

The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 112 No. 27

<https://carmelpinecone.com>

July 3-9, 2026

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New parking cops doing a lot of enforcing



PHOTO/CARMEL PD.

Community services officer Antonio Diaz may be busy ticketing errant parkers, but he's also good at finding lost dogs.

■ Averaging 40-plus tickets a day

By MARY SCHLEY

MANY RESIDENTS and business owners who've long complained that downtown parking rules aren't enforced will be pleased to note the hiring of two officers to do just that — and they're a gung-ho duo, according to Carmel Police Chief Todd Trayer.

Both local Army veterans, Joseph Wilkes and Antonio Diaz joined the payroll last month.

"They didn't just come in and say, 'Carmel is beautiful,' which is what most people say," Trayer said, referring to their interviews. "What made them stand out is they were genuine about issues they could help solve. That's the way to come into this job."

Step up

Their hiring marks a significant step up in parking enforcement, which was being handled by a single community services officer, Cindi Mitchell, who was also in charge of animal control. After four decades with the city, Mitchell retired at the end of May.

Sgt. Gerald Maldonado and detective Elissa Montes, who has experience working in parking enforcement and

See **PARKING** page 20A

City fields dozens of tree claims, pays big bucks

By MARY SCHLEY

CARMEL prides itself on being "a village in a forest by the sea," but that comes with the cost of maintaining its 12,000-plus trees — not to mention being responsible when one of those trees falls or drops a branch and damages someone's home.

Between Jan. 1, 2020, and the storms last December, the city was hit with dozens of claims for damages and paid more than \$150,000 in compensation.

During that five-year period, the city fielded nearly 70 claims — some for a few hundred dollars, others for much more. One woman sued the city after a limb fell on her car while she and her daughter were inside. A resident filed claims more than five years apart after his cars were damaged by falling pine cones. A woman who lives near city hall wanted compensation for sap damage to her Mercedes SUV — which was crushed by a tree more than a year later.



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

After a large cypress crushed his vintage truck, Scenic Road resident Parker Logan sued the city. He received an \$18,000 payout.

Combing through hundreds of pages of documents provided through a California Public Records Act request that took five months to fulfill, The Pine Cone identified more than a dozen payouts — some substantial, and at least one for more than the claimant requested.

Most of the complaints involved trees or limbs in the public right of way that fell on fences, cars, roofs, landscaping, patio furniture and the like. Dozens were denied by the city's insurance carrier, Carl Warren & Co. While most rejection letters offered no reason, several referenced an "act of God," and others said the city was not responsible because no one had reported the offending tree as dangerous, or it had been inspected weeks or months earlier and deemed in good condition.

Who got paid

According to the claim she filed in January 2023, Louise Wood was driving her 2015 Kia Forte on Camino del Monte on Dec. 27, 2022, when a tree fell on it.

"I was trapped in my car," she wrote on the one-page form. "Power lines were also knocked down and prevented me from getting out of my car."

She sought replacement of her vehicle and compensation for Uber and rental fees and ultimately received \$9,499.

Sara Edwards said a tree fell on her fence at Torres and Sixth on Dec. 19, 2021, and she filed a claim for between \$10,000 and \$25,000 to cover tree removal and repairs.

See **TREES** page 16A

BIG TAX BATTLES ON STATE'S NOVEMBER BALLOT

AS BENJAMIN Franklin famously wrote, "In this world, nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." Franklin was referring to the uncertain permanence of the newly ratified U.S. Constitution, but his sentiment also aptly applies to California's recently cemented November ballot.

Special interest groups have spent months gathering

ever-expanding social services, and how easy should it be to raise taxes?

Try as he might, Gov. Gavin Newsom wasn't able to convince the powerful Service Employees International-United Healthcare Workers West union to back down on a contentious wealth tax. The proposed levy, known as the billionaire tax, would impose a one-time 5% tax on the assets of California's wealthiest residents.

More harm than good?

The tax could raise as much as \$100 billion, but opponents warn it would do more harm than good. Their basic argument is that if you tax the rich, they will leave, hurting future tax revenue as incomes take a nosedive.

Ahead of the June 25 deadline to strike a deal with the union's president, Dave Regan, Newsom brought together other powerful unions representing teachers, trades and peace officers to show Regan the amount of opposition he'll face if the campaign continues.

See **TAXES** page 29A

Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

signatures and spending heavily to get initiatives on the ballot, and cutting deals with lawmakers ahead of a June 25 deadline to finalize it. The resulting ticket sets up a battle royale over taxation, complete with competing measures and union-on-union matchups, but without any opportunity to remove some of the levies Californians are already paying.

At the heart of your Election Day decisions will be two core questions: Who should pay for California's

C.V. woman searches online for stolen horses

By CHRIS COUNTS

SIX WEEKS after two of her horses were stolen from a boarding facility in San Benito County, Joleen Lambert of Carmel Valley is doing everything she can to spread the word in hopes of a reunion.

Maverick and Ranger were taken May 14 from a large property in Paicines, a rural community about 15 miles southeast of Hollister.

"A section of the fence line at the property where I was boarding them was cut and the horses stolen," reported Krissy Huston of Carmel Valley, who started a GoFundMe campaign titled "Help Bring Joleen's Horses Home Safely" to raise reward money for their return. So far, about \$2,500 has been donated. The goal is to raise \$5,000 and offer rewards to anyone who helps get the horses

See **HORSES** page 22A

Pounding sand on Carmel Beach



PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY

Pushing sand up against the rock revetments of Carmel Beach is part of the city's shoreline management plan but hasn't been done in years. See story page 31A.

new arrivals



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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Big, beautiful baby

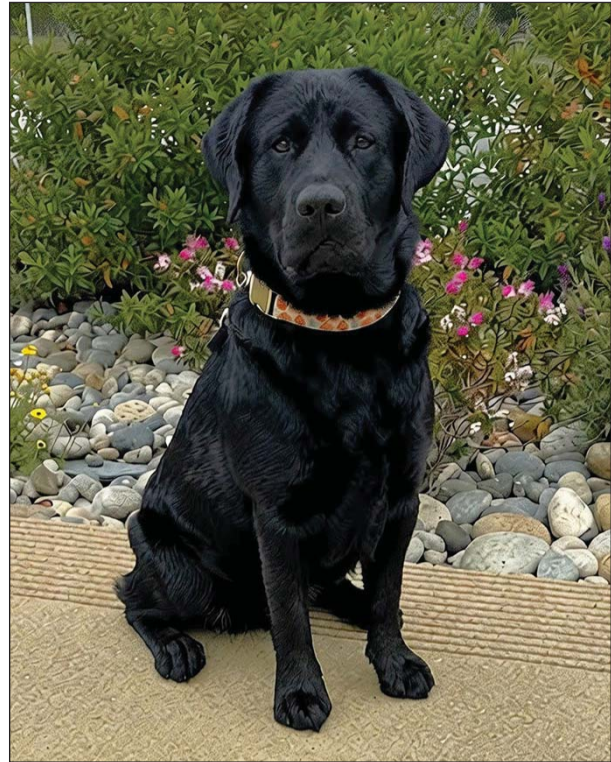
Black Labrador retrievers with the distinctive “block head” and sleek, shiny coats are almost exclusively English-line and show-bred. Oakley, born in Maryland, is just a year old but already has that handsome head. The breeder was the same one his owner’s family used when she was a child. Oakley was the only black Lab left in the litter when she got the call, so she hopped on a plane from California and flew east to collect him. He’s also got that glossy coat.

“It was pretty last-minute; someone had backed out,” his owner said. “So we had a week to make a decision, fly out, sort out logistics and bring home a puppy. And we did it.”

Oakley is very energetic, curious, playful and needy, his owner said. He craves attention and always wants to be around his people. Before they leave their Seaside house, they remember to turn on the TV to keep him company.

“I often work from home, which is good for Oakley,” his owner said. “He needs a lot of mental and physical stimulation. He’s also very dog-motivated – he loves meeting other dogs. He has a classic Lab personality.”

That’s why Oakley has such a good time at the beach. As a puppy, it took him a bit to get used to the water, but as his first birthday approached, he grew to



love plowing into the waves.

“A natural water dog, Oakley loves to splash around with other dogs at the shoreline,” his owner said. “When we take him to water with no waves, he naturally starts swimming.”

Oakley is super sweet, a little goofy and very bonded to his people, who bought him his own big, beautiful bed – but he’d rather sleep between them.

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Council poised to OK revised affordable housing plan

■ 32 apartments at Church of the Wayfarer?

By MARY SCHLEY

TWO YEARS after a group of residents and others banded together to develop alternatives to building state-mandated housing on city-owned parking lots — sites that were identified in a document adopted in April 2024 — their revised plan is slated for approval by the Carmel City Council July 7.

Among other changes, the new plan will encourage churches to construct apartments on the large swaths of land they own downtown, and principal planner Marnie Waffle told planning commissioners June 10 that they are eager to get started.

State likes it

California law requires the city to identify sites for 349 potential new residences, including 149 low-cost units, for potential construction by 2031. The housing element is part of the general plan, and the certified version included public property at Sunset Center and Vista Lobos as affordable-housing sites, over many residents' objections. As a result, in July 2024, a group of community members, public officials and city staff got together and hired a consultant to help them come up with alternative sites and programs to accommodate low-income housing here.

Commissioners reviewed the latest draft of the amendment, which Waffle said the California Department of Housing and Community Development has deemed to be compliant with state law, on June 10.

The plan calls for spreading the

required affordable units throughout town via accessory dwelling units, creation of a commercially viable program for converting underperforming hotel rooms into apartments, collaboration with churches to build housing on their land, development of live/work spaces in lower-rent and underutilized commercial spaces, and incentives for developers to build mixed-income complexes.

What's feasible

During her presentation, Waffle said three downtown religious institutions and the owners of several commercial buildings are open to the idea of making changes that could significantly alter the landscape of downtown Carmel.

According to the plan, All Saints Church at Dolores and Ninth could be developed with 20 affordable units, the Christian Science church, which double-fronts on Lincoln and Monte Verde between Fifth and Sixth, could accommodate 13, and the Church of the Wayfarer at Lincoln and Seventh could see 32 units built.

"All three have indicated a strong desire to develop housing on their properties," Waffle said. "We've done some extensive outreach with them, met with them multiple times and are working with them on some pre-applications to tease out what's possible."

When the First Church of Christ Scientist submitted a proposal in 2018 to change the zoning on seven lots in order to relocate the church and construct a 12-unit housing complex, neighbors strenuously objected. Planning commissioners disliked the idea

Downtown churches have 'strong desire to develop housing'

See HOUSING page 23A

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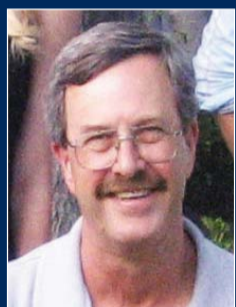
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Police & Sheriff's Log

Bad guys took a Sunday off

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.

ed at an Ocean Road residence regarding a 68-year-old female suspect and a 75-year-old male victim.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Adult Protective Services report at Dolores and Fifth. Information only.

Pacific Grove: A 43-year-old female on Moreland was cited for public intoxication and released to sobering center.

Carmel Valley: Deputies responded to a verbal family issue on East Carmel Valley Road just outside of Greenfield.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle at Forest Lodge Road and Country Club Gate was marked for 72-hour parking.

Pacific Grove: Report of a dog at large on Congress Avenue. Animal license required.

See **POLICE LOG** page 12RE in the Real Estate Section

MONDAY, JUNE 15

Pacific Grove: Ammunition surrendered for destruction.

Pacific Grove: Municipal code violations on Ocean View Boulevard resulted in two citations for feeding wildlife.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle at Lighthouse and Alder was marked for 72-hour parking.

Carmel area: Sheriff's deputies placed a male Corona Road resident on a 5150 W&I mental health evaluation hold.

Carmel Valley: Deputies investigated suspicious circumstances on East Carmel Valley Road.

Pebble Beach: An allegation of a violation of a restraining order was investigat-



The gavel falls

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

June 23 — Romeo Gonzalez, 21, of Greenfield, was sentenced by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Mark Hood to 31 years to life in prison for the murder of Abraham Camacho.

On March 29, 2026, Gonzalez and a fellow Norteño gang member entered Camacho's Monterey County Jail cell during recreation time. There, they cornered Camacho and stabbed him dozens of times with inmate-manufactured weapons for more than 10 minutes. When the attack ended, other Norteños helped them discard their weapons and bloodied clothing. Gonzalez then showered as Camacho succumbed to his injuries in his cell. During routine cell checks, deputies found Camacho deceased.

Gonzalez was previously convicted of mayhem, assault with a semi-automat-

ic firearm, street terrorism and robbery for gang-motivated crimes he committed in 2023 and 2024. For Camacho's murder, Gonzalez entered no contest pleas to first-degree murder and street terrorism.

Monterey County Sheriff's Office detectives Christina Scariot and Richard Geng investigated the case.

June 23 — Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni is commending the passage of Assembly Bill 46, authored by Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen. The legislation gives courts greater discretion to consider public safety when deciding whether a defendant should receive mental health diversion. The bill closes legal loopholes in California's mental health diversion law by

See **GAVEL** page 31A



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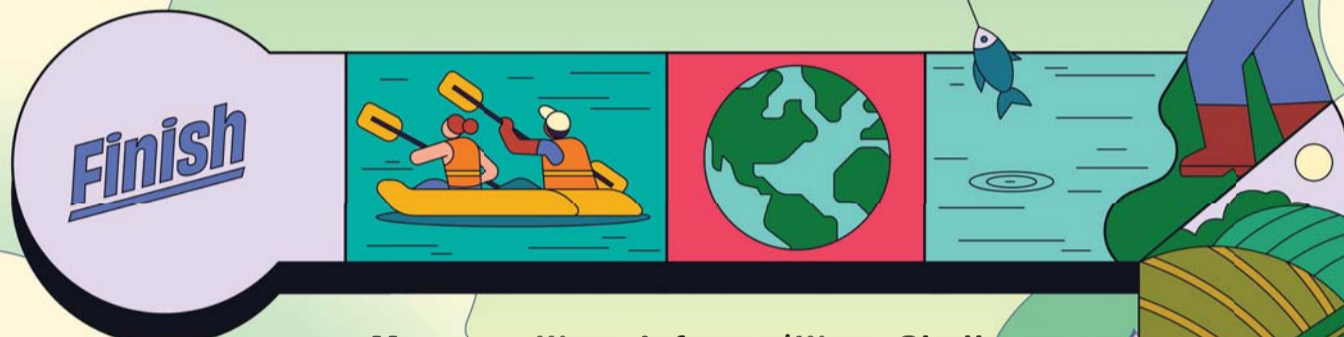


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Canadian man gets lengthy prison term

By KELLY NIX

A MAN who traveled from Vancouver, Canada, to Salinas in November 2024 and posed as an Amazon driver to try to kill a woman he was obsessed with, along with her boyfriend, was sentenced to two life terms in prison last week.

On June 25, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Mark Hood sentenced Devin Wolfgang Vanderhoef, 26, to two consecutive life sentences for the willful, deliberate and premeditated attempted murder of Alexis Small and her boyfriend, Andrew Campos. Both were seriously injured but survived the Nov. 24, 2024, attack.

Hood also sentenced Vanderhoef to serve five consecutive years for personally inflicting great bodily injury and using a weapon during the commission of the crimes.

'Started stabbing'

Vanderhoef met Small via an online video gaming platform, where he became obsessed with her. After traveling from his home in Vancouver to Monterey County, he purchased knives and other equipment and surveilled Small's home and workplace.

"Vanderhoef confessed that his plan was to 'actually kill someone,'" the Monterey County District Attorney's Office said.

On the night of the attack, Vanderhoef, posing as a delivery driver, went to a home where Small and Campos were playing a video game. Carrying an Amazon package, Vanderhoef knocked on the door. When Campos opened it, Vanderhoef

forced his way into the home and "immediately started stabbing" him, according to a Monterey County sheriff's deputy. Small and Campos, who had suffered several wounds, were able to flee the residence, but Vanderhoef followed them.

During a struggle outside, Campos disarmed Vanderhoef and repeatedly stab him. However, as Small tried to flee back to the home, Vanderhoef tackled and strangled her until she couldn't breathe.

Handcuffs

Later, when law enforcement arrived, Vanderhoef, who had a stab wound to his face, claimed he was the victim and that the wounds he inflicted on Campos were

done in self-defense, but he later admitted to investigators that he was obsessed with Small. A sheriff's deputy also noted that the would-be killer's fake Amazon package contained handcuffs, duct tape and an additional knife.

A Campos family member posted on social media that Campos had been stabbed four times and suffered a punctured lung in the attack. Small, the relative said, had a leg wound and slashes to her face, besides choking inju-

ries to her neck.

Another man, Darius Avery Whyte, who police say was Vanderhoef's accomplice, pleaded guilty to assault by means of force likely to cause great bodily injury and being an accessory after the fact to a felony. He testified against Vanderhoef at his trial.



Devin Wolfgang Vanderhoef

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Gov signs bill to close judicial ‘loophole’

By KELLY NIX

BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom that gives judges more power to deny mental health treatment to violent or high-risk offenders was lauded this week by prosecutors with the Monterey County District Attorney's Office.

Assembly Bill 46, led by Elk Grove Democratic Assemblywoman Stephanie Nguyen, gives judges more power to keep criminals behind bars instead of sending them to mental health programs.

“We are proud to preserve mental health diversion for people who can benefit from it while ensuring judges have the discretion they need to protect victims, safeguard communities, and make decisions based on the full picture before them,” Newsom said.

‘Free pass’

California's diversion program, created in 2018, allows criminal offenders with mental illnesses to receive treatment instead of spending time behind bars. Misdemeanor offenders must undergo one year in treatment, while felony offenders are required to undergo two years.

The new law “removes a narrow legal standard that restricted courts' ability to deny diversion and establishes broader judicial discretion to determine whether diversion is appropriate based on public safety,” Newsom's office said.

Monterey County Chief Assistant District Attorney Berkley Brannon explained that under the former law, the only way a judge could choose not to divert an eligible defendant was to determine that the person had committed a violent sexual offense, child molestation, murder or voluntary manslaughter, solicitation to commit

murder, assault with a machine gun on a peace officer, possession of a weapon of mass destruction, or any felony punishable by life imprisonment or death.

“The old diversion statute was a free pass for violent criminals to avoid accountability for their crimes, so long as they could find a practitioner who would diagnose them with some mental disorder,” Brannon told The Pine Cone Tuesday. “This might include substance abuse disorders, including for caffeine, anxiety disorders, or impulse control disorders, including kleptomania.”

He went on to say that the “ridiculously restrictive list of violent crimes

made denying diversion impossible when a defendant with a diagnosis committed an armed robbery, shot someone, violently abused their spouse, or committed any other violent crime.”

Now, judges can deny diversion if the person is “a substantial and undue risk to the physical safety of another person,” which Brannon said was the main change to the statute.

The bill also requires that a mental illness be diagnosed five years before an alleged crime. Previously, offenders could get diversion if they were diagnosed before or after a crime.

‘Reduces recidivism’

Public defenders, the American Civil Liberties Union and other advocacy groups opposed the legislation, arguing that the old version of the program was successful and that restricting eligibility could prevent the vulnerable, including impoverished offenders, from getting treatment.

Nguyen thanked prosecutors, advocates and legislators for helping make the

See **LOOPHOLE** page 20A

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MARINA SAYS HORSES WERE ILLEGAL

By KELLY NIX

THE CITY of Marina has filed a lawsuit against the owners of a horse-riding business, alleging the tenants illegally occupied city-owned property known as the Marina Equestrian Center.

In 2022, Marina leased the equestrian center, located on land formerly part of Fort Ord, to Chaparral Country Corporation for a horse-riding business. But Marina says it terminated the contract in December 2025 for "various reasons," including the business being transferred to another company, Chaparral Ranch Marina.

"The agreement prohibited the concessionaire from assigning its interest or

"Despite the city's repeated demands that defendants vacate the property, they have failed to leave."

Marina says the lawsuit is intended to "eject defendants," restore the public's right to enjoy the space, and "recover damages for the harm" they have caused. Chaparral used about 14 acres of the city's land.

The Pine Cone contacted Chaparral for comment but did not receive a response. The business no longer operates at the City of Marina site.

'Multiple violations'

The lawsuit follows an October 2025 city inspection, in which Marina said it identified "multiple violations" of the lease agreement, including failure to maintain insurance and make revenue-sharing payments as well as making unauthorized alterations to the site. Around the same time, Marina said it discovered the "unauthorized assignment of the agreement to a newly formed entity," involving Chaparral Ranch Marina, Hatran and McGlothlin.

"The city learned that Chaparral Ranch Marina, Hatran and McGlothlin were keeping horses on the property and operating the Marina Equestrian Center without permission from

the city," the complaint says.

After a series of back-and-forth messages this year between Marina officials and Hatran — including an April 26 final notice to vacate the property within one month — the city claims that as of May 26, "the defendants still had not vacated"

See **EQUESTRIAN** page 21A



PHOTO/DOUGLAS HATRAN

Young people prepare to ride horses at a now-closed equestrian center in Marina. The city is suing the owners for damages.

permitting any other person or entity to occupy any part of the property," according to a June 17 lawsuit Marina filed against Chaparral Ranch Marina and its owners, Douglas Hatran and Rodney McGlothlin.

The new company "has no concession agreement with the city, or any other agreement, license, permit or authorization of any kind," the 12-page complaint says.

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Restaurant to open high-end wine shop

By MARY SCHLEY

GRASING'S RESTAURANT has an impressive wine list. It's won major awards, runs 84 pages and includes many sought-after bottles, with at least one carrying a five-digit price tag and dozens worth thousands. The cellar contains more than 3,500 bottles, and last month, the Carmel Planning Commission approved owner Kurt Grasing's plans to spruce up a nearby long-vacant storefront and offer those wines for sale.

Grasing's Cellar, as it will be called,

Consultants will assist clients with their wine-buying needs, whether they're trying to build a home cellar, host a wedding or pick up an extra special gift. Or grab a bottle to take to dinner.

Posh appearance

To convey the extravagance of the contents — like 1978 Domaine de la Romanée-Conti La Tâche and 1945 Château Lafite Rothschild, the aforementioned five-digit offering — the collection will be displayed in a “state-of-the-art, temperature-and-humidity-controlled glass ‘Jewel Box’ room,” the plan says. Other wines will be displayed on shelves and racks. Consultants will confer with guests in the lounge, while a wine cave will serve as a dedicated space for private client meetings. Grasing's Cellar will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Architect Eric Miller designed the shop, including its projecting stone veneer, tiled flooring, a recessed entry with a pivoting wood entry door, and new stone wall, paint and stucco. Decorative metal sidelights will be installed on each side of the door, and their pattern will repeat inside.



RENDERING/ERIC MILLER ARCHITECTS

An elegant interior and upscale service will greet guests in the high-end wine shop Kurt Grasing plans to open on Mission Street.

will also contain a glass humidor to store cigars for sale, and “a curated selection of high-end, wine-related items including artisanal decanters, professional-grade glassware and luxury wine-cellar accessories,” associate planner Katherine Wallace explained at the June 10 meeting.

According to the business description, the cellar will operate on a “concierge-consultation” model, “catering to serious collectors and local estate owners,” though walk-in customers will be welcome, too.

“The wine collection Grasing's has is internationally recognized — it's amazing,” Miller told commissioners. “They have all that wine under the restaurant, and they want to be able to show the public some of the selections they have.”

Drawing from his experience, Miller said he has clients who are trying to build up their cellars and end up buying high-end wines in New York and Los Angeles.

