RSVP: Karen Reissman 831-277-6227 or email kreissman5@gmail.com

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This is a Monterey County Republican Party event

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Our Farewell Season is Underway...

25% OFF Storewide

Up to 40% Off Select Styles

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To Feather You & Your Nest

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831-333-9184

CALENDAR

April 3-4 – The best place for Easter shopping is Baum & Blume and The Carriage House! Fun Easter cards and gifts! Children's books! Pretty new hats & clothing! Handmade chocolate Easter eggs, jams, frozen hors d'oeuvres and more! Shop 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Baum & Blume, 4 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley. (831) 659-0400.

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

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

Sundays – Live music 5 to 7 p.m. at Woody's at Del Mesa. Musical guests **Brice and Nina** deliver an eclectic mix of jazz, rock and reggae, 500 Del Mesa Carmel. (831) 624-1854

April 6 – "The Art of Ikebana Floral Design" – Nancy Bryson and Karen Hewitt from Ikebana International Monterey Bay Chapter will demonstrate the Japanese art of Ikebana. 2 p.m. Carmel Woman's Club, San Carlos and Ninth. Members only for this event.

April 8 – Carmel Public Library Foundation presents Community Night with the Library, screening of "Universal Language" moderated by film critic **Mashid Bozorgnia** (in Farsi and French, with English subtitles), 7 p.m., Carpenter Hall, Sunset Center, Carmel. Register at: carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org. Questions: (831) 624-2811

April 9 – B4Noon Community Recital, 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., at Carmel Presbyterian Church, Ocean and Junipero, SE corner, every Thursday through April 30. Free. This week, April 9: **Trumpet Voluntaries** with organist **Eun Ha Chung** & music of **Chopin** with pianist **Taite Yard**.

April 9 – SIR Monterey Branch monthly luncheon at Monterey Elks Lodge. Guest speaker is **Jean Perkins, Ph.D., Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy**, Marina. SIRMontereyinfo@gmail.com for more info on our luncheon meeting and membership.

April 11 – An "Earth Day Celebration" event, 10

a.m. to 2 p.m., at **Point Lobos State Natural Reserve**, hosted by California State Parks. For more information, please contact Ashley Wemp, (831) 884-2957.



April 11-12 – Don't miss the 16th Annual Whalefest Monterey on Saturday and Sunday, April 11-12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at and around Old Fisherman's Wharf. This free, fun and educational event for all ages includes a fascinating two-day symposium, interactive marine-themed exhibits, live music and dance performances, hands-on educational activities for all ages, plein air painters and public tours of research and rescue vessels. www.whalefest.org

April 12 – Cabaret Fortuna, a carnival affair in support of **I Cantori di Carmel's Carmina Burna and I Cantorini Youth Chorus**. Live jazz, cocktails, decadent bites and prizes in the spirit of 1920s Berlin. Set 3 to 6 p.m. at the Carmel Woman's Club. Tickets at www.icantori.org

April 14 – The Carmel Woman's Club will host "The Creatives – Artists of the CWC" featuring artworks by members. Thirteen participating artists will display and discuss their work which will include a variety of mediums. Come join us at the corner of San Carlos and Ninth in Carmel from 5-7 p.m. Refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public.

April 15 – The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB) will present a luncheon lecture at the Monterey Hilton Garden Inn. **Dr. Emily Meierding** of the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) will present "Energy Geopolitics After Venezuela and Iran." Visit www.wacmb.org for event registration and information.

April 28 – Carmel Public Library Foundation presents The WE THE PEOPLE Edition, "The Pursuit of Liberty and America's 250-Year Battle Over Power," with **Jeffrey Rosen**, author, professor and CEO emeritus of the National Constitution Center in conversation with **Amanda Tyler**, professor of Constitutional Law at UC Berkeley. Event set at Sunset Center, Carmel. Register at www.carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org/featured/. Questions: (831) 624-2811

Through May 2 – The Center for Photographic Art presents "PhotoCarmel: A Celebration of Photography on the Central Coast." This six-week long festival of photography is a community event involving galleries and venues throughout Monterey and Santa Cruz counties and beyond. For complete information visit photocarmel.org

Semi-retired and retired men welcome. Monterey SIR Golf Club hosts weekly Monday tournaments across 12 courses plus bocce, bowling, book club, wine tasting, luncheons and social events. Contact: SIRMontereyinfo@gmail.com.

MUSIC

From page 37A

■ Carmel

Barmel — singer and guitarist **Tony Burciaga** (Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m.). Carmel Square on San Carlos north of Seventh.

Carmel Mission Inn — Open Mic Night (Tuesday at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 5 p.m.). In the Shearwater Tavern, 3665 Rio Road.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer and pianist **T.J. Kuenster** (jazz, Friday at 4:45 p.m.), singer **Dino Vera** (jazz, r&b and dance music, Saturday and Thursday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Javier Sanchez** and singer and guitarist **Sabelle** (Sunday at 9 a.m.). 120 Highlands Drive.

La Playa Hotel — The David Morwood Trio (jazz, Sunday and Tuesday at 5 p.m.). In Bud's Bar, Camino Real and Eighth Avenue.

Cypress Inn — singer **Dino Vera** (jazz, r&b and dance music, Friday at 6:30 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.), **The David Morwood Jazz Band** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh.

Links Club — The Money Band Duo (pop and rock, Friday at 6 p.m.), **Sea Level** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

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



Singer and multi-instrumentalist Meredith McHenry plays Thursday, 5 p.m., at the Terrace Lounge in Pebble Beach.

■ 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 **T.J. Kuenster** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Edgar's — singer and guitarist **Jewel Arianna** (Friday at 5:30 p.m.). At Quail Lodge, 8205 Valley Greens Drive.

Folktales Winery — singers and guitarists **Thomas Burks** and **Stephen Pavlik** (Friday at 4 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Saturday at 4 p.m.), **The Stu Reynolds Saxtet** (jazz, Sunday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Adrea Castiano** (Monday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Thurs-

See LIVE next page

HOTELS & INNS

The Carmel Pine Cone is the Monterey Peninsula's most historic and interesting source of local news and features.

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The Carmel Pine Cone

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026 | 1:00pm-7:30pm

Full regular menu plus Easter Additions

RACK OF LAMB 58 / CIOPPINO 48 / SWORDFISH 38

Reservations
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Visit our website or scan the QR code for our full menu

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FISHERMAN'S WHARF ASSOCIATION PRESENTS 16TH ANNUAL

WHALEFEST

Monterey 2026

FREE FUN and EDUCATION FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Saturday & Sunday | FREE!
April 11 & 12 | 10am-5pm
Old Fisherman's Wharf
Custom House Plaza
Inspire | Educate | Explore | Empower

VISIT Whalefest.org and MontereyWharf.com for More Information and Schedule

LIVE

From previous page

day at 4 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

Trailside Cafe — The Mighty Maple (“acoustic jams and cool grooves,” Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

Monterey

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

Colton Hall — saxophonist **Paul Tarantino**, pianist **Ayanna Bradley**, bassist **Etienne France** and drummer **David Morwood** (jazz, Saturday at 4 p.m.). 570 Pacific St.

Hyatt Regency Monterey — singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Saturday at 6 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.

InterContinental Hotel — guitarist **Richard DeVinck** (classical, Friday at 7 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Saturday at 7 p.m.), guitarist **Terrence Farrell** (Spanish, classical and jazz, Sunday at 9 a.m.), guitarist **Richard DeVinck** (classical, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 750 Cannery Row.

Midici Pizza — The Brian Stock Quartet with keyboardist **Bill Spencer**, bassist **Pete Lips** and drummer

(folk and blues, Saturday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Steve Mann** (jazz, Sunday at 10 a.m.), pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Bray** (Monday at 6 p.m.) singer and guitarist **Adrea Castiano** (Tuesday and Wednesday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

Nami Restaurant — singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Thursday at 5:30 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St.

Pearl Hour — The Zach Westfall Quartet (jazz, Sunday at 8 p.m.). 214 Lighthouse Ave.

Puma Road at Portola Plaza — singer **Akina Miyata** and singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St.

Sardine Factory — singer and guitarist **David Conley** (Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., and Tuesday through Thursday at 6:30 p.m.). 701 Wave St.

Sly McFly's — The Joy Bonner Band (“rockin’ funky old soul to modern hits,” Friday at 9 p.m.), **The Hackjammers** (pop and rock, Saturday at 9 p.m.), **The Pacific Jack Band** (classic rock, Monday at 8:30 p.m.), **DC & the Jokers** (rock and blues, Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.), **5 Star** (rock and soul, Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.) **Bobby & Friends** (funk, soul and r&b, Thursday at 8:30 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.



The Katherine Lavin Band rocks First Fridays April 3 in downtown Pacific Grove. The music starts at 7 p.m.

tarist **Phill Benson** of **Phill’s Barber Shop** (rock and blues, Friday at 5 p.m.), **Open Mic** (Tuesday at 6 p.m., sign-ups start at 5 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.

Pop ’n’ Hiss — My Dog Jack (Americana, Saturday at 7 p.m.), **Abby & the Shadow Band** (indie soul, Thursday at 7 p.m.). 215 Forest Ave.

Wild Fish — The Lighthouse Jazz Quartet (Friday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m.). 545 Lighthouse Ave.

Pacific Grove

First Baptist Church of Pacific Grove — The Monterey Peninsula Gospel Choir presents its Spring Concert (Saturday at 4 p.m.). 246 Laurel Ave.

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

Julia’s Vegetarian Restaurant — singer and guitarist **Rags Rosenberg** (Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Smith** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), **Andrea’s Fault Duo** (jazz and pop, Monday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Holysea** (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave.

La Côte Bleue — singer **Andrea Carter** and guitarist **Darrin Michell** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.). 209 Forest Ave.

The Monarch Pub — The Katherine Lavin Band (pop and rock, Friday at 7 p.m.). 617 Lighthouse Ave.
PG’s Meetinghouse — Miami Fivoh featuring gui-

Pebble Beach

The Inn at Spanish Bay — The Andy Weis Trio (jazz, Friday, Saturday and Thursday at 7 p.m.). 2700 17 Mile Drive.

The Lodge at Pebble Beach (In the Terrace Lounge) — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (Saturday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (Thursday at 5 p.m.). 1700 17 Mile Drive.

The Lodge at Pebble Beach (In the Stillwater Bar & Grill) — guitarist **Robert McNamara** (classical, jazz and pop, Thursday at 5 p.m.). 1700 17 Mile Drive.

Sand City

Courtyard by Marriott — guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.). 800 Morgans Way.

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



An “indie/garage soul” band from New York City, Abby and the Shadow Band take the stage Thursday, 7 p.m., at Pop & Hiss in Pacific Grove.

Patrick Tregenza (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and keyboardist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

Monterey Plaza Hotel — pianist **Gary Meek** (jazz, Friday and Sunday at 6 p.m.), violinist **Chris Murphy**

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260649
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
1. CLINKENBEARD TOYS & GAMES
2. CLINKENBEARD TOYS AND GAMES
3. CG&T
3170 Kona Cir., Marina, CA 93933.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
DREW ALEX CLINKENBEARD, 3100 De Forest Rd. #18, Marina, CA 93933.
This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Drew A. Clinkenbeard
Date signed: March 26, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 26, 2026.
Publication Dates: April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026 (PC 407)

This business is conducted by an Individual Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Omar Allende Cruz
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 03/16/2026.
4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24/26
CNS-4022421#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026. (PC 409)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260605
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MONTEREY GOLD AND COIN EXCHANGE, 153 Country Club Gate Center, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
DAVID NEWELL JOHNSON.
This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/David Newell Johnson
Date signed: March 20, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 20, 2026.
Publication Dates: April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026 (PC 412)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260578
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
NW Construction, 1250 La Mirada Dr, Salinas, CA 93901. County of Monterey
Registered Owner(s):
Nick And Son's Handyman Services Inc., 1250 La Mirada Dr, Salinas, CA 93901 CA
This business is conducted by a corporation Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on Not Applicable
S/Nick White, Managing Member
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 02/12/26
4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24/26
CNS-4028223#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026. (PC 408)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260634
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **GALDINO LANDSCAPE & MAINTENANCE, 13770 Center Street, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
GALDINO OSORNIO, P.O. Box 498, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.
This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on May 31, 2012.
S/Galdino Osornio
Date signed: March 24, 2012
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 24, 2026.
Publication Dates: April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026 (PC 413)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260567
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Carmel Pro Drywall Solutions, 585 Calaveras Dr, Salinas, CA 93906
County of MONTEREY
Registrant(s):
Omar Allende Cruz, 585 Calaveras Dr, Salinas, CA 93906

An Administrative Permit and Design Approval (Resolution Number 26-029) was approved by Chief of Planning for Assessor’s Parcel Number 173-111-009-000 on March 18, 2026. The permit was granted subject to 8 conditions of approval which run with the land. A copy of the permit is on file with Monterey County HCD - Planning.
Publication dates: April 3 & 10, 2026 [PC411]

NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS
For: Electrical & Construction Services for an electrical panel upgrade and installation of EV Chargers at Vista Lobos Parking Lot.

Notice is hereby given that the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea requests proposals from qualified persons/organizations for the purpose of providing professional Electrical & Construction services for an electrical panel upgrade and installation of commercial and fleet EV charging stations.

Proposals shall be submitted to:
City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
ATTN: Nova Romero
City Clerk
P.O. Box CC, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921

Proposals must be postmarked no later than **Wednesday, April 22, 2026.**

The RFP packet can be obtained at:
ci.carmel.ca.us/requests-bids-and-rfps OR ci.carmel.ca.us
(under the tab “I Want to Submit a Bid or Proposal”)

The City will conduct two Mandatory Pre-Bid Meetings (Vendors can attend either) **Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 9:00 AM and Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 9:00 AM.**
Location: Vista Lobos Parking Lot,
Corner of Torres & 3rd Avenue, Carmel-by-the-Sea.
Publication dates: April 3, 2026 [PC410]

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE
KHOSROW R. HIFAI
CASE NO. 26PR000141

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of KHOSROW R. HIFAI

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by MINOO ZARIN in the Superior Court of California, County of MONTEREY.

The Petition for Probate requests that MINOO ZARIN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent’s will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
Date: May 6, 2026
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Dept.: 13
Address: Superior Court of California, County of Monterey, 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the **later of either (1) four months** from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) **60 days** from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. **Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.**

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:
JAMES M. SULLIVAN
225 N. Santa Cruz Avenue
Los Gatos, CA 95030
(408) 395-3837
This statement was filed by Superior Court of California, County of Monterey on March 23, 2026.
Publication dates: April 3, 10, 17, 2026. (PC403)

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[HTTPS://CARMELPINECONE.COM](https://carmelpinecone.com)

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260459
 Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
JUUU HEALING ARTS, 26555 Carmel Rancho Blvd., Ste. 3, Carmel, CA 93923. County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: JUUU ACUPUNCTURE AND FUNCTIONAL MEDICINE, INC.
 State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
 This business is conducted by a corporation. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 14, 2026.
 S/YunJoo Kim, President
 Date: Feb. 25, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 27, 2026.
 Publication Dates: March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 2026 (PC 309)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260445
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
RONAL GLAMOUR & BEAUTY, 24 W. Curtis #A, Salinas, CA 93906. County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Registered Owner(s): RONAL ALBER FIGUEROA CUCUFATE, 24 W. Curtis #A, Salinas, CA 93906.
 This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business

under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 26, 2026.
 S/Ronal Figueroa
 Date signed: Feb. 26, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 26, 2026.
 Publication Dates: March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 2026 (PC 310)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260479
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
 Who Cut One, 16005 Meridian Rd, Prunedale, CA 93907
 County of MONTEREY
 Registrant(s):
 Marc Joseph Lucchesi, 16005 Meridian Rd, Prunedale, CA 93907
 This business is conducted by an Individual Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
 S/ Marc Joseph Lucchesi
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 03/03/2026.
 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10/26
CNS-4014220# CARMEL PINE CONE
 Publication Dates: March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 2026. (PC 315)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260471
 The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:
Patana Seed Co., 204 9th St, Marina, CA 93933, County of Monterey
 Registered Owner(s):

Patana Seed Company LLC, 204 9th St, Marina, CA 93933
 CA
 This business is conducted by A Limited Liability Company
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on Not Applicable
 S/ Andres Ovalle, Managing Member
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 03/02/2026
 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10/26
CNS-4021776# CARMEL PINE CONE
 Publication Dates: March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 2026. (PC 316)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260527
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
BRIARWOOD INN, San Carlos NW of 5th Street, Carmel, CA 93921. County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
 SAN CARLOS PROPERTY INC., P.O. Box 5245, Carmel, CA 93921.
 State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
 This business is conducted by a corporation. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
 S/Daniel W. Sturges, President
 Date: March 10, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 10, 2026.
 Publication Dates: March 13, 20, 27, April 3 2026 (PC 317)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260466
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
TACOS EL ZARCO, 131 Buena Vista Park #31, Soledad, CA 93960. County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Registered Owner(s):
 MARIA DEL CARMEN DIAZ SANDOVAL
 RICARDO MORALES MENDOZA
 This business is conducted by a married couple.
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
 S/Maria del Carmen Diaz Sandoval
 Date signed: March 2, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 2, 2026.
 Publication Dates: March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 2026 (PC 318)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260388
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
LUTTRELL STAFFING GROUP, 1040 Tidewater Court, Kingsport, TN, 37660
 County of Principal Place of Business: SULLIVAN COUNTY, TN
 Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in address of Inc.(s):
 CTNK, LLC, 1040 Tidewater Court, Kingsport, TN, 37660.
 This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 10, 2026.
 S/Marty Luttrell, member
 Date signed: Feb. 10, 2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 20, 2026.
 Publication Dates: March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 2026 (PC 320)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260563
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
OLD METAL GARAGE, 1341 Dayton St., Unit E, Salinas, CA 93901. County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
 OLD METAL GARAGE LLC, 1341 Dayton St., Unit E, Salinas, CA 93901.
 State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
 This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on April 2, 2024
 S/Robert Weindorf, President
 Date: March 16, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 16, 2026.
 Publication Dates: March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 2026 (PC 322)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260573
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
TOURS MONTEREY, 301 9th St., Apt. 228, Marina, CA 93933. County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Registered Owner(s):
 SAKINA GLORY MUNSINGER, P.O. Box

1261, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.
 This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Sept. 9, 2025.
 S/Sakina G. Munsinger
 Date signed: March 17, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 17, 2026.
 Publication Dates: March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 2026 (PC 324)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
 Case No. 26CV001250
 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, LACRESHIA LASHAE VILLAVICENCIO, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
A Present name: LACRESHIA LASHAE VILLAVICENCIO
Proposed name: APRIL LASHAE VILLAVICENCIO
 THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
 DATE: May 5, 2026
 TIME: 10:00 a.m.
 DEPT: 15
 The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.
 Date filed: March 9, 2026
 (s) Ian A. Rivamonte
 Judge of the Superior Court
 Publication Dates: March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 2026. (PC 325)

Obituary Notices

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to the lien laws of the State of California, the contents of the following storage units will be sold to satisfy the owner's lien for unpaid rent and other charges.

The sale will include personal property stored in the units listed below. The contents are generally described as household goods, furniture, boxes, and other miscellaneous items unless otherwise noted.

The sale will be conducted online at www.SelfStorageAuction.com
Auction Date: Wednesday April 15, 2026 at 12:00 pm
Facility Name: SP032 - Storage PRO of Carmel, LLC
Facility Address: 9640 Carmel Valley Rd, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA, 93923
Facility Phone: (831) 250-6062
Units to be Sold, 7126 - Theresa Buccola, 6048 - Joseph Skaro

All sales are subject to cancellation. Payment of the balance due prior to the sale will stop the sale of the property.
 The property may be withdrawn at any time before the sale.
 Publish: April 03, 2026 The Carmel Pine Cone
 Publication date: April 3, 2026 (PC401)

TS No: CA08001452-22-6 APN: 243-131-006-000 FKA 243-131-006 TO No: 250650190-CA-VOI
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE (The above statement is made pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(1). The Summary will be provided to Trustor(s) and/or vested owner(s) only, pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(2).) YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED November 21, 2003. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On April 28, 2026 at 10:00 AM, at the main entrance to the County Administration Building at 168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901, MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust recorded on December 10, 2003 as Instrument No. 2003149174, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Monterey County, California, executed by JOSE L. BATTO, AN UNMARRIED MAN, as Trustor(s), in favor of BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 18 YANKEE POINT DRIVE, CARMEL, CA 93923 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$93,251.49 (Estimated). However, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may visit the Internet Website www.nationwideposting.com or call Nationwide Posting & Publication at 916.939.0772 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA08001452-22-6. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Notice to Tenant NOTICE TO TENANT FOR FORECLOSURES AFTER JANUARY 1, 2021 You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 916.939.0772, or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case CA08001452-22-6 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Effective March 1, 2026, new federal regulations (89 Fed. Reg. 70.258) will impact residential real property (1-4 residential units) title transfers to covered entities trusts, with reporting requirements unless exempt. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers> Date: March 13, 2026 MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps TS No. CA08001452-22-6 17100 Gillette Ave Irvine, CA 92614 Phone: 949-252-8300 TDD: 711 949.252.8300 By: Loan Quema, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ONLINE AT www.nationwideposting.com FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: Nationwide Posting & Publication AT 916.939.0772 NPP0486475 To: CARMEL PINE CONE 03/27/2026, 04/03/2026, 04/10/2026

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST T.S. No.: 25-0183 Loan No.: Sutton Other: 2739132CAD APN: 007-561-044-000 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 03/19/2025. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NOTICE is hereby given that Law Offices of Richard G. Witkin APC, as trustee, or successor trustee, or substituted trustee, or as agent for the trustee, pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by STACEY F. SUTTON III, TRUSTEE OF THE STACEY F. SUTTON III LIVING TRUST DATED OCTOBER 30, 2017, recorded 03/25/2025 as Instrument No. 20250090170 in Book n.a., Page n.a. of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of MONTEREY County, State of California, and pursuant to the Notice of Default and Election to Sell thereunder recorded 12/12/2025 as Instrument No. 2025046270 of said Official Records, WILL SELL on 04/14/2026 at 10:00 AM At the main entrance to the County Administration Building at 168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901 AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States), all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State hereinafter described: As more fully described on said Deed of Trust, The property address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1327 Lawton Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$564,161.34 * *The actual opening bid may be more or less than this amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust including advances authorized thereunder and also including, without way of limitation, the unpaid principal balance of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust together with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus the fees, charges and expenses of the trustee and the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. THIS PROPERTY IS BEING SOLD IN AN "AS-IS" CONDITION. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (916) 939-0772 or visit this Internet Website WWW.NATIONWIDEPOSTING.COM, using the file number assigned to this case 25-0183. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (916) 939-0772, or visit this internet website WWW.NATIONWIDEPOSTING.COM, using the file number assigned to this case 25-0183, to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. FOR SALES INFORMATION AND STATUS 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, GO TO: WWW.NATIONWIDEPOSTING.COM OR CALL (916) 939-0772. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, DISCLOSURES AND CONDITIONS OF SALE: (1) At the time of sale, the opening bid by the beneficiary may not represent a full credit bid. The beneficiary reserves the right, during the auction, to increase its credit bid incrementally up to a full credit bid. The beneficiary may also bid over and above its credit bid with cash, cashier's checks or cash equivalents. (2) The Trustee's Deed Upon Sale (TDUS) will not be issued to the successful bidder until the bidder's payment has been deposited in the trustee's bank and cleared (all holds released). The bidder may have to take additional actions as required by trustee's bank in order to facilitate the deposit and clearance of bidder's funds. (3) If, prior to the issuance of the TDUS, the trustee shall become aware of any deficiency in the foreclosure process, or if the trustee becomes aware of any bankruptcy or other legal issue affecting the validity of the foreclosure process, or if the trustee becomes aware of any bankruptcy or other legal issue affecting the validity of the foreclosure sale, then, after consultation with its attorneys, the trustee, in its sole discretion, may decline to issue the TDUS and return the bidder's funds, without interest. If, subsequent to the issuances of the TDUS, the trustee shall become aware of any deficiency in the foreclosure process, or if the trustee becomes aware of any bankruptcy or other legal issue affecting the validity of the foreclosure sale, then, after consultation with its attorneys, the trustee, in its sole discretion, may rescind the TDUS pursuant to Civil Code Section 1058.5(b) and return the bidder's funds, without interest. (4) When conducted, the foreclosure sale is not final until the auctioneer states "sold". Any time prior thereto, the sale may be canceled or postponed at the discretion of the trustee or the beneficiary. A bid by the beneficiary may not result in a sale of the property. All bids placed by the auctioneer are on behalf of the seller/beneficiary. (5) NEW - SEVERAL CITIES IN CALIFORNIA, INCLUDING THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES (GOOGLE "MEASURE ULA"), HAVE IMPOSED VERY LARGE, NEW TRANSFER TAXES ON SALES OF CERTAIN HIGH VALUE PROPERTIES. THESE TAXES CAN AMOUNT TO HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS OR EVEN MORE. AS A CONDITION OF THIS SALE, THESE TAXES WILL NOT BE PAID BY THE FORECLOSING LENDER NOR BY THE FORECLOSURE TRUSTEE. THESE TAXES, IF AND WHEN CHARGED, ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SUCCESSFUL PURCHASER AT THE FORECLOSURE SALE. This communication may be considered as being from a debt collector. To the extent that your original obligation was discharged or is subject to an automatic stay of bankruptcy under Title 11 of the United States Code, this notice is for compliance and/or informational purposes only and does not constitute an attempt to collect a debt or to impose personal liability for such obligation. However, a secured party may retain rights under its security instrument, including the right to foreclose its lien. Please be advised that the trustee may require entity or trust bidders at this trustee's sale to provide information, documentation and/or certification of the vesting instructions and the data required to be reported pursuant to FinCEN regulations effective for transfers of residential real property to covered transferees on or after March 1, 2026. The required information must be provided to the trustee before a trustee's deed upon sale will be issued for covered transfer. Additional information regarding these regulations and the required transferee information and certifications can be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers> and https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs#d_5 Date: 03/16/2026 Law Offices of Richard G. Witkin APC 5805 Sepulveda Boulevard, Suite 670 Sherman Oaks, California 91411 Phone: (818) 845-4000 By: April Witkin, Trustee Officer NPP0486481 To: CARMEL PINE CONE 03/20/2026, 03/27/2026, 04/03/2026

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260581
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
CARS MECHANICAL & COLLISION LLC, 245 Front St., Salinas, CA 93901.
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
 CARS MECHANICAL & COLLISION LLC, 245 Front St., Salinas, CA 93901.
 State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
 This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 3, 2026
 S/Henry Macias, Managing Member
 Date: March 18, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 18, 2026.
 Publication Dates: March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 2026 (PC 327)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260577
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
WEST COAST HEAT MOBILE GRILLING STATION, 600 Drake Ave., Monterey, CA 93940.
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Registered Owner(s):
 ANTHONY TODD HENDERSON, 600 Drake Ave., Monterey, CA 93940.
 MARILYN LOUISE HENDERSON.
 This business is conducted by a married couple.
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
 S/Anthony T. Henderson
 Date signed: March 17, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 17, 2026.
 Publication Dates: March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 329)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260600
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
PRISTINE ALL EVENT CLEANING, 9486 Comunidad Way, Castroville, CA 95012.
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Registered Owner(s):
 MARIA GUADALUPE DIAZ.
 This business is conducted by an individual.
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
 S/Maria Guadalupe Diaz
 Date signed: March 20, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 20, 2026.
 Publication Dates: March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 330)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260611
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
CLICKTRAX STUDIOS, 1446 Hilby Ave., Seaside, CA 93955.
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Registered Owner(s):
 TODD JOSEPH CLICKARD.
 This business is conducted by an individual.
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names

listed above on March 23, 2026.
 S/Todd Clickard
 Date signed: March 23, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 23, 2026.
 Publication Dates: March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 331)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260517
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
RJH CONSTRUCTION, 415 B Church Street, Salinas, CA 93901.
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Registered Owner(s):
 RYAN JOSEPH HEREDIA, 415 B Church Street, Salinas, CA 93902.
 This business is conducted by an individual.
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 9, 2026.
 S/Ryan Heredia
 Date signed: March 9, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 9, 2026.
 Publication Dates: March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 332)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260435
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
SACRED PINE PRODUCTIONS, 428 Alvarado St., Unit D, Monterey, CA 93940.
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Registered Owner(s):
 ERNEST RODRIGUEZ.
 This business is conducted by an individual.
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 1, 2026.
 S/Ernest Rodriguez
 Date signed: Feb. 25, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 25, 2026.
 Publication Dates: March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 334)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260619
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
THE UPS STORE #1075, 1130 Fremont St., Seaside, CA 93955.
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
 ROSSI & ROSSI, INC., 395 Del Monte Ctr., Monterey, CA 93940.
 State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
 This business is conducted by a corporation.
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on April 22, 2016
 S/Jennifer Rossi, CFO
 Date: Feb. 6, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 23, 2026.
 Publication Dates: March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 335)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260620
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
THE UPS STORE #0454, 266 Reservation Road, #F, Marina, CA 93933.
 County of Principal Place of Business:

MONTEREY
 Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
 ROSSI & ROSSI, INC., 395 Del Monte Ctr., Monterey, CA 93940.
 State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
 This business is conducted by a corporation.
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A
 S/Jennifer Rossi, CFO
 Date: March 23, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 23, 2026.
 Publication Dates: March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 336)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260475
 Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
CALIFORNIA HOUSE BUYERS, 4940 Peninsula Point Dr., Seaside, CA 93955.
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
 PROPERTY SOLUTIONS WEST, LLC, 798 Lighthouse Ave. #253, Monterey, CA 93940.
 State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
 This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 1, 2026.
 S/Camilla Calenda, Managing Member
 Date: Feb. 24, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 3, 2026.
 Publication Dates: March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 339)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260250
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
INDY MAHINDRU INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES, 1780 Fremont Blvd., Suite G, Seaside, CA 93955.
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Registered Owner(s):
 INDERIJT MAHINDRU, 1780 Fremont Blvd., Suite G, Seaside, CA 93955.
 This business is conducted by an individual.
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Dec. 1, 2019.
 S/Inderjit Mahindru
 Date signed: Feb. 2, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 2, 2026.
 Publication Dates: March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 340)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260251
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
INDY MAHINDRU STATE FARM, 1780 Fremont Blvd., Suite G, Seaside, CA 93955.
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
 MAHINDRU INSURANCE AGENCY, INC., 1780 Fremont Blvd., Suite G, Seaside, CA 93955.
 State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
 This business is conducted by a corporation.
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 1, 2026.
 S/Inderjit Mahindru, President
 Date: Feb. 2, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 2, 2026.

Publication Dates: March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 341)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260434
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
GOLDEN ETCH, 428 Alvarado St., Unit D, Monterey, CA 93940.
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Registered Owner(s):
 YASMINE GONZALEZ.
 This business is conducted by an individual.
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 19, 2026.
 S/Yasmine Gonzalez
 Date signed: Feb. 25, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 25, 2026.
 Publication Dates: April 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 402)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260498
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
REMEDIOS ANTIGUOS, 490 Calle Principal, Monterey, CA 93940.
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Registered Owner(s):
 KATARINA ISABELLA RUIZ, 1030 Carson St., Seaside, CA 93955.
 This business is conducted by an individual.
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
 S/Katarina Ruiz
 Date signed: March 2, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 5, 2026.
 Publication Dates: April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026 (PC 404)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. 20260618
 Filing type: ABANDONMENT
 County of Filing: Monterey
 Date of Original Filing: Jan. 9, 2023
 File No.: 20230042
 The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: **CC. VENDING, 17595 Winding Creek Road, Salinas, CA 93908.**

Registered Owner(s):
 LEONARD CHABEL, 17595 Winding Creek Road, Salinas, CA 93908
 This business is conducted by an individual.
 S/Leonard Chabel
 March 23, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 23, 2026.
 Publication dates: April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026. (PC405)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20260662
 Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
MARINA STATION HOME SALES TEAM, Dolores 3 SW of 7th, Carmel, CA 93921.
 County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
 Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
 MONTEREY PENINSULA REAL ESTATE

PARTNERS, P.O. Drawer C, Carmel, CA 93921.
 State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
 This business is conducted by a corporation.
 Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 1, 2012.
 S/Jennifer Menke, Vice President
 Date: Feb. 27, 2026
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 27, 2026.
 Publication Dates: April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026 (PC 406)

LEGALS DEADLINE: TUESDAY 3:00 PM

legals@carmelpinecone.com
 Se Habla Espanol

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 COUNTY OF MONTEREY
 Case No. 26CV00187

VALIDATION SUMMONS (C.C.P. § 861 & 861.1)

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER OF THE CARMEL AREA WASTEWATER DISTRICT RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02: RE: ADOPTION OF ADU SEWER SERVICE CHARGES AND METHODOLOGY.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed by Petitioner Hunter Leighton in the above-entitled Court seeking to determine the validity of Resolution No. 2026-02 and the underlying methodology for ADU sewer service charges.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that any person interested may appear and contest the legality or validity the matters sought to be determined in the Petition by filing a written answer to the Petition on or before the date of 10 days after the completion of publication of the summons, and by serving a copy of the answer upon Petitioner.

IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER within the time allowed by law, your default will be entered and you will be forever barred from contesting the validity of the matters alleged in the Petition.

Dated 3/18/2026
 Clerk of the Superior Court By: Jose Lopez (Deputy)
 Hunter Leighton
 3603 Eastfield Rd., Carmel, CA 93923
 831-620-6630

This summons was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on March 18, 2026.

Publication dates: April 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC338)

Trustee Sale No. 187621 Title No. 250563810 **NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE** YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 08/08/2013. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 04/21/2026 at 10:00 AM, PRIME RECON LLC, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 08/14/2013, as Instrument No. 2013051307, in book xx, page xx, of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of MONTEREY County, State of CALIFORNIA, executed by JAMES E RASLER, AN UNMARRIED MAN, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States), AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT 168 W. ALISAL STREET, SALINAS, CA 93901. All right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State, described as: FULLY DESCRIBED IN THE ABOVE DEED OF TRUST. APN 012-354-004-000 The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1074 HARCOURT AVE, SEASIDE, CA 93955. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$174,272.65 IF THE TRUSTEE IS UNABLE TO CONVEY TITLE FOR ANY REASON, THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER'S SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE REMEDY SHALL BE THE RETURN OF MONIES PAID TO THE TRUSTEE, AND THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER SHALL HAVE NO FURTHER RECOURSE. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. Dated: 3/20/2026 PRIME RECON LLC By: Josh Bermudez, Authorized Signer PRIME RECON LLC 27368 VIA INDUSTRIA, STE 201 TEMECULA, CA 92590 (888) 725-4142 PRIME RECON LLC MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. FOR TRUSTEE'S SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (844) 901-0998 OR VIEW OUR WEBSITE: HTTPS://SALESINFORMATION.PRIME-RECON.COM NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (844) 901-0998 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website - HTTPS://SALESINFORMATION.PRIME-RECON.COM - for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case: TS#187621. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (844) 901-0998 for information regarding the trustee's sale, or visit this internet website HTTPS://SALESINFORMATION.PRIME-RECON.COM for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case TS#187621 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. Effective March 1, 2026, new federal regulations (89 Fed. Reg. 70.258) require specified information to be reported on non-financed title transfers of residential real property to covered entities and trusts. In order to successfully bid on applicable properties, the successful bidder will be required to complete, sign, and certify a form providing specified information, including but not limited to the following: All Successful Bidders: Category Information Required Beneficial Owner(s) Full legal names of all individuals who exercise substantial control over the entity, date of birth, complete residential street address, citizenship, and unique identifying number (like tax ID no. or nonexpired passport no.) Legal Name Full legal name of transferee Trade Name Any trade name or "doing business as" name Principal Place of Business Street address, city, state, zip code Tax Identification No. Federal EIN or applicable tax ID Entity Type Corporation, LLC, partnership, trust, etc. Additional Information Required for a Trust: Category Information Required Trustee Information Full legal name, date of birth, complete street address, citizenship, unique identifying number (like IRS TIN, nonexpired passport no.) Legal Name Full name of trust agreement Date Date trust agreement executed Revocability Whether trust is revocable or irrevocable Trust Tax Identification No. EIN or applicable Tax ID No. Authorized Signer(s) Names of individual(s) with authority to act on behalf of trust, date of birth, complete residential street address, unique identification number (like IRS TIN or nonexpired passport), description of the capacity in which the individual is authorized to act Beneficiary List Full legal names of all beneficiaries Beneficiary Information Date of birth, residential address, tax identification no., ownership or beneficial interest details NPP0486831 To: CARMEL PINE CONE 03/27/2026, 04/03/2026, 04/10/2026

Publication dates: March 27, April 3, 10, 2026 (PC337)

SUMMONS (Citacion Judicial) CASE NUMBER: 25CV005942 NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS (Aviso al demandado): BOB DELANEY and WILLIAM CONRAD YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFFS (Lo esta demandando el demandante): MARY DUGOM and SAM ANTON PROPER

NOTICE: You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. **¡AVISO!** Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorta.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, pueda llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. ¡AVISO!: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el grava men de la cote antes de que la cote pueda descha el caso.

The name and address of the court is (El nombre y direccion de le corte es):
 MONTEREY COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
 1200 AGUAJITO ROAD
 MONTEREY, CA 93940

The name, address and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado,es):

Sam Anton & Mary Dugom
 11506 Bloomington Way, Dublin, CA 94568
 (925) 968-5080

Date filed: Nov. 18, 2025

(s) Clerk, by Rosa Lopez, Deputy

Publication Dates: March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 2026. (PC328)

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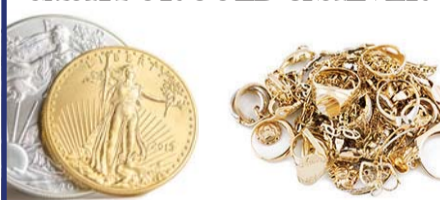
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831-241-4692

Continues on next page

Police Log: January 11

Country Club Heights resident reported cows drained her 10,000-gallon water tank.

Individual had illegal fire-works in the back seat of the vehicle.

Pacific Grove

Carmel Valley

The illegal fireworks were collected for destruction.

GAVEL

From page 4A

phone sent a few messages to friends that they suspected were not actually from Martinez. Martinez' friends and family tried calling her phone all day, but her phone would never answer, despite the fact that she was someone who was extremely responsive to cell phone contact.

At 8 p.m., Martinez's vehicle was found burning on the side of Highway 198, a few miles from Priest Valley Road, an extremely rural patch of highway. Martinez's body was found in the trunk of her own car. Someone had attempted to push her vehicle down a canyon, but the vehicle got stuck on a berm. A later autopsy determined that Martinez had

died of strangulation. Her body was so badly burned that she had to be identified by her dental records.

In 2010, Monterey County Sheriff's Office detectives suspected Ledesma was the killer due to suspicious behavior he exhibited in the days following her death, his history of domestic violence against other partners, and the content of his text messages with Martinez that night. However, Ledesma claimed he was home the day she disappeared and was at a family party when the car fire was set. Ledesma's brother vouched for his alibi. At the time, investigators were unable to disprove the alibi.