See **CELLAR** page 19A



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Judge's ruling on short-term rental fix disappoints both sides

By CHRIS COUNTS

IN THE ongoing legal battle between the local short-term rental industry and those seeking stricter regulations, a ruling by Monterey County Superior Court Judge

Thomas Wills on May 22 allows nonresidents and corporations to operate vacation rentals in unincorporated areas of the county. That had been banned after the Monterey County Board of Supervisors approved a set of ordinances in 2024 regulating the industry.

But Wills upheld another provision requiring the property owner to be on site when it is rented, making it impossible for an out-of-town owner to assign an agent to be present during a stay. "The owner must occupy at least one bedroom within the vacation rental while it is being rented," according to the lawsuit.

If the owner cannot be on site when guests are present, they are limited to renting out their entire home no more than three times each year — a setup known as a "limited vacation rental." Without an agent, they also cannot rent out a room in their house, which is known as a "homestay."

'Questionable'

"The ruling took away the prejudice against an out-of-town owner but kept in place the impossibility that they could offer their home as a commercial rental or a homestay," Lynda Marin, a board member of the Monterey County Vacation Rental Alliance, told The Pine Cone.

Marin called the decision "highly questionable" and said it places an "undue burden" on operators. She suggested owners should be allowed to designate someone

local to oversee the property.

When asked if the group intends to challenge the ruling, Marin said the board will consider legal action. "We're trying to determine what the best procedural path is," she said. "We're not done."

The group ultimately wants ordinances that balance allowing the short-term rental industry to prosper with addressing neighbors' concerns.

"We've been advocating that the county pass a short-term rental ordinance that is reasonable and enforceable for 12 years," Marin added.

"Responsible operators bring value to the county."

Besides making it possible for out-of-area owners and corporations to rent homes and apartments, the ruling capped fines so they do not exceed state limits — \$1,500 for a first offense, \$3,000 for a second, and \$5,000 for a third.

The rules the supervisors passed two years ago made it relatively easy for people to operate hosted vacation rentals at their homes, but much more difficult if the owner is not living on site. That led the Monterey County Vacation Rental Alliance to file suit in November 2024.

Group weighs in

On the other side of the issue, the Carmel Valley Association also did not get everything its members wanted from the ruling, but expressed optimism. "While this outcome is disappointing with respect to protecting the long-term rental market from intrusion by the short-term commercial rental industry, many of our concerns are addressed by the existing inland ordinance," the group's president, Marianne Gawain, wrote in a weekly newsletter.

Although the Carmel Valley Association was not named in the lawsuit, the group weighed in by submitting an amicus ("friend of the court") brief.

"Although we were not a party to the suit, we did submit an amicus brief," Gawain said. "Our decision to weigh in was constructive, as Judge Wills's decision took note of our argument that potentially problematic aspects of the ordinances were severable from their other provisions."

The group has long urged county officials to pass ordinances that regulate the industry to "reflect the pressure that short-term rentals place on neighborhoods and on the housing stock, especially in tourist-magnet areas such as Carmel Valley."

Nobody's satisfied with court ruling on STRs

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

Protect U: Could You Tell if It Was Really Your Grandchild?

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close family members. If you receive an urgent request for money - even if you recognize the voice - pause before acting. Hang up and call your loved one directly using a phone number you already have. Consider creating a family "safe word" that only family members know to verify emergencies.

Imagine answering your phone and hearing your grandchild's voice. They're frightened. They've been in an accident and need money immediately.

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PacRep mourns passing of tech wizard

By CHRIS COUNTS

PLAYING A key role behind the scenes at PacRep Theatre for more than a decade — and known for his extraordinary talent at building sets — Patrick McEvoy died Wednesday at 65 after a lengthy illness.

“Pacific Repertory Theatre is heartbroken to share the passing of Patrick McEvoy, PacRep’s technical director, resident set designer and dear friend,” the theater group announced Wednesday. “Patrick passed away today after a serious illness, leaving a huge hole in our theater family.”

According to PacRep, McEvoy “was one of the people who quite literally built the modern PacRep. His work is everywhere — on the stages of the Golden Bough Playhouse, in the Circle Theatre, at the Forest Theater, and in so many productions that could not have happened without his talent, patience, strength and endless problem-solving,” the theater group said.

Stephen Moorer, co-founder and executive director of PacRep, told The Pine

Cone that McEvoy was one of his oldest friends. The two met as teenagers, bonded over being new kids in school, and shared a love for Star Trek — even attending Star Trek gatherings together. Soon, they would discover the magic of live theater.

“When we were 14, we both got involved in Marcia Hovik’s Children’s Experimental Theater, which set us both on our paths,” Moorer said. “After we graduated from Carmel High School in 1979, I went on to PacRep, and he went to Monterey Peninsula College and worked there for a decade building incredible sets.”



Patrick McEvoy

Legendary

Moorer said the sets McEvoy made for productions at the college were legendary.

“They were the wonder of the local theater community,” he recalled. “He was literally building battleships on stage, which he actually did for ‘Mr. Roberts.’”

At PacRep, McEvoy “built sets,

See **TECH WIZ** page 25A

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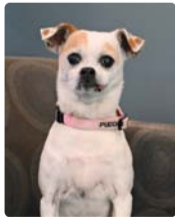
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ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Taxes, fees and finances, tourism spending and 'strategic priorities'

By MARY SCHLEY

CARMEL CITY Councilmembers will return from the Independence Day weekend to handle important city business in back-to-back meetings July 6-7. And if those sessions are anything like last month's, they'll spend more than 12 hours doing so. Proposed tax and fee increases, financial stewardship, housing and the long-discussed overhaul of the police station are some of the many items on their agendas.

Monday's special meeting will start at 3 p.m. with the consent agenda, which generally lists routine items to be adopted as a whole without discussion. In addition to this month's usual check register, monthly reports and appointments are the list of street projects for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, increases to landscaping company Town & Country's contract limits, and a lease agreement with Church of the Wayfarer for its use as a temporary library while Harrison Memorial gets a major interior renovation.

Appeal delayed

Councilmembers were then set to preside over a battle between Scenic Road residents regarding the construction of an 800-square-foot accessory dwelling unit attached to a rear terrace. The planning commission approved the project, and a neighbor has asked the council to overturn it, but staff is recommending the hearing be put off until the Aug. 3 meeting.

Last month's decision to yank \$290,000 out of the 2026-2027 budget that was destined for See Monterey, the regional tourism marketing group of which Carmel is

a member, will be up for discussion. The organization typically receives 3% of the transient occupancy taxes collected by the city for the general fund and has submitted a proposal explaining how the money will be used to "support a healthier, more balanced tourism economy that benefits residents, businesses and visitors alike."

Housing plan

A presentation on the "strategic priorities" the council identified at a Jan. 22 workshop had been put off but is on the agenda again for the July 6 meeting, which will then adjourn into closed session to discuss labor contracts and Sunset Center's lease terms.

The regular meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m. the next day and will kick off with a presentation from the Point Lobos Foundation, which found itself in an uncomfortable spotlight earlier this year following a \$19 million

jury judgment in favor of a Rhode Island woman who was run over by a docent driving an electric cart in the park.

After a presentation on the wide-ranging role of the city clerk, public hearings will be held on the adoption of a long-in-the-works revision to the housing element and increases to fees charged by planning and building, public safety, public works and other departments.

Councilmembers also might consider a potential policy for waiving some of those fees.

They'll move on to discussing ballot arguments for two proposed measures, one to increase the hotel tax rate to 12% and another to boost the local sales tax rate by

See COUNCIL page 21A



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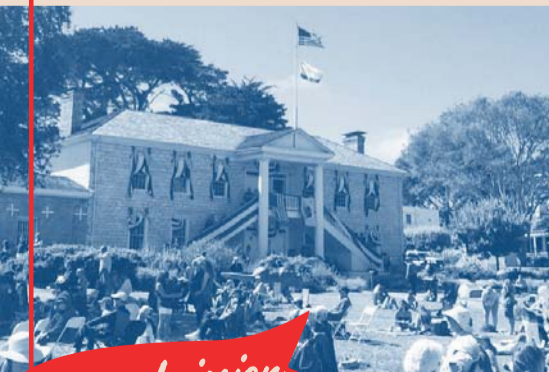
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CITY MULLING TAX FOR POLICE, FIRE

By KELLY NIX

THE MARINA City Council is moving ahead with a proposal to tax residents and businesses to raise about \$50 million for new fire and police facilities and upgrades at city hall.

On June 23, the council voted unanimously to direct city staffers to continue working on a potential utility user tax measure for the Nov. 3 general election ballot. The 7% tax, which would apply to services such as gas, electricity and telecommunications, requires a simple majority vote to pass.

Marina Mayor Bruce Delgado said the city's public buildings are "50-year-old portables" that were built when the city's population was half its current size. Marina has about 23,000 residents.

"Given that our area of responsibility has doubled, we need a better location for a second fire station and modernized facilities that meet seismic and operational needs for our police and fire staff," Delgado explained.

Challenges

In the June 2 primary election, residents in Monterey, Gonzales and Soledad rejected tax measures that would have helped pay for police, fire and 911 response programs.

Marina, though, said research indicates that "residents place a high priority on core city services, including ensuring timely emergency and disaster response, and

supporting public safety."

"The data also demonstrated that the more residents learn about the state of city facilities, the more they support a measure that addresses those concerns," the city said.

The aging city infrastructure poses challenges for emergency response and public safety operations, according to Marina. For example, the buildings that house its fire and police departments "do not meet the elevated California seismic safety standards for essential service buildings. Additionally, fire department response times to certain areas of the city average nearly 10 minutes, which is double the five-minute national standard," the city said.

'Essential facilities'

The cost to replace the structures is estimated at more than \$69 million. Marina has raised a little more than \$19.3 million through grants, impact fees and other sources, meaning it needs about \$50 million more to upgrade the infrastructure.

"These are essential facilities that support public safety and daily city services," city manager Layne Long said.

The city said the council would continue reviewing proposed ballot measure language and seek public input before deciding whether to place the measure before voters.

Starting July 16, Marina has scheduled four tours so residents can get a "firsthand look at the current condition of key public buildings."

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TREES

From page 1A

She was paid \$5,966.67 that June.

When a Scenic Road cypress fell on a vintage truck owned by Parker Logan — the former owner of Sade's Cocktails and a two-time Carmel City Council candidate — during the March 2023 storms, the city's insurance company rejected his claim.

"The tree was inspected on Feb. 25, 2023, and noted to be in fair condition," the response read. "Therefore, the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea has no responsibility with regard to your claim."

Logan subsequently sued the city in Monterey County Superior Court and ended up with an \$18,000 payout.

No city action

A couple of claims involved a tree that fell on March 14, 2023, on Perry Newberry near Escolle Way. Resident Bill Kucher had repeatedly attempted to get the tree pruned or removed in 2022, according to city records. Kucher "had made several attempts to have the tree removed/trimmed as recently as December 2022, as well as two other aging pines," resident Celena Harris wrote in her claim. "No action was taken by the city, and due to this, we both incurred considerable damage."

Kucher's claim included an email he'd sent to then-city forester Sara Davis in 2021: "We are requesting that the city of Carmel remove these aging pines as they pose a threat to our home, nearby power lines, and the people of our surrounding neighborhood."

After the tree fell, Celena Harris was paid \$18,305.76 for damage to a wall, fence, irrigation system and shed. Kucher received \$11,472.32 for similar issues and his totaled 2013 Toyota Tacoma. While

Harris did not list an amount requested, Kucher's claim was for \$7,000.

Alexander and Anne McKeon were paid \$5,000 after their insurance company, Nationwide, sued the city on Dec. 14, 2021, for damage to a 2012 Honda Pilot parked at their home at San Antonio and 12th. Part of a diseased Monterey cypress fell on it during a windstorm on March 15, 2021, according to their claim.

After a "city pine tree branch broke spontaneously and fell on our fence" in September 2023, Dolores Street residents Chris and Cari White demanded \$1,800 and subsequently received \$1,500.

Santa Fe Street resident Jeffrey D'Andre filed a claim in June 2024 after learning his neighbor, Iftikhar Ahmed, had received \$22,721.75 for the same incident in response to his April 2024 claim. Ahmed had demanded \$12,923.83.

The tree that fell south of Fourth on Feb. 4, 2024, damaged both of their houses. D'Andre said it hit his roof, allowing water into the kitchen, and ripped out power and cable lines, and tallied the damage at \$12,169. In his claim, he noted the city had already paid Ahmed because "the city knew or should have known of the perilous condition of the tree, which was old and was a clear and present danger to fall." He received \$10,691.63.

David Wasick filed a claim for \$8,375 in damage to his patio and outdoor furniture at the home he owns on Crespi southeast of Mountain View after a tree in nearby Mission Trail Park fell on it on March 13, 2023. After the claim was rejected, he sued in small claims court. The city's insurance company indicated the case was dismissed before being heard and that he received \$100.

Ronald and Nancy Hilton were paid \$347.15 — \$250 for a deductible and \$97.15 for a rental car — after a large tree totaled their 2017 Mercedes SUV on Sept.

8, 2024. The couple's claim also sought compensation for sap the same tree had dropped on the car more than a year earlier, requiring repairs from an auto body shop.

Maria Leguizamo Lopez got \$500 after she returned to her 2022 Buick Encore to find a note from a police officer telling her a limb from a city tree had fallen on it while it was parked on San Carlos Street, damaging the left rear door, on March 30, 2025.

On July 3, 2025, a branch crashed onto David Reade's 2009 Honda Fit while it was parked on Monterey Street. He received a check for \$3,822.48 to cover the damage and his rental car costs.

Joel and Allison Jung were written a check for \$4,100 after a large cypress limb fell on their home while it was under construction on Camino Real southwest of 13th on March 14, 2023. Because the tree was half on their property and half on public land, they proposed splitting the costs of damage, cleanup and removal with the city, and the insurance company agreed.

Emotional distress

After a Monterey pine branch fell on their house at Fourth and Perry Newberry on March 14, 2023, Stela Llusha and Josh Redner deposited \$13,651.89 for damage to their roof, gutter, landscaping and paint.

Julie and Ray Dormandy filed a claim after "a city tree fell into our driveway on top of our car" on June 26, 2022. The tree crushed the car and pulled power lines from the house on 10th Avenue southeast of Mission. They were paid \$11,512.17 the following September.

Among the more unusual claims was one filed by Masuda Rahmati and her daughter, Gizelle Diaz, after a tree fell on their parked car as they sat in it on Scenic southwest of 10th on Dec. 31, 2022.

While a police report indicated the car was damaged but they were uninjured,

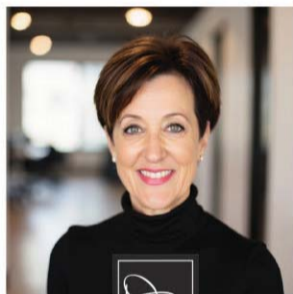
after her claim against the city was rejected, Rahmati sued the city and a Scenic Road homeowner, saying they had been "in conflict about responsibility for removal of this dangerous tree."

She demanded \$200,000 for "pain, suffering and inconvenience," \$100,000 for emotional distress, \$100,000 for negligent infliction of emotional distress, \$3,995 for medical expenses and \$10,000 for future medical expenses for herself, and a total of \$454,440 for the same types of expenses and damages on behalf of her daughter, who turned 18 in March.

The city was eventually dismissed as a party, and a statement from its insurance company indicates Rahmati and her daughter did not receive any money, but the case went to mediation last July, and Rahmati and the property owner, Larry Deatherage, reached "a global settlement resolving the entire action," according to court documents. The deal is "structured as a single global sum payable to both plaintiffs jointly." The case has been scheduled for dismissal in October.

Shelly Barnard also filed suit after the city rejected her claim for \$9,450 in damages after a tree fell on her house at Santa Rita and Fourth on Feb. 4, 2024. "Defendants had actual notice of the existence of the dangerous condition as early as January 2023, giving defendants sufficient time prior to the injury to have corrected it, but defendants failed to do so," the November 2024 complaint reads. Her case was closed after a request for dismissal was submitted in June 2025, and the settlement terms are unknown.

While many of the files provided by the city include the original claims and their resolution, others included just the claims, with no indication of a response from the insurance company. Others included the original filings and subsequent rejections, but nothing further.



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Powering the future of work in Monterey County is a six-rotored effort

By LILY PATTERSON

IMAGINE A hangar at a small regional airport, and it's doubtful that picture includes a futuristic flying machine that resembles a helicopter — but has six electrically powered rotors and travels more like a hovercraft, ascending vertically with a quiet hum before the blades tilt and power forward.

Neither plane nor helicopter, it has been dubbed the “electric air taxi,” and it's in the final stages of development at the Marina Municipal Airport, where a representative from the U.S. Department of Labor visited Joby Aviation's research and testing facility on June 11. The agency's visit was a nod to the start-up — whose four-passenger, piloted craft has reached the final phase of Federal Aviation Administration approval — but the official blessing was directed toward the Drone, Aviation and Robotics Technology Initiative, or DART, a local nonprofit promoting Monterey County as a training ground for future aerospace

technicians.

The organization's mission is “to support the advancement of drone and aviation industries for quality job growth and community vitality,” according to its website. Co-founder and executive director Josh Metz extended the invitation to the federal labor department after meeting its regional representative at an economic development conference in April.

Beating the drum

“Given the administration's interest in creating more apprenticeship opportunities, I started talking about our programs and partnerships with local high schools and community colleges, and how we're working with companies like Joby to provide skills training leading right into jobs,” Metz said.

The resulting tour included visits to Joby facilities at the Marina and Watsonville airports, as well as the Alisal campus of Hartnell College, where DART is funding a certification course for

engineering students interested in drone-building and robotics.

In 2017, Metz was executive director of the Fort Ord Reuse Authority when he learned the federal government was scoping out test sites for electric aircraft and drone technology. At the same time, Santa Cruz-based Joby Aviation expressed interest in setting up a production and testing facility at the Marina airport, located on the former military base.

“We've been beating the drum about these opportunities since 2018,” Metz said, calling DART “a catalyst” for workforce and economic development in Monterey County, and for Joby — which this week announced a manufacturing partnership with Toyota. To date,



PHOTO/JOBY AVIATION

This nifty craft is on track for commercial approval later this year, following rigorous testing at Joby Aviation's Marina facility.




the Japanese company has invested \$900 million in Joby, which plans to launch the

See AIR TAXI page 31A



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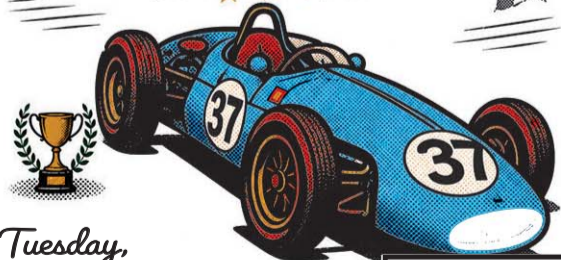
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CELLAR

From page 10A

“Kurt has a selection here that’s as good as anything internationally,” he said. “It’s very different than any other shop in the city.”

Miller said he designed the space to reflect the quality of its offerings and the exceptional experience clients will expect.

“We wanted to make it more elegant and in keeping with the selection of wines we have inside,” he said.

No tasting

Because the store cannot offer winetasting, Wallace said a dishwasher should be eliminated from the plans, but Miller argued that clients will be offered coffee or water, and employees might like to enjoy the same, so their glasses and cups will need to be cleaned.

While his restaurant has the proper retail wine license, people buying bottles there might worry they are paying the traditional markup. Grasing said having a storefront will make people feel more comfortable as they peruse “a selection they won’t find anywhere else in the world.”

He expects consultations to take 20 minutes to an hour and said the store’s other merchandise will appeal to his clientele.

“The cigars are just part of a lifestyle — they have great wine, they want to buy decanters and cigars,” he said, assuring commissioners that people will not immediately light them up outside.

Dishwasher OK

Commissioner Stephanie Locke supported the proposal. “It’s beautiful and will be a huge improvement over what’s there,” she said. “I’ve been walking by this place for years, and it looks terrible right now.”

She also pointed out to new planning commissioner Kevin Ruess, who had worried that cigar smoke would bother nearby residents, that liquor store Surf N Sand sells cigars, apparently without any issues.

“I think the concept is great,” she said, adding that she had no objections to the dishwasher. No one else did, either.

Commissioner Mel Ahlborn said she likes the design but wondered if it was “too grand, with all that beautiful metalwork on either side” of the door.

“I think it’s intended to be high class, and I think it has that vibe,” Ruess said.

“The exterior is reminiscent of a cellar,” commissioner Stefan Karapetkov said, though he worried the pivot door would be too heavy to handle while carrying bottles of wine.

“Where is the white wine being stored?” he asked. “I don’t see any refrigerators. High-end customers expect to buy white wine cold.”

Miller and Grasing responded that the ideal storage temperature for wine is 55 degrees, and leaving wine in a refrigerator for too long is bad for it.

“We will walk people to their cars with their wine,” Grasing added, answering Karapetkov’s other question.

Commission chair Michael LePage was positive, as well.

“I think this area has been a bit dowdy,” he said. “It will reflect the character of what that retail will be. It seems like it will be very successful, and I can see it’s better to have that type of wine in a dedicated area.”

Locke made the motion to approve Grasing’s Cellar, and it passed unanimously.



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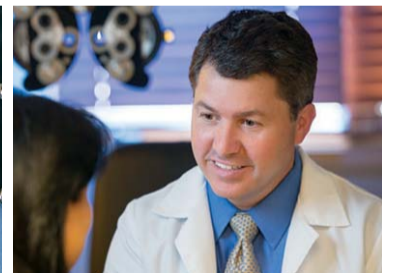
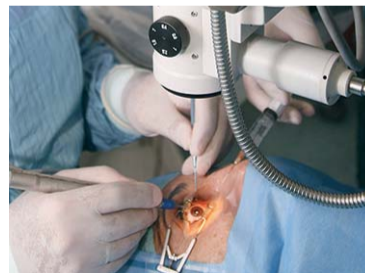
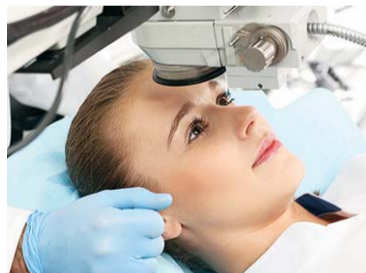
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PARKING

From page 1A

animal control, developed the training curriculum for Diaz and Wilkes, according to Trayer.

“It was first class,” he said. “They trained them in a week-and-a-half.”

As a result, the pair hit the streets without much delay and are writing about 45 citations a day, according to Trayer. With CPD in the process of hiring a third parking officer to work part-time, the goal is to have full coverage on weekends and most other days, including holidays.

By comparison, Mitchell wrote 3,480 citations in 2025. In 2023, the two community services officers on the payroll issued 6,253 tickets.

“I’ve already gotten a lot of positive feedback,” Trayer said. “I thought I’d get blowback, but it has not been super negative.”

While the majority of those who’ve received tickets have not contested them, a handful have objected, he said, “and we have a process for that.”

Some have argued that because the rules haven’t been routinely enforced, they shouldn’t have to pay. But that doesn’t quite fly, and people are learning, Trayer said.

“Their goal isn’t to go out there and write a lot of

tickets — it’s the educational part,” he said, which is why he refers to them as “parking compliance officers” instead of using the e-word.

“Some of the things they’re writing are so flagrantly illegal,” Trayer added, such as misusing ADA spaces and blocking driveways.

Wilkes and Diaz are also focusing on a few hot spots, including the post office parking lot on Fifth, where all spaces time out after 10 minutes.

“The post office, in my opinion, is a little more critical than people think, because you have to go there to get your mail,” he said. “We have to do a better job of monitoring that traffic.”

Other areas seeing extra attention include the libraries and along busy Ocean Avenue — especially the green zones, which are important to residents running quick errands, such as visiting Carmel Drug Store.

Better tech coming

The officers have been using the old-fashioned chalking method of tracking the amount of time cars are left in spaces — most of which have two-hour limits, though there are some 10-, 20- and 30-minute zones — but their carts are set to be outfitted with new GPS, cameras and license-plate-reading technology this month, according to Trayer. The updates will make their jobs easier, more efficient and safer.

While they’re already hard at work in parking enforcement, Wilkes and Diaz are participating in more training on how to handle animal issues, from lost dogs and stray cats to bears stuck in trees and mountain lions stalking pets.

“I’m going to do everything I can to get them trained up in compassionate animal control,” he said. “They are animal lovers, both of them. That was part of the hiring process.”

LOOPHOLE

From page 8A

legislation possible.

“I believe this law strengthens public safety while preserving mental health diversion as an important pathway to treatment,” Nguyen said.

District Attorney Jeannine Pacioni also supported the bill, saying in March that diversion should not be a “loophole that allows dangerous offenders to avoid accountability.”

Flaws in the former law were demonstrated in July 2024 in downtown Monterey after a convicted felon threw a knife at a married couple’s vehicle, shattering the passenger-side window where the husband was sitting. The attack was unprovoked.

A judge granted the offender diversion and ordered him to follow a treatment plan that included taking prescription medication, attending psychiatric sessions and other conditions, but the criminal failed to enroll in any inpatient treatment program and remains out of jail.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SEWER SERVICE CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 AND THEREAFTER, PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION OF SUCH CHARGES ON THE TAX ROLL, AND PROVIDING FURTHER THAT THIS ORDINANCE AND THE CHARGES ESTABLISHED HEREBY AND THE TAX COLLECTION PROCEDURE SELECTED HEREIN SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL EITHER THE SAID CHARGES ARE REVISED OR THIS ORDINANCE IS OTHERWISE AMENDED OR REPEALED

-oOo-
 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CARMEL AREA WASTEWATER DISTRICT (DISTRICT) DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

- Sewer Service Charges.** Sewer service charges for services rendered are hereby adopted and levied upon all fiscal years hereafter until the charges established herein are modified or this ordinance is repealed, at the same rates set forth on Exhibit “A” which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference thereto.
- Collection on Tax Roll.** Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code §5473, the District hereby elects to have the aforesaid sewer service charges for services rendered by the District collected on the tax roll in the same general manner, by the same persons and at the same time as the collection of general property taxes by the County of Monterey.
- Duration.** This ordinance, the service charges established hereby and the collection procedure elected herein shall continue in full force and effect until either: a) the said sewer service charges are revised, or b) this ordinance is otherwise specifically amended or repealed.
- Publication.** Following adoption, this ordinance shall be published once in a newspaper published in the District.
- Effective Date.** This ordinance shall take effect and be in force one (1) week after the date it is published in the newspaper, or July 1, 2026, whichever is later.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Carmel Area Wastewater District duly held on June 25, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: BOARD MEMBERS: PRESIDENT SIEGFRIED,
 DIRECTORS: COLE, URQUHART, WEILAND, WHITE

NOES: BOARD MEMBERS:
 ABSENT: BOARD MEMBERS:
 ABSTAIN: BOARD MEMBERS:

(s) Robert Siegfried, President of the Board
 Attest: Domine Barringer, Board Clerk

Exhibit “A”

Sewer User Fees Effective July 1, 2026

User Category	Units	Annual Rate
Bakery	Location	\$3,395.32
Bar	Location	\$1,527.14
Beauty Salon	Location	\$1,290.80
Business/Govt./Retail	Per 10 Employees*	\$594.20
Camera/Photo	Location	\$768.28
Church/Synagogue/Mission	Location	\$864.84
Conv. Hospital	Per Bed	\$456.84
Dental Office	Per Dentist	\$901.16
Gym/Health Spa	Location	\$1,130.44
Hotel/Motel	Per Room	\$461.36
Laundromats	Per Machine	\$1,118.72
Laundry	Location	\$3,750.68
Market	Location	\$1,677.24
Medical Office	Per Physician	\$440.50
Residential	Dwelling Unit	\$952.82
Restaurants	Seat/Meal***	\$68.04
Schools	Population	\$41.38
Service Stations	Per Pump	\$2,838.54
Supermarkets	Location	\$23,282.90
Veterinary Offices	Location	\$2,207.88
Animal Hospital & Boarding	Location	\$6,251.90
Special/Unlisted Users	S/Flow Characteristics ***	\$892.50

* Each business is counted separately. For 1-10 employee it is counted as 1 unit. For 11-20 it is counted as two units. And so on. For the purposes of this model part-time employees are counted as 4:1
 ** Customer seats are multiplied by the number of meal periods (breakfast, lunch, dinner) serviced times two. The rate model assumes a seat will turn over twice during any meal period.
 *** Special/Unlisted users are assessed rates based on their loadings for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Suspended Solids (SS), and Flow (millions of gallons) multiplied by the following unit rates: \$1.729770691/lb of BOD; \$0.98753117/lb of SS; \$12,953.98/MG of flow

The Carmel Area Wastewater District collects, treats and disposes of wastewater from more than 6,500 residential and commercial connections in Carmel and surrounding areas and portions of lower Carmel Valley.

The fixed rate user fees include funds required for current operation and maintenance costs.

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COUNCIL

From page 14A

.375%. While tax measures have done poorly at the polls this year, the council is poised to put both on the Nov. 3 ballot, citing an estimated \$100 million in deferred maintenance and other fiscal challenges as justification.

EQUESTRIAN

From page 9A

the site.

Marina argues that Chaparral Ranch, Hatran and McGlothlin harmed the city and the public.

“The city has lost revenue from concession payments it would have otherwise collected because defendants’ continued presence prevents the city from placing a lawful concessionaire on the property to operate the equestrian center,” the complaint says.

The federal government transferred more than 27 acres to Marina in 1998 to use for public park and recreation purposes. While the deed “prohibits leases or assignments,” it allows concession agreements with third parties, subject to federal approval.

Marina has requested that the court order the defendants to vacate the premises, cease all operations, remove all possessions and “restore the property to the condition that existed prior to trespass.” It also wants the defendants to pay the cost of repairing any damage and restitution for their “unjust enrichment resulting” from “occupying and operating a business” on the land.

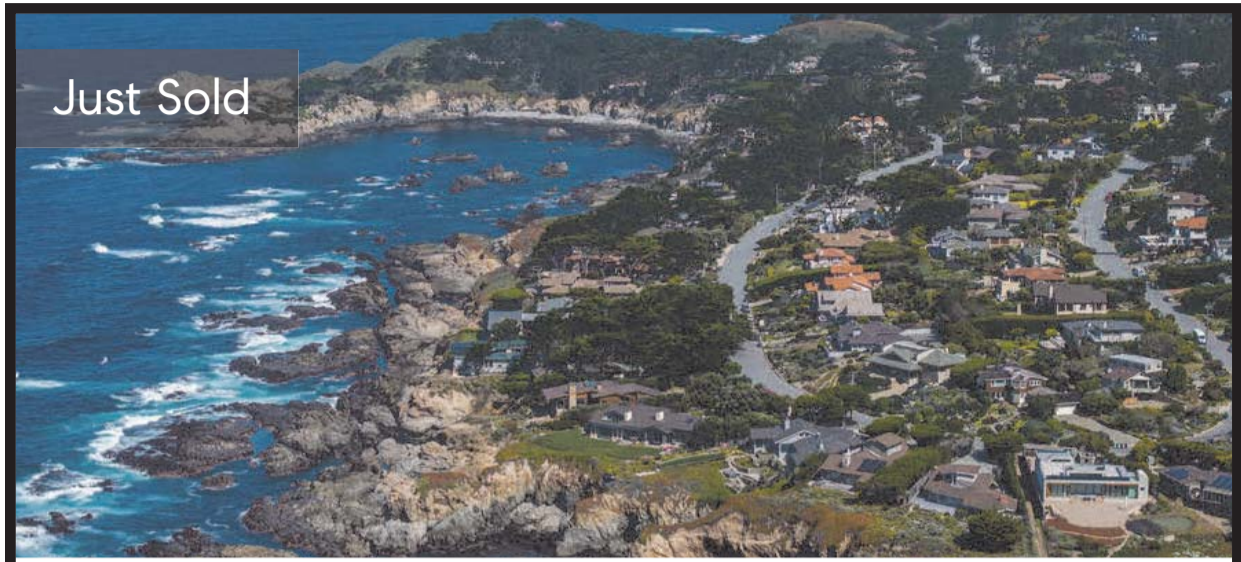
The case is set for an October hearing in a Monterey courtroom.

Fittingly, conversation and direction on councilmembers Hans Buder’s and Bob Delves’ “financial stewardship workgroup,” will come next, and then city attorney Brian Pierik will offer the latest information on the “executive recruitment firm selection process for a city administrator.”

Finally, administrative analyst Tom Ford will provide an update and seek feedback on the effort to find yet another architectural firm to work on an overhaul of the aging police station and public works facilities, including

“whether and how to proceed with interviewing the top four firms,” overall project timeline and potential funding options. Public officials and various councils have been turning themselves inside-out over the prospect of a remodel or rebuild — and spending hundreds of thousands of dollars while doing so — since May 2017.

Both meetings can be attended in person or online. For details and full agendas, go to ci.carmel.ca.us and click on the “meetings” tab.



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HORSES

From page 1A

back home.

Seeking help to find Maverick and Ranger, Lambert reached out to Net Posse, a volunteer network based in North Carolina dedicated to recovering stolen or missing horses. Led entirely by volunteers, the group, according to its website, “uses the speed and networking power of the internet to spread the word about stolen horses worldwide.”

More than 2,000 stolen or missing horses are featured at netposse.com, including some that have been lost for years. But according to founder and president Debi Metcalfe, it’s worth the extra effort to keep old reports online.

“We don’t take them down,” Metcalfe said. “We’ve had horses found decades later.”

Small details matter

At netposse.com, each stolen or missing horse has its own page, featuring detailed photographs showing any distinctive markings they might have. Markings, like colored patches or scars, make identification possible. “People can’t remember a whole horse, but they can remember a specific feature,” explained Metcalfe, who founded the

group after her horse was stolen in 1997.

Metcalfe noted that the two pages Lambert created at netposse.com have a combined 8,000 views.

“When a horse goes missing or is stolen, one of the first things people often do is head to social media,” according to Net Posse. There, sites like Facebook and Instagram, along with online horse groups, “can spread awareness quickly.” “Visibility matters,” the group said.

Net Posse creates informative posters for each lost horse, making it possible for owners to download a PDF copy, print it and distribute it throughout their communities. Fliers are also distributed to professionals throughout the equine community, as well as to law enforcement.

Metcalfe conceded that law enforcement often doesn’t have the tools to catch horse rustlers.

“Horses don’t go to pawn shops,” she said. “They don’t have VIN numbers.”

Metcalfe estimates that about a quarter of those who contact Net Posse and set up pages eventually find their lost horses. She also noted that those who proactively keep searching — like Lambert, who posts regularly on social media — have better luck.

“Most people don’t have the fortitude Joleen has,” she said. “She’s not giving up.”

No questions asked

Lambert recently shared Net Posse’s posters of her stolen horses on the Carmel Valley Locals’ Facebook page.

“One sighting is all it will take,” she wrote. “There is a reward of \$5,000, with 5% of it going to Net Posse, no questions asked.”

Horse theft is a big problem that only seems to be growing. It’s generally reported that between 40,000 and 50,000 horses are stolen every year in the United States,



PHOTO/JOLEEN LAMBERT

Ranger (left) and Maverick (right) were stolen from a ranch near Hollister in May. Their owner hasn’t given up on finding them.

although that data is a couple of decades out of date. They are taken for various reasons, including to be sold for slaughter, to be resold at auctions, or simply because they are valuable and can be sold on the black market.

Audrey Wiel

Audrey Wiel passed away peacefully on June 13, 2026, at the age of 92.

Born in Placerville, California, Audrey spent her life in Northern California, living in Sacramento and San Francisco before making her home in Carmel. She was loved and adored by all who knew her and will be remembered for her loyalty, kindness, caring nature and fun-loving spirit.

Audrey touched many lives through her warmth, generosity, and friendship. She will be deeply missed by her family and friends.



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HOUSING

From page 3A

but stopped short of denying it in January 2019, instead giving the church and its architect, Eric Miller, more time to work on the plans, which were subsequently shelved.

The document also predicts 161 underperforming hotel rooms could be converted into housing, as long as the owners can make the numbers work by selling or moving their hotel rights to other properties.

The owners of Su Vecino Court on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth and the GBG building at Mission and Seventh are interested in developing their mixed-use sites to accommodate six units each, half in the affordable ranges and half priced above moderate, according to Waffle.

“Two sites were identified; however, this program is open to all sites in the downtown,” Waffle said. “These two sites represent what the possibilities are.”

And for the live-work program, which would have owners of lower-rent commercial properties create deed-restricted live-work spaces, Waffle identified eight potential sites and said the owners of six of the downtown complexes, including the Doud Arcade, the Eastwood Building, El Prado de Su Vecino and Stonehouse Terrace, are interested. Depending on their sizes and configurations, the plan estimates each could accommodate between eight and 12 units ranging from extremely low-income to low-income, for a total of 78.

In addition, an estimated 70 accessory dwelling units could provide housing across a range of income levels, according to Waffle.

Housing group objects

No members of the public spoke at the meeting, but the California Housing Defense Fund and Californians for Homeownership submitted a 16-page letter restating and expanding on its ongoing objections to the revisions.

The groups argue the amended plan fails to meet the state’s requirements, and they accuse supporters of being insular NIMBYs.

Housing ‘badly needed’

“The city, by choosing to abandon a 100% affordable strategy involving the disposition of city-owned land, is choosing riskier, unproven models that are much less likely to result in the development of housing affordable to lower-income households during the planning period,” the letter says. “And the city seems to be doing so in order to appease residents who do not want 100% affordable housing developed in their community.”

The letter’s authors, Matthew Gelfand of Californians for Homeownership and Dylan Casey of the housing fund, allege there are legal defects in all of the proposed programs and urge the city to abandon its efforts to amend its housing element.

“The public record makes it clear that an antipathy towards housing for low-income households underlies this sudden decision to amend the housing element,” they write, and they describe the effort to exclude the city-owned sites as “transparently discriminatory towards lower-income households.”

Changing the plan, they say, will expose the city to lawsuits that could open the door to Builder’s Remedy projects.

“The city must drop its effort to amend the housing element and instead proceed with its plans to dispose of the city-owned sites to develop 100% affordable housing, which is badly needed in Carmel-by-the-Sea,” they conclude.

As in the past, their admonishments went unheeded, and after making a slight change in the plan’s language to match that in its environmental study, commissioners unanimously voted to send the plan and associated documents to the council for approval.

“The innovative strategies contained in the housing element amendment require a commitment to developing and pursuing new ideas, creating checkpoints to evaluate their effectiveness during implementation,

and pivoting when needed in order to improve outcomes,” Waffle says in her report for the council’s July 7 meeting. “The success of the strategies depends on the city taking a proactive stance, engaging

property owners, developers and stakeholders, promoting programs, and being open to hearing what is needed to achieve the housing goals and then taking the appropriate action.”

In Loving Memory of GEORGE PATRICK PORTER

1948–2026

George Patrick Porter, affectionately known as “Packy,” passed away on June 3, 2026, at UCSF Medical Center due to heart complications. He was 77.

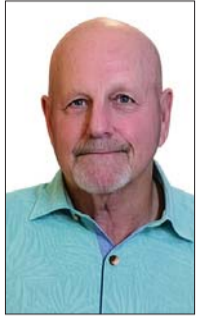
Born in Salinas and a longtime resident of Carmel, George was the proprietor of Carmel Plumbing. He was known for his generous heart, quick wit and unforgettable sense of humor. The town’s beloved jokester, George had a remarkable ability to make people laugh and would do anything for anyone.

George’s greatest joy was spending time with his cherished daughters, Patricia Ryan Porter and Courtney Ann Porter; his beloved granddaughters, Roya Ann Moetamedi and Malia June Moetamedi; and his many nieces and nephews, all of whom held a special place in his heart.

A country boy at heart, George loved long drives through Carmel Valley and Big Sur. Whether exploring the places he loved or simply spending time with family and friends, he treasured making memories with those closest to him.

George will be deeply missed by his family, friends and all who had the privilege of knowing and loving him. His kindness, laughter and generous spirit will remain in the hearts of everyone whose lives he touched.

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



Lorraine Marie Pasztalaniec

Lorraine passed away peacefully in her sleep on May 30, 2026, just shy of her 93rd birthday. She is once again together with her lifelong love, Matt, with whom she shared 60 wonderful years of marriage.

Born in Garden City, New York, Lorraine was the devoted wife of a Navy captain who served proudly for 30 years. She embraced a life of adventure, making friends and memories around the world. While stationed overseas in Norway, Sicily and London over the years, Lorraine traveled extensively throughout Europe and the Mediterranean, even visiting the Soviet Union during the height of the Cold War. She often remarked on the wonderful life they had in the Navy and the incredible opportunities it afforded them.

When they moved to Monterey, Lorraine and Matt fell in love with the area and spent the next 40-plus years there. Lorraine especially loved Carmel River State Beach, where they spent many afternoons and evenings together. She loved music and playing the piano.

Lorraine had the gift of making everyone feel special, whether a family member or someone she had just met. She could strike up a conversation with anyone, never shied away from a spirited discussion on any topic, and always maintained a steadfast devotion to her family and her country. She had a flair for understated fashion—she could rock an old hat like few others—and was a consummate hostess. Together, Lorraine and Matt were a dynamic, down-to-earth couple, comfortable in any setting, whether hosting high-ranking military officers, foreign dignitaries, family gatherings or their weekly dinners with friends in their Laguna Seca neighborhood.

And boy, did she love telling stories! She delighted friends and family with her tales at every opportunity. One of her favorites was how she met Matt while he was attending the Naval Academy. Through many twists and turns—including Matt’s bet with a teammate on the Navy baseball team that he would marry Lorraine by Christmas after graduation—they did indeed marry on Christmas Day at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, New York. That made Christmas Day especially meaningful for their children and grandchildren, as Grandma, or GiGi, would recount the story each year while everyone celebrated their anniversary with their song, “Greensleeves,” playing in the background.

Lorraine is survived by her children, Matt (Kathy) and Wynne (John); cherished granddaughters Kayla, Lexi and Tai; and seven great-grandchildren—Gianna, Emma, Ivan, Levi, Louella, Junalie and Lennox—who brought her immense joy. She was preceded in death by her husband, Matt; her son, Mark; and her brother, George.

In a final message to her family, Lorraine implored us not to be sad. She had a long, full life filled with wonderful and lasting experiences. She is now at peace, reunited with Matt, Mark and George, together forever.

We miss her already.



CAROLYN FROST WILLIAMS

Sept. 23, 1943 ❖ June 18, 2026

Carolyn Frost Williams, a much-loved mother, sister, grandmother, aunt and friend, passed away peacefully at her home with family by her side on June 18, 2026.

Born Sept. 23, 1943, to Walter and Helen Holz, Carolyn grew up in Carmi, a small town in southern Illinois. While she began life as a rural Midwesterner, Carolyn would go on to call many places home. Her journey began at the University of Wyoming in Laramie before taking her to larger, brighter cities including St. Louis, Dallas, Los Angeles, Boston, New York, San Francisco and even Taipei. She ultimately settled in Monterey with her two daughters.



Driven by an independent spirit, Carolyn carved out a life marked by exploration, courage and a beautiful disregard for social confines. She pursued her calling in health care, studying at Washington University and New York University before earning a master’s degree in physical therapy. Over a distinguished 40-year career, she brought healing, comfort and dedication to patients throughout Monterey County.

Never one to be limited by the expectations of her era, Carolyn embraced the world with fierce enthusiasm. She was a skilled lifeguard, an accomplished slalom water-skier, a proficient snow skier and sailor, and an avid equestrian who maintained a lifelong love of animals. In her later years, she found great joy and community in the strategy of bridge and the creativity of photography.

Travel was Carolyn’s greatest passion, and she was happiest discovering new corners of the world. Her adventures took her to the landscapes of Nepal, Mongolia, China, India, Guatemala, Kenya, Eswatini and throughout Europe. Yet, for all her international journeys, her greatest devotion was always to her family. Carolyn built a home where her daughters’ friends were unconditionally embraced as family, whether they needed a place to stay for a single night or for years.

Carolyn is survived by her brothers, Otto and Wally Holz; her daughters, Stacy Young and Chelsea Frost Williams; and her grandchildren, Trevor, Tabitha and Beatrice Young. She will be dearly missed by her family and friends, who will continue to hold her vibrant memory close to their hearts.

A service celebrating Carolyn’s life will be held at 11 a.m. July 17, 2026, at San Carlos Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the BrightFocus Foundation, the SPCA of Monterey County or a charity of your choice.

With her independent spirit, Byrne is right at home in New England

AMONG THE most important things Caroline Byrne learned about herself by observing her big brother — her “best friend,” her role model — was that she didn’t want to be him and wasn’t going

tandems in the history of Carmel High School athletics.

J.T. (Class of 2021) set his sights on an NCAA Division I career after earning All-Gabilan Division and all-county recognition in football, basketball and baseball for the Padres. He packed 50 pounds of muscle onto his body as a full-scholarship tight end at Oregon State, where he spent three seasons (including a redshirt year).

As a redshirt junior, he transferred to UC Berkeley for one year, then played for Georgia Tech in the fall of 2025, capping his final year of eligibility with a touchdown reception against BYU in the Pop-Tarts Bowl in Orlando.

This summer, he was invited to the Philadelphia Eagles rookie camp and remains hopeful he’ll be offered an NFL free-agent contract for the upcoming season.

‘I knew I didn’t want that’

Little sister marveled at all of that from a safe distance.

“By watching my brother, I got to see the intensity of Division I and knew I didn’t want that,” said Caroline (Class of 2024), who was a second-team all-league pick for the Padres as a basketball player and a two-time All-Gabilan and all-county volleyball standout — the Gabilan Division’s Offensive Player of the Year as a senior.

Despite that success, she wasn’t even certain she wanted to play a collegiate sport until later in her junior year.

“I was kind of late to the recruiting process, so I got in touch with a recruiter who could help me sort through all of the schools and narrow things down,” said Byrne, who is Carmel-born and -reared

and initially felt inclined to stay close to home. Her first college applications were sent to UC Santa Barbara, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and several other in-state universities with formidable volleyball programs.

Then, she discovered the New England Small College Athletic Conference — an NCAA Division III league with nine of the most historic, academically rigorous schools in the nation: Tufts, Wesleyan, Bowdoin, Connecticut College, Amherst, Hamilton, Trinity, Bates, Colby — and Middlebury.

“In the winter of my senior year, I visited several New England schools, including Middlebury,” she said of the 226-year-old liberal arts college in rural Vermont. “I fell in love with it right away — the campus, the vibe and the volleyball coach.”