In July 2020, the district attorney created the cold-case task force, which represents the largest and most comprehensive county-wide effort to investigate, solve and prosecute cold-case homicides in Monterey Coun-

ty. The task force has been actively collaborating with the sheriff's office to work on multiple unsolved homicide cases, including Martinez' case.

In 2024, the task force hired Jason Riechers of Hawks Consulting to re-examine the cell phone data. Riechers was able to process the 2010 cellular data and provide extremely powerful visual evidence that demonstrated Ledesma's alibi was false. Riechers' analysis showed that Ledesma was at or near Martinez' home in Greenfield for hours before she arrived home.

It showed Ledesma's phone was in the same part of Salinas as Martinez' cell phone when her phone was briefly turned on to send messages to friends pretending to be her. The data also showed that Ledesma was not at the family party at the time Martinez' vehicle was found burning.

Judge Jennifer O'Keefe will preside over the sentencing. Ledesma will receive a mandatory sentence of 25 years to life in prison. The original homicide investigation was conducted by multiple detectives from the Monterey County Sheriff's Office, with CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Richard Lopez overseeing the arson investigation. The lead investigators since 2024 were district attorney investigators Oliver Minnig, Justin Bell, and Bill Clark.

Since the creation of the cold-case task force, seven defendants have been convicted of cold-case murders at jury trial, and three defendants have pleaded guilty to cold-case murders. Three other homicides were closed due to the death or mental incompetency of the identified suspect. Ten previously unidentified decedents have also been identified through DNA testing.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Continues from previous page

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SECTION RE ■ April 3-9, 2026

Open Houses on page 16RE!

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate



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■ This week's cover property, located in Carmel,
is presented by Tim Allen of Coldwell Banker
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Handwritten signature of Tim Allen.

Real Estate

April 3-9, 2026



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Real Estate Sales March 22 - 28

Escrows closed: 44

Total value: \$55,677,500

Carmel

1012 Monte Verde Street — \$4,687,000

Brad and Dana Krouskop to Daniel and Patricia Buelow
APN: 010-182-017

Carmel Valley

Casiano Drive — \$400,000

Sally Lopez, Jenny Evenson and Jennifer Brook Kotholow to Jennie, Erik and Anton Benedikt
APN: 416-113-001

See HOME SALES page 4RE

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Pebble Beach ■ 4 beds, 4 baths ■ \$6,200,000 ■ www.3896RondaRoad.com



Monterey ■ 4 beds, 4+ baths ■ \$5,900,000 ■ www.24275ViaMalpaso.com



Corral de Tierra ■ 3 beds, 2 baths ■ \$4,475,000 ■ www.28000UnderwoodRoad.com



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HOME SALES

From page 2RE

Carmel Valley (cont'd)

273 Hacienda Carmel — \$725,000

Diana Curtice and Williams Trust to Mary White
APN: 015-356-006

25970 Colt Lane — \$740,000

Norman Seidel to Conner, Dan and Gayla McAweeney
APN: 416-122-007

18 Camino de Travieso — \$940,000

Carole Campo and Sally Rideout to Eric Adams and Cheryl Fedorchak
APN: 189-433-024

9662 Willow Court — \$1,365,000



3475 Edgefield Place, Carmel Valley — \$2,200,000

Robert and Susan Tasner to Brian and Page Keck
APN: 416-531-079

38025 Poppy Tree Lane — \$1,425,000

Mikael Sedlacek to Poppy Tree LLC
APN: 418-281-003

25664 Carmel Knolls Drive — \$1,679,000

Christopher Hubbard to Timothy and Alison Clemons
APN: 015-313-012

3475 Edgefield Place — \$2,200,000

Estate of Alexandra Swaroop to Samrat Sanghvi and Charmaine Peters
APN: 015-451-013

Highway 68

19223 Creekside Lane — \$627,500

Matthew and Ana Eckhart to Jerry and Rebecca Freeman
APN: 161-531-012

23799 Salinas-Monterey Highway — \$730,000

Jack Clifton to Jerry and Angela Myers
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See ESCROWS page 14RE

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Pending	Monte Verde 4 NE of 4th	\$3,498,000		2

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Easter's a lot harder to unwrap than Christmas — and that's OK

SPRING WAS a meteorological tease when I was growing up in the East and Midwest. Warm sunshine would bless the landscape one day, followed by a blizzard the next. Regardless of what the calendar read, we didn't think spring had arrived

until Easter Sunday. It marked the end of Lent, when, as children, we learned the meaning of sacrifice — of denying ourselves the pleasures of the flesh. Even if denial only meant no Tootsie Rolls or other sweets, it was the first step on the path to

discipline.

Easter also signaled an end to the darkness of winter, with signs of new life springing up all around us. Corsages for my wife and two daughters were a tradition for church and for the Easter parade that followed. Back East, finery was a tradition; in California, it feels less pronounced. As Ben Franklin said, "Eat to please thyself, but dress to please others."

the logline: "Slouching toward Bethlehem, please leave a light in the window." That's OK with me. I love the fact that Christmas, regardless of one's beliefs, is universally embraced, if only for its commercial value. If jingle bells mean jingling cash registers, that's fine with me.

But Easter is another story. How many of you sat through Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ"? Some of those scenes made Freddy Krueger look like a skilled surgeon. The resurrection narrative isn't about sugarcoating the crucifixion that preceded it. And, on a personal level, the Easter season is about confronting darkness, seizing it and taking it inside for 40 days and nights. It is feeling the fire of self-recrimination, melting in a crucible

Fantastic story

Objectivity is one of the requisites for writing a newspaper story. The five W's — who, what, where, when and why — should be offered in a detached manner. Writing a newspaper column slides into a slightly different category. A columnist combines objectivity with personal involvement, which easily translates into opinion. I have been accused of many things, but not having opinions isn't one of them.

Taking up this space means that, throughout the year, certain meaningful calendar events should be mentioned. But how does one write about the most significant day in Christendom without alienating readers of other — or no — faiths? Fairly easily, actually, because for some reason, Easter seems to have slipped under the radar of the ACLU and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and, unlike Christmas, there are no Nativity scenes on to deal with. Retailers who substituted "holiday" for "Christmas" in their ads readily talk about their Easter sales while chewing on Jelly Bellies.

To some outside the faith, the Easter story may seem too fantastical to take seriously. Christmas is a family pageant. It is great theater — a census, a treacherous journey with a pregnant woman riding on a donkey, no room at the inn, a baby born in a stable, sheep, shepherds, a bright star and a chorus of heavenly music — a Hollywood producer's dream. Can't you just see

of unworthiness until you are cleansed and ready to surrender to the glory of Easter Sunday. Try to induce audiences into a movie theater with that plotline, a \$20 ticket and a \$7 box of popcorn. Not when you can take your kids to see "Minions: The Rise of Gru."

Too quiet?

We do not have a choice in being born, or about where, when and how it happens. We can't choose our country of birth, our race or any of the countless variables that make us who we are.

We do, however, have a choice in where we'll spend eternity — that is, if eternity exists. When we hear the salvation message, we can accept or reject it. Maybe that's the problem. I sometimes wonder if believers keep Easter too quiet, when the story is something worth shouting about.

See GERVASE page 12RE

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Guest commentary —

County's 'mansion tax' will do more harm than good

By TIM ALLEN

I STRONGLY support the goal of creating more workforce housing in Monterey County. However, I do not believe that Kate Daniels' proposed "mansion tax" — a transfer tax on homes sold for more than \$10 million — is the right solution.

I believe it risks doing more harm than good, both to our local economy and to the very workforce we are trying to support.

First, there are viable alternatives to raise revenue that have not been fully explored. One option is to strategically use transient occupancy tax revenue from vacation rentals. By refining and responsibly

expanding this segment, the county could generate an estimated \$10 million annually while supporting the local economy. These funds could be earmarked for workforce housing without introducing new taxes. For example, the county could use these funds to buy down 30-year mortgages, increasing affordability and enabling more local workers to buy homes.

Underutilized land

Second, we should build coalitions with the very industries that rely on the workforce we are trying to house. Hospitality groups, hotels, restaurants, retailers and other major employers all have a vested interest in solving this problem. By working collaboratively, we can identify underutilized land and create incentives for employers and landowners to build on-site or nearby workforce housing. This approach benefits employees, reduces commuting and traffic, increases security and strengthens businesses.

Third, we should take full advantage of surplus land already owned by the county and explore partnerships with cities. There is meaningful opportunity to develop housing on public land, which significantly reduces costs and increases feasibility.

I have heard some builders claim these projects "don't pencil." That deserves scrutiny. Builders are purchasing land at market rates and developing homes profitably in the \$700,000 range. If land were made available at low or no cost, workforce housing could be built in a financially viable way, even at scale. Before introducing new taxes, we should fully analyze the costs, locations and development strategies available.

The proposed tax carries economic risks. Evidence from similar policies, such as those implemented in Los Angeles, shows a sharp decline in high-end real estate transactions, ranging from 38 percent to over 50 percent in some cases. Fewer transactions mean less overall economic activity and less long-term tax revenue.

MLS data shows the \$10 million-plus housing segment is already extremely weak. Since 2024, there have been just 24 closed sales in the county in that price range, with two more currently in escrow, compared to 176 expired listings. That's roughly a 7-to-1 ratio of failed listings to successful transactions. In practical terms,

that means about one sale per month, a very low absorption rate. This is not a strong or resilient market; it is thin, fragile and highly sensitive to added friction. Introducing a transfer tax risks further suppressing sales, ultimately reducing economic activity and long-term tax revenue. The "mansion tax" will also discourage investment in luxury properties by users and developers alike.

Each high-value home sale generates substantial downstream revenue — property taxes, local spending, construction and renovation work, and business for a wide range of professionals, from contractors, to title companies, to real estate agents. A 3 percent transfer tax may seem substantial upfront, but the ongoing tax revenue from a completed sale can surpass that amount within a few years.

Reducing transaction volume ultimately reduces total revenue.

There is also a broader concern about competitiveness. California is already seeing high-income individuals and businesses move

to states like Nevada, Arizona and Florida. Policies perceived as punitive toward investment and success risk accelerating this trend, which impacts not just the luxury market but the entire local economy, including funding for public services.

From a fairness standpoint, this proposal places the burden on a very small number of individuals — likely only a few dozen transactions per year. Because the vast majority of voters would not be directly affected, such a measure is likely to pass, even if it has unintended negative consequences. That raises important questions about equity and long-term sustainability.

No clearly defined plan

Most importantly, this approach feels reactive rather than strategic. It creates a pool of funds without a clearly defined, fully vetted execution plan. Instead, we should lead with a comprehensive strategy that brings together government, business, nonprofits and the community to solve this challenge collaboratively.

There are also creative ways to engage new homeowners directly. For example, the real estate community could partner with local organizations to welcome new buyers and provide opportunities to contribute voluntarily to workforce housing

See **TAX** page 12RE

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WHO'S WHO IN LUXURY REAL ESTATE

Currently available for long-term rental in Carmel

Gran Torino

San Carlos between 7th & 8th



Ground Floor Commercial
323 square feet
\$1,500 per month + NNN

Gran Torino

San Carlos between 7th & 8th



3 bed, 2.5 bath duplex
1,895 square feet
\$8,200 per month

Gran Torino

San Carlos between 7th & 8th



2 bed, 2.5 bath apartment
1,847 square feet
\$8,000 per month

San Carlos Square

San Carlos between 5th & 6th



2 bed, 2 bath apartment
1,357 square feet
\$6,000 per month

For further information or to arrange a viewing please contact:

Chris Mitchell
831-250-7669
chris.mitchell@esperanzacarmel.com
www.esperanzacarmel.com



Katie McAlister
831-622-1000
rentals@carmelrealtycompany.com
www.carmelrealtycompany.com
DRE #01297518



CARMEL REALTY COMPANY
ESTABLISHED 1913

POLICE LOG

From page 4A

MONDAY, MARCH 16

Carmel Valley: Deputies responded to an altercation between two parties on Carmel Valley Road. A female was warned about trespassing at the property.

Carmel area: A female on Rio Road was placed on a 72-hour mental health evaluation after she jumped off a balcony.

Carmel area: Information report on Camino Real with an unknown subject.

Carmel area: Civil dispute occurred on 15th.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Subject at Torres and First attempted suicide. Carmel police and Monterey fire arrived and provided medical attention. The subject gained a pulse and was transported to CHOMP.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Fall on city property at Ocean and Mission.

Carmel Valley: Adult Protective Services reports on Paso Hondo Road.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vandalism at Carmelo and Second.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Subject at Carpenter and First claiming a previous abusive partner who may want to drug her in her sleep is entering her home.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 57-year-old male Salinas resident was arrested at Ocean and Mission for an outstanding warrant and possession of suspected methamphetamine paraphernalia.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found drivers license and Bank of America debit card at San Carlos and Seventh.

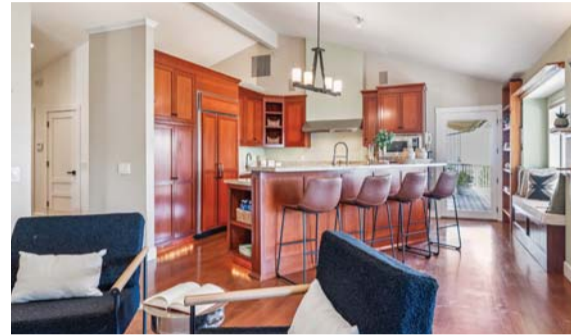
Pacific Grove: Suspicious person at a property on Forest Avenue. The 54-year-old male was warned about trespassing.

Pacific Grove: Found property on Ocean View Boulevard.

See **SHERIFF** page 17RE

26245 RINCONADA DRIVE · CARMEL VALLEY

4 BD | 3.5 BA | \$2,540,000 | 4,924 SF | 2.3 Acres



ANGOLEE BODE
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MARCIE LOWE
 REALTOR® · DRE 01484718
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 marcie.lowe@compass.com

COMPASS

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The Carmel Pine Cone will pay up to \$50 for photos of newsworthy events around the Monterey Peninsula. Submit yours to news@carmelpinecone.com.

Payment made for photos accepted for publication.



A LIFE THAT INSPIRES YOU



HAPPY EASTER



Sotheby's
 INTERNATIONAL REALTY



OPEN SATURDAY 1-4
 CARMEL VALLEY | 15475 VIA LOS TULARES
 15475VIALOSTULARES.COM
 OFFERED AT \$3,250,000



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4
 CARMEL VALLEY | 25390 TIERRA GRANDE
 25390TIERRAGRANDEDRIVE.COM
 OFFERED AT \$2,375,000



CALL FOR APPOINTMENT
 CARMEL VALLEY | 13330 MIDDLE CANYON
 13330MIDDLECANYONROAD.COM
 NEW PRICE \$1,235,000



OPEN SATURDAY 11-1 & SUNDAY 1-4
 CARMEL | 249 DEL MESA CARMEL
 249DELMESACARMEL.COM
 OFFERED AT \$1,195,000



STEINY FAMILY PROPERTIES

Doug 831.236.7363
 doug@dougsteiny.com
 Lisa 831.277.2070
 lisa@dougsteiny.com
 dougsteiny.com
 DRE: 00681652 & 02009666



Unique homes, uniquely for you



127 16th Street, Pacific Grove
3 BD | 4 BA | 3,127± SQ. FT. | 3,600± SQ. FT. LOT
\$2,950,000
127-16thst.com
 J.R. Rouse Properties Group 831.318.3808
 License# 01299649



131 7th Street, Pacific Grove
3 BD | 2.5 BA | 2,354± SQ. FT. | 5,691± SQ. FT. LOT
\$3,888,000
131-7thst.com
 J.R. Rouse Properties Group 831.318.3808
 License# 01299649



662 Oak Street, Monterey
3 BD | 1 BA | 1,125± SQ. FT. | 5,839± SQ. FT. LOT
\$925,000
662oakstreet.com
 Arleen Hardenstein 831.915.8989
 License# 01710953



OPEN SAT 11-4 PM & SUN 2-4 PM
1091 Laurel Lane, Pebble Beach
3 BD | 2 BA | 2,206± SQ. FT. | 9,700± SQ. FT. LOT
\$2,695,000
1091Laurel.com
 Debora Sanders 831.620.2936
 License# 01966114

OPEN SATURDAY 1-5 PM



121 Quail Run Court, Del Rey Oaks
1 BD | 1 BA | 696± SQ. FT.
\$558,000
121QuailRunCourt.com
 Joe Gallagher 831.917.1631
 License# 01962982



OPEN FRI & SAT 1-4 PM

67 Montsalas Drive, Monterey
2 BD | 2 BA | 1,116± SQ. FT.
\$699,000
67MontsalasDrive.com
 Laura Warren 831.297.9805
 License# 02165280



Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



26181 Valley View Avenue, Carmel
3 BD | 4 BA | 2,174± SQ. FT. | 4,000± SQ. FT. LOT
\$3,975,000
26181ValleyViewAvenue.com
Trapin Anderson & Myers 831.238.7559
License# 02033114



OPEN SAT 1-4 PM
15475 Via Los Tulares, Carmel Valley
3 BD | 3 BA | 2,771± SQ. FT. | 1.49± ACRE LOT
\$3,250,000
15475ViaLosTulares.com
Doug Steiny 831.236.7363
License# 00681652

14 San Clemente Trail, Carmel
5 BD | 5.5 BA | 7,179± SQ. FT. | 12.9± ACRE LOT
\$6,590,000
14SanClementeTrail.com
Keck Properties Team 831.238.8730
License# 02070480



OPEN SAT 1-3 PM



494 Grove Acre Avenue, Pacific Grove
4 BD | 3 BA | 2,423± SQ. FT. | 8,066± SQ. FT. LOT
\$2,499,000
494GroveAcre.com
Arleen Hardenstein 831.915.8989
License# 01710953

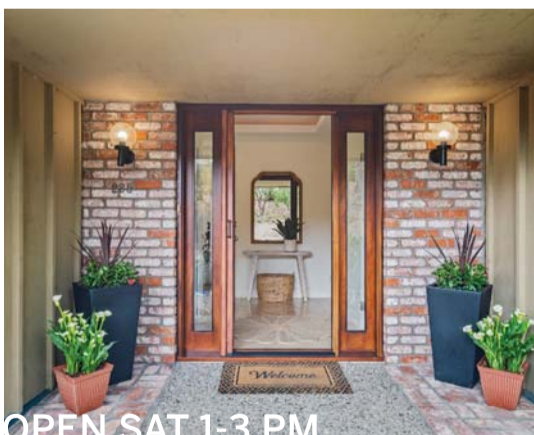


OPEN SAT 1-3 PM
94 Del Mesa Carmel, Carmel
2 BD | 2 BA | 1,830± SQ. FT.
\$1,399,000
94DelMesaCarmel.com
Arleen Hardenstein 831.915.8989
License# 01710953

OPEN SAT 1-3 PM
Lobos SE Corner of Second, Carmel
3 BD | 2 BA | 1,403± SQ. FT. | 4,000± SQ. FT. LOT
\$2,750,000
OlobosSECornerSecond.com
Susan Cardinale 831.277.7600
License# 02045240



OPEN SAT 11-1:30 PM



17669 River Run Road, Salinas
4 BD | 3 BA | 2,417± SQ. FT. | 6,398± SQ. FT. LOT
\$1,050,000
17669RiverRunRoad.com
Wendy Charlton 831.915.8217
License# 01994806



OPEN SAT 11-1 PM
418 Fountain Avenue, Pacific Grove
1 BD | 1 BA | 740± SQ. FT. | 1,900± SQ. FT. LOT
\$925,000
RandallRealty.com
Nate Randall 831.869.6117
License# 02033961

OPEN SAT 1-3 PM
285 Del Mesa Carmel, Carmel
2 BD | 2 BA | 1,544± SQ. FT.
\$1,180,000
285DelMesaCarmel.com
Claudia McCotter 831.293.3391
License# 01982938



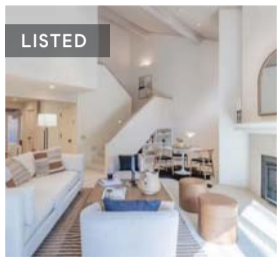


26245 RINCONADA DRIVE · CARMEL VALLEY

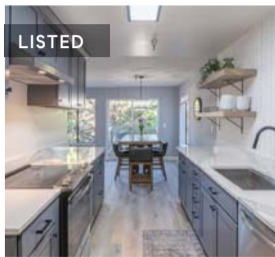
4 BD | 3.5 BA | \$2,540,000 | 4,924 SF | 2.3 ACRES



SE MONTE VERDE
CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
3 BD | 2 BA | 1,665 SF | \$4,500,000



9542 MAPLE COURT
CARMEL VALLEY RANCH
2 BD | 2 BA | 1,922 SF | \$1,750,000



21 SHEPHERDS KNOLL
PEBBLE BEACH
2 BD | 2 BA | 1,492 SF | \$935,000



12167 SADDLE ROAD
CARMEL VALLEY
5.11 ACRES | \$930,000



ANGOLEE BODE
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angoleebode.com · angolee.bode@compass.com
Where Monterey Peninsula heritage meets unmatched client dedication
Top Producing Independent Compass Agent in Monterey County 2025

Monterey County Top Producer (2025); Ranked #1 Independent Agent by Compass for 2025 Sales Volume
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TAX

From page 8RE

initiatives. Many people who invest in this community care deeply about it and would be willing to help if given a meaningful and transparent way to do so. I am eager to approach clients and friends to help with this project and believe it will be well received if the approach is smarter.