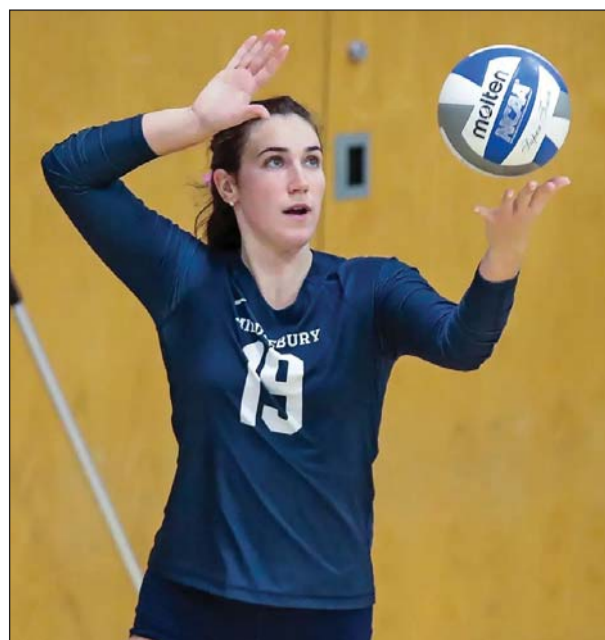
Coach Sarah Raunecker, a Middlebury alumna whose collection of 518 career victories is a school record, had one open spot on her roster for the 2024-25 season.

“And she offered it to me,” Byrne said. “As soon as I got accepted, I withdrew all of my other applications. I knew Middlebury was what I wanted.”

Creaky stairs, old portraits

Middlebury College was founded in 1800, when John Adams, the second U.S. president, was in office. The oldest building on campus, Painter Hall, was built in 1816 and is still in use.

“There are classrooms in old buildings that have beautiful white stone and really creaky stairs,” Byrne said. “There are really old portraits of important



PHOTO/MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE ATHLETICS.

Caroline Byrne, an outside hitter at Carmel High, ranked among team leaders in service aces during her first two seasons at Middlebury, with 32 as a freshman and 36 as a sophomore.

Middlebury people in parts of Axinn Starr Library, where you kind of have to tiptoe because the floors are really loud.”

And the building where she lived last year, “had hallways so narrow that you had to wait to let somebody else go past you,” she said.

At the same time, the athletic facilities on campus are modern and first-rate, and the college puts a heavy emphasis on women’s sports.

Byrne — a 5-foot-11 outside hitter at Carmel High who led the team in kills as a junior and senior — embraced the opportunity to become a full-time defensive specialist for her entire freshman season at Middlebury.

“I just wanted to play, no matter what

See **SPORTS** next page

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

to follow in his gigantic footsteps. Their DNA match had its limits.

“We’re both athletes, but we’re very different people,” said the younger half of one of the most talented brother-sister



PHOTO/COURTESY CAROLINE BYRNE

Big brother J.T. Byrne played tight end at Oregon State, UC Berkeley, and Georgia Tech, but Caroline had no appetite for the intensity of NCAA Division 1 athletics, choosing to play at Division 3 Middlebury.

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SPORTS

From previous page

the position was. I wanted to be a team player and play wherever I was needed," she said.

That positive attitude got her into all 25 matches for the Panthers (18 as a starter) in her first season, helping Middlebury coach Raunecker win the sixth NESCAC championship of her 31-year career.

Bottom of the totem pole

"The transition to college athletics is huge, in part because you're starting all over at the bottom of the totem pole," Byrne said. "You don't come in as a freshman talking big, like you're at the top of the team — that's not OK — and I thought of that as an opportunity to prove myself and show some leadership through my actions."

As the 2025-26 season approached, she strove to impress her coaches with her offseason work ethic.

"My attitude was, 'I know I deserve this spot — I'm going to work extra hard for it,'" said Byrne, who was installed as a starter at her natural position, outside hitter, and typically remained on the court through all six rotations (an acknowledgment of the back-row skills she developed the previous year).

As a sophomore, she ranked fourth on the team in kills (149) and assists (19), third in digs (222 — 73 more than the previous season) and service aces (32), and fifth in block assists (21).

Academic all-conference

A cherry on top was her inclusion on the New England small school all-academic team.

"Choosing a liberal arts school was my best decision, because it really allows me to be more than just a volleyball player — it touches my other interests," said Byrne, a psychology major who plans to pursue a master's degree in early childhood development.

"I've been taking a lot of art classes and loving them. I'm learning to play the guitar and doing a little bit of singing," she said.

"And we have a thing here in January called 'J-term,'

when you're encouraged to take just one challenging class, then spend the rest of your time doing whatever you want to do," she said.

Last year, that meant she was able to ski every day, "on our own mountain, which is 20 minutes away."

The biggest adjustment for the California native — no surprise — has been braving New England's notorious winter weather.

"The cold here is gnarly. I learned pretty quickly that you don't go outside with wet hair," she said. "I also die a little bit every January when friends post photos from some beach in Santa Barbara or Hawaii, where they're going to school."

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



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PHOTO/MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE ATHLETICS

After specializing in back-row play as a freshman, Caroline Byrne moved to outside hitter for her sophomore season, but typically stayed in the game for all six rotations.

TECH WIZ

From page 13A

coordinated work crews and imparted design concepts," according to Moorer. More recently, he built the set for PacRep's musical version of "Young Frankenstein," which runs at the Golden Bough Playhouse through July 26.

Stepping up

McEvoy became a big part of PacRep after its original technical director, John Rousseau, died unexpectedly in 2012. Rousseau was also a co-founder of the theater group.

"Patrick stepped up to finish a giant 'Beauty and the Beast' set with a two-story castle and a levitating prince," Moorer said. "He knocked that sucker out and started to fill the giant hole John left."

McEvoy is survived by his wife, Tiffany Torrez. Moorer said there will likely be a celebration of his life organized soon.

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Born and raised here, she keeps discovering new things to love

MONTEREY NATIVE Mary Alice Cerrito Fettis was honored in 2014 by the Peninsula's Italian Heritage Society as someone "whose contributions and achievements have enhanced and improved the Central Coast communities for all residents."

She hasn't rested on her laurels, keeping an active schedule that includes serving as chair of Whalefest Monterey for more than

Instead, after a conversation with a close friend who was a flight attendant, she found a job with Trans International Airways, a charter airline owned by the Transamerica Corporation.

Fettis' work took her to more than 45 countries, and the passengers were often as interesting as the destinations. The airline took priests to Rome to visit the Vatican, transported businessmen who won vacations in sales contests, and took Muslims to Saudi Arabia for the Hajj.

Stops in Hong Kong — no matter how brief — were spent shopping. Sometimes the crew stayed for a week while passengers vacationed in places like Greece or Hawaii. Fettis was also part of the evacuation of Vietnamese nationals at the end of the United States' involvement in the war there.

The whole experience was eye-opening. Not only was she introduced to dozens of other cultures, she said, "One of the biggest things I learned was that my way was only one of many ways of getting something done, and sometimes I should shut up and listen," to how someone else does it.

Blind date

After five years spent globetrotting, Fettis was healthy but worn out and ready to move on. "I couldn't stay awake, and my father's health was slipping," she said.

She came home and ran the family businesses with her sister, Gloria Brown, until 1982. During that period, she said, someone told her, "You can't let others shape

times I should shut up and listen," to how someone else does it.

Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

your life. You have to get involved."

Never one to do things halfway, Fettis joined the Fisherman's Wharf Association, the Monterey Hotel and Restaurant Association and the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce.

When Fettis was 41, Joy Powers — her friend and neighbor who was part of the family that owned Gallatin's (now Stokes Adobe) — set her up on a blind date with Nicholas Fettis for a "New Year's Eve soiree." Although she rated his dancing — to his face — as a two on a scale of 1-10, she said she was impressed with his courage.

"He didn't step on my feet or anything," she added.

She's still a bit mystified that the gifted pianist she married could have a great sense of rhythm but be unable to translate that to dancing. Ten months after the

See LIVES page 30A

Don't miss "Scenic Views" by Jerry Gervase — every week in the Real Estate Section.



COURTESY/MARY ALICE FETTIS

Monterey native Mary Alice Cerrito Fettis has had multiple, eclectic careers and is passionate about helping her community thrive.

a decade. But maybe it's best to start at the beginning.

Fettis' father, Sal Cerrito, had Sicilian heritage, and her mother, Alice Urquidí Cerrito, came from a Basque family. They purchased property on Old Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey and opened a restaurant in 1957, when Fettis was 9.

She said Neptune's Table had a dining room that could seat 150 guests, a front bar that could accommodate 50, a lounge with live music and dancing for 150, and a 250-seat banquet facility upstairs.

Fettis said she started working there at 12 and continued through her senior year at Santa Catalina School and when she came home to visit from Santa Clara University.

She did food prep, washed dishes, helped bartenders, cleaned, bused tables, and worked as a hostess and eventually manager. Though she trained new chefs on family recipes and came up with new dishes to add to the menu, Fettis said she "didn't have the timing" for restaurant cooking.

"You'd have 10 dishes on the grill, in the deep fryer, under the broiler and in the oven," and they all had to come out simultaneously.

Taking off

She finished her bachelor's degree at Santa Clara and stayed for her master's degree in teaching, which she completed in 1971. Although she planned to teach, the bureaucracy and some management decisions at her first job led her to conclude it wasn't right for her.

Her creative and wandering childhood muse lives on

THE MUSE of Chris Roberts-Antieau is a wanderer, a wonderer, sometimes a weirdo, marching to the beat of its own drummer — assuming that drummer came from a galaxy far, far away, or, perhaps, is journeying toward shamanic enlightenment.

Antieau Gallery, her newly christened

while ignoring the blackboard, worrying her parents with C's and D's on her report cards.

When young Chris had to repeat ninth grade, her loving parents moved the family to another town, where their daughter could attend a new school and avoid ridicule.

"I had a couple of very good art teachers along the way, plus a really cool teacher who made me feel challenged. Otherwise, my mind just wandered," said Antieau, who ultimately

was deemed unworthy of college.

She didn't go ... nor did she go to art school.

'I was a horse for two years'

"I was an independent little kid, growing up at a time when our parents would throw us out the front door and not worry about us. We weren't supposed to come home until it was dark," she said.

"I learned early to entertain myself. I thought I was a horse for two years — I literally went outside and ate grass," she reflected with a laugh.

At age 9, she hand-built "an entire circus" in her backyard, selling tickets to her friends for 5 cents a pop.

She remembers sitting with her mother

Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

space in Carmel Square, showcases only a small part of a wide-ranging portfolio of work concocted by a mind that navigates by instinct, blending beauty with artistic anarchy.

"I never learned what not to do ... and, for that, I'm eternally grateful," she declared in an artist's statement on her website. "I taught myself all of my techniques. I don't see other people using them."

She's a painter who doesn't use paint. Her preferred medium is fabric appliqué — "thread painting" — decorative needlework that injects vibrant color one stitch at a time.

"I made a little apron in a seventh-grade home-ec class, and really clicked with sewing," Antieau remembered. "When I became a mom, I made all of my son's clothes, and then I re-covered all of my sad furniture."

Artful taxidermy

She turns taxidermy into fine art by adding her own intricately embroidered scenes of flora and fauna the animal probably encountered during its lifetime, such as birds of prey, a rodent that became a meal, a butterfly.

"The embroideries represent the memories I imagine those animals would've had during their lives, things they would've seen, creatures they might've encountered," she said.

Framed pieces, also fabric art, are busy with images of animals and insects, plant life, sometimes surrounding a woman — intriguing portrayals that suggest metaphors, symbolism and hidden meanings to keep the viewer engaged.

A handsewn woman's dress displayed in Antieau's Carmel gallery is likewise decorated with embroidered images of birds of prey, some engaged in the violent confrontations that are part of the animal kingdom.

In school, Antieau remembers herself as a bright-but-bored child, allergic to structure, staring relentlessly through windows



COURTESY/CHRIS ROBERTS-ANTIEAU

Artist Chris Roberts-Antieau has a new gallery in Carmel Square, where she shows part of her wide-ranging portfolio of work.

as a little girl, cutting paper dolls out of McCall's magazines and copying old-fashioned illustrations from Vogue.

"I started getting recognition for my drawings when I was in the sixth or seventh grade, and I remember thinking, 'Hey, maybe I could do something with this.'"

In the late 1960s and early '70s, in suburban Detroit, her interests took a hard turn toward music. She found work managing a music store, where she created artsy promotional décor.

Her circle of friends was populated by

See ARTIST page 30A

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LETTERS

From page 26A

Big Sur coast. Unfortunately, the experience of reaching Point Lobos has become increasingly defined by traffic congestion, roadside parking, pedestrian safety concerns, and frustration for visitors and residents alike.

The Monterey County Hospitality Association believes we can do better.

For years, public agencies, community organizations, local residents and transportation professionals have worked to identify practical solutions that improve safety, protect natural resources and preserve public access. The ParkIt proposal is the result of that effort and deserves a fair, timely and transparent public review. The program would provide visitors with a reservation system, improved off-site parking and a frequent shuttle service directly to the Point Lobos coast, reducing dangerous roadside parking while maintaining access to the reserve.

The current situation is not sustainable. Visitors should not have to walk along Highway 1 to reach one of California's most treasured parks. Residents should not have to worry about blocked driveways, traffic backups or delayed emergency response. Businesses and hospitality partners want visitors to leave Monterey County with memories of extraordinary natural beauty, not dangerous roadside conditions.

As the permitting process moves forward, we encourage community members to learn more about both the challenges and the proposed solutions at parkitforparks.com.

The future of Point Lobos should be shaped through facts, thoughtful discussion and a shared commitment to safety, access and stewardship. We encourage Monterey County to continue moving the review process forward so that all perspectives can be heard and considered.

Kevin Ellis, Monterey County Hospitality Association

Carmel Valley traffic

Dear Editor,

Twice a year, in June and October, Monterey County Public Works conducts a traffic survey on Carmel Valley Road, from Highway 1 at the mouth of the valley all the way to Los Tulares, east of Carmel Valley Village. This 13-mile stretch is divided into 10 segments, and traffic is counted on each segment. The June survey is taking place

now. As you drive on Carmel Valley Road, you may notice the traffic-counting cables placed across the road.

I have two serious concerns.

First, the county waited until after school was out to conduct the June count. The school year is 180 days long. By counting traffic after school is over, the county is leaving out a major source of daily traffic. This means the survey fails to reflect the real traffic conditions residents live with for roughly half the year.

Second, and even more troubling, the county has apparently chosen not to place traffic-counting cables between Ford Road, west of the Village, and the new roundabout. This is Segment 4. Omitting this segment is not a small oversight. It is one of the most important and heavily traveled stretches of Carmel Valley Road.

This section is critical for Carmel Valley Village, Los Tulares, Robles del Rio, Rancho Road, Country Club Road, El Caminito Road, Boronda Road and surrounding neighborhoods. It is also one of the most important evacuation routes in the event of wildfire or another emergency. Leaving this segment out of the count is misleading and unacceptable.

The county cannot claim to be studying traffic honestly while excluding one of the most important segments of the road.

These numbers matter significantly. The county will use them to evaluate and justify future development and higher density in Carmel Valley Village. Patrick Orosco is proposing 90 new homes plus a possible 70 accessory dwelling units on the airfield, which would mean up to 160 new housing units. Orosco is also planning additional housing at Blue Sky Lodge, with the number still to be confirmed. These two developments are going to increase traffic tremendously.

Residents of Carmel Valley should not accept incomplete traffic data being used by the county to support major development decisions.

If the county wants the public to trust this process, it must count the traffic where it matters most and during periods that reflect real conditions.

We should all be paying very close attention. We should all be asking questions. And yes, we should all be extremely upset.

Hubert Fabre, Carmel Valley

The cost of being anti-tourist

Dear Editor,

Twenty years ago, Pacific Grove decided not to fund

the Monterey County Visitor Center's promotion and advertising and pulled back from regional tourism marketing. The chamber of commerce worked valiantly, but without broader promotion, businesses suffered. Large hotels stopped recommending us, and soon business dropped 25% from the lack of exposure. On maps, Pacific Grove became a big green void — no longer a destination on the Monterey Peninsula.

Carmel residents are now saying there's simply too much tourism, but before they stop contributing to the visitor center, they should remember what happens when a town steps off the map: Visitors stop coming, businesses suffer, and it takes years to recover.

The question isn't whether tourism needs management — it's whether Carmel can afford to repeat Pacific Grove's costly mistake. You don't just lose visitors, you lose the economic lifeblood that keeps a town vibrant, as well as essential services such as the police and fire departments and library.

Marietta Bain, Pacific Grove

Water honor

Dear Editor,

The State Lands Commission convened on June 23 to consider California American Water Company's (Cal Am) industrial application to install four additional slant wells and convert the test slant well to a permanent one at the CEMEX property in Marina. Sadly, despite all the hours invested in meetings with staff, written legal water law analysis provided to staff and commissioners, and robust public comments, the commission voted for conditional approval. What the commissioners ignored:

- The Monterey Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA), confirmed Cal Am's project will create unsustainable, undesirable outcomes that violate legally required thresholds to be maintained and create seawater intrusion across multiple aquifer layers, irreparably harming Marina's and Marina Coast Water District's drinking water supply sources. According to the commission staff's report, this constitutes grounds for lease termination. This clearly means the lease should have been denied to comply with state law.

- The CEMEX Settlement Agreement's Public Resource Code prohibits further slant well construction, a vital legal argument for lease denial.

- The State Water Resources Control Board's referee report of June 2025 confirmed Cal Am's project lacks requisite water rights, establishing solid legal evidence for lease denial.

- Environmental justice: Replacing shut-down sand mining operations with another hazardous industrial operation violates environmental justice, environmentally sensitive habitat areas, and local coastal program policies.

- Duty, honor, public good, state interest: All necessitate lease denial, yet the commissioners failed to listen.

Margaret-Anne Coppernoll, Marina

About that fan mail

Dear Editor,

Apparently, Debbie Baker, in her "Fan mail" letter, got her knickers in a twist, claiming The Carmel Pine Cone's owner is a "single arrogant, disgusting, privileged white man or woman," who is boring at parties. Quite a mouthful over his opinion that Americans are often "open-minded." I urge Debbie to travel to Russia, China or Iran to see what happens when you talk freely about women's rights and politics in general.

As for arguing that foreigners see Americans as "weak, laughable, and inept," I would talk with the many foreigners attending current soccer matches. They seem to be overwhelmed by the sheer bigness, openness and beauty of America. To them, it isn't the people who have an issue with each other — it's inept, bloated and uncaring governments that plague all citizens.

Lawrence Samuels, Carmel



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TAXES

From page 1A

Other major unions, most notably the California Teachers Association, don't like the billionaires tax because it cuts them out of the funding pot, with 90% of the estimated \$100 billion in one-time proceeds going to healthcare, leaving little for education and food assistance.

In the end, Regan didn't back down, betting that people are irate enough over wealth inequality and President Donald Trump's cuts to healthcare to vote for his tax on the ultra-rich. It sets the stage for a very expensive campaign, as the billionaires themselves will be joining well-funded unions in trying to bring down the proposition.

One avenue to do so is through competing ballot measures, and billionaire-backed Building a Better California was successful in getting two anti-tax propositions in front of voters.

Limits on new taxes

The first would apply revenue from new California taxes to the state's spending cap and require spikes in revenue to go back to taxpayers or to education, canceling out the wealth tax. The second would prevent California from instituting retroactive taxes and prohibit new taxes on personal savings, retirement portfolios, business interests and intellectual property, offsetting the wealth tax. What happens if both or one of the competing measures pass and the billionaires tax also passes? It will depend on which gets the most votes, as that measure will prevail.

You can bet the opposition campaign will also be filling the airwaves with negative messaging about the wealth tax, likely highlighting provisions of the measure that would allow the Legislature to amend the tax as long as it is "consistent with and furthers the purposes of the 2026 Billionaire

Tax Act."

In other words, if passed, lawmakers would have an avenue to extend the wealth tax or apply it to lower income levels as long as the money went to healthcare or any of the other "purposes" listed in the tax language.

How about the millionaires?

Voters should be skeptical of any tax being promised as a "one-time deal" in Sacramento. The same union working hardest to bring down the wealth tax is also asking voters to make its "temporary" millionaires tax permanent.

Voters in 2012 approved the additional surtax — up to 12% — on households making \$721,000 or individuals bringing in more than \$360,000. The tax generates between \$5 billion and \$15 billion annually for schools and is set to expire in 2031. Voters extended it in 2016, and the California Teachers Association is hoping to put it on the books for good this year.

The initiative is as close as November's ballot gets to allowing voters to remove a tax levied on them. However, even if the surtax goes away — which is unlikely, as it now accounts for 15% of school funding — the wealthy will still pay income tax. Still, voters will get to decide how easy it should be to hike their taxes, with a modified version of the Taxpayers Protection Act.

A deal between the state Legislature and Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association President Jon Coupal seemed unlikely last week, but it happened — albeit at the final hour.

Coupal's original initiative had Democratic state lawmakers in a snit. Not only would it have made it harder to approve local taxes by requiring two-thirds voter approval for all special taxes, it would have triggered a statewide real estate transfer tax reform that applied retroactively — potentially shutting off the spigot to billions of local tax dollars.

The negotiation between Coupal and

lawmakers came down to the wire. Coupal sent his requests in a public letter just hours before the deadline, proposing to drop the transfer tax reform in exchange for lawmakers placing a new constitutional amendment on the ballot and passing it by 5 p.m. — and they did.

If passed, the modified Taxpayers Protection Act would codify in the constitution that no government or citizen group acting through the initiative power will be able to extend or increase any special tax without two-thirds voter approval.

As part of the deal, Coupal also secured the removal of a separate, Democrat-backed initiative written to sink his original act. ACA 13 would have required any citizen initiative proposing a higher voter threshold to also pass that threshold, meaning the Taxpayers Protection Act itself would have needed two-thirds voter approval.

The end deal means policies like Los

Angeles' mansion tax can stay in place, but restoring the two-thirds approval required to pass special taxes through the new proposition has a much better shot at a November win.

Californians' attitude toward raising taxes was tepid in June. Statewide, there were 92 local measures to increase taxes or approve bonds and according to the California Taxpayers Association, 57% of them passed — a big drop for the Golden State, where past elections have averaged a 70% approval rate.

The results track with a May survey from the Public Policy Institute of California that found that when asked about the state's year-over-year budget deficits, 55% of voters would rather pay lower taxes and receive fewer services.

However, asking people if they'd like to pay more taxes or if they'd like someone else to pay more taxes is a different question.



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LIVES

From page 27A

wedding, their son, Peter, was born.

Fettis went into the real estate business for 25 years. She also volunteered to help with Peter's school and Boy Scout activities and in community groups.

La Merienda, Monterey's annual birthday party, has benefited from her energetic dedication, as have the Monterey History and Art Association, the Kiwanis Club, where she was one of the first women members, the North Fremont Business District, Language Capital of the World celebrations, Carmel Mission, Catholic Daughters of America, the Italian Catholic Federation, the Monterey Museum of Art and the Italian Heritage Society.

But the gig she really likes discussing is Whalefest. In its first, larger, incarnation, she said, it lasted three weekends and was spread all over the peninsula, but lost its support and ground to a halt.

In 2010, as president of the Wharf Association, Fettis was looking for something to bring in more visitors.

Accompanying whales

A year later, with help from a dedicated committee and more than 200 volunteers, she led a small two-day Whalefest with interactive, family-friendly displays and expert speakers giving talks on marine life, all close to the wharf.

The April event is free to attend, and its mission "is to educate, inspire, and empower the public to appreciate, protect and preserve the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and its marine life

— especially whales and the broader ocean ecosystem."

Although it has grown significantly, it's kept the two-day schedule and small footprint.

Among the eclectic array of live music from school bands, folk artists and more, husband Nick — her most dedicated supporter — composes music to accompany whale song. The "vocals" are picked up by an underwater microphone called a hydrophone, located 18 miles offshore and about 3,000 feet down.

Operated primarily by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, it's used for scientific research, but you can also listen to live and recorded sound clips on MBARI's website. Fettis said it's one of the most interesting things she's encountered as part of Whalefest.