I remain committed to being part of the solution and am ready to work alongside local leaders, businesses and stakeholders to develop innovative, effective and fair approaches to workforce housing.

But I cannot support a policy that relies on penalizing a small group of people, risks reducing overall economic activity and may undermine the long-term health of our community.

We can do better. And we should.

Tim Allen is founder and president of Tim Allen Properties.

GERVASE

From page 6RE

They should be letting everyone know that the gift of everlasting life, personified by an empty tomb, is what separates humanity from every other creature.

I like the fact that Easter's message is not as generally embraced and secularized as Christmas. Yes, I know we are charged to spread the good news of this incredible story to the rest of the world. But for one day, it is kind of fun to feel you have been admitted into high society, even if you didn't have to do anything to join. You can't buy your way in. There's no initiation period or vetting process. All you have to do is accept the invitation to join. Everything else has been done for you.

Happy Easter.

Contact Jerry at jerrygervase@yahoo.com.

Thinking of buying or selling a house in the Monterey Peninsula?

Be sure to use a realtor who advertises in The Pine Cone. They care about the community ... and they care about you!



859 Balboa Ave, PG
SOLD \$3,255,000

The Jones Group just helped sell our PG home making things super easy, handling the staging, inspections and maintenance items and helping us achieve an awesome outcome. Always available, high level of activity and awesome communication. Highly recommend!!!

1109 Heather Ln, PG
SOLD \$950,000

When a wonderful friend passed, as the trustee responsible for selling her home, I was given your name by the trust attorney. Living in San Francisco, I had very few contacts on things I needed to prepare the home for sale. You certainly came to my rescue and handled all aspects of getting the property ready, including carpeting, painting, trash removal, repairs, staging. All the work you put in changed the appearance and promoted the sale. The Jones Group does not mess around and their team gets things done.



THE JONES GROUP COAST & COUNTRY REAL ESTATE



Peggy Jones

Broker, REALTOR

Call us - local experts who can help you make your property sparkle and sell for top dollar.

TEXT/CALL 831.917.4534

Read what some of our Buyers and Sellers have to say!

Are you feeling overwhelmed thinking about the huge effort it will take to prep your home for a sale?

Call us - local experts who can help you make your property sparkle and sell for top dollar.

142 11th St, PG
SOLD \$1,570,000

When it was time to sell our investment house, we had The Jones Group do it. BOY DID THEY!!! Taking care of all the cleaning and fixing details for us. Put it on the market and within an hour, we got a call. Not only was the house sold, but sold over the listing price. We thought it was a joke, but it was true. It was near the ocean and in pretty good shape, and her special touch was all it needed. Thank you!



401 Sequoia St, MTY
SOLD \$829,000

My husband and I hired The Jones Group after my sister raved about the service, deep knowledge of the area, and professionalism. We had family home to sell in Monterey and were so relieved that TJG were able to help us do that. We are remote owners, so we needed someone to walk us through the process and to keep us so informed that we could relax! Pushing but not too hard, explain until we were clear, and make suggestions we never would have thought of. Little did we know that TJG has a deep team of long-time contractors, painters, electricians, etc. By the time the house was ready to be put on the market, we almost did not recognize it! It was just lovely with minimal yet eye-popping detail to make it curb worthy. Our only regret is that TJG is not local to OUR area. That would make it so much easier for us to refer to our neighbors. 5 Star Rating!!!!



OLD IN 2025-26 (SO FAR!)

859 Balboa Ave, PG	\$3,255,000	9 Deer Stalker Path, MTY	\$1,780,000	142 11th St, PG	\$1,570,000
610 Forest Ave, PG	\$1,548,000	955 Egan Ave, PG	\$1,460,000	1128 3rd St, MO	\$1,214,100
311 Cedar St, PG	\$1,275,000	2757 Sea Glass Ave, MA	\$1,189,000	459 English Ave, MTY	\$1,135,000
361 Hannon Ave, MTY	\$1,073,100	132 6th St, PG	\$995,000	1109 Heather Ln, PG	\$950,000
1556 Hilby St, SEA	\$886,000	1232 Vallejo St, SEA	\$897,500	401 Sequoia St, MTY	\$829,000
17 Saucito Ave, DRO	\$882,000	1713 Goodwin St, SEA	\$765,000	13750 Center St, CV	\$630,000

JonesGroupRealEstate.com DRE 01299648

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A Season of Renewal, A Legacy to Match



3364 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach

6 Bed | 10 Bath | 8,572 Sq Ft | .92 Acres | \$45,000,000 | 3364on17MileDrive.com

Co-listed with: Debby Beck | DRE 01747647 • Dana Bambace | DRE 01731448 • Mark Peterson | DRE 01977162 • Monika Campbell | DRE 01370848



31453 Highway 1, Carmel Highlands

5 Bed | 6 Bath | 8,855 Sq Ft | 6.5 Acres | Price Upon Request

31453HighwayOne.com



51404 Partington Ridge Rd, Big Sur

1 Bed | 1 Bath | Detached Dwelling | 838 Sq Ft | 2 Acres | \$1,995,000

51404PartingtonRidge.com



Let's Create Your Legacy

Jonathan Spencer | REALTOR® | DRE 01916757 | 831.238.7420

#1 Compass Agent in Monterey County*



May this season of renewal bring joy, connection, and fresh beginnings. Wishing a happy Passover and Easter to all who celebrate.

COMPASS

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ESCROWS

From page 4RE

Shannon Dillon and Gaugh Trust to David Pretari
APN: 101-131-014

Marina

3158 Eucalyptus Street unit 22 — \$507,000

Antonio Stokely to Julie Magallanes and Patrick Cochran
APN: 032-521-022

3137 Seacrest Drive unit 17 — \$580,000

Dennis Dyrud Trust to Gilberto Alfaro and Stephanie Loiselle
APN: 032-461-017

133 Cypress Grove Court — \$599,000

John and Diane Korellis to Steven and Liza Jastrow
APN: 033-241-009

177 San Pablo Court — \$755,000

Chad Arnold to Vachanjeet Singh
APN: 033-161-023

13002 Pope Lane — \$840,000

Mark Sanchez and Yvette Sarmiento to Bonifacio and Kristel Coma
APN: 031-162-056

3199 White Circle — \$905,000

Cameron Hale and Angove Trust to Gabriel Arguelles and Wendolyn Herrera
APN: 032-441-021

3015 Pinos Way — \$1,125,000

Paul and Susan Ambrosini to Russell and Karen Walker
APN: 031-277-082

Monterey

4205 Golden Oaks Lane — \$410,000

Justin Peverini, Jamie Miller and Rover Road Rentals LLC to Colleen Miller
APN: 001-945-009

500 Glenwood Circle unit 123 — \$483,000

Jay and Anca Husher to Zachary Ziino
APN: 001-773-014

725 Alice Street — \$775,000

Ashley Hefner to Harmony Drew
APN: 001-189-012

242 San Bernabe Drive — \$950,000

Kim Haltiner and Eleanor Curtice to Nicholas McIlroy and Corynn Curtice
APN: 001-463-029

40 Shepherds Knoll — \$1,140,000

Usman and Alicia Iqbal to Richard and Grace Gonerko
APN: 008-253-014

705 Grace Street — \$1,150,000

Bruce Orinstein and Laura Torrence to Robert and Norelle Boyce
APN: 001-175-008

See **MORE SALES** page 18RE

The Carmel Pine Cone



APRIL 3, 2026

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Inside this week's Pine Cone!

The Monterey Peninsula is home to hundreds of small businesses, including many owned and run by dynamic, entrepreneurial women whose success stories are an inspiration to us all.

*Mark your calendar to be a part of our next
Women in Business on September 4th!*



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Make your stay on the Monterey Peninsula unforgettable with our specialty concierge services, available in our exquisite vacation homes and long-term rentals.

BOOK YOUR ESCAPE WITH US AT CARMELREALTYCOMPANY.COM



\$15,950,000 • 6 BEDS • 5 FULL BATHS • 8,197 SQ. FT

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831.210.4034
Jeff McMullen
NMLS694626



831.877.2057
Pete Ruiz
DRE#01974535



Keller Williams Realty
29251 Highway 1, Carmel, CA 93923

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CARMEL

\$675,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 12-2
209 Hacienda Carmel Sotheby's Int'l RE 595-0797		
\$825,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 12-2
114 Hacienda Carmel Compass 915-9710		
\$975,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 1:30-3:30
24501 Via Mar Monte #77 Carmel 238-2022		
\$1,150,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 1-3
3850 Rio Rd 63 Carmel 917-3966		
\$1,178,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 11-1
148 Del Mesa Carmel Sotheby's Int'l RE 293-3391		
\$1,180,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 1-3
285 Del Mesa Carmel Sotheby's Int'l RE 293-3391		
\$1,195,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 11-1 Su 1-4
249 Del Mesa Carmel Sotheby's Int'l RE 601-9038		
\$1,240,000	3bd 3ba	Sa 1-3
83 High Meadow Ln Carmel 809-0158		
\$1,399,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 1-3
94 Del Mesa Carmel Sotheby's Int'l RE 707-294-5120		
\$1,750,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 11:30-1:30
9542 Maple Court Carmel 236-5290		
\$1,800,000	2bd 1ba	Sa 1-4
Torres & 8th NW Corner Carmel 236-4513		
\$1,950,000	2bd 1ba	Sa 1-3
Palou 8 NW of Casanova Carmel 297-2388		
\$2,395,000	3bd 3ba	Sa 10-3 Su 10-4
SE Corner of 4th Ave and Torres St Carmel 224-0020		
\$2,395,000	4bd 4ba	Sa 11-1
28069 Heron Court Carmel 837-5437		
\$2,595,000	4bd 2.5ba	Fr Sa 1-3
25905 Junipero Avenue Carmel Carmel Realty 392-7480 / 915-9726		
\$2,750,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 1-3
Lobos SE Corner Second Carmel Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-7600		
\$2,995,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-3
8022 River Place Carmel Carmel Realty 717-7156		
\$3,600,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 1-3
Palou 9 NW of Casanova Carmel Compass 297-2388		
\$3,975,000	3bd 4ba	Sa 1-3
26181 Valley View Avenue Carmel Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-7559		
\$4,950,000	3bd 3ba	Sa 12-3 Su 1-3
26334 River Park Place Carmel Carmel Realty 884-3868 / 236-2940		

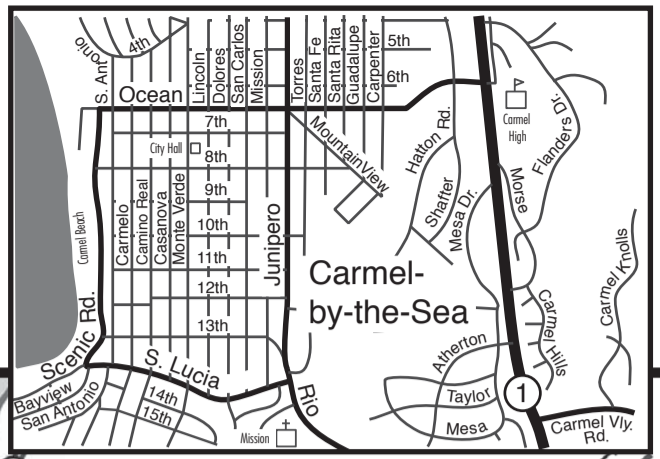
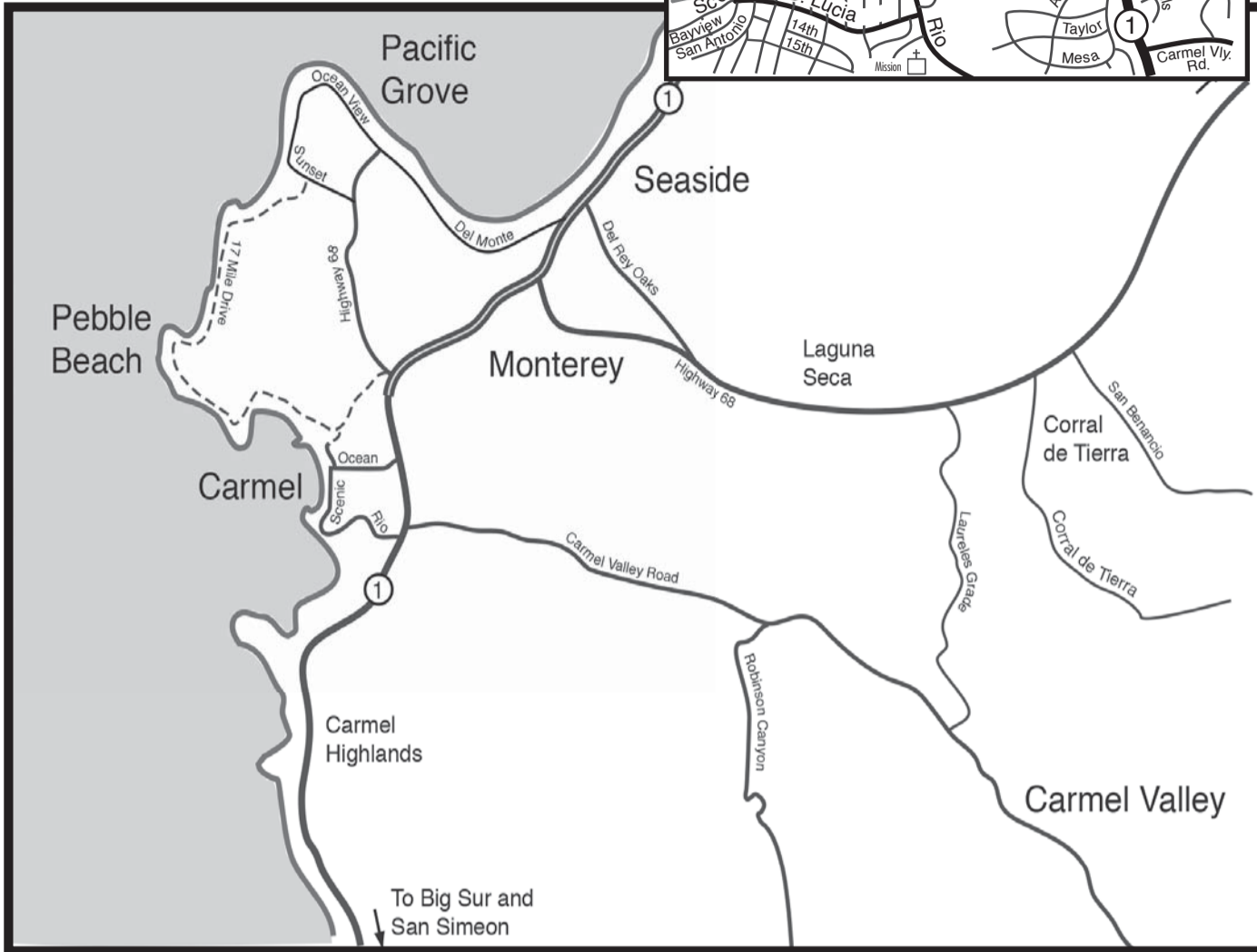
Support Pine Cone advertisers — shop locally!

CARMEL VALLEY

\$1,690,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 12-2
42 Upper Circle Carmel Valley Sotheby's Int'l RE 293-3030		
\$1,995,000	2bd 2.5ba	Sa 12-3
9 Story Road Carmel Valley Sotheby's Int'l RE 402-4394		
\$2,064,000	4bd 3ba	Fr 1:30- 4 Sa 12-4 Su 12-2
27460 Loma Del Rey Carmel Valley The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams 620-2243		
\$2,080,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 1-3
760 Country Club Dr. Carmel Valley Compass 262-7768		
\$2,375,000	3bd 2.5ba	Su 1-4
25390 Tierra Grande Drive Carmel Valley Sotheby's Int'l RE 917-9886		
\$2,540,000	4bd 4ba	Sa 12-4
26245 Rinconada Dr Carmel Valley Compass 236-5290		

This Weekend's **OPEN HOUSES**

April 3-5



\$2,850,000	4bd 3.5ba	Sa 12-2
56 W Garzas Road Carmel Valley Coldwell Banker Realty 272-2172		
\$3,250,000	3bd 3ba	Sa 1-4
15475 Via Los Tulares Carmel Valley Sotheby's Int'l RE 917-9886		
	3bd 3ba	Fr 12-3 Sa 1-3
58 La Rancheria Carmel Valley The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams 261-6468		

CORRAL DE TIERRA

\$1,150,000	3bd 3ba	Sa 12-2
13538 Paseo Terrano Corral de Tierra Sotheby's Int'l RE 915-2800		

DEL REY OAKS

\$558,000	1bd 1ba	Fr Sa 1-4
121 Quail Run Court Del Rey Oaks Sotheby's Int'l RE 917-1631		
\$1,100,000	4bd 2ba	Sa 12-2 Su 1-3
831 Arlington Pl Del Rey Oaks Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-3371 / 277-8622		
\$1,425,000	4bd 2ba	Sa 1-4
810 Altura Pl Del Rey Oaks Sotheby's Int'l RE 510-589-6892		

MARINA

\$949,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 2-4
5003 3rd Avenue Marina Sotheby's Int'l RE 915-0265		
\$1,015,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 12-2
3218 Tallmon St Marina Sotheby's Int'l RE 521-0680		
\$1,275,000	3bd 2ba	Sa Su 1-3
482 Lassen Way Marina Sotheby's Int'l RE 682-0126		
\$2,499,000	4bd 3.5ba	Sa 11-2
2409 Schooner Avenue Marina Monterey Coast Realty 277-1224		
\$1,150,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 12-4
13514 Warren Ave Marina The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams 837-5437		
\$965,000	3bd 3ba	Sa 11-1
15181 Breckinridge Avenue Marina, East Garrison Monterey Coast Realty 578-7426		
\$1,200,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 1:30-3:30
14454 Lee Avenue Marina, East Garrison Monterey Coast Realty 578-7426		

MONTEREY

\$925,000	3bd 1ba	Sa 1-5
662 Oak St Monterey Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-8622 / 915-8989		
\$969,000	3bd 1.5ba	Sa 12-3
22 Melway Circle Monterey Keller Williams Coastal Estates 220-5186		
\$1,149,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 12-2
779 Alice Street Monterey Sotheby's Int'l RE 415-810-8810		
\$1,595,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 9:30-2
721 Oak St Monterey The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams 595-9242		



\$1,745,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-3
541 & 539 W Franklin Street Monterey Carmel Realty 402-2076		
\$2,250,000	3bd 3ba	Su 11-1
471 El Dorado Street Monterey Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-9250		

Monterey County reads The Pine Cone

PACIFIC GROVE

\$925,000	1bd 1ba	Sa 11-1
418 Fountain Avenue Pacific Grove Sotheby's Int'l RE 869-6117		
\$950,000	3bd 1.5ba	Su 12-2
1227 Shafter Avenue Pacific Grove Sotheby's Int'l RE 521-4118		
\$1,178,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 12-2
1321 David Avenue Pacific Grove Sotheby's Int'l RE 404-401-8647		
\$2,499,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 11-2
494 Grove Acre Pacific Grove Sotheby's Int'l RE 915-8989		
\$3,400,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 12-3
683-685 Ocean View Boulevard Pacific Grove Sotheby's Int'l RE 318-3808		
\$3,888,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-3
131 7th Street Pacific Grove Sotheby's Int'l RE 402-2017		
\$7,200,000	4bd 4.5ba	Sa 1-4
1051 Ocean View Blvd Pacific Grove Coldwell Banker Realty 206-0129		

See OPEN HOUSES next page

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SHERIFF

From page 9RE

Carmel Valley: Cachagua Road resident reported suspicious circumstances.

Carmel Valley: Violation of a restraining order on Chambers Lane by a 45-year-old male.

Pacific Grove: Online report of harassment made by a subject on Highway 68.

Carmel area: Adult Protective Services report at an address on Mission Fields Road.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Dog-vs.-person incident at Scenic and Eighth.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A 56-year-old male resident of Palo Colorado Road was arrested at Highway 1 and Rio Road for DUI and for an outstanding warrant for failure to appear

in court on a misdemeanor in Marin County.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found bag at Mission and Third.

Pacific Grove: Dog at large was brought to the police department. Unable to locate the owner. Dog was taken to the SPCA.

Pacific Grove: Vehicles on Forest Avenue and on Ocean View Boulevard were marked for 72-hour parking.

Pacific Grove: Officers responded to the report of a male yelling in the 1200 block of Forest Avenue. Determined the subject was in possession of paraphernalia and was in violation of a court order. The 54-year-old male was booked into Monterey County Jail.

Carmel area: Willow Court resident reported cyber fraud.

Carmel area: Adult Protective Services at a residence on Martin Road.

Carmel Valley: Deputies responded to a domestic dispute on Cinquenta road involving a 46-year-old female suspect and a 68-year-old male victim.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Pacific Grove: Welfare check of a juve-

OPEN HOUSES

From previous page

PEBBLE BEACH

\$899,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 1-4
17 Shepherd's Knoll Carmel Realty		
\$1,395,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 11-1
84 Ocean Pines Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$2,350,000	4bd 3ba	Sa Su 1-3
1171 Chaparral Road Monterey Coast Realty		
\$2,695,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 11-4 Su 2-4
1091 Laurel Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$2,745,000	4bd 2.5ba	Su 2-4
1043 Mission Road Sotheby's Int'l RE		
\$5,200,000	4bd 2.5ba	Fri 11-1
1633 Sonado Road Monterey Coast Realty		
\$9,500,000	5bd 5.5ba	Sa 1-3
3159 Stevenson Dr Coldwell Banker Realty		
\$9,995,000	4bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-3
1651 Crespi Lane Carmel Realty		



\$6,780,000 4bd 4.5ba Sa 11-4
3937 Ronda Road Pebble Beach
Carmel Realty 460-6864

SALINAS

\$537,000 2bd 1ba Sa 1-3
1051 Riker St 7 Salinas
Sotheby's Int'l RE 261-1120

SANTA CRUZ

\$1,749,000 2bd 1.5ba Sa 1-4
121 Anchorage Ave Santa Cruz
Sotheby's Int'l RE 535-2649

SEASIDE

\$679,000 2bd 1ba Fr 4-6 Sa 10-3 Su 11-3
1666 Hillton St Seaside
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From page 14RE

Monterey (cont'd)

698 Ocean Avenue — \$1,332,000

David Benech and Janice Brown to Ashley LaBrier and Coleman Smith
APN: 001-845-009

1100 Castro Road — \$1,595,000

David and Karen Olwell to Kelly and Monica Strickland
APN: 101-011-010

6 Huckleberry Court — \$2,025,000

Beverly Oviedo to William and Olivia D'Allaird
APN: 001-282-003

Pacific Grove

1215 Miles Avenue — \$775,000

Estate of June Malament to Eyragon Eidam and Emily Cardiff
APN: 007-576-007

161 Fountain Avenue — \$1,150,000

Robert and Margie Shields to Comon Tiger Property Owner LLC
APN: 006-174-010

56 Glen Lake Drive — \$1,190,000

Cypress Property Holdings LLC to Thomas Lyons and Karen Carroll
APN: 007-612-041



4055 Sunset Lane, Pebble Beach — \$2,650,000

306 Crocker Avenue — \$2,045,000

Christina Monson to Clara Fryer and Gwendolyn Baba
APN: 006-392-038

Pebble Beach

1155 Lookout Road — \$2,050,000

Elaine Cooper to Frederick and Julie Gruber
APN: 007-502-008

4055 Sunset Lane — \$2,650,000

James and Gloria Barron to Lisa Bianchi
APN: 008-111-013

56 Spanish Bay Circle — \$4,050,000

Hilary Maddox to Michael and Kimberly Kranyak
APN: 007-092-056

Seaside

1079 Wheeler Street — \$775,000

James Mattos to Robert and Bernardine Parry
APN: 012-462-003

2085 Lassen Street — \$815,000

Herbert Parson to Debra Cason
APN: 011-473-014

19102 Fallingwater Lane — \$850,000

Aileen and Lemuel Mendoza to Kyung Jung and Hyang Seung
APN: 031-302-044

1336 Luxton Street — \$880,000

Edward and Timi O'Malley to Mackenzie Bubel
APN: 012-284-019

1524 Elm Avenue — \$960,000

Samuel and Wardie Khacho to Katherine Hubbard
APN: 012-242-029

4750 Sea Crest Drive — \$1,200,000

Catherine Tiffany to Jordan and Katie Lamos
APN: 031-232-031

1055 Fremont Blvd. — \$1,273,000

Richard, Kurt and Bette Geisreiter to Mark and Reed Geisreiter
APN: 011-365-013

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WOMEN IN BUSINESS

LOCAL WOMEN - REAL SUCCESS

Love in a bottle, tradition in a jar and art on a board

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

GROWING UP, Annelise Brabeck Gerome's primary influencer wasn't a rock star, a movie star, a fashion model or a renowned activist. It was her dad.

The late Dr. Stephen Brabeck shared some similar sensibilities with his daughter, including an understanding of food as medicine and as a way to bring everyone together — congregating around the table, creating community. When the cardiologist decided to open a store to educate customers about the health benefits of extra virgin olive oil, his daughter was on board with his efforts.

In 2012, the duo opened The Quail & Olive in Carmel Valley Village. The charming boutique purveys high-quality olive oils and specialty vinegars along with related specialty items including skin care products, kitchen utensils, and cookbooks.

Culinary medical insights

"My father taught me that extra virgin olive oil — rich in antioxidants and heart-healthy fats so important to our health and well-being — is one of the best food choices for a healthier life," Gerome said. "We took the culinary medical program at Tulane University to learn about the studies done and the data backing up the idea that extra virgin olive oil is such a powerful tool."

Equipped with that information and constantly pursuing more, she has continued to develop Quail & Olive since her father's death in 2018.

"In 1998, the Olive Oil Council of California recognized that olive oil must be certified," said Gerome. "Extra virgin is the highest grade of quality an oil may be awarded, which means it meets certain chemical and sensory standards. This should signify that it's going to be



Annelise Brabeck Gerome of The Quail & Olive and Jordan Champagne of Happy Girl Kitchen are two of many retail culinary specialists in the Monterey Peninsula.

FOODIES *cont. page 18W*

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Making the symphony everybody's business

By LILY PATTERSON

THE WOMEN behind the Monterey Symphony work in near-perfect harmony — even though only one of them is a classically trained performer.

Musicianship isn't a job requirement, but all four directors have been asked to stretch their creativity in ways they never imagined. Their goal: Make centuries-old music exciting for younger, modern ears without losing touch with the devoted audience that has carried the nonprofit orchestra into its 80th year.

"This is it. This is the office," president and CEO Nicola Reilly declared as the team assembled on Zoom, streaming from various corners of their headquarters at Seventh and San Carlos.

The Pine Cone gathered Reilly, operations lead Noemi Vera, patron services director Julie Lim, and marketing and events director Virginia Marine on a call to discuss selling a symphony in 2026.

"You can't just put classical music out there and ask, 'Why aren't people buying tickets?' Do you think Nike would do something like that?" Reilly asked.

The violinist and veteran of arts and music nonprofits knows a thing or two about promoting old compositions in fresh ways.

Insider's perspective

Reilly, a Washington native, worked for the Seattle Chamber Music Society and the city's Medieval Women's Choir before moving to Monterey, where she first served as development and marketing lead for the Carmel Bach Festival. In 2016, the symphony poached her from a fundraising job at CSUMB.

Reilly recalled, "I was at a concert 10 years ago when a couple people I knew from the symphony approached me and said, 'What are you doing? You're an artist. You should really come and talk to us.' There was some arm-twisting involved."

Vera — a Salinas resident who, enamored after just one concert, started volunteering in the box office as a high schooler — had joined the team two years earlier.



PHOTO/MANNY ESPINOZA

Noemi Vera, Julie Lim, Nicola Reilly and Virginia Marine are the directors of the Monterey Symphony, which performs monthly concerts at Sunset Center and occasionally at the Forest Theater.

SYMPHONY cont. page 12W

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'The coolest little organization you've never heard of'

By ELAINE HESSER

LIKE DORY in "Finding Nemo," sometimes you just have to keep swimming, especially when it looks like there's a long journey ahead. For Melissa Mahoney, that meant following her dream of becoming a marine biologist and ocean conservation activist like Jacques Cousteau — despite growing up in western Colorado.

After earning her bachelor's degree in environmental science at the University of Colorado, Boulder, she got her master's in marine science through San Francisco State University at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. More than 20 years later, Mahoney's the executive director of the Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust — in her words, "the coolest little organization you've never heard of."

The former competitive swimmer learned to scuba dive while completing her undergraduate studies. Inland, she dove in the Blue Hole in New Mexico, the Great Salt Lake and Lake Powell. She's also seen the Great Barrier Reef off Australia and pristine waters off Indonesia. But of all the undersea places she has visited, her favorite remains the kelp forest in Stillwater Cove.

"It's the most beautiful dive in the world. It rivals any tropical reef," she said.

Overdoing it

But when Mahoney arrived at Moss Landing for her graduate studies, the calm surface of Monterey Bay belied a crisis: West Coast fisheries from Canada to Mexico had been severely overfished.

Following 1976 federal legislation aimed at removing foreign fishing fleets from U.S. waters, American companies harvesting seafood along the West Coast

Some species' populations dropped to less than 25 percent of healthy levels

flourished. Their rapid growth was exacerbated by inaccurate (some called it "overly optimistic") population estimates of fish, plus heavy trawling gear and practices that destroyed areas where "groundfish" — tasty bottom-dwellers like rockfish, sole, lingcod and sablefish — grew to maturity.

As a result, some species' populations dropped to less than 25 percent of healthy levels.

In January 2000, U.S. Secretary of Commerce William Daley declared the fisheries an economic disaster, which freed up government funds but also triggered emergency fixes. Catch limits for the worst-hit species were reduced almost to

FISH cont. page 26W



Melissa Mahoney is the executive director of Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust.



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Jewelry, raw fish, and investment banking

By ELAINE HESSER

It's hard work — and you need the right motivation

to adventurous Italian parents who had emigrated to South America and owned a successful print publication that was, as Ucelli put it, “like Craigslist, where people advertised cars and furniture for sale. It was really good before the internet.” Indeed, she said, the family business had 300 employees at its peak.

Still, Ucelli noted, “I had no idea what I wanted to be when I grew up. I’ve always been very artistic,” and loved painting, drawing and making jewelry. She began art school but ended up moving to Hawaii with a partner who was a surfer, and she had a son who spent his elementary school years there.

Looking for a way to support herself and her child, Ucelli decided to open a sushi restaurant. She had no experience with raw fish — other than eating it — and if you’re wondering what made her throw herself into learning the business, you’re in good company.

“My dad had the same question,” Ucelli

REALTORS *cont. page 19W*



Why would an Italian from Brazil open a sushi restaurant in Hawaii? Just ask Alessia Ucelli.

SELLING REAL estate in the Monterey Peninsula seems like a great way to make a living. Find a buyer for one or two multimillion-dollar houses a year and spend the rest of the time relaxing — or so the uninitiated think. They don’t understand the indefatigable persistence, patience and diligence needed to thrive in this rarefied and competitive market.

But realtors like Courtney Jones at the venerable Carmel Realty, and Alessia Ucelli at its sister brand, Monterey County Realty, know the truth. They find inspiration for all that hard work in their community and with clients — not to mention some absorbing personal interests and stunning scenery.

Although her mother was a local realtor, Jones didn’t plan to follow in her footsteps. After attending Santa Catalina and Stevenson schools, she earned her bachelor’s degree in finance at Santa Clara University.

She really liked investing and investment banking — although her professional life didn’t work out quite the way she initially imagined.

London and then home

She spent the first part of her career as a portfolio analyst at London-based Barclays, but didn’t really enjoy it. When she transitioned into personnel recruiting for finance firms, however, she discovered that she loved sales.

“A lot of what I learned in recruiting applied to real estate. It’s all about people,” she said. And after eight years in San Francisco, she was ready to return to the Peninsula.

Ucelli’s route here was more circuitous. She was a first-generation Brazilian, born

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The perfect fit and a house of cards

By SALLY BAHO

ALTHOUGH THEY are right next door to each other, Marita Johnson of Marita's Boutique and Stephanie Loftus of The Quill have put their own spins on retail success in Pacific Grove. Marita's Boutique, a women's clothing store on Lighthouse Avenue, offers a wide range of sizes, from extra small to 3X. Johnson, the owner, explained, "We're kind of the only plus-size store in this area, and we have all price ranges. We have all fabrics, all styles — we have conservative, we have funky, edgy — we have something for everybody."

Johnson is particular about the quality of her merchandise and carries clothing from the United States and designers around the world. Two doors down, she also owns Marita's Shoes, which offers women's sizes from 5 to 13, along with some options for children and men. Like the boutique, the shoe store aims to have something for everyone, with many styles made in Spain and Italy.

No retail experience

Johnson grew up in Germany and, as she put it, "followed an Army man to Fort Ord."

"I've owned the business now for 22 years, and I actually bought it accidentally," she said. "I used to sell real estate for 15 years here on the Peninsula, and I shopped at Kathleen's (women's clothing shop) up on Forest. When she went out of business, I told her I thought she should



Marita Johnson's namesake shops on Lighthouse Avenue in Pacific Grove pack a lot of styles and sizes into cozy neighborhood spaces.

*'In my spare time,
I would go in, work,
and do the books.'*

sell it — maybe I was interested." The next day, Kathleen called her with a price, and without much thought — she'd never worked in retail — Johnson replied, "Sold!" That's how Marita's Boutique began.

She stayed at the Forest Avenue location for less than a year before moving to the shop on Lighthouse. At first, she continued selling real estate while running the boutique, hiring staff to manage day-to-day operations. "In my spare

time, I would go in, work, and do the books," she said. A few years later, the owner of what was then Orlando Shoes approached her about buying her store. "So I said okay," Johnson said with a laugh. "I didn't know anything about shoes, either, but here I am, many years later, and we're pretty successful. We have some customers who actually

NEIGHBORS cont. page 20W



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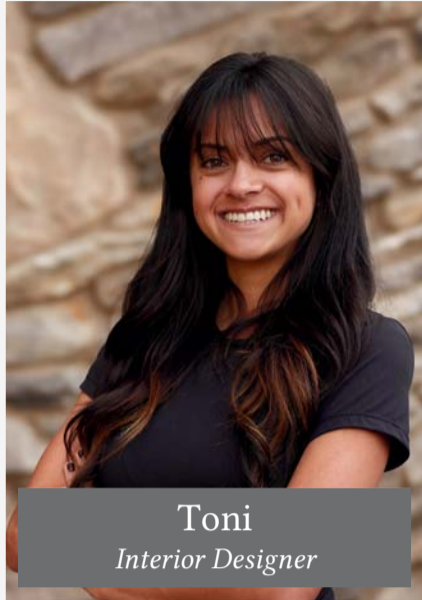
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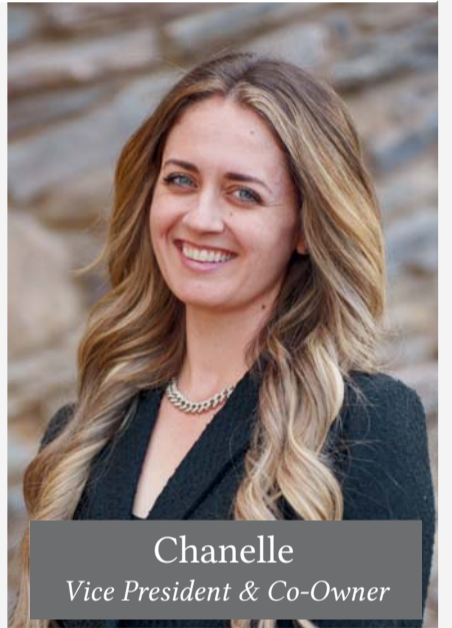
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Celebrating 100 years of Sunset Center

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON



Beth Bowman is executive director of the Monterey Peninsula's premier concert venue.

*'Hosting
world-class
artists in our
community'*



Behind Sunset Center's familiar Gothic arches, you'll find (left to right) Shelly Yellich, Christine Sandin, Beth Bowman, Stephanie Zelei and Annelise Nussbacher, all working hard to bring things together.

BY DAY, it is the most stunning sculpture in the city. Lit from within at night, it becomes a magical palace — its steep-pitched, side-gable roof and late Gothic Revival architecture bidding passersby to tarry and take in the smooth façade, which opens to a dramatic arch with pointed crown.

It was built in 1925-26 to house a public school that opened in 1903, and an auditorium was added in 1931. Sunset School was purchased by the City of Carmel in 1965 and was redeveloped into a cultural center.

One hundred years after it first opened to local children, Sunset Center, the home of exceptional performances — and a base for community outreach into schools — is largely run by a cadre of savvy and experienced women. Despite their busy schedules, The Pine Cone got a backstage moment to chat with five women who run the show.

Houses, art and concerts

Before executive director Beth Bowman took charge in 2019, she spent nine years with what is now Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay. Having studied art history at Sonoma State, she had moved to New York. There, she worked in stock photography before returning to California and working in publishing and later with the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara and the Museum of Art and History in Santa Cruz.

Bowman joined Sunset Center as development director in late 2019, and once it reopened after Covid, she stepped into the

VENUE cont. page 24W



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SYMPHONY from page 2W

She shared an insider's perspective on how things were going before Reilly's arrival. In short, not good: Ticket sales, community partnerships, and donations were dwindling. And Vera would know, since her full-time job at the box office had quickly evolved into an all-around operations role.

Reilly piled on the praise.