However, she noted, the abalone race is

by far one of the most amusing activities. The contestants are provided by Monterey Abalone Co. Using nontoxic putty, toothpicks with little numbered flags are affixed to the mollusks' shells, and they're placed in the center of a kiddie pool that's set up under a canopy.

When the canopy is removed, the abalone think they've been exposed to potential predators and head for the small shadowy areas around the edge of the pool in less than three or four minutes. The little guys apparently can hustle when they need to.

Fettis said the event teaches her something new every year about the bay where she grew up. Her enthusiasm for it runs as deep as her love for the community where she was born and raised and continues to serve. It's hard to imagine what else she'd do with all that energy.

ARTIST

From page 27A

musicians and band members, including a couple of not-yet-famous rock stars.

"I sewed Ted Nugent's first pair of bell-bottoms," she reminisced, "and I snuck into a drive-in theater once in the trunk of Bob Seger's car."

Antieau discovered a talent for making quilts and sold them at art fairs.

Then she detoured into soft sculpture — stuffing, sewing and shaping fabric into 3D art.

"I made a man on a trapeze, 18 inches tall, in about 24 hours, and sold him for \$18," she recalled. "I was really excited that somebody would actually buy something I

made, and I think that probably was when I started thinking, 'Oh, my gosh, maybe this is what I'm supposed to be doing.'"

Antieau came up with a creative line of women's vests and timidly took them to a Boston trade show, where her low expectations became a breakthrough moment.

Clarity from catastrophe

"It was a big-time kind of show that attracted a lot of gallery people who would elbow their way past each other to place orders for the things they liked," she said. "I was so nervous that I curled up in the fetal position at one point, trying to figure out what the heck I was doing there."

To her surprise, she came away with a contract from Neiman Marcus department stores — product orders that kept her busy for a year.

"I ended up hiring 14 people to get the work done and eventually realized that wasn't what I wanted to do," she said. "I wasn't making art, I was making clothing. People came in for fittings, and I'd be trying to match their shoes. All of my energy was going in the wrong direction."

In 2009, Antieau was diagnosed with breast cancer, an ordeal that led to an epiphany: Humans are mortal, and our lifespans are finite.

"I was a woman in my 40s, wondering how much time I really had left. I started having this internal dialogue, realizing I needed to get serious about whatever I wanted to say and do with my art."

That's also when she began experimenting with vibrantly colorful thread painting, a technique she now uses in almost 100% of her work.

"Sewing, to me, is very Zen," she said. "When you're doing something you love to do, you enter that state of mind where there's no time or space. Sewing does that for me."

Creativity provided catharsis during her healing and recovery.

Divorce came next for Antieau, who embraced a newfound freedom — self-permission to devote all of her time to her art.

"I love catastrophes — they clear you

out," she said.

For Antieau, the decision to become her own boss was more exciting than frightening.

"There's a beauty in understanding that your time is so valuable that you don't want to waste it," said the artist, who operates successful galleries in New Orleans, Santa Fe, and now in Carmel. She also has her own frame shop.

"I employ 20 people — an executive director, gallery directors, a sales staff and the people who work in the frame shop," said Antieau, whose adult son, Noah, a psychologist by profession, travels regularly to all of those venues to help out.

Freedom to succeed or fail

"I love being in charge of my own successes and failures," she said. "There's nobody else to blame, and there's nobody else to celebrate. That's total freedom."

Antieau Gallery is open Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (or by appointment).

See images of her work at antieaugallery.com.

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

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AIR TAXI

From page 18A

the world's first commercial air taxi service in the United Arab Emirates later this year.

As Metz sees it, the rapid growth of the "low-altitude economy" — a buzzy term referring to all the technologies, businesses and services emerging in the airspace between zero and 3,000 feet — is an opportunity to bring high-paying tech jobs to some of the least-advantaged areas of Monterey County. DART acts as a connector between the public and private sectors, he explained, leveraging its partnership with Joby to provide opportunities for local high school and college students enrolled in technical education programs to access "earn and learn" apprenticeships, advanced training and recruitment opportunities.

One of two pathways sponsored by the nonprofit is an 18-month aircraft maintenance technician apprenticeship

at Joby's training academy in Watsonville. (The company also makes "regular" electric planes.) The program keeps close ties with Pajaro Valley High School in Salinas, Metz said, the technical education school where DART funds a "build lab" using the same RV-12-model aircraft that are in rotation at Joby. In two years, Metz said, students participating in the lab can earn one-third of the Federal Aviation Administration certifications needed to become aircraft maintenance technicians.

'No precedent'

The second pathway places registered apprentices in Joby's research and development facility at Marina airport, "producing components for an aircraft that has no precedent in the FAA's certification history," as the nonprofit puts it.

DART reported that 20 of the 23 apprentices in Joby's first cohort, back in 2022, were hired by the company — many of whom got their start at Hartnell College, which largely serves first-generation students and working adults.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average salary for an FAA-certified mechanic is \$80,000, and more than 13,000 job openings per year are projected over

the next decade, largely driven by a retiring workforce. Meanwhile, aerospace engineers are earning an average annual salary of \$134,000, according to the bureau — not accounting for stock options, equity or other windfalls, should Joby's electric craft come to define the next century of air travel.

No doubt, flying taxis are the most glamorous incarnation of low-altitude craft, but the real market share is commanded by drones, which will soon be delivering packages, conducting geospatial mapping on a massive scale, performing agricultural labor and about a dozen other tasks.

On June 30, Monterey Bay Adult School held the first session of an introduction to drone operations night class in partnership with DART and the Hartnell Foundation. The course is taught by an MPUSD instructor at a cost of \$150 for eight weeks of study. (Three spots are available, and MPUSD will offer another course on drone piloting in the fall.)

Open for enrollment is an intro-to-drones camp running July 6-10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Seaside High School. The fee is \$200 and the course is open to 20 participants, ages 16 and older. Learn more at luma.com/DART-MsUAS.

Dozers on Carmel Beach

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A PAIR of city bulldozers — one petite, one not — spent hours last week pushing sand onto the rock revetments below Scenic Road. The routine work is called for in Carmel's shoreline management plan, according to acting city administrator Brandon Swanson, but it hadn't been done for years.

The city's local coastal program, which was approved by the California Coastal Commission in 2004, includes the 116-page plan for managing the shoreline, including protecting the beach bluffs and the pathway and road above. One of the ways to do that is to push sand up against the rocks at the foot of the bluffs, according to Swanson.

The practice ceased before he came to work for the city as planning director in January 2021, and he's not sure why, but discussions with the public works department led to its return last week.

Protecting the area against erosion is also a critical aspect of addressing the potential impacts of climate change, and the city is in the process of updating its local coastal plan "to include policies and regulations which address coastal hazards related to climate change, sea-level rise and storm events."

GAVEL

From page 4A

restoring judicial discretion and ensuring the program provides treatment while protecting community safety.

Mental health diversion, created under Penal Code Section 1001.36, was designed to help individuals suffering from mental illness receive treatment instead of incarceration. However, recent court rulings and statutory limitations have significantly restricted judges' ability to deny diversion, even in serious and violent cases, leaving courts with limited authority to evaluate whether diversion is truly appropriate.

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FINANCIAL & LEGAL SERVICES



From farm to court to table

By LILY PATTERSON

IN THE late 1800s, cattle ranches gave way to Monterey County's first commercial farms, and some things haven't changed since then. On the whole, the region is still dominated by longtime local ag families, still vexed by the same old problems of water, labor and ever-fluctuating consumer demands.

Some highly regarded experts with decades of local experience — and more than their share of calluses, real and figurative — are prepared to handle the thorniest issues. One of them is attorney Jeff Gilles, a King City native and a founding partner of JRG Attorneys at Law, established in 1998 with offices in Monterey, Salinas, and Hollister. (It turns out that a fairly large number of lawyers and courts have something to say about how your salad gets to your dinner table.)

After cutting his teeth as a corporate counselor, Gilles went into private practice in 1983, specializing in agri-business law, food safety and land use. He has served as a trusted advisor for some of the Salinas Valley's most recognizable growers, handling corporate mergers and the lease, sale and acquisition of valuable acreage.

Who farms and who doesn't

Like other California real estate, "farmland has gone through the roof," said Gilles, and clients occasionally want to sell some of their land for a profit. Still, he estimates that 10% of his business is related to estates and inheritances, which keep farms intact across generations.

"How do we keep the ground intact for the active family members who are farming, while also ensuring the passive members are receiving their share? It's a lot like buying a partner out, except it's family," Gilles said, add-

ing with a laugh, "I'm a psychologist, a family counselor, a corporate advisor, and an attorney."

His career has tracked major shifts in the industry since he was a freshly minted litigator hired by one of the Salinas Valley's most influential families.

In 1979, Gilles graduated from McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento during a major labor strike by the United Farm Workers union. It targeted major lettuce growers, among them Bruce Church, Inc.

Boon or bane

The company hired Gilles as corporate counsel and placed him on its labor negotiations and boycott committees. Coupled with the strike — which lasted for another 17 years — the union organized a national campaign demanding that individual shoppers and major stores boycott non-union lettuce.

"They sent me back to the East Coast to meet with national supermarket chains, basically to present a counter-narrative. At the time, Bruce Church was among the highest-paying growers nationally," Gilles recalled.

Incidentally, the boycotts targeted a product that would define the next decades of Gilles' career: bagged produce.

"Back in the 1970s, bagged salads were coming into their own, and Bruce Church perfected them," Gilles said.

The company had innovated the commercial shipment of fresh lettuce across the country in the 1920s, using refrigerated boxcars (hence, "iceberg" lettuce). Church's successor and son-in-law, Ted Taylor, followed that act by creating Red Coach Foods in 1978, a subsidiary brand that distributed salad lettuce in a convenient, sealed bags.

Pre-cut produce was a smash hit when Gilles joined the



FARMING *cont.* page 37A

Ag expert Jeff Gilles has represented major growers for 40+ years.



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FINANCIAL & LEGAL SERVICES

Law, wine and all that jazz

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

GROWING UP in the East Bay, Tod Ratfield developed two early passions. One was baseball, and the other was legal proceedings. He was 8 or maybe 10, he remembers, when his mom began taking him to the courthouse in Fremont, where he sat, fascinated, watching trials play out in the courtroom. He also watched lawyers make their cases in television shows and was spellbound by Henry Fonda in reruns of “Twelve Angry Men” (1957).

“A firecracker had gone off in me when it came to law,” said Ratfield, “but at the same time, I was pursuing my passion for sports and became a varsity athlete in wrestling and baseball. When I got into Cal Berkeley, it was not just because of good grades. I knew my athletics played a part in it. But I also knew an 85 mph fast ball wasn’t fast enough, so I turned my attention to my studies.”

Ratfield graduated from Cal in 1983 with a bachelor’s degree in political science and found a job at Franklin Mutual Fund (now known as Franklin Templeton Resources). But his experience helping his dad, brother and other family members in the construction business also helped.

“Harmon Burns, who had made himself a fortune in the stock market, was one of the top executives at Franklin and part owner of the San Francisco Giants,” Ratfield said. “While I was in the management training program, Harmon asked if I would manage the construction of their new seven-story building.”

He also told Ratfield that if he was willing to do that, he could “write his own ticket” at Franklin.

“Two years later, he asked if I wanted to be sent to Stanford Business School. I asked if I could be sent to law school at night, and work for Franklin by day,” Ratfield said. “He let me study during the day as long as I did my job, which helped fund law school.”

In 1990, Ratfield completed his juris doctorate at John F. Kennedy University in Walnut Creek, and he knew it was time to move on.

Ratfield recalled, “After graduating, I walked into Harmon’s office, and he said, ‘I knew it.’ He already understood that I needed to see the inside of a courtroom as a lawyer. Maybe my career would have continued to climb in the securities industry, but I followed my passion.”

After he passed the bar in 1990, Ratfield worked for litigation firm Weiss & Pincus in Walnut Creek. No one there

pursued entertainment law, but they did give him the file of a client who was a booking agent. From then on, all entertainment law cases were handed to Ratfield.

“That was a very different field that I had not studied, so I had to learn it,” he said. “But it was very interesting to me. As a lawyer, I was always trying to figure out how to do the best for my client by looking at the pros and cons of the situation. Which was a fascinating challenge in entertainment.”

Smooth rhythms

Ratfield became the lawyer of record for SmoothJazz.com, ultimately, because he liked a song. He and his wife were dining at a restaurant when they heard great music, the kind that makes you move in your chair, coming from the bar. So he walked over to the musician and handed him his card.

“The guy said he played in a variety of bars in Contra Costa County, where I lived,” Ratfield said. “I went to hear him a number of times, and learned his name was Steve Oliver. He became my first smooth jazz client and introduced me to guys from the renowned contemporary jazz group, The Rippingtons, founded by Russ Freeman in 1985.”

Ratfield began representing band members from the Rippingtons, which led him to radio personality and concert promoter Sandy Shore, who founded SmoothJazz.com in 1995. She described the business this way: “SmoothJazz.com is a global music streaming platform, which is listened to in more than 175 countries, serving as an interactive community for jazz enthusiasts and touring artists. Services include artist development and event marketing.” Shore, with founding partner Donna Phillips, invited Ratfield to join as a one-third owner of SmoothJazz.com and provide his legal expertise in the music industry. At that point, Ratfield, while maintaining his primary law office in Walnut Creek, established a satellite office on the Monterey Peninsula.

“The rough road to Smooth Jazz has given Tod count-

less opportunities to defend our vision over the years,” Shore said. “We’re incredibly fortunate to have him as a partner — smart, protective and loyal — making it possible for us to innovate one of the world’s first music streaming platforms, and the only one dedicated to contemporary jazz.”

On behalf of SmoothJazz.com, Ratfield works on copyrights and corporate issues, he said, helping the company get paid on time and make other decisions.

“It’s funny how one’s career can develop,” he said.



Tod Ratfield, his wife, Kristine Gromacki, and some of their Kristodd wines.

TALENT *cont. page 37A*



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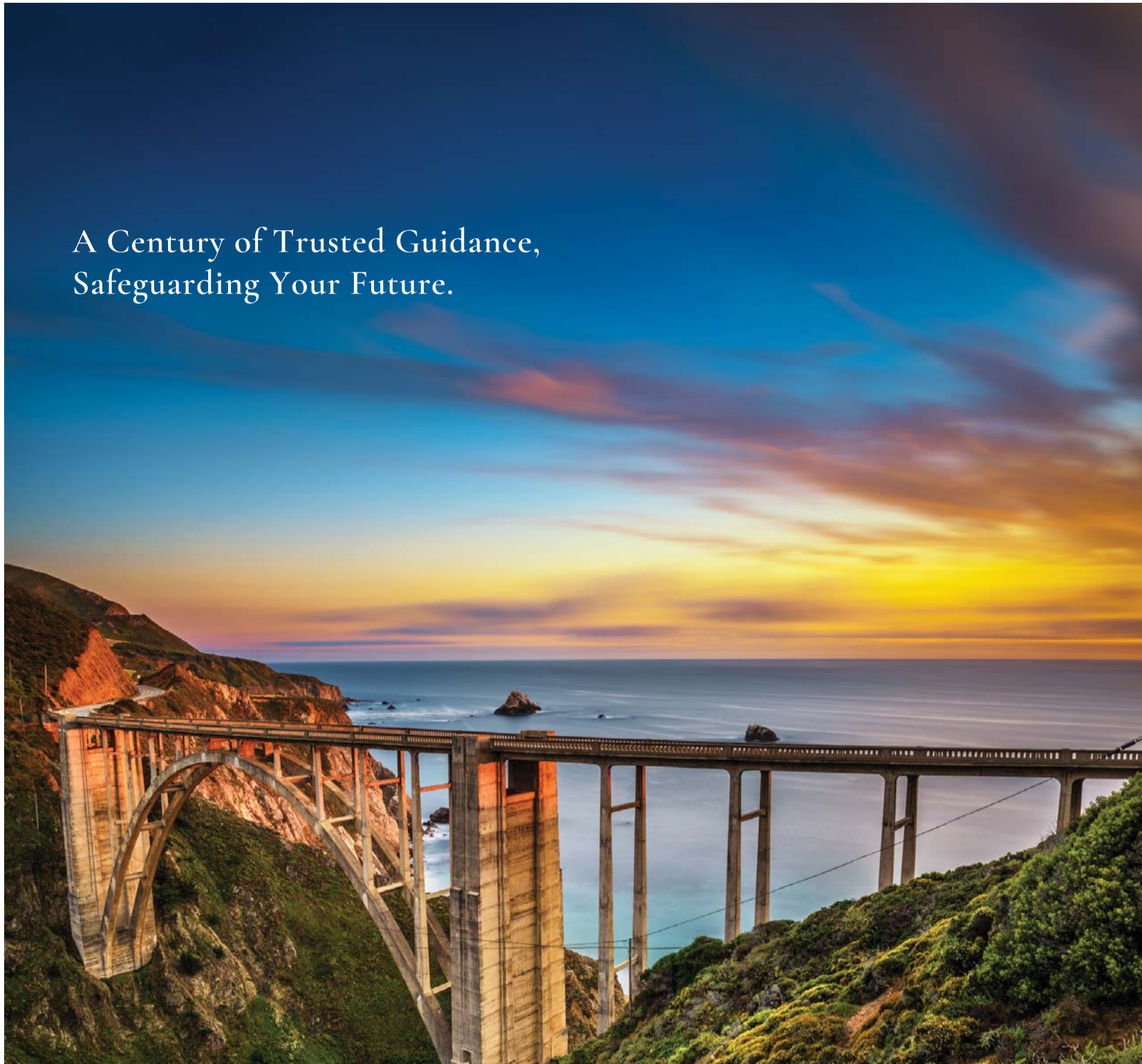
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Protection for the helpless, abused and neglected

By LISA LAPIN

THE OFFENSES are often unintentional: Keeping a horse in too confined a space. Loving rabbits or cats so much that there are more creatures than owners can realistically care for. Or taking too long to bring a pet to the veterinarian. But all are against the law in California, and fall under the category of animal abuse or neglect.

Each year, more than 700 possible cases of animal neglect, abuse or cruelty are made to SPCA Monterey County, the local agency responsible for investigating every report of animal cruelty.

While the numbers sound high and heart-wrenching,

the SPCA reports that very few cases — no more than 2% or 3% each year — constitute severe enough neglect or intentional violence to result in criminal prosecution.

Thanks to more than a decade of robust school and youth education programs about proper animal care and safety, as well as training for owners, the numbers of reports and severe cases have been declining in recent years in Monterey County, according to Jason Duarte, the humane investigations supervisor for the SPCA.

“People are getting more educated,” said Duarte, who has been a humane officer for 16 years, the past five as supervisor of the SPCA’s four-person enforcement team. “Our outreach team has expanded and is working hard



The SPCA humane investigations team (from left): Jacob Duarte, Emily Leon, Gio Rodriguez, Jannely Loya.

with kids. They are making an impact with the younger generation, explaining how to care for animals, where to call, when to call. Now that they are growing up, they know when things are wrong. The result is a lot of Gen Z-age kids making reports.”

Anyone who sees suspected animal cruelty or neglect can make a report at spcamc.org or by calling (831) 373-2631, and it can be done anonymously.

“It could be neighbors, someone walking by or driving by, family members, friends. Anyone that feels that something is wrong and an animal is being mistreated can make a report,” Duarte said. And each will be investigated.

SPCA humane investigators differ from animal control officers, who are responsible for responding to vicious or dangerous animals, or those found injured on the side of the road. If someone sees a cockfight or active act of animal cruelty in progress, they should call 911. The California Highway Patrol is the office to call if you see a domestic animal on the freeway.

Complex situations

Monterey County’s diverse environment means that SPCA humane investigators see concerns about far more than dogs and cats. Farm animals, including sheep, goats, horses, pigs and chickens, fall under their watch. So do exotic animals, such as snakes and parrots, and any kind of pet, including ducks, guinea pigs, chinchillas, etc. “It’s a vast variety,” Duarte said.

Under the California Penal Code (Section 597 PC), intentional violence and severe neglect involving animals are considered crimes. Malicious, intentional injury to an animal is punishable as a felony. It’s referred to the district attorney and the court system and can result in up to three years of jail time and fines up to \$20,000.

“Those most severe cases often involve issues where people are keeping too many animals in poor conditions,” Duarte said. “Rarely, but it happens, the more severe abuse to animals happens in complex situations where there is also abuse to people, and it can involve drugs, guns and other crimes.”

In those complex criminal cases, SPCA humane officers serve as the lead for the animal portion of the investigation, and they partner with local law enforcement agencies looking into the human side. Duarte and his team of three investigators have the authority of peace officers, including the ability to issue citations and make arrests when animal-related laws are violated.

Sometimes, the most severe abuse is challenging to prosecute, because there are few witnesses and the alleged perpetrator is most often not the animal’s owner, Duarte said. Yet such abuse is relatively uncommon. The SPCA refers between 10 and 20 animal cruelty cases to the Monterey County District Attorney for criminal prosecution annually, Duarte noted.

More often, SPCA investigators find misdemeanors, such as not providing animals with necessary food, water and shelter from the elements, or failing to address a festering health issue, Duarte said.

“Most of the time, we are doing a welfare assessment, going to the home, speaking to the owner and asking to see the animal, photographing the animal and its environment and making recommendations,” Duarte said. Usually, humane investigators request a change, such as providing a doghouse, providing a proper diet, or resolving a flea infestation or seeking medical care.

“We want to see that you are trying, that you have bought the needed supplies or taken the pet to the vet,” Duarte said. “We might come back in a week or so to see if there has been any progress. It makes them aware that we are following up. It really is case by case; every animal and situation is different.” Working with the owner is preferable to issuing citations and fines, he noted.

“We don’t use citations in most cases. We’ve moved away from fines and it has worked much better” for animal welfare, Duarte said. “If we start giving out lots of citations, people are not going to allow me in their home to see the animal. We aren’t trying to cite people and remove

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FINANCIAL & LEGAL

TALENT from page 34A

“We work together and have become life-long friends, but at this point, we are like family.”

In his spare time

As if his docket weren't full enough, Ratfield has long sat as a judge pro tem in the Contra Costa and Napa Superior Courts a couple of days a month.

“I had been practicing law in Contra Costa for 10 years and was doing unlawful detainer and civil harassment trials, when I was asked to ‘put my name in the hat’ for the Napa position and was selected.” While a judge pro tem has the powers of a sitting judge, I don't do felony trials, only

issues that can be resolved in a day, since I don't sit for consecutive days.”

Then, in 2009, Ratfield and his wife, Kristine, were vacationing among vineyards in the Napa Valley. They began to dream of having their own vineyard from which they could cultivate grapes to sell and produce wine. A year later, they established KrisTodd Vineyards on 3 acres from which they produce, among others, a reserve cabernet, cabernet franc, Howell Mountain cabernet, sauvignon blanc, and their KT2, a bigger, bolder cab.

“Our winery owner friends gave us a business plan and said we could pay off the winery in 15 years,” Ratfield said. “We paid it off in eight. Good wine sells itself. So does good music.”

FARMING from page 33A

company — but what overeager consumers gained in convenience came at the cost of increased risk of foodborne diseases.

“Consumers were used to buying whole heads of lettuce — which, if you peel off the leaves, you're pretty much eliminating contamination risks,” Gilles said.

Because cutting exposes more surface area and the process of packaging, shipping, and storing bagged vegetables involves temperature fluctuations that can fuel bacterial growth, the novelty posed health risks for people who ignored expiration dates or didn't bother thoroughly washing the greens, and at restaurants with less-than-ideal hygiene practices.