"Noemi has worked in all parts of the organization and has such a breadth of understanding — like how long things actually take to accomplish. She's always thinking two or three steps ahead."

"And she came up with the idea of doing lobby sessions on Sundays," Marine chimed in. She and Vera started around the same time, arriving in 2014. Marine — who oversees communications and visuals for the symphony, including special events — brought a resume that included work as a graphic design consultant for clients like IBM and NASA.

She collaborates with Vera on "lobby sessions" — innovative mini-concerts given before matinees. Since Sunday afternoon is already the top sales day, the idea was to "offer a more intimate experience, help people get to know our musicians and put a little extra money in their pockets," Vera explained.

Typically, she taps one or a few of the orchestra's 75 musicians. Occasionally, though, the guests are unexpected.

"Last weekend, we had a duo playing Alpine horns. They showed up Friday with these giant instruments, and there was no way it would make sense indoors, so we held it on the plaza — which worked out great, because the instruments are meant to be played and heard outside," Vera explained.

Not zany yet

In 2020, Covid raised the question of what the Monterey Symphony would look like without its dramatic venue at San Carlos and Ninth. Confronting the issue required every ounce of creativity Reilly could draw from her team.

Within the daunting constraints of social distancing and virtual-only events, they unlocked a freedom they're



PHOTO/MANNY ESPINOZA

Women's Night Out is one of the supporting acts Reilly and her team have devised to attract the symphony-curious to Sunset Center.

harnessing well into the symphony's 80th year. "We had free rein and all this energy. We held our balcony sessions, we turned our office into a soundstage," Reilly said.

Those half-hour sessions — a soloist, duet or trio recording live on YouTube from balconies, galleries and other idyllic corners of Carmel — planted the seed for the lobby sessions and more.

"We're capable of so much fun. And I don't think we've hit zany yet. We're still at 'elegant,'" said Reilly.

To support the programming led by conductor and music director Jayce Ogren — with help from Reilly in booking soloists and guest artists the symphony attracts to Sunset Center — the team has been trying ideas like pre-show parties to boost Saturday night turnout and annual events like Women's Night Out (a pre-concert party) and Love Letter.

The latter, a family-friendly event billed as, "Two nights of music under the stars," will take place Sept. 16 and 17 at the Forest Theater. This year's "letter" to Paris includes works by Edith Piaf alongside George Gershwin's

"An American in Paris," and music from "Ratatouille" and "The Adventures of Tintin."

Marine invites the symphony-shy to "just come to Love Letter. Bring a picnic and some wine, gather your friends, and you'll be blown away."

Sold-out season

After overseeing a 2017 redesign of the Monterey Symphony logo, Marine is in the lengthy process of assembling a brand book with design rules to give the symphony a consistent "look." Her hands are in everything from glossy brochures to Instagram content.

Though she often dips into the archive of concert posters for inspiration, "The question is always, 'How can I reinvent familiar spaces?' I don't think any of us is settled in 'the way we've always done it,'" Marine said.

The symphony's 2025-2026 season sold out, thanks in part to out-of-the-box events and media outreach to new

INSTRUMENTS cont. page 21W

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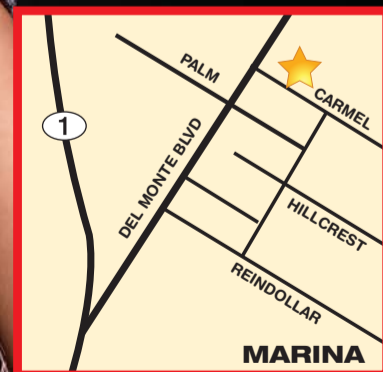
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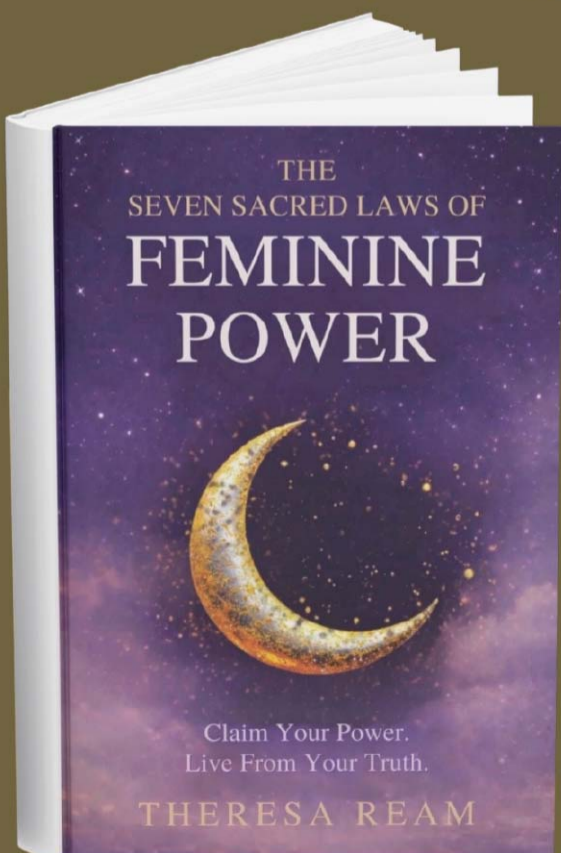


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Waltzes, foxtrots ... and an achy, breaky heart?

By LILY PATTERSON

28-YEAR-OLD NATASHA Zakrevskaia has been turning and pivoting on wooden floors since she was 6, but she's relatively new to line dancing.

"I had no exposure until a couple years ago. Honestly, I thought it would be too easy, even boring, because the steps seemed so basic and repetitive," she said, describing her first impression of the boot-stomping, quick-kicking sequences traditionally choreographed to country hits.

Line dance has become one of the most popular classes taught at N Space, Zakrevskaia's one-woman studio in Pacific Grove — though it started as the odd man out among classic partnered styles like the samba and cha-cha.

Competitive

Competitive ballroom dance is very popular in Asia and Europe, Zakrevskaia explained. That includes in her native city of Vladivostok, Russia, where kids are as likely to pick up the foxtrot or Viennese waltz as gymnastics or ice hockey. In fact, ballroom is esteemed as a rigorous and highly technical sport, so when Zakrevskaia's parents dropped her off at her first class, she was reluctant as any 6-year-old would be.

"I was putting up a fight," she smiled.

After two decades of teaching and competing professionally, Zakrevskaia picks things up quickly. Since opening N Space two years ago, she's learned to follow her students' lead, adding new classes by popular demand. It didn't take long for the weekend line dance sessions she introduced last summer to pack the house.

"You don't need a partner and it's a nice social exchange, not as competitive as ballroom can be. And I was surprised how

challenging it can be to memorize all those steps," Zakrevskaia said. She's on a bit of a Western kick in part because she realized classes are scarce. (Aside from lessons in her studio, classes can be found at Hacienda in Carmel Valley and the Marina Senior Center.) The ever-expanding roster of group classes that light up her studio three to four nights per week cost only \$10-20 to join.

'Dance is a language everybody can understand'

But how did a Russian dance pro find her footing teaching a Californian crowd — most of them ballroom newcomers — and in the process establish the most magnetic little dance school on the Peninsula?

Since it opened quietly in February 2024, the Central Avenue studio has steadily attracted new dancers. It's open as late as 10 p.m., and the glow of activity inside has been known to draw spectators, who occasionally become students.

"I'm a regular at Happy Girl Kitchen and Doggy Daycare, so when I noticed a graceful young woman painting 'N Space' on

BALLROOM *cont. page 25W*



Natasha Zakrevskaia runs the show at N Space Dance Studio in P.G., which offers ballroom dance classes for all ages and levels.



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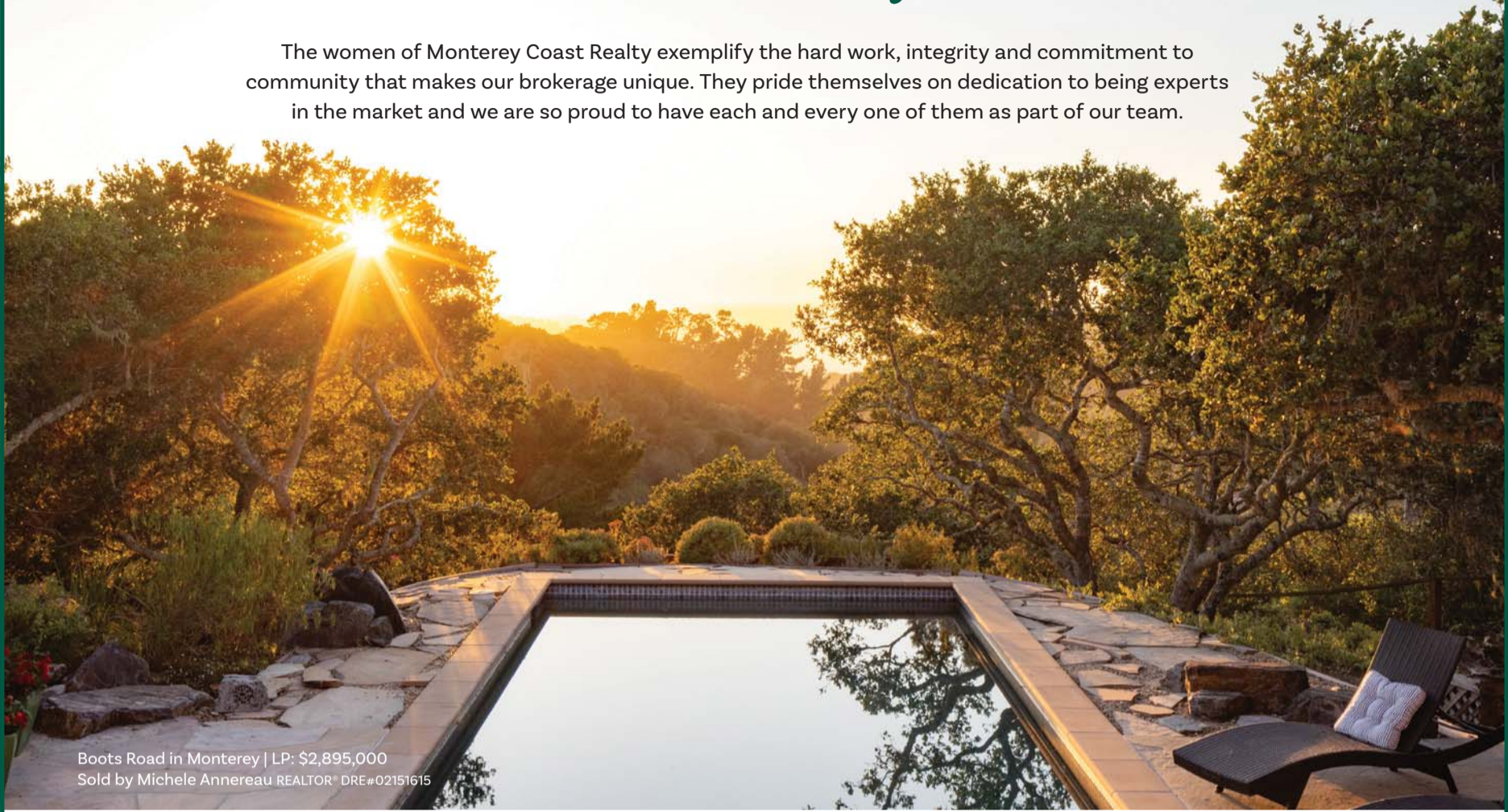
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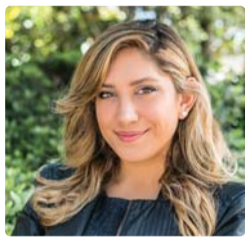
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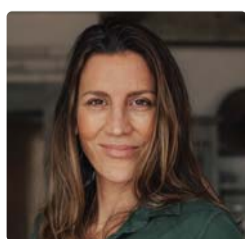
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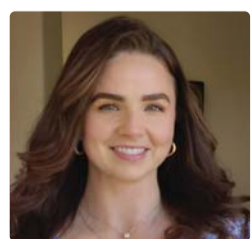
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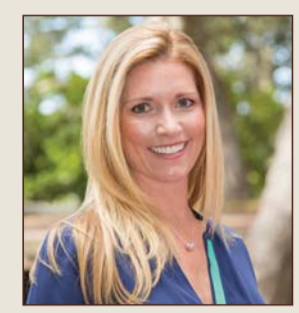
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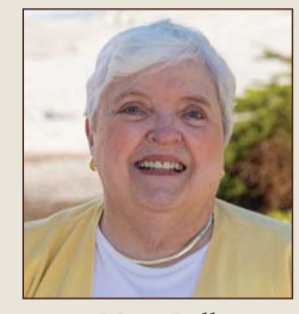
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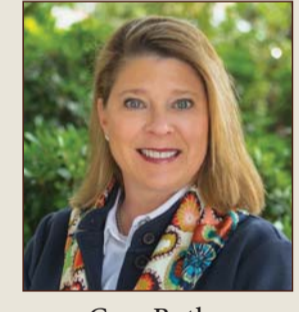
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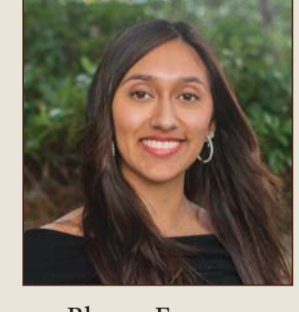
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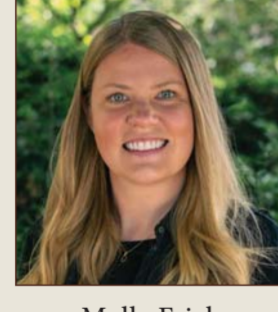
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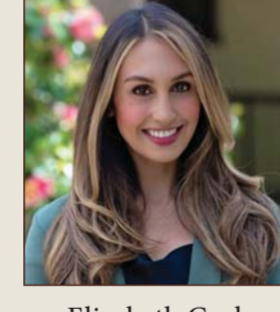
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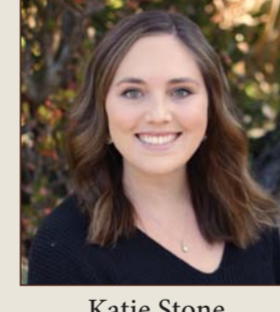
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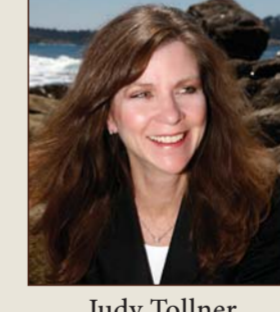
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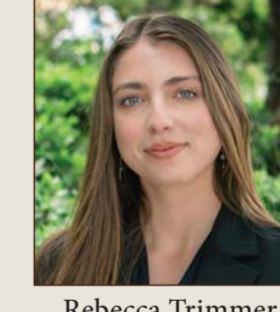
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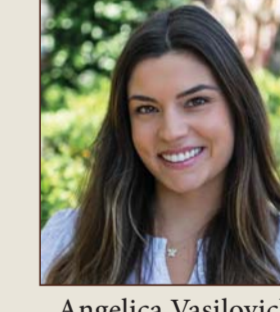
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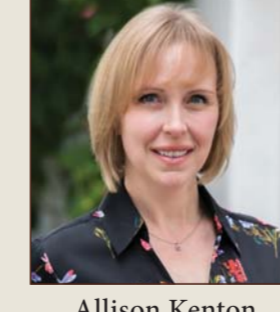
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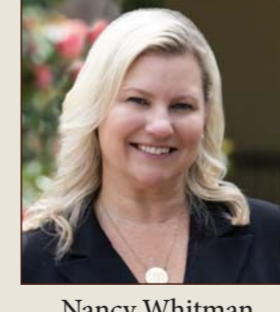
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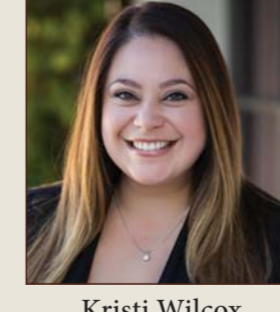
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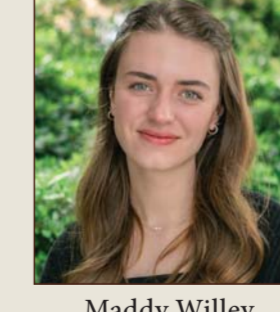
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W O M E N I N B U S I N E S S

FOODIE from page 1W

very healthy for us.”

Gerome mentioned the 2026 food pyramid, which has flipped the traditional model to prioritize protein and healthy fats, including extra virgin olive oil. To that end, Gerome begins her day with cottage cheese, oranges and a drizzle of olive oil, or eggs, yogurt and olive oil, plus a tablespoon in her coffee.

“For lunch, I have a green salad with avocado and a little jalapeño, lemon, and sea salt, drizzled with olive oil to keep me fueled,” she said. “For dinner — we’ve never used butter; my dad was adamant about that — we use olive oil to sauté vegetables, pork tenderloin roast or chicken breast. I also use it in desserts like chocolate ganache or over fresh strawberries with flaky sea salt, and I bake muffins with it, which makes them more moist.”

Chef Camilla Mann, who started working with Gerome as her “resident epicure” in 2020, pairs olive oils and vinegars with

other foods to create the recipes she offers at Quail & Olive. She also develops dishes and menus for events at the store.

“I once had a job as an au pair in Italy for a countess, who taught me how to cook,” said Mann. “I went to the markets every day, where I talked to farmers, asking what vegetables they had and how to cook them. I came home and went into food-and-wine writing, which led to wineries sending me their wine and asking me to create recipes to pair with it.”

Joy in a jar

Meanwhile, closer to the bay, Jordan Champagne launched her gastronomic journey by opening her jarred-goods business — through which she preserved the local harvest — in 1999. Ten years later, this led her from selling pickles and sundried tomatoes, jams and marmalades at a farmers market, to opening Happy Girl Kitchen, a café and preserves shop in

CULINARY cont. page 23W



Camilla Mann (right), aka Culinary Cam, uses locally sourced goodies like those at The Quail & Olive (left) to create delicious dishes for cooking demos along with recipe cards customers can take home.

Pacific Grove Welcomes a Fresh Smile: Dr. Jamie Klinefelter Opens Doors with a Human Touch



Pacific Grove has something new to smile about. This month marked the official ribbon cutting of a dental practice that promises to blend artistry, precision, and a refreshingly human approach to care. At the center of it all is cosmetic and general dentist, Jamie Klinefelter.

Dr. Jamie Klinefelter brings a unique blend of experience, compassion, and artistry to dentistry. Before becoming a dentist, she spent 10 years as a registered dental

hygienist—an experience that shaped her deeply patient-centered approach and commitment to comprehensive, thoughtful care.

After spending the majority of her life in Arizona, Dr. Klinefelter and her family relocated to the Peninsula. She earned her Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from Midwestern University and has a strong passion for cosmetic dentistry and full-arch reconstruction, helping patients achieve healthy, confident smiles designed to last.

Dr. Klinefelter believes exceptional dentistry starts with listening. She is known for her genuine love for people and her dedication to creating personalized treatment plans that align with each patient’s goals, comfort, and long-term oral health.

Outside the office, Dr. Klinefelter is a busy mom to three children and three dogs. She loves spending time outdoors with her family, running, hiking, participating in triathlons, and traveling. Her husband is a commercial airline pilot, and together they enjoy exploring new places whenever they can.



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WOMEN IN BUSINESS

REALTORS from page 6W

said. He pointed out that good old Italian pasta was cheap, especially compared with pricey seafood. But she felt the need for Japanese flavor on the north shore of Oahu, close to her home. "They had pizza and Mexican food, but I had to drive to Honolulu to get sushi," she said.

So, at 25, she learned as much as she could about it, hired "a great chef" and opened in the early 2000s. She sold it in 2009, and it's still selling sushi in her old neighborhood.

"Back then, I had so much more

energy," she reminisced. "I was young and kind of fearless."

First sale

Ucelli moved to the Carmel area because her then-husband had grown up here, and when her son turned 9, she wanted him to have the benefit of an excellent school system. He was dyslexic, and, said Ucelli, "I thought he was never going to go to college."

While Ucelli was learning about running a business in a resort area, Jones and

COMMUNITY cont. page 22W



Courtney Jones — who's on the board at the SPCA — with her rescue dogs, Charles and Charlotte.

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Gina was raised in a large family and helped her mother cook for the family when she was 7 years old. In 2008 she started at Pacific Thai Cuisine, inspired by her mother's recipes, and passion for Thai food.

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W O M E N I N B U S I N E S S

NEIGHBORS *from page 8W*

schedule their annual vacations around shopping at my stores.” One customer she has never met — “I’ve never even seen a picture of her,” Johnson said — lives in Tennessee. Johnson and her team regularly send her “pick boxes” — assortments of clothes that she chooses from before sending the rest back. Johnson also has a devoted local clientele.

She attributes her success to a simple philosophy: Treat others the way you want to be treated, regardless of the profession. She has worked in the medical field, real estate and now retail. She also credits her team, whom she affectionately calls “the girls.”

“We’re like a big family here,” she said. “I’m the owner, but I don’t expect anything from anybody that I wouldn’t do myself.” When she’s not working, Johnson enjoys spending time at home, tending to her yard and relaxing with her cat.

Amazing mom

Next door at The Quill, Loftus also purchased the business from its previous owner and made it her own. The Quill is divided into The Gift Store, which offers “an inspiring array of greeting cards, stylish boxed stationery, unique gift items, brilliant books, and a rainbow of gift wrappings,” according to its website, and The Invitation Studio, which provides a one-stop shop for custom invitations, personalized stationery, holiday cards, and gifts.

Loftus bought The Quill in 2017 from Lisa Mefford, who opened it in 1996. Earlier this year, Loftus celebrated the shop’s 30th anniversary. She grew up in the area, attending Carmel public schools from elementary through 12th grade.

“I was raised by a single mom who was the most amazing person ever,” Loftus said. Her mother, Patricia Loftus, worked as a manager in corporate retail — including at Pebble Beach and the Monterey Bay Aquarium — and Loftus grew up immersed in the industry, even joining her on occasional work trips to New York and San Francisco.

After graduating from San Jose State with a degree in graphic design, Loftus returned to the Peninsula and volunteered with the Forest Theater Guild in Carmel. That role eventually became a paid position in which she handled graphics and promotional materials for productions. In 2006, Mefford called her to help with wedding



The Quill in Pacific Grove carries much more than custom stationery and clever greeting cards. Owner Patricia Loftus has selected items that cater to her customers’ needs.

invitation design, and Loftus quickly became involved in the behind-the-scenes work at The Quill.

“Lisa always said she hoped that one day, when she was ready to retire, I’d be interested in continuing the business,” Loftus recalled. In 2016, Mefford was ready, and the transition began. By 2017, Loftus had taken over ownership. “My mom worked for me as the manager, and we did all the buying together. She handled all the merchandising,” Loftus said.

In 2023, Loftus’ mother passed away unexpectedly. Despite the loss, Loftus has continued to grow the business while honoring her mother’s vision.

“My mom always wanted to have a separate kids’

store,” she said. “I grumbled about the idea, but after she passed, I stepped back and reevaluated. I stopped doing wedding invitations.” She eventually transformed some upstairs space into a “kids loft,” creating a dedicated children’s retail space.

Serendipitously, a woman who owns the wedding invitation business, “The Write Invite,” walked into The Quill in fall 2025 after relocating from the Bay Area. The two have since partnered, allowing The Quill to offer bespoke wedding invitations once again.

Like Johnson, Loftus also has a loyal local customer

GIFTS *cont. page 27W*



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W O M E N I N B U S I N E S S

INSTRUMENTS *from page 12W*

audiences. That includes a special mailer for first-time guests, suggested by patron services director Lim.

Answers to questions about what to wear, where to park, and more are laid out, “to make it as easy and comfortable as possible for people to come and experience this,” Lim said.

There’s also a nearly 50 percent discount on their first ticket, with rates as low as \$12 for students, teachers, active military and veterans, and \$22 for members of the Carmel Residents Association.

“Julie was a no-brainer after we worked together at the Bach Festival,” said Reilly, who coaxed Lim out of retirement three years ago.

Lim volleyed back: “This is such a powerhouse of capable women. In the past, I’ve been involved in organizations where departments are isolated and staff meetings tackle only superficial issues, but the communication here is so fluid and organic.”

\$3 million budget

Beyond individual tickets, full-season subscriptions and musician hospitality, Lim oversees donations to the nonprofit — which, combined with endowment and grant funds, account for 80 percent of its \$3 million operating budget.

“Since we’ve made such a concerted effort to bring in young musicians, I think our patrons are quite invested,” she said.

The symphony has sponsored master classes, provided teachers to help music students prepare for showcases, and organizes an annual “side-by-side” concert where the Monterey Honors Orchestra plays with the professionals.

The efforts have attracted attention from grant-awarding organizations like the Arts Council for Monterey County. Last month, it committed to sponsor the symphony’s annual youth concert, subsidizing bus rides and tickets for 1,400 Monterey



PHOTO/MANNY ESPINOZA

Sunset Center will host a special concert in May so young Monterey County music students can experience their first professional symphony performance.

County students to attend a performance of music from “West Side Story” and the 1942 Aaron Copland “Lincoln Portrait” in “a wide-ranging program exploring the musical character of the nation on the approach of its 250th birthday,” according to the symphony’s website.

“The idea is to target students when they’re just beginning to select or specialize in an instrument,” Reilly said. The symphony sends local musicians to schools ahead of the concert to introduce themselves, answer questions, and play a little.

Part community outreach, part career day, it’s an invitation to become part of something much bigger — and older — than they are.



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COMMUNITY from page 19W

her new husband were relocating from up north. She got her real estate license in 2007, just in time for a market downturn whose shock waves resonated throughout the Peninsula. Jones said she was unfazed, thanks to her experience in San Francisco.

"I started recruiting right before 9/11, and it was all commission," she recalled. "I was fine. If you can survive..." she began, then concluded, simply, "I learned a lot."

That first year, she said, "I was pretty pumped — just super excited." Her inaugural sale was a house in Pacific Grove that bore the marks of hoarding. "A contractor bought it as a project," she said. More important than the temporary high of making a good sale, though, are the people she meets along the way.

"It's not just one deal," she said. "I like being a resource for them." Indeed, she said, it often feels like she's "the concierge at a hotel" as newcomers seek out doctors, restaurants and hairdressers.

'Kind of lost'

Once Ucelli enrolled her son in Chartwell School in Seaside, her worries about his future slowly began to subside. The private school specializes in helping kids with learning differences, and it started with students who were dyslexic.

"I'm forever grateful to Chartwell," she said, noting that her son transferred to Carmel High School after two years, went on to graduate from college and became a realtor in Seattle.

Mom, meanwhile, "was kind of lost" in her new home — still fearless, but not sure what she wanted to do. Then someone suggested she'd be good at real estate. It wasn't a crazy notion.

Ucelli had already sold her house in Hawaii at a profit, and she bought a cottage in Pacific Grove, then lived in it for two years before selling it and making money. She thought, "This is fun. This is nice."

Both realtors embrace an active Peninsula lifestyle

In real estate, she said, "I found a place where I could put art, beauty and architecture to work. Some of the homes are so pretty and I can help people with their vision of what they could do. I started out doing it for myself, and then realized I could help others."

Ucelli gets to indulge her passion for art and aesthetics when clients ask for ideas about how best to decorate their new homes and make them more beautiful.

Both realtors embrace an active Peninsula lifestyle. Jones said she loves starting her day at the gym, and Ucelli enjoys hiking. Like most locals, they also love animals. Jones serves on the board of SPCA Monterey County (as did her father), has two rescue dogs, keeps bees, and owns nine chickens.

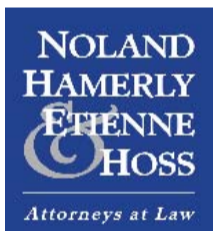
When Ucelli moved from Hawaii, she got a horse in Carmel Valley and rode regularly until her son started college and her financial priorities changed. She still finds herself marveling at the assortment of wildlife she discovered here.

"There are coyotes, hawks, deer, raccoons and foxes," she said. "What a beautiful place!"

Both women have discovered that success in real estate here isn't measured only in closings, but in the people they help and the community they serve.



(Top) Courtney Jones' listings include a Pebble Beach gem on Quail Way, while Alessia Ucelli represented the seller of this lovely Carmel Valley home (above) last year.



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W O M E N I N B U S I N E S S

CULINARY from page 18W

Pacific Grove.

She came up with the name while managing Happy Boy Farms in Santa Cruz. That's when she recognized that the kitchen was her happy place.

"I grew up in Chicago with a big garden and a resourceful single mom, so we ate a lot of fresh produce," Champagne said. "You have to have access to the best ingredients for a kitchen, and what's better than fresh local vegetables and fruits? So, I started there. Once we opened our own kitchen and café, we added a cheese platter, toast, and jam, featuring the things we make on site."

That has evolved into Champagne's in-house bakery — you have to have something on which to spread the jam and cheese — where they make sourdough bread, jam bars, thumbprint cookies, and scones "loaded with whatever the local harvest is producing," she said, like kumquats.

"We're always trying to feature what's going on seasonally and locally," she said. "That's who we want to be: the star of the local show."

Champagne believes she truly leaned into the culinary life while working with local chefs Tim Wood (of Woody's restaurants) and Jacob Lubarsky, who came to her kitchen to do pop-up dinners for guests.

"I really encourage people to follow their dreams, their passion, their ethics," she said. "I've never had to compromise on sourcing the best ingredients and letting them speak for themselves. I train my staff with a different kitchen ethic than the traditionally intense, high-pressure atmosphere. I think the world's ready for a shift, and I'm happy to be part of it by finding ways to lift up the community with what we're doing. It really comes back to you."

Food as fine art

In another interesting foodie tale, "hold the pickles, hold the lettuce" may not be your idea of artisanal preparations, but Miles Cook got her first job at 17, working in what she considered the busiest Burger King in the world. After learning the basics of food production, safety and presentation, she got into baking, a passion supported by a job in administrative health, which was characterized by a routine of paper-pushing, billing, and accounting. Yet her creative instincts called, urging her to seek a profession where she could design and make beautiful things by hand.

Today, Cook is in demand through her company, Chic Charcuterie.

After training with charcuterie connoisseur and "graze table" talent Teumalo Willrodt in 2023, Cook established a company where she strives to bring fine foods into the realm of fine art through multilevel presentations of cheeses and meats, fruits and nuts, and chocolates.

"I'm very familiar with food and equally into crafting," said Cook. "My favorite part became planning and customizing with an artist's eye as I learned how to pair cheeses and meats and what went well together in terms of taste, texture and aesthetics, making it pleasing to the eye and the palate. I am so grateful to share this artistry in a community where we have a bounty of wine, not to mention fresh food, available every day at farmers markets."

Recently, she sourced a 20-by-20-inch walnut board for use at a wedding, a memento she had engraved with the couple's names and the date and location of the nuptials.

She also created a dramatic, multi-tiered presentation for smooth jazz aficionados Sandy Shore and Donna Phillips' "Smooth Lounge," featuring contemporary jazz artists Nathan East and his son, Noah East.

"Miles not only creates the perfect party platter with creative spreads, she also blended into the party as the perfect guest, with her bubbly personality," Shore said.



Happy Girl Kitchen's Jordan Champagne shops at local farmers markets.

"Fine music, fine art, fine foods, and best friends are the perfect recipe for a memorable occasion," observed Cook.

Amid a bustling local culinary scene, Gerome, Mann, Champagne and Cook show that food is more than sustenance — it's medicine, memory, beauty and connection.

From a cardiologist's legacy poured into every drizzle of olive oil, to jars capturing seasonal joy, to boards that turn gatherings into fine art, they remind us: The best meals don't just nourish the body; they feed the soul and bring us all to the table.



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Carole Strauch Heinrich

Carole was raised in Memphis, TN, in a large family with four siblings before she attended the University of Oklahoma. At the university, she met her future husband, Ben Heinrich, and they later moved to Carmel with their son, Grant, in 1976. Here she worked as a stockbroker and subsequently as a mortgage broker, and in 1987, she achieved the designation Certified Financial Planner®, and built an extensive clientele with her easy-going manner and professional attitude.

In 1990, Carole started her career as a licensed Realtor, and together with her husband, built a successful real estate business. Carole's team is consistently in the Top 1% of agents. Ben and Carole enjoy living in Carmel Valley with their rescue dog, Puddin', the Heinrich Team mascot. Carole enjoys early morning walks with audiobooks, traveling with Ben, and dining out at the many wonderful restaurants in Carmel and Carmel Valley.

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VENUE from page 10W

role of executive director.

"I am incredibly honored to help an organization that hosts world-class artists in our community," she said. "But our real goal is to care for this incredible asset in our community and make sure it is open and accessible to everyone. Dedicated to offering a variety of performances and genres, plus our Classroom Connections program — where performing artists go out into the schools, and students get to come to a matinee in the theater, often their first experience — we want to continue fostering that accessibility, building our future audiences."

Divide and conquer

Artistic director Christine Sandin came on board in late 2009 as a marketing and development consultant for a year before she took over as executive director in early 2011. By 2019, her role had become so expansive it was

divided into two jobs: executive director, which Bowman assumed, and Sandin's position as artistic director.

While Sandin was in high school, her single mother — whose influence came from her determination — completed training to become a nurse. When she insisted her daughter go to college to develop her own marketable skills, Sandin earned a scholarship to Babson College in Wellesley, Mass., where she completed a bachelor's degree in entrepreneurial studies and marketing and communication.

"After graduation, I went into the corporate world and hated it," she said. "After giving it a few years, I moved to the Pacific Northwest, hitting Seattle in the middle of the grunge music era of the '90s and went to work for a radio station."

This, she said, launched her career in arts and entertainment.

"Next, I returned to the East Coast," where she worked in skiing, "leading group tours for adults all over Europe.



Stephanie Zelei

I loved it, but, wanting to return to the music industry, I interviewed with a concert promotions company, whose owner both hired and married me. So, I built a career in independent concert promotion up and down the Eastern Seaboard for 400- to 15,000-seat venues."

After starting a family, Sandin — looking for something that would have her home for dinner more often — joined the Monterey County Blues Festival in 2007. Two years later, she moved to the management team at Sunset Center.

"It really has been a tremendous privilege and blessing," she said. "Sunset Center is the perfect place for all the experience I had accumulated, and I wanted to return to a nonprofit organization and focus on community engagement. Once I had checked all my achievement boxes and our operation had grown so large, it was time to hand off my executive directorship and take on the role of artistic director."

Provenance and progress

Carmel native Stephanie Zelei — who came to Sunset Center last year as director of philanthropy and communications — had worked as a consultant for other foundations, including those supporting the Golden Bough Theatre and Carmel Mission, when she began to look toward the future of Sunset Center.

As a child, Zelei performed on the old stage in the Center's theater before graduating from Carmel High School and going on to a double major in history and studio art at Smith College in Massachusetts.

"What excites me most about Sunset Center is its legacy and its future," Zelei said. "This place has deep roots in the community — generations of people have walked through these doors — but there's also a rare opportunity to help shape what the next chapter becomes."

She continued, "People want to feel connected and part of something bigger, and we're creating more opportunities for that through meaningful engagement with our supporters, artists, and programs. Being part of that moment, honoring tradition while building something new, is incredibly energizing."

The center's staff is embracing its 100th anniversary as a "once-in-a-generation" opportunity to build a strong foundation for the next century, Zelei said.

Community engagement

Development director Shelly Yellich sought a role that would enable her to continue the kind of community development work she had been doing with the Junior League of Monterey County and, before that, at the Carmel Mission Foundation during its capital campaign for facility restoration.

Yellich, who attended Stevenson School and graduated from Monte Vista Christian School, said, "I kept my focus on developing more of a donor culture in our community and saw a perfect opportunity to do so on behalf of building a long-term legacy plan to sustain Sunset Center."

Yellich said she finds the job is both a challenge and opportunity, as she .

"As we gear up for our 100th anniversary, we are looking to include folks who went to school at Sunset, as well as those who have enjoyed and have a vested interest in this historic cultural center and its programs."

Voice of Sunset Center

Annelise Nussbacher, the center's communications manager since 2022, majored in literature and wrote her honors thesis on William Shakespeare at Pace University in New York. She described her love of the Bard with the heart of a poet and the passion of, perhaps, the tenacious, eloquent Beatrice from "Much Ado About Nothing."

"You don't even have to get a drink in me, and I'll just start talking about Shakespeare," Nussbacher said, adding that her experience as "an actor and designer who did four years of improv," has served her well.

Nussbacher sees her communications role on behalf of Sunset Center as a wonderful opportunity to deepen her

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W O M E N I N B U S I N E S S

BALLROOM from page 14W

the window, I was curious,” said Tracy Richards, one of Zakrevskaia’s students. “That was nearly two years ago, and since then I’ve watched the dancers seem to multiply week by week,”

Richards is a fellow dance teacher who rents N Space to lead 8:30 a.m. Zumba classes daily except Sundays. Zakrevskaia books the rest of each day for private lessons and kids’ classes, with evenings reserved for group classes, plus a special Friday night slot for West Coast swing instructors Rene Arreola and Jennifer Filzen.

“The swing community here is really tight. Rene and Jennifer bring a big crowd. The best part is, they don’t need me there to keep an eye on things,” Zakrevskaia said.

Studios by the hour

She had been eyeing the space for months before signing the lease in early 2024. She’d driven past plenty of times on her way to Pacific Grove Dance on Lighthouse Avenue, where she taught until the Covid pandemic sent her bouncing from studio to studio, renting floors by the hour for private clients.

Time was on her side — the February opening of N Space coincided with the second half of the school year, when districts occasionally find wiggle room in the budget for extra enrichment activities. To stay afloat for the first few months, Zakrevskaia commuted to elementary schools in Salinas and Prunedale on weekday mornings, wrangling up to 40 students at a time during back-to-back

STEPS cont. page 27W



(Top) Tracy Richards, Natasha Zakrevskaia and student Joni Maldonado put on a cha-cha performance. (Above) Zakrevskaia of ten pairs with her students for pro-am competitions.



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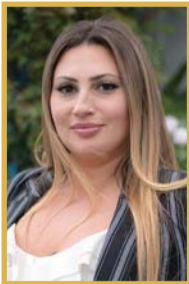


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FISH from page 4W

zero. In 2002, the government closed huge swaths of ocean (more than 20,000 square miles — an area larger than some states) to bottom trawling to give fish populations a chance to recover. Boats went out of business, ports suffered and jobs disappeared.

While the fishery struggled, Mahoney was building her expertise as a fisheries research analyst at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. She also led the development of the Voices of the Bay Fisheries Education Project as education programs manager at Friends of Moss Landing Marine Laboratories.

She spent 2007-2010 working as a research associate whose job included interviewing fishermen, gaining new perspectives and learning things not found in classrooms or textbooks.

She said, "I was fascinated by how much older fishermen knew about ecosystems and weather patterns. They had notebooks their grandfathers passed down," listing the best spots, times of year, currents, weather and more to catch certain species.

"Here I was with my graduate degree,"

'We have to protect what we love'

she chuckled, but the people who worked on the boats obviously had "different kinds of knowledge." Clearly, she realized, decisions about managing fisheries should involve scientists and fishermen working together.