No matter who's actually at fault, Gilles explained, the legal doctrine of strict liability holds farms and processors accountable for contaminated or defective products.

By the time bagged lettuce had saturated the market, Gilles was in private practice, and a couple of his most memorable cases involved settling for damages related to foodborne diseases. You might recall the notorious 2006 outbreak of E. coli in

prepackaged spinach that affected more than 200 people in the United States and Canada, caused a nationwide recall of all fresh spinach, and was a foundational case for the FDA's 2011 overhaul of food safety standards.

A few things Gilles says have helped “tremendously” to limit dangerous outbreaks: consumer awareness of expiration dates and good washing habits, better traceability throughout the supply chain, and keeping fruits and vegetables intact and under strict temperature controls for as long as possible.

Faster and local

So has the strategy of establishing processing plants throughout the country — and beyond, since Taylor Farms has facilities in Europe and introduced the convenience of grab-and-go salads there — to cut down on transportation time and risks.

Although consuming uncooked foods, including produce, will always carry a certain level of risk, high-tech scans and testing are helping, Gilles said.

PRODUCE cont. page 39A

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Don't let an algorithm determine your mortgage

By ELAINE HESSER

YOU'VE PROBABLY done it — poked around on Zillow or one of those other real estate websites to see what's on the market. Not only can you shop for houses online, you can even apply for a mortgage from your living room. Easy, right?

Even if everything goes smoothly, this is a case of, "Just because you can, doesn't mean you should."

So many options

According to Investopedia, the 27-year-old online financial reference, and the government-run Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, there are three common ways people secure mortgages. Each avenue has advantages and disadvantages, because every borrower's situation is different — one size doesn't fit all.

Regardless of the kind of service, experts advise asking how the specific firm or person who's helping you gets paid. For instance, are there fees, and if so, who is responsible for them?

The simplest model is what are called direct lenders — like banks — that handle everything internally and fund the loans. That doesn't necessarily mean your application will be handled by the person you meet in your local branch, however. Lenders often use fulfillment centers to process their loans, and ease of contacting them varies.

On the plus side, established bank customers might get lower fees or other incentives to borrow there. Dealing with just one entity creates greater accountability, too.

Common customer complaints about direct lenders — found in reviews across real estate-related websites, as well as the federal government's Consumer Financial Protection Bureau — include slow processing times, poor communication and too much bureaucracy.

Another way to secure a loan is through a mortgage brokerage, which doesn't fund mortgages or complete loan paperwork, but provides access to and helps customers navigate and choose from among many lenders.



While the internet is great for browsing dream homes with ocean views, it's not a good loan advisor.

A third possibility is a mortgage banker, a sort-of hybrid of a direct lender and a mortgage broker. They're licensed and approved by an assortment of lenders, but the number is typically more limited than that accessed by a mortgage broker. However, they complete all the paperwork with the borrower, and that can often lead to shorter closing times.

Since all three types of services can be accessed online, we consulted two local professionals about the advantages of talking to someone in person. Joe Villareal of Carmel Capital Group (a mortgage brokerage) and Chad Hawker, area manager for Synergy One, a mortgage banking firm, provided useful information.

They repeatedly pointed out that a house is often the largest investment someone ever makes, and locals who are familiar

with the market can be extremely helpful.

Hawker even took a few minutes to emphasize the advantages of working with local real estate agents. He pointed out that people who actually live and work here know the best schools, commute times, healthcare facilities and more. They also understand that if a buyer says, "Hey, I don't like that cypress tree out back; I'll probably take it out," they might be underestimating the tree's rights under city regulations.

Real estate agents often refer buyers to other professionals — like mortgage bankers and brokers — and Hawker and Villareal unsurprisingly said those referrals come from building trust and a solid reputation.

"Treat your customers as fairly as

LOANS *cont. page 40A*



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Molly Koontz Sand, Esq.

Molly Koontz Sand offers Trust Administration and Estate Planning services including the drafting of Wills, Trusts, amendments, review of existing Trusts and much more. Molly was born and raised in Carmel and is a fifth-generation California attorney. Molly's Great-Grandfather, Argyll Campbell, served as City Attorney for Carmel from 1920-1937 and wrote the City's Magna Carta which appears on the wall of City Council Chambers. Molly is very proud of her roots and heritage in the legal community on the Monterey Peninsula. Molly enjoys helping people set up an Estate Plan so they feel empowered and in control of their future and family legacy. Let her guide you through the process so that you gain peace of mind knowing you have a plan in place. She offers competitive rates as well as free initial consultations.



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FINANCIAL & LEGAL SERVICES

PRODUCE from page 37A

“Now, we can trace a box back to a single spot in a field within a 10-foot area among thousands of acres. And we’re testing all the time — isolating and identifying an issue now takes a day or less,” he said.

Agricultural technology can raise as many questions as it answers. After all, aren’t older, simpler ways of farming better? Not always.

Robots include rovers that transplant seedlings, lay irrigation and use lasers to kill weeds. Drones survey land and are equipped with infrared technology to assess the qualities of a single plant and apply the minimum amount of pesticides, herbicides and fungicides — which benefits the consumer and the grower, since the chemicals are “exorbitantly” expensive and heavily regulated, said Gilles.

One of the more recent — and ongoing — cases Gilles has litigated involved using manure as fertilizer.

“It was a normal, cost-effective practice for 100 years, but suddenly farmers were being sued because no one realized leaching was taking place,” Gilles explained.

Bottled water to rural residents

In 2017, after the State Water Resources Control Board noticed that groundwater filling rural wells had been contaminated with toxic nitrates from the manure, Gilles founded the Salinas Basin Agricultural Stewardship Group, which assembled 21 major valley landowners, growers and shippers to provide bottled water to hundreds of residents in Salinas Valley.

The water board agreed to the interim water replacement settlement, and the group has since grown to more than 50 companies. They continue to distribute safe water, since nitrates can take decades to dissipate.

Meanwhile, compost and new synthetics have largely replaced raw manure, and fertilization technology is increasingly assisted by artificial intelligence to deliver only what plants need, Gilles said.

Gilles said that while his firm doesn’t focus on labor disputes — today’s issues tend to be about workers’ comp — he does work on contract negotiations for the construction of local, high-end, employer-sponsored housing for domestic farmworkers and those with H-2A temporary agricultural visas.

Several of his clients have taken their investments even further, Gilles said, to train a new generation of workers in automation and information technologies, “who understand everything employers are going to demand of them.”

It’s just good economic sense, then, that Taylor Farms, Tanimura & Antle, and Dole have forged partnerships with Hartnell College to provide education and on-the-job training in food safety, plant biology, information technology, and “mechatronics” that combine machines with computers, like robots and drones.

Technology has enabled the same acre that grew 20,000 pounds of lettuce in 1979 — the year Gilles began his career — to produce three times that amount in 2026. And the growth isn’t over. “AI will accelerate everything, and it will be mind-blowing,” said Gilles — who may yet add “emerging technologies” to his list of specialties.

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FINANCIAL & LEGAL SERVICES

LOANS from page 38A

you would your brother or your family," said Villareal. "They'll refer people to you."

"My reputation is on the line," Hawker said, with every deal he works on. That's an incentive for great service that you won't find with a faceless online provider.

Know your value

Understanding what you can afford is a big advantage when you're house-hunting.

"Come before you start shopping," Villareal recommended. "See a loan agent before you go."

Hawker concurred, noting that "a contract can move quickly" when a buyer is pre-approved. That involves a detailed credit check, verification of income and assets and more. A pre-approval letter gives a buyer more leverage, because it shows financing is lined up and it's much more likely they'll be able to close. Banks and mortgage bankers can provide them directly. Brokers usually facilitate them through the chosen lender.

Pre-qualification, on the other hand, involves a "soft" credit check. It doesn't affect your score but only provides a summary of information and doesn't offer as much

leverage as a pre-approval.

Hawker and Villareal emphasized that every borrower's situation is unique, and there are so many variables that it's practically impossible to make generalizations about what will and won't work best for a buyer. They also mentioned that sometimes, people are surprised by how much they can actually finance.

Wide varieties of programs exist for many kinds of borrowers. Villareal said, "If you don't fit one program, we might find one for you," and added that can include people with lower credit scores.

There are also niche offerings. Many people are familiar with loans for military veterans, but there are also programs for educators, first responders, and healthcare providers. Some are available only in certain geographic areas, while others are state- or nationwide.

A professional who's aware of those kinds of options can make a difference in how and where a buyer can purchase a home.

The pros also recommended being clear about your goals. Is this a house where you're planning to raise children, or is it part of your long-term retirement plan? You might also want to talk with a financial or tax advisor before signing the paperwork.



Chad Hawker



Joe Villareal

Finding affordable housing is tough for many people, but choosing the right lender is easier if you're looking someone in the eye — someone you can call without going through an interminable phone tree or sitting on hold.

Whether it's a starter home or a retirement spot in paradise, buying a house can be emotional and even a little exhausting. It's reassuring to know help is close at hand, should you need it.

ANIMALS from page 36A

animals. We are trying to educate them and hopefully give that animal a better life."

Kids can help

In dire cases, people voluntarily will give their animal to the SPCA for care and to help find a new home. "They cannot afford medical care, so they will decide to surrender their pet and we take care of healing and rehabilitating it," Duarte said.

"Other times, they don't have resources to fix what needs to be fixed. For example, they can't build a fence. Or there are just too many animals, so they may decide to give up one or two."

Animals can be surrendered to the SPCA "judgment free" for a \$50 donation, which can be waived if an owner cannot pay.

In all cases, education is the first tactic

used by the humane investigators in the field.

SPCA Monterey County has found that the best way to teach a community about animal welfare is to start with youngsters. Its outreach educators bring programs into 50 classrooms a month during the school year, and thousands more kids attend SPCA summer camps to learn how to care for animals.

"Children have a natural affinity for animals. It's our job and responsibility to nurture that care they have inherently, to empower them to be animal advocates, and kinder people," said Dawn Fenton, the SPCA's education manager. "Kids, when they are with animals, are happy and get along, it's a beautiful thing."

The SPCA lessons have been in classrooms for almost 20 years, and include the importance of spaying and neutering, basics of animal care, and how to approach

unknown animals safely.

"We also talk about situations where animals are not being treated as they should be, and let the kids know that we are a safe place to call," Fenton said. "We want children to feel empowered, that they can actually help. Or to know that they can tell a trusted adult and have them call us."

Advice and help

And call they do. "We are here to listen to all people. We answer all of those calls we get, we look into every single one," Fenton said.

Duarte said that the outreach work has had positive results visible to him and his team and prevented many cases of animal neglect or worse.

"Most people love their animals, and most people don't have ill intentions," Duarte said. "They just need advice and help."



Jacob Duarte, humane investigations supervisor.

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Recital and cabaret show herald arrival of 89th Carmel Bach Festival

JUST DAYS before the **Carmel Bach Festival** kicks off its 89th annual celebration of classical music, two performances offer a glimpse of what's to come.

opportunity to hear one of today's most distinctive countertenor voices in an intimate, pre-festival setting," according to the festival.

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

The first, a recital by singer **Reginald Mobley**, is set for Monday, 7:30 p.m. at All Saints' Episcopal Church. Mobley is known for his "clear tone, musical intelligence and strong communication with his audiences."

"This recital provides a compelling

at Dolores and Ninth. For more details, call (831) 624-1521 or visit bachfestival.org.

Next, singer **Jesse Barrett** presents **Classical Cabaret**, "an intimate, cabaret-inspired evening," Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in Sunset Center's Studio 105. "With an open bar and a relaxed, nightclub-style atmosphere, guests will enjoy classical favorites presented in fresh, full-of-personality ways," the festival announced.

A longtime member of the festival's orchestra, Barrett also plays the oboe. The program includes music by Dmitri Shostakovich, Francis Poulenc, Camille Saint-Saëns and others.

Tickets are \$65. Sunset Center is at San Carlos and Ninth.

Turning 250

Celebrating the country's 250th birthday, **Monterey County Pops!** presents a free public concert of popular and patriotic music on the lawn in Devendorf Park Saturday at 2 p.m. The performance will also include a rich variety of American music, including "themes from musical theater and movies, Dixieland favorites, traditional Americana and ethnic selections, and marches by John Philip Sousa and Henry Fillmore," according to the orchestra. Devendorf Park is at Ocean and Junipero.

Lawn party

Festivities are also planned for Saturday's July 4 party on the Colton Hall lawn (580 Pacific St.) in Monterey, which features live music by the **Samz School of Music Youth Band** (10 a.m.), **New Moon and Monday** (Duran Duran tribute, noon), the **Chicano All-Stars** (Latin rock, 1:30 p.m.) and **Foreverland** (Michael Jackson tribute, 3 p.m.). "This annual admission-free event features nonstop music," according to the city.

Also, the **Monterey Peninsula Voices Choir** performs Saturday at Pacific Grove's Independence Day celebration in Jewell Park (Central and Forest avenues).



Sunset Center's Studio 105 hosts "an intimate, cabaret-inspired evening" with singer Jesse Barrett Wednesday.

The gathering starts at 11 a.m. "Bring your family, friends, lawn chairs, and patriotic spirit for an afternoon filled with music, community pride and old-fashioned Fourth of July fun," the city suggested.

See **MUSIC** page 44A



Offering a preview of the Carmel Bach Festival, singer Reginald Mobley presents a recital Monday, 7:30 p.m., at All Saints' Episcopal Church.

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FOOD & WINE

The stars are out, peaches are in, and Wednesday is for wine

WE HOPE you enjoy America's semiquincentennial (hey, we learned the word, so we're using it) this weekend. With the parades, concerts and special events that are planned, all you need is some great food and drink. In addition to the specials in last week's column, Bruno's Market is serving up its annual July 4 BBQ from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with tri-tip, brisket, hot links, hot dogs and more.

Now, let's move on to some local spots that are lighting up the sky with ...

■ Michelin stars

Aubergine in L'Auberge Carmel at Monte Verde and Seventh, and Chez Noir on Fifth Avenue between San Carlos and Dolores, retained their hard-sought Michelin stars as the global culinary guide held its annual California reveal in San Diego last week. Further, Sierra Mar at the Post Ranch Inn, which holds three Michelin Keys, received a Green Star, just as the program highlighting sustainable dining is being phased out after six years.

Justin Cogley, executive chef at Aubergine for 16 years and a partner in L'Auberge with Janet Elarmo, learned last week his enterprise retained the two-star status it earned in 2024.

"With only 13 two-star restaurants in California, it's a huge accomplishment," he said this week. "Retaining our

Soup to Nuts

two Michelin stars is an incredible honor and a reflection of the unwavering dedication of our entire team."

The ensemble at intimate Aubergine, which includes a delightfully tiny bar helmed by Felicia Gonzales-Acosta, impeccable front-of-house service, Michelin-recognized wine director John Haffey, and Cogley's culinary crew, strives to "create an experience that is thoughtful, genuine and worthy of the trust our guests place in us," he said. "This recognition belongs to everyone who pours their passion into Aubergine — from our kitchen and service teams, to the local farmers, fishermen, ranchers and arti-



Aubergine and Chez Noir retained their Michelin stars last week, and Sierra Mar restaurant at Post Ranch Inn (above) got a Green Star for its sustainable dining. Culinary director Reylon Agustin, chef Il Hoon Kang, and Mike Higgins, Passport Resorts' VP of operations and development, attended the San Diego celebration.

sans who inspire our cuisine."

He said he's excited to continue helping Aubergine evolve and is "energized by what lies ahead."

Michelin also announced that Chez Noir, the Fifth Avenue restaurant owned by executive chef Jonny Black and his wife, Monique Black, who manages the front of the house, retained its one-star status.

No other restaurants on the Monterey Peninsula hold Michelin stars, though the guide identifies two establishments as worthy of Bib Gourmand status for their high-quality offerings at relatively affordable prices: Yafa at Junipero and Fifth in Carmel, and Maligne on Broadway in Seaside.

One of three

Last week's celebration also saw Sierra Mar restaurant at Big Sur's exclusive Post Ranch Inn awarded a Green Star, according to the resort. Launched in 2020 to recognize "restaurants at the forefront of the industry when it comes to their sustainable practices," the Green Star program is phasing out at the end of the year in favor of a new effort called Mindful Voices that won't be award-based,

according to reports.

The Green Star system singles out properties that already enjoy a level of Michelin status.

"Honoring culinary teams that have impressed inspectors through their thoughtful practices, innovative philosophy and commitment to progress, the distinction celebrates restaurants inspiring the future of the industry," Post Ranch reported, adding that Sierra Mar is "one of only three California restaurants to receive the honor this year."

Culinary director Reylon Agustin and executive chef Il Hoon Kang attended the celebration, and Agustin said the recognition "is incredibly meaningful for me and my team, because it recognizes the values that have always been fundamental to how we approach food at Sierra Mar."

■ Whyte wine event

Steven Whyte is known for his large-scale sculptures of historic notables and everyday people, not to mention a life-sized bronze of the late John Madden at Bruno's

See WINE next page

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FOOD & WINE

WINE

From previous page

Market. His wife, Ellen Whyte, is a writer. Organizers say the couple will share candid stories from their careers as part of a series called “Uncorked and Unfiltered” on July 12 at Big Sur Vineyards, 1 Del Fino Place, Carmel Valley Village.

The program will go from 1 to 3 p.m., followed by two hours of live music. Thirty seats are available, and admission is \$40 for wine club members and \$50 for everyone else. It includes a glass of wine, small bites and a raffle ticket. Visit bigsurvineyards.com to order.

Portola happenings

Portola Hotel, next door to the Mon-

live music in the beer garden from 6 to 9 p.m. The restaurant will donate \$1 from every food and drink purchase to the foundation, and there will be drink specials and a raffle.

Justin’s next chapter

After years of running kitchens in Monterey Peninsula establishments and beyond, chef Justin Robarge is launching J Cloud Hospitality, a consulting business aimed at helping anyone who wants to accomplish anything in the culinary world get the job done.

Drawing on Robarge’s deep experience and his ability to “nerd out” — his words — on the more granular aspects of the business, his enterprise “combines strategic vision with hands-on operational expertise to deliver solutions across culinary leadership, hospitality operations,

He enjoyed a similar experience with Hops & Fog, the brewery and pizzeria in Pacific Grove. While heading culinary operations at Folktale Winery in Carmel Valley, the owners proposed he come on as chef, but he instead helped them set up their kitchen, vendors and operations.

Most recently, after two years as executive chef and culinary director at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, a position he left in May, Robarge decided to take the plunge with J Cloud.

“I have a lot to offer, and I don’t mind still throwing my name in the ring if there’s a cooking or chef gig, but I’d also like to help someone else’s dreams come true,” he said.

“At this point, I feel very comfortable that if there’s a business someone wants to

undertake in hospitality, I’m the guy who can get that accomplished.”

The father of 13-year-old twin girls and married to Sara, a Pilates and fitness instructor, for more than 20 years, Robarge said his career shift also allows him to volunteer more, including for Meals on Wheels and its annual Culinary Classique fundraiser.

“I want to do things that make the community richer,” he said.

Robarge’s website, jcloudhospitality.com, was set to launch this week.

“I’m just excited. I love problem-solving — I nerd out on that stuff,” he said. “It’s almost to the point where I can’t stop until I find the problem and figure out how to fix it.”

See **FOOD** next page



Justin Robarge is putting his years of running local kitchens to a new use as the founder of J Cloud, a restaurant consultation business. He said his love of “nerding out” on the details of organizing and leading culinary enterprises laid the groundwork for a natural progression into his new endeavor. He said the change would also allow him to do more volunteer work in the community.

terey Conference Center, is having Wine Down Wednesdays in Jacks Monterey, which serves dinner nightly from 4 to 10 p.m. Reward yourself for making it halfway through the week with half off selected bottles of wine.

Peter B’s is hosting a “Blue Beer Mixer” benefiting the Surfrider Foundation Monterey Chapter on July 16 from 5 to 9 p.m. The nonprofit says it takes on issues like plastic reduction, beach access, ocean protection, climate change and clean water. It also designates restaurants — like Peter B’s — as “ocean friendly” and “committed to making sustainable choices for our ocean.”

The event is open to all ages. From 5 to 6 p.m., radio station KRML will host a special edition of its “Pub Talk” show from Peter B’s, and Zack Freitas will provide

sustainability initiatives, concept development and business growth,” his description reads. “Whether launching a new concept, revitalizing an existing operation, improving financial performance or developing sustainable sourcing programs, we focus on creating measurable results and lasting value.”

‘Pretty Fun’

Robarge, 47, said the genesis of J Cloud Hospitality was the work he did at Stokes Adobe after he left the kitchen at Montrio several years ago. He oversaw the overhaul of the Monterey restaurant’s kitchen and operations, down to organizing its various vendors, scheduling, ordering, ingredients and other critical tasks.

“I thought that was pretty fun, and I liked it,” Robarge said.

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F O O D & W I N E

MUSIC

From page 41A

■ Saying Yes

The voice of the legendary progressive rock band Yes, singer Jon Anderson takes the stage Saturday at 7 p.m. at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

With Anderson's soaring vocals leading the way, Yes pushed the boundaries of rock during the 1970s and 1980s, infusing it with classical and jazz influences. Songs like "Roundabout" and "Your Move/All Good People" became staples on rock album radio, while "Owner of a Lonely Heart" became a No. 1 pop hit.

At Golden State Theatre, Anderson will be backed by a progressive rock tribute act, **The Band Geeks**.

Tickets start at \$66. Golden State Theatre is at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com.

Live music July 3-9

■ Big Sur

Big Sur River Inn — **James Henry & Hands on Fire** (world music, Sunday at noon), singer and guitarist **Victor Veysey** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 46800 Highway 1.

Fernwood Resort — **Richard Tripps & Windows** (folk and rock, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

■ Carmel

Bernardus Lodge — **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 noon). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Baja Cantina — Singer and guitarist **Matt Masih** (funk, soul and reggae, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 7166 Carmel Valley Road.

Carmel Mission Inn — **The Money Band** (pop and rock, Friday at 5 p.m.), **Scarlet** (pop and rock, Saturday

at 7 p.m.), **Open Mic Night** (Wednesday at 5 p.m.). In **Shearwater Tavern**, 3665 Rio Road.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — Singer and pianist **T.J. Kuenster** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer **Dino Vera** (jazz, R&B and dance, Saturday and Thursday at 6 p.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, 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 Stregs** (country, Friday at 7 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

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

■ Carmel Valley

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 noon). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Edgar's — Mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Friday

at 5:30 p.m.). At **Quail Lodge**, 8205 Valley Greens Drive.

Folktales Winery — **The Al James Duo** (rock and R&B, Friday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Saturday at 4 p.m.), **The Monterey Jazz Festival**



New Moon on Monday pays tribute to the 1980s band Duran Duran Saturday, noon, at Monterey's July 4 celebration on the Colton Hall lawn.

Regional All-Stars (Sunday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Peter Barnes Martin** (Monday at 4 p.m.), **The Landing Trio** (Americana, Tuesday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **RJ DeMarco** (Wednesday at 4 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

McIntyre Vineyards tasting room — Guitarist **Dan Cortes** (American roots and traditional Mexican, Sunday at noon). 24 W. Carmel Valley Road.

See LIVE next page

FOOD

From previous page

■ Odds and ends

A stroll along a riverside path beneath the redwoods at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park is a nice way to relax after a cruise down scenic (and crowded) Highway 1.

Once you've worked up an appetite, you might be pleasantly surprised by the hot dogs served up at the lodge, where the gift shop and Homestead Restaurant are located.

Served at the walk-up coffee bar, all-beef wieners are made to order and customizable with a wide variety of toppings. The Golden Poppy combo comes with a little bit of rich — but not overpowering — garlic aioli that ups the humble dish's complexity. It's completely customizable and can be topped with umami-heavy onion jam and crunchy kettle chips, all for \$8, which frankly feels like a steal these days.