Three years later, when she took a job as fisheries project director with The Nature Conservancy, Mahoney — whose experience by then included stints with the California Sea Grant Extension and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration — had started combining



Melissa Mahoney (right) with a team from Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust at an event in Capitola.

SUSAN BROWNLIE REALTOR



Raised in **Pacific Grove and Pebble Beach**, Susan grew up in a large family with three sisters, fostering deep-rooted connections to the Monterey Peninsula. She began her real estate career in **1989** as a licensed Realtor with **Coldwell Banker/GD Inc.** and has been a **top-producing agent** throughout her **35+ year career**.

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the disparate perspectives of the industry into a single, more focused vision.

The conservancy had purchased boats and fishing permits from fishermen who wanted to get out of the fisheries for various reasons, Mahoney said. The permits were used to create "quota shares" (the legal right to catch a certain amount of fish). The nonprofit then resold those shares to community fisheries trusts, like the one in Monterey, which leases them to fishermen, ensuring local management of local assets.

In 2016, Mahoney had moved on to the Environmental Defense Fund in the San Francisco Bay area, where she spent a total of six years as its manager for Pacific fisheries policy and manager of ocean technology solutions. Then, she said, "I was ready to move on."

During the same period, she became a co-founder and board member of the newly formed Monterey Bay Fisheries

Trust. When its first executive director, Sherry Flumerfelt, left in 2022, Mahoney resigned her board seat to apply for the job.

She said she was excited by "the idea of putting all my energy into these projects, coming back to Monterey Bay and putting seafood back on the map here in a way that really matters."

Unexpected surplus

Back then, the fisheries and those who made a living there were recovering from a new crisis. Ironically, after bringing back populations to a point where fish could be caught and sold in significant numbers, the Covid pandemic led to a surplus as restaurants closed overnight and wholesale markets evaporated. Planes used for seafood exports were grounded, and cold storage units filled up. Meanwhile, many residents who lived an hour's drive from

SPECIES cont. page 30W

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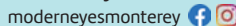
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WOMEN IN BUSINESS

GIFTS from page 20W

base. She said a lot of husbands come in asking, "What was that candle my wife likes?" And, she added, "People love to swing by on their way to dinner for a hand-wrapped hostess gift."

She also ships merchandise around the country, "I'm going to the Post Office every day to ship Jellycat stuffies," she said. The plush animals are the latest craze — luxurious, soft creations from London — and The Quill carries them.

In her free time, Loftus surrounds herself with aesthetic inspiration. "I love going to concerts, I collect art, and I paint," she said.

Both women clearly love what they do, and it shows in both their attitudes and their thriving businesses. So, the next time you're looking to treat yourself — whether it's updating your wardrobe or picking up books, candles or gifts — you might want



Stephanie Loftus owns The Quill stationery and card shop in downtown Pacific Grove.

to stop by the intersection of Grand and Lighthouse in Pacific Grove and do a little shopping that's truly local.

STEPS from page 25W

ballroom classes held outdoors on athletic fields, where she counted rhythms and shouted instructions sans microphone.

When she came to the United States on a work visa in 2016 — Zakrevskaia and her former dance partner had been offered teaching jobs at Pacific Grove Dance — she knew almost no English. Movement was her only tool to spell out the intricacies of standard ballroom dance: two styles of waltz, tango, foxtrot and quickstep. And then there's Latin dance, which encompasses the cha-cha, samba, rumba, paso doble and jive.

"Fortunately, dance is a body language

— everybody can understand it. You can explain this or that just by moving," Zakrevskaia said.

Even now, in polished English, Zakrevskaia asks a few experienced students to help her translate advanced choreography. Group classes at N Space are open to all ages and levels — it's not unusual for a total beginner to find themselves among a crowd of regulars — but she credits "a few great gentlemen" for offering subtle pointers and assisting with demonstrations.

Nearly all of her private clients "started from scratch," she said, including those she's coached since her P.G. Dance days.

DANCE cont. page 28W

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W O M E N I N B U S I N E S S

SUNSET from page 24W

connection with Carmel and its neighboring communities.

If you've attended performances there, you've heard her voice — reminding everyone about things like emergency exits and cell phone use — shortly before the curtain rises. "I particularly enjoy working with local media outlets like KRML, and I am the voice for our ads on the radio," Nussbacher said.

"Any opportunity to speak to this cultural and performing arts center and, through that, to be out developing relationships in the area and in our schools and colleges, makes me feel so fortunate to be a part of this really artistic and creative community," she added.

Sunset Center has always been more than stone and light. Under the guidance of these remarkable women, it remains a beacon of accessibility and artistry, ready to enchant the next hundred years of Carmel audiences with songs, stories and art.



Sunset Center's leadership includes (left to right) Christine Sandin, artistic director, Annelise Nussbacher, communications manager, and Shelly Yellich, development director.

DANCE from page 27W

Others she met volunteering at Chatauqua Hall Dance Club, and some only started out with her because they needed a special waltz for their wedding.

Much to their surprise, "most of them build up to competition," Zakrevskaia said, in the pro-am circuit, in which teachers are partnered with their students. In fact, she said, only a handful of her students show up to class with dance partners in tow.

"One of my older clients said to me recently, 'I just love to dress up, feel pretty, head out on the floor and have everybody applaud for me.' She just wants to enjoy her life," Zakrevskaia said.

"Natasha founded N Space at just 26



STUDIO cont. page 29W

N Space also hosts Zumba classes, and a few dedicated kids are learning the fundamentals of Latin dances, including the samba and cha-cha.

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W O M E N I N B U S I N E S S

STUDIO from page 28W

years old, and in a short time has created more than a studio. She has created a true community where people meet, laugh, and move together," said Richards.

It's also a great spot for kids. What started with a mommy-and-me class has evolved into what she calls her "minis" class, for 4- to 6-year-olds. And since last year, Zakrevskaia has coached a small group of Latin dancers. The oldest is 14, and one commutes from San Juan Batista.

"There are about five kids, most of them from dance families who see the value and are willing to make the drive," she said.

Earlier this winter, she organized a field trip to San Jose to give them a sense of how ballroom competitions work.

She expects the students will make their competitive youth circuit debut this year.

That tiny crew also has the best ambassadors for Zakrevskaia's golden rule: Don't wait.

"The earlier you try dance, the faster you'll learn, and the easier it is to build skills. And it's amazing for balance

and your brain — there are so many studies linking dance to dementia prevention," she said.

"When you get to the studio, half the work is done. Thirty minutes later, something kicks in, and suddenly you're not focusing on your worries and problems. Dance just makes your life better!"



In Natasha Zakrevskaia's home city of Vladivostok, Russia, kids are as likely to pick up the foxtrot as gymnastics.

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SPECIES from page 26W

the waterfront were out of work and needed food.

"We had to change the essential nature of what we did," said Mahoney. "We pivoted to a seafood donation program." The trust began buying fish and taking them to Meals on Wheels and other groups that could distribute them to those in need.

That Community Seafood Donation Program continues and Mahoney said it has doubled its output annually for the last three years. It's supported in part by "Get Hooked" fundraising dinners, for which the trust partners with local restaurateurs and brings back a portion of the proceeds. (The nonprofit exists independently and is not part of any larger parent organization.)

Nowadays the trust continues its conservation efforts, and Mahoney wants to make sure the public understands that cooperation is key.

"Fishermen deserve our support. If they want us to engage, if we can add to their voice in the room," Mahoney said, she tries to make sure their point of view is represented in public meetings and conversations about local issues. The ultimate goal is to make sure Monterey Bay continues to be a source of sustainable seafood, starting in your favorite restaurant or in your kitchen.

Referring to a recent meal she'd had at "If we want to have exquisite dinners,"



For Melissa Mahoney, putting local salmon on local plates equals success.

like one she recently enjoyed at Foray, Mahoney continued, "we have to protect what we love."

"We want to put local seafood on local plates," Mahoney said, by "building appreciation and demand for local seafood to stay here."

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DR. JUDY HONEGGER RISE CARMEL



Dr. Judy Honegger was born and raised on the Monterey Peninsula and is a board-certified gynecologist. As the proud founder of Rise Carmel, she is a dedicated menopause specialist passionate about helping women feel balanced and empowered through every stage of life. At Rise Carmel, she offers personalized hormone optimization, comprehensive annual well-woman examinations, medical weight loss programs, and modern intimate wellness treatments that address concerns such as pelvic floor weakness, dryness, discomfort, and age-related changes. Blending evidence-based medicine with a holistic approach, Dr. Honegger creates customized care plans that support each woman's unique journey. Rise Carmel is a sanctuary for women seeking elevated and compassionate healthcare on the Monterey Peninsula.



(831) 623-3200
26365 Carmel Rancho Blvd Suite F, Carmel
www.risecarmel.com
Instagram @risecarmel

LINDSAY STANLEY SWEET BLUSHING BEAUTY & ELECTROLOGY



Hi, I'm Lindsay, owner of Sweet Blushing Beauty & Electrology, located in the heart of downtown Pacific Grove. The studio specializes in FDA-approved permanent hair removal, offering a warm and welcoming space where everyone is celebrated. A graduate of Monterey Bay Institute of Electrology and proud member of the American Electrology Association, I bring over 20 years of experience in oral surgery to ensure precise, professional care. Whether simplifying daily routines or enhancing natural confidence, Sweet Blushing Beauty provides lasting results in a supportive, authentic, and empowering environment.



(831) 383-8952
www.sweetblushingbeautyelectrology.org
IG:SWEETBLUSHING.and.electrology
Sweet.blushing.beauty@gmail.com

LORINDA KELLER LORINDA K. PHOTOGRAPHY



Lorinda Keller is the owner of Lorinda K. Photography, a Monterey-based photographer with over 20 years of experience capturing weddings, elopements, and portraits along California's scenic coast. Known for her relaxed, candid style, she focuses on authentic, in-between moments that tell real stories. She specializes in helping those who feel awkward or shy in front of the camera feel at ease. Based near the ocean she loves, Lorinda photographs throughout Monterey, Carmel, and Big Sur, creating timeless, natural images.



(831) 233-9593
lorindak831@yahoo.com
www.lorindakphotography.com

ANNE DEGIORGIO AND NICHOLE TORRES CASTLE ROCK COFFEE & MERCHANTILE



My mom's love for coffee took root when she lived in Italy while pregnant with me, savoring three cappuccinos a day. Back in Southern California, we spent the '90s exploring every coffeehouse we could find. Years later, that shared passion inspired us to open Castle Rock Coffee & Mercantile where we bring the warmth of those memories to life, creating a space where everyone knows your name.



667 Hwy 68
Corral de Tierra, CA
831. 998. 7187
www.castlerockcafe.com

DEBBIE LEMOS LEMONS 76



Debbie Lemos, a 76 Service Station dealer in Carmel. She became involved into the family business in 1992. She proudly credits her father-in-law as her mentor that established the business in 1961. With all the challenges in the gas, oil and corporate industry today her hard work and perseverance continues to keep Lemos 76 going strong. Lemos 76 celebrating 64 years locally owned and operated.

Debbie is very involved and gives back to the community in many ways. Her business management, marketing skills, work ethics as well as her high standards and loyalty for her customers, employees and the community were a contribution to be prior recipient of the Carmel Chambers' "Small Business Award" and The Golden Pine Cone voted Lemos 76 as "Best Gas Station" the last 10 years and "Best Repair Shop" on the Monterey Peninsula. Being involved in an established entrepreneur family business has given her an opportunity to turn challenges into opportunities for women leaders, what is normally a male-dominated industry.



(831) 624-2925
544 Carmel Rancho Blvd., Carmel
www.lemos76.com / gasup@lemos76.com

KIM ENGLAND FLEURS DU SOLEIL



For as long as Kim can remember, her love for floral design has been inherent. After graduating from the University of California, Berkeley she spent a year abroad in Paris which further ignited her passion for floral design. Soon after, she gifted her sister with her wedding florals and it was then she went abroad to the South of France, where she studied floral technique. Upon returning, she opened the doors to her flower atelier, Fleurs du Soleil. Her extraordinary floral designs at weddings, events and resort venues have created a highly sought after service in an area where spectacular events demand spectacular floral designs.

In 2017 Kim expanded her business by taking over the remodeled Myrick's building next to El Estero Car Wash at 598 Fremont St. in Monterey. Her vision of expansion has encompassed a European-Urban style retail floral and lifestyle store featuring grab & go arrangements & wraps, contemporary gifts, home goods, one of a kind furniture and daily deliveries.

Winner of the '22, '23, '24
Golden Pine Cones for
BEST FLORIST

598 Fremont Street, Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 656-0455
www.FleursduSoleil.com

VIVI FENWICK



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

(831) 262-4237
vivi@vivifenwickconsulting.com

W O M E N I N P R O F I L E S

TEACHER CHEF GOI YUJAROEN THAI IS FUN



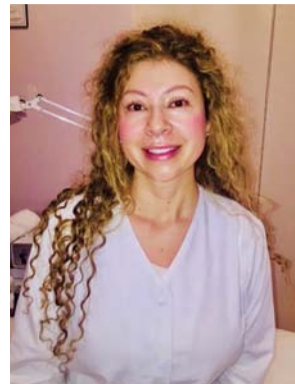
Thai Is Fun is a Monterey Peninsula-area culinary experience company dedicated to sharing the joy of Thai culture through cooking. Founded by Goi Yujaoren, Thai Is Fun blends authentic flavors with engaging, hands-on classes designed for all skill levels. From intimate gatherings to large events, each experience brings people together through food, storytelling, and creativity.

Thai Is Fun also proudly introduces its debut cookbook, available on Amazon on April 13 or at the Thai Is Fun kitchen, offering approachable recipes that empower home cooks to recreate vibrant Thai dishes with confidence. Rooted in community and connection, Thai Is Fun continues to inspire curiosity, celebrate tradition, and make cooking both educational and fun for everyone.



(831) 888-6650
goithaiisfun@gmail.com
ThailsFun.com | Instagram @ThailsFun

M A R T H A P A R A D A PERFECT TOUCH SPA



One of Martha's great areas of beauty expertise is the Brow.

When we age, which does happen, everything goes down. The brow like no other feature (designed correctly) creates a lift to the entire face. Creating the perfect brow with her Perfect Touch is an art form. Martha works with her clients as human beings. They depend on her to keep them youthful, as their skin changes over years of time.

Martha's clients visit her often, every six months or minimum yearly, to see what new enhancement techniques she will use to maximize their beauty, and enhance their attractiveness.

(831) 776-4031
www.permanentmakeupmonterey.com
406 Alvarado St., Monterey, CA 93940
in the Monterey Hotel

B R I T T N E Y W E I N E R T H CHILDREN'S THERAPY CENTER



Brittney is a pediatric occupational therapist and the owner of Children's Therapy Center, founded in 2014. With locations in San Jose and Carmel Valley, the clinic supports children and families through a relationship-based, neurodevelopmental approach. Together, Brittney and her team are passionate about helping children build meaningful skills while empowering parents with practical tools and confidence. The clinic is deeply committed to the community, offering free preschool screenings, parent education, and inclusive events designed to make support accessible to all families. Their work is rooted in connection, collaboration, and creating spaces where children and families feel seen, supported, and celebrated.



(831) 293-9899
26619 Carmel Center Pl., St 101, Carmel
www.childrenstherapycenter.com

DR. KRISTINA MONTELLESE, DC, CPT DOCTOR OF CHIROPRACTIC & PELVIC FLOOR PHYSIOTHERAPY



Dr. Kristina has effectively combined the unique treatments of gentle Chiropractic Therapy & Pelvic Floor Rehabilitative Therapy, for over 19 years. She helps patients with rehab and pain management for sports injuries, prenatal care, and also treats patients with Pelvic Floor Dysfunctions.

Pelvic Floor Rehab is treatment for Women and Men, with Pelvic/Lumbar pain, incontinence or leaking urine, Bladder pain, painful intercourse, prolapse, symptoms following prostate surgery or pelvic surgeries. Dr. Kristina uses gentle physiotherapy and the use of EMG/Biofeedback, a highly specialized diagnostic tool for pelvic floor dysfunctions.

Patients with Neck, Low back pain or Pelvic floor dysfunction are referred to Dr. Kristina by local Orthos, Urologists, OBGYNs and Midwives.

Dr. Kristina enjoys her free time with her 3 boys, biking, surfing and hiking with their Great Dane and Bull Dogs!

Montellese Family Chiropractic & Pelvic Rehab Clinic
(831) 655-3255

Monterey location: 550 Camino El Estero, Suite 103
Carmel location: 301 Mid Valley Center
www.MontelleseFamily.com



C H R I S T Y O ' C O N N O R DIGGIDY DOG



As a lover of dogs since before she could walk, Christy wanted nothing more than to spend her time with dogs and the people who love them. A successful corporate attorney with a notable career spanning over 25 years in '24, '25 and '26, she was awarded the Top 10 Chief Legal Officers in the United States by Women We Admire. She relocated her life to the Monterey Peninsula and lived out her lifelong dream and bought Diggidy Dog. Her love of dogs can be seen in every aspect of the boutique as she has remodeled and reimagined the store, geared toward our love of our best friends and making sure that they are happy, healthy, and dressed to the nines! Christy is also the owner of Cypress Cove Jewelry opening in April and partners with her Dad to own Carmel Vibes Gallery.

In the words of her Father, renowned photographer Nicholas Trofimuk: "You made the jump. Never look back or down. I am so proud of your courage. You will be successful but most of all you will be happy."

No truer words have ever been spoken.



(831)-625-1585 | DiggidyDog.com
NE Corner of Ocean Ave & Monte Verde St,
Carmel-by-the-Sea

J A N I C E T O R E L L I CARPETS AND FLOORS



We're proud to have Janice Torelli as an integral part of the Carpets and Floors team. Since joining us, Janice has brought a fresh design perspective and a strong foundation in project coordination, enhancing the way we support our clients and their creative goals.

Janice's background is rooted in San Francisco's luxury design community, where she spent years managing projects within high-end showrooms. Her experience spans collaboration with interior designers, architects, contractors, and artisans, ensuring that each project is executed with precision and style. Known for her warm, upbeat energy and collaborative nature, she brings clarity and ease to every interaction, making her a trusted resource and a pleasure to work with.

We invite you to visit us at Carpets and Floors and discover how Janice's experience can support and enhance your next project.



Carpets and Floors
471 Lighthouse Ave | Monterey | CA 93940
(831) 372-2300 | www.carpetsandfloorsmonterey.com

A M A N D A B A K E R FLOOR STORE USA



Amanda brings over 40 years of combined design expertise to the Monterey Peninsula, with 20 years at the prestigious San Francisco Design Center and 20 years serving the local community. Having worked in some of San Francisco's most respected showrooms, she developed a strong foundation in collaborating with top designers, architects, and trade professionals. Today, Amanda specializes in flooring, offering a curated selection of wool, sisal, rugs, and more. Her passion lies in helping both homeowners and professionals transform spaces with timeless style, drawing on decades of knowledge to deliver inspired, elevated design solutions.



1666 Contra Costa St. Sand City, CA 93955
(831) 583-9124
www.flooringamericamonterey.com

M E G A N M E R Z FRSTEAM FABRIC & CONTENTS RESTORATION



Megan is a proud CSUMB graduate and the Business Development Director for the Ream Companies, including Disaster Kleenup Specialists, Floor Store USA's Flooring America, Cypress Cabinets, and FRSTeam. With experience in the restoration industry, Megan is passionate about helping people recover what matters most after disasters caused by water, smoke, fire, or environmental damage—whether electronics, textiles, or hard contents. Through FRSTeam, she connects homeowners and businesses with expert content restoration, emergency delivery of essential items, secure storage, and seamless coordination with insurance providers. Megan thrives on building relationships and guiding clients through every step of the restoration process with care and professionalism.



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www.frsteamcali.com

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