Cafe Fina on Old Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey celebrated its 37th anniversary last weekend. It also recently began its annual homage to summer, now that owner Dominic Mercurio's Los Banos peaches are finally in season.

For years, the restaurateur has been serving fruits and vegetables from his garden over there, and the peach cobbler has become a highly anticipated seasonal treat.

Sweet, ripe peaches are complemented by a thin layer of lightly browned and crispy topping similar to a biscuit.

The texture and a bit of saltiness keep everything in balance. Served hot with a scoop of vanilla ice cream, it's summer on a dessert plate.

Mary Schley, Elaine Hesser and Ryan Ostrem contributed to this week's column.



Justin Cogley and Janet Elarmo are partners in Aubergine, L'Auberge Carmel's intimate restaurant, which has retained its two Michelin stars for another year.

CALENDAR

July 4 – Free concert! 2 to 3 p.m. in Devendorf Park, Ocean at Junipero, Carmel-by-the-Sea, or stream online montereycountypops.org.

July 4 – Carmel American Legion Post 521 invites everyone to 4th of July open house, 1 to 5 p.m. at the post, Dolores two south of Eighth, Carmel-by-the-Sea. Enjoy live music by Cannery Joe Band. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be available (while supplies last). Meet members and learn more about the American Legion.

Carmel Plaza's Summer Live Music is back. Friday Nights, July 17, 24 & 31 from 5 to 7 p.m. Food & drink packages available for \$25 while you enjoy two hours of free music. Ocean Avenue & Mission Street, CarmelPlaza.com/happenings

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

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

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LIVE

From previous page

Monterey

A Taste of Monterey — Singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Friday at 5 p.m.), **The Captain & Messina** (soft rock, Saturday at 5 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

Estéban Restaurant — **The Monterey Jazz All Star Ensemble** (Tuesday at 5 p.m.). In the **Casa Munras Hotel**, 700 Munras Ave.

Hyatt Regency Monterey — Singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Friday at 7 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.

InterContinental Hotel — Guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.), guitarist **Terrence Farrell** (Spanish, Sunday at 9 a.m.), gui-

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

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

Sly McFly's — **The Hackjammers** (pop and rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **Mad About You** (hits from the '80s and '90s, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

Pacific Grove

Il Vecchio Restaurant — **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.

Lucy's on Lighthouse — **The Hovering Breadcat Folk Ensemble** (Americana, Saturday at 2 p.m.), **Scarlet** (pop and rock, Sunday at 2 p.m.). 1120 Lighthouse Ave.

PG Meetinghouse — **Myami Phivoh** ("lush, hypnotic grooves," Friday at 7 p.m.), singer **Nina Hatzikostas-Antioch** and guitarist **Brice Albert** (jazz, Saturday at 11 a.m.), **The Rod Squad** (rock, Sunday at 11 a.m.), **Open Mic** (Tuesday at 6 p.m., sign-ups start at 5 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave.

Pop 'n' Hiss — Singer and guitarist **Ekene Music** (Sunday at 6 p.m.).

215 Forest Ave.

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

Pebble Beach

The Inn at Spanish Bay — **Wild at Heart** (country and rock, Saturday at 11 a.m.), **The Al James Duo** (R&B and rock, Saturday at 2 p.m.), **The Andy Weis Trio** (jazz, Friday, Saturday and Thursday at 7 p.m.). 2700 17 Mile Drive.

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — Singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Friday at 5 p.m.), mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz, Sat-

urday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Paul Behan** (Thursday at 5 p.m.). In the **Terrace Lounge** at 1700 17 Mile Drive.

Sand City

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

Seaside

Embassy Suites — Singer and multi-instrumentalist **Reija Massey** (Friday at 5:30 p.m.). 1441 Canyon Del Rey Blvd.

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



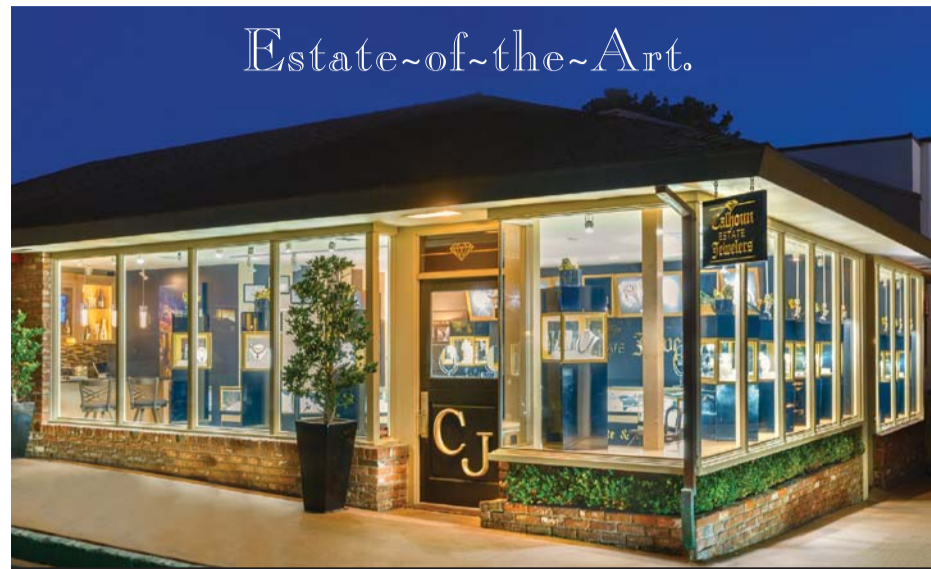
Singer and guitarist Matt Masih plays Thursday, 6 p.m., at Baja Cantina in Carmel Valley.

tarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 750 Cannery Row.

Midici Pizza — **Charged Particles** (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 **Tom Gastineau** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 6 p.m.), pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Bray** (Monday and Tuesday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (Wednesday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

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Continues on next page

Police Log: Aug. 23

Resident surrendered 130 rounds of ammunition that he no longer needed.

Pacific Grove

Ammo was accepted for destruction. Nothing further.

Officer responded to a call of a dog choking on Dolores St.

Carmel-by-the-Sea

On arrival, the dog was breathing and returning to its normal health.

'Tiny Treasures' Make a Big Difference for Pacific Grove Art Center

FOUR EXHIBITS open Friday at the Pacific Grove Art Center, including one filled with art that's small but packs a mighty punch.

Titled "Tiny Treasures," the show fea-

ture a generous display of artwork no larger than 8 inches by 10 inches — including the frame. The display is the art center's biggest annual fundraiser, and its proceeds

help fund many shows and programs. More than 100 pint-sized pieces of art were donated for this year's raffle, including oils, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, printmaking, collage, pencil and ink illustrations, mixed media, fine art photography, sculpture, textile art and stained glass.

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

tures a generous display of artwork no larger than 8 inches by 10 inches — including the frame. The display is the art center's biggest annual fundraiser, and its proceeds



Painter Kati D'Amore's "Sandy the Otter" is featured in a fundraising art show.

A winning ticket

To win a piece, you first need to buy a raffle ticket, available at the art center. They sell for \$5 each, five for \$20, or 15 for \$40. "At the close of the show, one winning ticket will be drawn for each piece of art," according to the center.

All four exhibits continue through Aug. 27. The art center, which hosts a free public reception Friday from 6 to 8 p.m., is located at 568 Lighthouse Ave. Visit pgart-center.org for more details.

Coinciding with the opening of "Tiny Treasures" is the latest First Friday celebration in downtown Pacific Grove, which showcases shops and galleries — many will stay open late, and some will host live music, receptions and more.

Stronger together

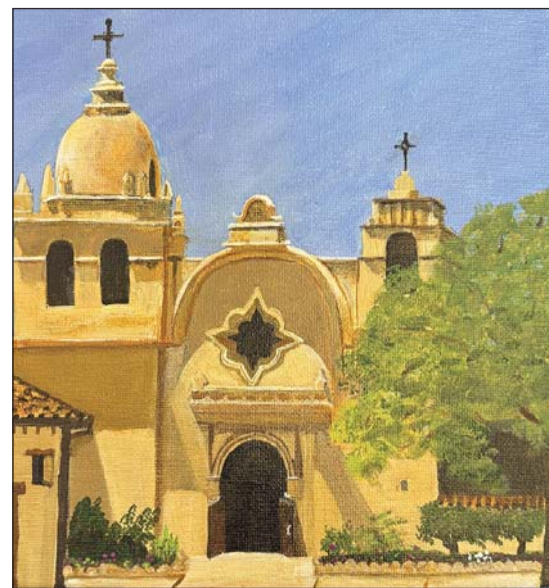
In a show opening this weekend at Venture Gallery in Monterey, a pair of artists who are traveling on very different creative paths team up to explore memory, identity and connection. Titled "Intertwined," the show brings together printmaker Evelyn Klein and felt artist Sahar Jabr.

"Through the language of three-dimensional fiber and two-dimensional imagery, the two artists explore how beauty and resilience are created through unity," according to the gallery, which is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. "Viewers are invited to recognize that, like fibers, we are stronger together, and the beauty we create in unity carries us further than any single voice."

The two artists will be there Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. to offer demonstrations of their creative techniques. The gallery is located at 260 Alvarado St. Visit venturegallery.com for more details.

School's out ... and in

There's still room available in summer art classes for children and adults offered by the Carmel Valley Art Association. The subjects include oil painting, acrylic painting, paper-mache sculpture and much more.



Proceeds from the sale of painter Connie Trautmann's "Carmel Mission" benefit the Pacific Grove Art Center.

"School's out and the studio is in," the arts group announced. "Join us in beautiful Carmel Valley for hands-on learning and fun with art camps and workshops led by our resident artists and guest instructors. Our faculty features seasoned teachers and exhibiting artists with over 200 years of combined experience ready to share trade secrets and encourage each budding creator."

There's a small fee for each class, and many have availability. The arts group is located at 8 Del Fino Place. Visit carmel-valleyartassociation.org for more details.

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SECTION RE ■ July 3-9, 2026

Open Houses on page 20RE

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate



COMPASS

■ This week's cover, located in Pebble Beach,
is presented by The Bambace Peterson Team of Compass.
(See Page 2 RE)

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About the Cover

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate

July 3-9, 2026



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Dana Bambace DRE#: 01731448

Mark Peterson DRE#: 01977162

831.200.3178

bambacepeterson@compass.com

Co-listed with:
Jonathan Spencer | DRE 01916757
Debby Beck | DRE 01747647
Monika Campbell | DRE 01370848



OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
San Carlos, 2SW of 12th, Carmel



3 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS | 2,026 SQFT | 5,300 SQFT LOT
\$3,295,000



Katherine Hudson

Broker Associate

831 293 4878 | LIC. #01363054



TheAgencyRE.com



Happy Independence Day!

Real Estate Sales June 21-27

Escrows closed: 40

Total value: \$80,362,000

Carmel

630 Fourth Avenue — \$1,740,000

Mehrdad Mofidi to Anthony Henderson
APN: 010-091-025

404 Torres Street — \$2,050,000

Davoud and Nahid Saman to Steven and Patricia Galvez
APN: 010-091-024

24765 Lower Trail — \$2,100,000

Randi Heinrich and Guthrie Trust to Joseph Escobar
APN: 009-072-017

Aguajito Road — \$2,225,000

Linda Christensen to Bryan and Ning Morgan
APN: 103-101-001

26123 Mesa Drive — \$3,825,000

Steven and Barbara Neil to Daniel and Kimberly Gallemore
APN: 009-282-012

See HOME SALES page 6RE



8210 Manjares, Highway 68 — \$6,800,000

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& IN ESCROW IN 24 HOURS



270 SANDY GULCH DRIVE, MARINA

Offered at \$1,275,000

IN ESCROW!
Offered at \$2,749,000



3017 LASUEN DRIVE, CARMEL

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& SUN 3PM-5PM



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Pebble Beach ■ 7 beds, 6 baths ■ \$11,500,000 ■ www.VillaChe.com



Pebble Beach ■ 4 beds, 4.5 baths ■ \$6,780,000 ■ www.3937RondaRoad.com



Carmel-by-the-Sea ■ 4 beds, 3 baths ■ \$4,790,000 ■ www.PacificTidesCarmel.com



Carmel Valley ■ 4 beds, 3 baths ■ \$2,749,000 ■ www.62ACarmelValleyRoad.com



OPEN SUN 1PM-3PM
1034 Matador Road

Pebble Beach ■ 3 beds, 2 baths ■ \$2,650,000 ■ www.1034MatadorRoad.com



Pebble Beach ■ 4 beds, 3 baths ■ \$2,250,000 ■ www.2962ClubRoad.com



OPEN SUN 2PM-4PM
28088 Barn Court

Carmel ■ 3 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$2,099,000 ■ www.28088BarnCourt.com



OPEN SAT & SUN 12PM-3PM
4000 Rio Road, #49

Carmel ■ 2 beds, 2 baths ■ \$1,095,000 ■ www.4000RioRoad49.com



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 Property Management DRE#01297518

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BEST REAL ESTATE COMPANY
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 Monterey Herald Readers' Choice 2018-2025



Featured Off-Market Sale:
Scenic Road, SP: \$20,000,000

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Scenic Road • SP: \$20,000,000
Seller and Buyer Rep. by Carmel Realty Company



Carmelo & Ocean • LP: \$11,000,000
Seller and Buyer Rep. by Carmel Realty Company



Santa Fe 3 SW of Mountain View • LP: \$5,900,000
Seller Rep. by Carmel Realty Company
Buyer Rep. by Monterey Coast Realty



Lincoln 3 SW of 10th • LP: \$4,495,900
Seller Rep. by Monterey Coast Realty



NE Corner of Dolores & 11th • LP: \$2,799,950
Seller Rep. by Monterey Coast Realty
Buyer Rep. by Carmel Realty Company



5th Avenue 3 SE of Perry Newberry • LP: \$2,075,000
Seller Rep. by Monterey Coast Realty

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Open daily 10am to 5:30pm • South Side of Ocean Avenue Between Lincoln Avenue and Dolores

HOME SALES

From page 2RE

Carmel (con't)

1023 San Antonio Avenue — \$10,500,000

George and Robert Barsamian and Brenda Sieglock to Jeffrey Bordsky and Secundus Holdings Trust
APN: 010-303-003

Carmel Valley

62 E. Carmel Valley Road unit A — \$1,500,000

Anna and Oliva Russell to Elizabeth Mears
APN: 197-011-012

Del Rey Oaks

1 Serrano Way — \$855,000



26123 Mesa Drive, Carmel — \$3,825,000

Gayle Crowell to Libby Kelly
APN: 012-481-005

Highway 68

19100 Creekside Place — \$601,000

Karen Pemberton to Edward Oyama
APN: 161-531-042

2969 Highway 68 unit C10 — \$665,000

William and Merrily Karges to Alec Letteroff
APN: 259-022-043

20250 Palou Drive — \$1,315,000

Jerry Shaver to James and Amy Wood
APN: 161-272-009

228 Pine Canyon Road — \$1,370,000

Humberto Montejano, Abed Property Inc. and Lazaro Investment Inc. to Elias, Yolanda and Clarissa Zepeda
APN: 416-442-014

25748 Paseo el Cajon — \$2,142,000

Richard and Susan Kasbeer to Dirk and Lauren Caudill
APN: 416-131-045

See ESCROWS page 14RE



AISHA KRECHUNIAK
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DRE# 01186400

SAM PIFFERO
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OPEN SAT 1-3 PM

15286 Via La Gitana, Carmel Valley

5 BD | 4 BA | 2,047± SQ. FT. | 2.68± ACRE LOT
\$2,395,000

15286vialagitana.com

Trapin Anderson & Myers Team 831.601.4934
License# 01233599

24875 North Carmel Hills Drive, Carmel

2 BD | 3 BA | 1,904± SQ. FT. | 0.69± ACRE LOT
\$2,199,000

24875carmelhillssdr.com

J.R. Rouse Properties Group 831.318.3808
License# 01299649



OPEN SAT 11-1 PM



84 Ocean Pines, Pebble Beach

3 BD | 2 BA | 1,854± SQ. FT.
\$1,395,000

84oceanpines.com

Doug Steiny 831.236.7363
License# 00681652



631 Junipero Avenue, Pacific Grove

3 BD | 2 BA | 1,418± SQ. FT. | 5,161± SQ. FT. LOT
\$1,350,000

631juniperoavenue.com

Arleen Hardenstein 831.915.8989
License# 01710953

23025 Guidotti Drive, Toro Park

3 BD | 2 BA | 1,626± SQ. FT. | 9,247± SQ. FT. LOT
\$1,150,000

23025guidottidrive.com

Keck Properties Team 831.710.1655
License# 02168140



504 Ocean Avenue, #2, Monterey

2 BD | 2 BA | 1,178± SQ. FT. | 0.23± ACRE LOT
\$849,000

504oceanave2.com

Kirsten Tarman 831.333.6995
License# 01388595



OPEN SUN 12-2 PM

1201 David Avenue, Monterey

2 BD | 1 BA | 883± SQ. FT. | 3,100± SQ. FT. LOT
\$840,000

1201davidavenue.com

The Bluhm Team 831.277.2782
License# 01075634

1203 Lincoln Avenue, Pacific Grove

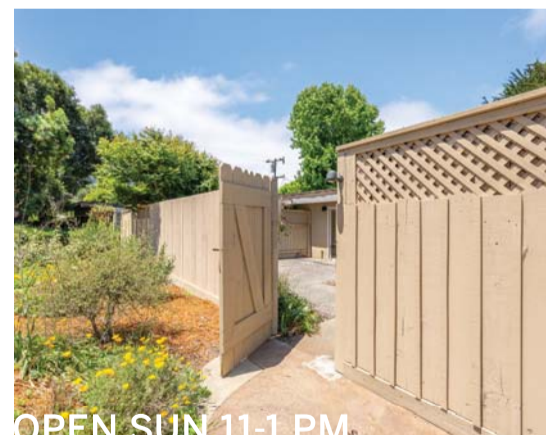
1 BD | 1 BA | 560± SQ. FT. | 4,500± SQ. FT. LOT
\$789,000

1203lincolnavenue.com

Arleen Hardenstein 831.915.8989
License# 01710953



OPEN SAT 2-4 & SUN 2:30-4



OPEN SUN 11-1 PM

14 Hacienda Carmel, Carmel

1 BD | 1 BA | 625± SQ. FT.
\$599,000

14haciendacarmel.com

Ryan Willis 404.401.8647
License# 02137084

A young, unfinished republic is ours to love, nurture and protect

MANY AMERICANS are aware that Elizabeth Willing Powell asked Benjamin Franklin, “What kind of government do we have, a republic or a monarchy?” Franklin famously replied, “A republic, if you can keep it.”

During my 90 years on this planet, I’ve witnessed many struggles against forces trying to take the republic from us. World War II was the most serious. Even as a child, I was aware of my parents’ concern that we could lose to the Nazis. But after they were defeated, communism turned out to be an even more insidious threat.

Hate your culture?

That is why the results of the recent primary elections in New York state could have Franklin and Powell spinning in their graves. Three members of the Democratic Socialists of America unseated three progressive Democrats for seats in the U.S. Congress. One of them, Darializa Chevalier, stated that the DSA is committed to the total eradication of Western civilization. The DSA’s ideological guru is not Karl Marx, but an Italian communist, Antonio Gramsci, who wrote his own manifesto. He believed that revolutions fail when you seize political power but leave

the national culture intact; otherwise, people still believe in the civilization you just overthrew. He forcefully preached that you must teach people to hate their culture, not just disagree with it. Taking their talking points from Gramsci, the DSA’s political platform accomplishes this by attacking White men, Christianity, defunding the police, keeping borders open, proposing amnesty for all illegal immigrants

Scenic Views

By JERRY GERVAISE

and abolishing the Constitution.

I know, it’s only the potential loss of three seats out of the 435 in the House of Representatives, but there are already several members of the House who openly show disdain for our culture and institutions. I remember learning how Hitler’s National Socialist German Workers’ Party, the NSDAP — commonly known as the Nazi Party — gained power with just 37% representation: a minority

that gridlocked the legislative process, crushed political opposition, and ultimately undermined Germany’s democratic structures. It’s a chilling reminder of how fragile democracy can be.

Fresh eyes

Fortunately, I’ve seen a reawakening of the American spirit — a renewed belief in our ability to do great things, meet challenges head-on, and push beyond the boundaries of what we once thought possible. It’s a quiet but powerful reminder that the heart of America beats strongest when we remember what unites us: the courage to dream, the will to act, and the faith that tomorrow can be better than today. This isn’t about politics or ideology — it’s deeper than that. It’s about the enduring idea that America, at its best, is a place where people are free to strive, to believe and to belong.

Sometimes, an unexpected exchange with foreigners can reveal what sets us apart from much of the world. About 10 years ago, I was sitting outside Starbucks at

See **GERVAISE** page 10RE

Happy 4th of July



Bambace Peterson Team

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DRE 01731448 | DRE 01977162

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ROBERT NOORZOY
Team Member

SHARMAINE TORREY
Broker Associate
Monterey Coast Realty | DRE#02071666

GERVASE

From page 8RE

the Crossroads when a couple hesitantly approached, as if they didn't want to disturb me.

"Excuse me," the woman said. "Can

you direct us to a nice place to eat?" Her English was precise, with a distinct European accent I couldn't quite place.

"Where are you from?"

"We're from Sweden," the woman said. I knew practically nothing about Sweden.

They were Dr. and Mrs. Lindroth. They planned to spend a month traveling up the coast all the way to Oregon and

Washington. They thought our coastline was beautiful and wanted to avoid big cities. After about a half-hour of conversation, I finally mentioned several restaurants in the Crossroads.

"We could not have this conversation in Sweden," Dr. Lindroth said. "Americans are so open. Not so much in Sweden. People don't stop on the street and speak to each other like we are doing now. This is such a wonderful country." He paused, looking around at the surroundings in a way that made me think he wished he could take it all back home with him.

"In Sweden, I am a stranger in my own country."

For keeps

My love for America isn't simple gratitude. That's for those who haven't been paying attention. After nine decades on this earth, what I feel is harder to name — a love of country that has been tested,

disappointed, surprised and renewed many times, yet still resembles the uncomplicated patriotism of my childhood. I love America the way you love a difficult family member: fiercely, impatiently, without much illusion and without any real option of walking away. It made me. I'm in it. And on its 250th birthday, I'm glad we're both still here.

In the long story of human civilization, 250 years is still a kid figuring itself out. Maybe that's the most American thing about us: the realization that our work isn't finished, that the next generation gets to keep the argument alive. I still believe in the republic — not because it's working perfectly, but because I'm old enough to understand the importance of keeping it. More importantly, let's not give it away.

Happy birthday, America. Let freedom ring. And please remain vigilant.

Contact Jerry at jerrygervase@yahoo.com.

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28088 Barn Court, Carmel Valley Ranch ■ 3 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$2,099,000

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

CARMEL VALLEY

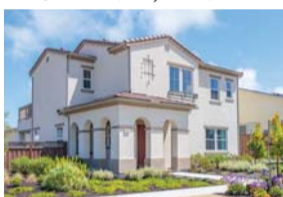
SEA HAVEN, MARINA



PacificTidesCarmel.com
4 beds, 3 baths ■ \$4,790,000



TreeTopsCarmelValley.com
4 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$2,500,000



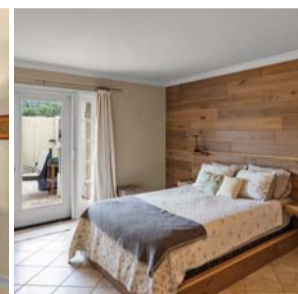
585SantaLuciaWay.com
4 beds, 3 baths ■ \$1,795,000

*Co-listed with Chris Pryor, DRE#01750627 | ** Co-listed with Elise Cricchio, Monterey Coast Realty DRE#02213152



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6 Bed | 10 Bath | 8,572 Sq Ft | .92 Acres | \$45,000,000 | 3364on17MileDrive.com



31453 Highway 1, Carmel Highlands

5 Bed | 6 Bath | 8,855 Sq Ft | 6.5 Acres | \$13,500,000 | 31453HighwayOne.com



53 Riley Ranch Road, Carmel

Main House | 2 Guest Houses | 10-Stall Barn | 8.5 Acres | \$12,500,000 | 53RileyRanchRoad.com



Happy Independence Day!

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POLICE LOG

From page 4A

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

Pacific Grove: Municipal code violations resulting in three citations issued for feeding wildlife at Mermaid Avenue and Ocean View Boulevard and on Ocean View Boulevard.

Carmel area: Suspicious circumstances on Loma Robles Drive.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury accident at Santa Lucia Avenue and Franciscan.

Pacific Grove: Report of lost personal property at Congress and Lighthouse.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle on Buena Vista Avenue marked for 72-hour parking.

Marina: At about 0249 hours, officers contacted a male who was smoking marijuana in a public area while sitting inside a vehicle in the 3200 block of Dunes Drive. An officer observed the lower frame of black Glock-style handgun under the front passenger seat. The firearm had no serial number (ghost gun) and was loaded with several 9 mm rounds of ammunition. The male was taken into custody for possession of a firearm without a serial number, carrying a loaded and concealed firearm in a motor vehicle and

smoking marijuana in a public place. He was booked at the Monterey County Jail.

Carmel Valley: Deputies responded to a disturbance on Carmel Valley Road.

Carmel area: Welfare check with mobile crisis at the Crossroads shopping center.

Big Sur: Assault on Highway 1.

Carmel Valley: A suspicious circumstance on Carmel Valley Road was documented.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

Seaside: At around 2200 hours, officers responded to the area of 5100 Coe Ave. after reports of a woman screaming. She had been struck and run over by a large pickup truck. Medical personnel treated the victim at the scene for a serious leg injury before transporting her to a local hospital. Officers immediately gathered evidence and partnered with local community members to locate the vehicle and the driver, a 29-year-old male, who was found to be heavily intoxicated and was arrested and booked into Monterey County Jail.

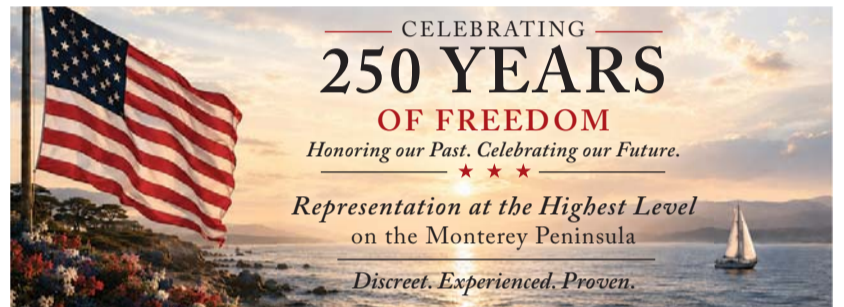
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Welfare check at Junipero and 12th.

Pacific Grove: A female tripped on the sidewalk in the 500 block of Lighthouse Avenue and was transported by medical staff.

Pacific Grove: Possible civil issue re-

See SHERIFF page 19RE

ANN ALBANESE-FREEMAN



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Peggy Jones

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4th of July

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\$13,500,000



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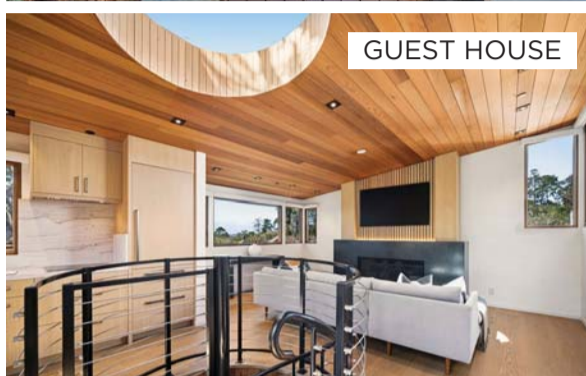


Keller Williams Realty
29251 Highway 1, Carmel, CA 93923

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ESCROWS

From page 6RE

Highway 68 (con't)

8210 Manjares — \$6,800,000

Anderson Homes to 8210 Manjares LLC
APN: 259-191-009

Marina

610 Carmel Avenue — \$507,000

The Sea Haven LLC to Hui Ju Chuang
APN: 031-314-004

2322 Bayside Avenue — \$1,030,000

Shea Homes LP to Yan and Chun Li
APN: 031-223-058

2311 2nd Avenue — \$1,114,000

Shea Homes LP to Kevin Lee
APN: 031-223-006

2318 Bayside Avenue — \$1,145,500

Shea Homes LP to Amirreza Yazdanfar and Sofia Knight
APN: 031-223-056

See DEEDS page 16RE



25748 Paseo el Cajon, Highway 68 — \$2,142,000

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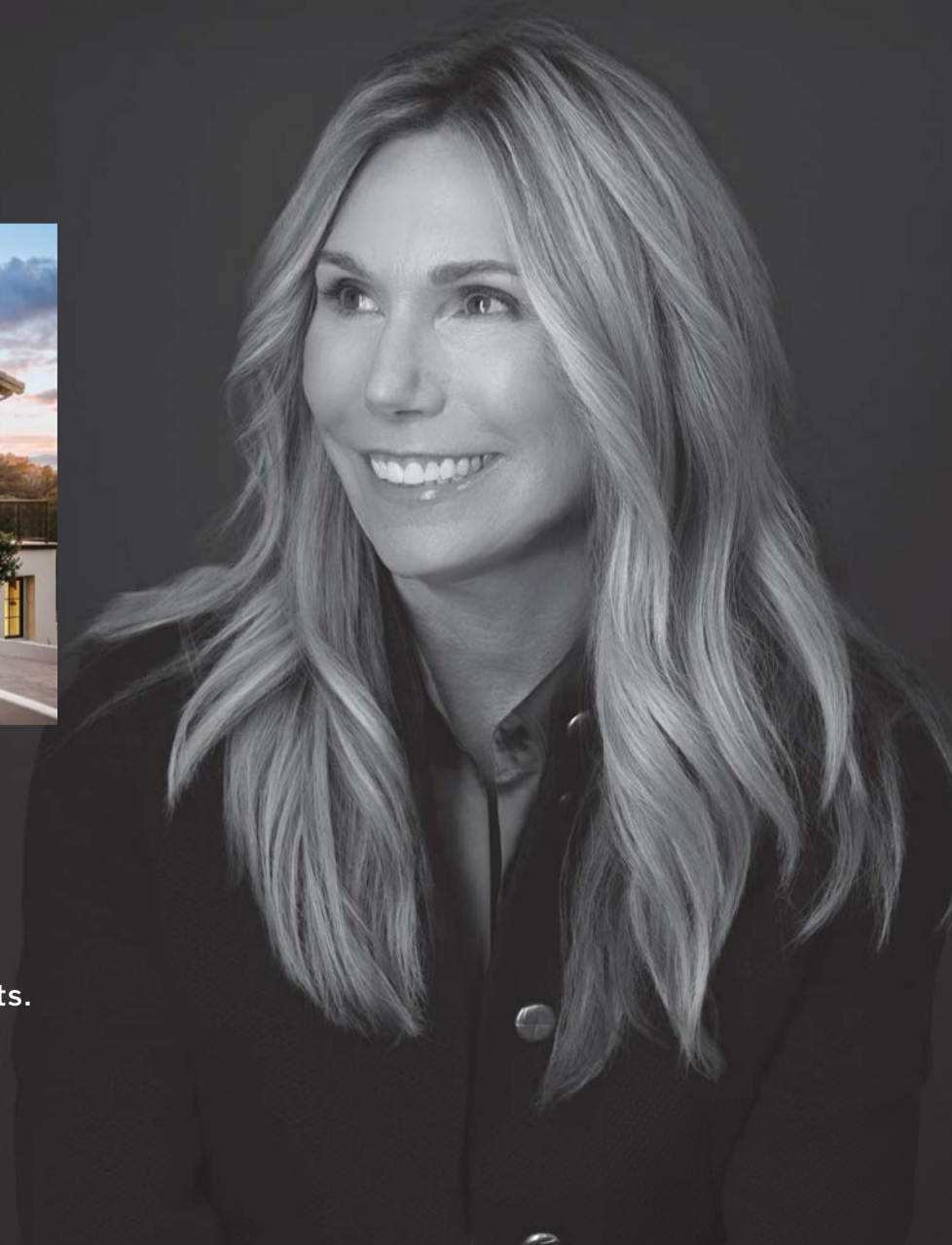
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susancardinalerealestate.com



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31475 Highway 1 — Carmel: Irreplaceable Victorine Ranch ocean estate in Carmel Highlands, surrounded by protected coastline and offering views from nearly every room. **4 beds, 6 baths, 6,923 ft², 5.96 acres, \$8,500,000**

Truskowski Freedman & Associates DRE Lic. #01240204, #01956633

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26314 Ocean View Avenue — Carmel: Maison de Lumière is a striking coastal Pacific retreat where architecture, light, & nature exist in perfect harmony.

4 beds, 4.5 baths, 3,400 ft², 5,900 ft² lot, \$12,500,000

Truskowski Freedman & Associates (831) 250-3560
DRE Lic. #01240204, #01956633



4155 Sunset Lane — Pebble Beach: Contemporary coastal residence featuring a modern luxury design, flexible living, and access to world renowned golf.

6 beds, 3.5 baths, 3,848 ft², 0.3 acres, \$3,398,000

Truskowski Freedman & Associates (831) 250-3560
DRE Lic. #01240204, #01956633



54722 Highway 1 — Big Sur: Luxurious oceanfront retreat located a few doors north of Esalen Institute. Whitewater views amidst landscaping by the artist & landscape designer Bernard Trainor. **4 beds, 3.5 baths, 1,740 ft², 5.8 acres, \$9,750,000**

Mike Gilson DRE Lic. #01749833

(831) 915-0903



55700 Highway 1 — Big Sur: Mickey Muennig & Francis Palms masterpiece on forested promontory. Walking distance to renowned Esalen Institute & countless trails.

4 beds, 2.5 baths, 3,300 ft², 5.12 acres, \$7,850,000

Mike Gilson
DRE Lic. #01749833

(831) 915-0903



142 Carmel Riviera Drive — Carmel: Sweeping ocean views & refined coastal living in the Carmel Riviera's private coastal enclave of Yankee Point.

4 beds, 3.5 baths, 4,260 ft², 0.39 acres, \$3,499,000

Truskowski Freedman & Associates (831) 250-3560
DRE Lic. #01240204, #01956633



4040 Sunridge Road — Pebble Beach: Estate parcel garnished with mature trees and access to ocean vistas, ideal for a bespoke coastal retreat in a natural sanctuary.

1.5 acres, \$1,795,000

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DEEDS

From page 14RE

Marina (con't)

2312 Osprey Avenue — \$1,210,000

Shea Homes LP to Paul Temple
APN: 031-223-011

3052 El Capitan Drive — \$1,245,000

The Sea Haven LLC to Richard and Myra Souza
APN: 031-313-016

3079 Arroyo Drive — \$1,420,500

The Sea Haven LLC to Tyrone and Donette Gorrick
APN: 031-311-065

2319 Bayside Avenue — \$1,688,500

Shea Homes LP to Jeffrey and Kayleen Harandi
APN: 031-223-060

Monterey

125 Surf Way unit 343 — \$555,000

Chad Alves to Susan Pheasant
APN: 011-443-076

70 Forest Ridge Road unit 30 — \$810,000

Gail Finnegan to Thomas Cushman
APN: 014-151-030

17 Loma Vista Place — \$889,000

See **PROPERTIES** page 22RE



3896 Ronda Road, Pebble Beach — \$5,850,000

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8210 Manjares, Monterey

Represented seller, sale price \$6,800,000



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anne@carmelpinecone.com

Happy 4th of July

Carmel-by-the-Sea Real Estate Activity This Week:

Status	Address	List Price	Sale Price	DOM
New Listing	SE Corner Lobos & Valley Way	\$2,800,000	---	2
New Listing	Ocean 2 NW of Guadalupe	\$4,790,000	---	12
New Listing	San Antonio 3 SW of 10th	\$10,500,000	---	0
New Listing	Scenic 4 NE of 13th	\$18,980,000	---	7
Sold	San Antonio 3 SW of 10th	\$10,500,000	\$10,500,000	0
Listing Expired	Mission 4 NE of 10th	\$4,190,000	---	54

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Please reach out for a Comparative Market Analysis.
(Data from MLSListings Inc)

WARM SUNNY WEATHER AWAITS YOU!

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4
75 ROBLEY ROAD, CORRAL DE TIERRA

OFFERED AT
\$3,750,000

MAIN RESIDENCE

4 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms
3-car attached garage EV
Solar powered

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1 Bedroom, 1 Bathroom with office
905 SF
2-car garage

Experience timeless elegance and exceptional privacy in this stunning **Colonial-style residence**, perched to capture **panoramic, breathtaking views**. Spanning over **5,000 square feet**, this beautifully designed home offers refined living with generous space for both entertaining and everyday comfort.

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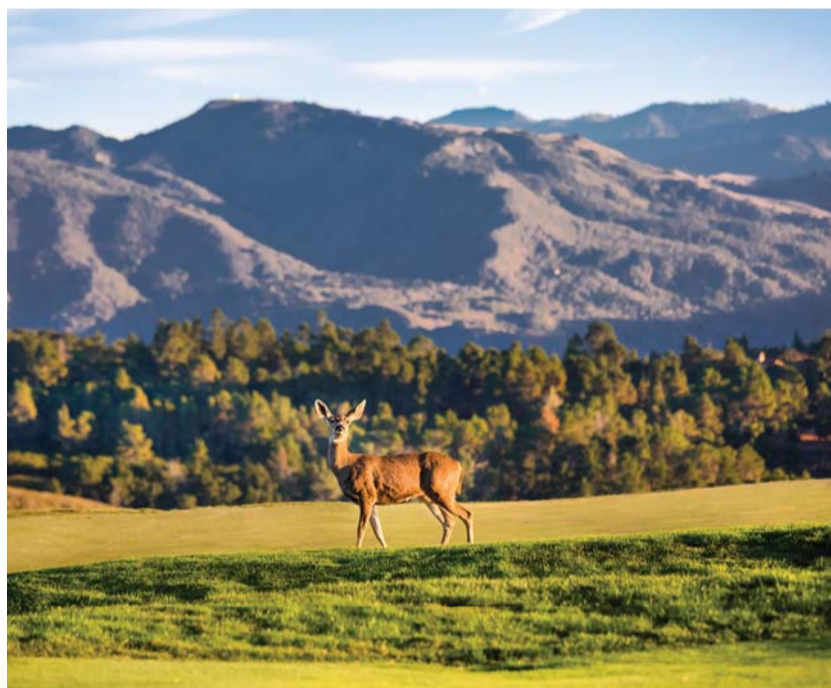
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One by one, families have found their idea of *Paradise* at Teháma.



TEHÁMA CARMEL

For some, paradise at Teháma is an inspiring architectural home perched high above the Carmel Valley with far-reaching views of Monterey Bay. For others, it is a masterfully-crafted residence secluded amid century old oaks and towering pines. For all who call Teháma home, it is living in a last-of-its-kind community — where 85% of its nearly 2,000 acres is preserved as open space, conservation and sustainability are a way of life, world-class amenities seamlessly sync nature and nurture, and the very best of Carmel and Monterey are just moments away.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261110

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

MATTESON'S AUTO REPAIR, 234 Grand Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s): MICHAEL PHILLIP BURGER

SUSAN ADDISON BLUSH

This business is conducted by a general partnership.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Jan. 2, 2017.

S/Michael Phillip Burger

Date signed: May 22, 2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 22, 2026.

Publication Dates: June 12, 19, 26, July 3, 2026 (PC 622)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261191

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

GOLDEN STATE RV RENTAL, 9441 Comunidad Way, Castroville, CA 95012.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s): GONZALO ORTIZ CAMARENA

This business is conducted by an individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on April 16, 2026

S/Gonzalo Ortiz Camarena

Date signed: June 5, 2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 5, 2026.

Publication Dates: June 12, 19, 26, July 3, 2026 (PC 623)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261193

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

POPPA PONCE'S WOODWORKS, 3038 King Circle, Marina, CA 93933.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s): JOSE SANTANA PONCE RANGEL, 3038 King Circle, 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 June 5, 2026

S/Jose Santana Ponce Rangel

Date signed: June 5, 2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 5, 2026.

Publication Dates: June 12, 19, 26, July 3, 2026 (PC 625)

[HTTPS://CARMELPINECONE.COM](https://carmelpinecone.com)**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No. 20261112

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

LINDSEY TEACHES YOGA, 223 9th St., Marina, CA 93933.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):

LINDSEY MARIE WINGATE, 223 9th Street, 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 April 14, 2026

S/Lindsey Marie Wingate

Date signed: May 26, 2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 26, 2026.

Publication Dates: June 12, 19, 26, July 3, 2026 (PC 626)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261180

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

WEST COAST TRANSPORTS 1, 16 Huerta Ave., Greenfield, CA 93927.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:

WEST COAST TRANSPORTS 1 LLC, 16 Huerta Ave., Greenfield, CA 93927.

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 June 1, 2026.

S/Armando Laneros, Manager

Date: June 2, 2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 2, 2026.

Publication Dates: June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 2026. (PC 631)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

Case No. 26CV002951

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, LILLIAM PEREZ DE ARELLANO filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

A. Present name:

LILLIAM PEREZ DE ARELLANO

Proposed name:

LILLIAM PEREZ

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 objec-

tion is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING:

DATE: July 28, 2026

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

DEPT: 13A

The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.

(s) Ian A. Rivamonte

Judge of the Superior Court

Date filed: June 1, 2026

Publication Dates: June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 2026. (PC 632)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261217

Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

1. SUSAN AUGUSTITUS**2. Susan Augustitus****3. Susan Gray Augustitus****4. Susan G. Augustitus****5. SUSAN GRAY AUGUSTITUS****240 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):

SUSAN GRAY AUGUSTITUS

This business is conducted by an individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Sept. 10, 1964.

S/Susan Gray Augustitus

Date signed: June 9, 2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 9, 2026.

Publication Dates: June 12, 19, 26, July 3, 2026 (PC 633)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261214

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

ESTHER'S BODY SCULPTOR & MASSAGE, 1164 Monroe St. #10, Salinas, CA 93906.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):

ESTHER SANCHEZ CASTILLO, 1220 Old Stage Rd., Salinas, CA 93908.

This business is conducted by an individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 9, 2026

S/Esther Sanchez Castillo

Date signed: June 9, 2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 9, 2026.

Publication Dates: June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 2026 (PC 635)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261197

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

MIRANDA'S GOLDEN BAKERY, 1103 D Echo Valley Rd., Salinas, CA 93907.

County of Principal Place of Business:

MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):

MIRANDA RENEE FLORES.

This business is conducted by an individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 27, 2026

S/Miranda Flores

Date signed: June 5, 2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 5, 2026.

Publication Dates: June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 2026 (PC 636)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261246

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

AZUL SOLUTIONS, 580 Jefferson St., Apt. 3, Monterey, CA 93940.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:

AZUL SOLUTIONS INC., 580 Jefferson St., Apt. 3, 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 June 12, 2026.

S/Manuel Lavariega, President

Date: June 12, 2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 12, 2026.

Publication Dates: June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 2026 (PC 637)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261211

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

LESTARZ, 1020 Paloma Road, Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):

DON L. GRUBER, P.O. Box 190, Monterey, CA 93942.

This business is conducted by an individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 8, 2026

S/Don L. Gruber

Date signed: June 8, 2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 8, 2026.

Publication Dates: June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 2026 (PC 638)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261169

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:

Central Coast Computer Networks, 12776 Rogge Village Loop, Salinas, CA 93906.

County of Monterey

Registered Owner(s):

Eduardo Silva, 12776 Rogge Village Loop, Salinas, CA 93906

This business is conducted by an individual

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on not applicable

S/ Eduardo Silva

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 06/01/2026

6/19, 6/26, 7/3, 7/10/26

CNS-4052568#**CARMEL PINE CONE**

Publication Dates: June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 2026. (PC 639)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261241

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

ESTRELLITAS DAY CARE, 1108 Cortez St., Unit B, Salinas, CA 93905.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):

LETICIA CRUZ LUSTRE, 1108 Cortez St., Unit B, Salinas, CA 93905

This business is conducted by an individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 2003.

S/Leticia Cruz

Date signed: June 12, 2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 12, 2026.

Publication Dates: June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 2026 (PC 643)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261226

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

NA HOKU - HAWAII'S FINEST JEWELERS SINCE 1924, 700 Cannery Row, Suite P, Monterey, CA 93940.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:

NA HOKU, INC., 3049 Ualena St., 12th Floor, Honolulu, HI 96819.

State of Inc./Org./Reg.: Hawaii

This business is conducted by a corporation.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 20, 2026.

S/Linda L. Flanagan, President, CFO

Date: June 3, 2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 10, 2026.

Publication Dates: June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 2026 (PC 644)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261274

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

1. BAY CAPITAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**2. REMAX PROPERTY EXPERTS****3. BAY CAPITAL MORTGAGE****233 Monterey St., Salinas, CA 93901-3408.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:

BAY CAPITAL REAL ESTATE, INC., 233 Monterey St., Salinas, CA 93901-3408.

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 Dec. 20, 2012.

S/Jorge Edeza, President

Date: June 2, 2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 16, 2026.

Publication Dates: June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 2026 (PC 644)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261277

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

THE CARMEL COMPANY, 850 Archer Street, Monterey, CA 93940.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):

STEPHEN JOHN POLETTI, 850 Archer Street, Monterey, CA 93940.

This business is conducted by an individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 17, 2026

S/Stephen John Poletti

Date signed: June 17, 2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 17, 2026.

Publication Dates: June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 650)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261223

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

LOS OSITOS TREE CARE, 3320 Del Mone Blvd., Space 59, Marina, CA 93933.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):

CARLOS VALDES QUEZADA, 3320 Del Monte Blvd., Space 59, 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 June 1, 2026

S/Carlos Quezada

Date signed: June 9, 2026

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 9, 2026.

Publication Dates: June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 651)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261224

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:

Grey Ghost Ranch, 1632 Elm St, San Carlos, CA 94070, County of San Mateo

Registered Owner(s):

Grey Ghost Precision LLC, 455 Market St Ste 1940 #332445, San Francisco, CA 94105; California

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/Justin F Patterson, Managing Member

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 06/10/2026

6/26, 7/3, 7/10, 7/17/26

CNS-4054415#**CARMEL PINE CONE**

Publication Dates: June 26,

SHERIFF

From page 12RE

garding property at Country Club Gate Center.

Marina: Marina Police responded to an injury traffic collision at Reservation Road and Seacrest Avenue. A motorcycle vs. pick-up truck.

Carmel area: Fraud victim on Serra Avenue.

Carmel area: Incident of theft and property damage on Palo Colorado Road.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of a theft at a business at San Carlos and Sixth. Information only.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Accident on private property on Carpenter. Vehicle was drivable.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Civil private property tow from Ocean and San Carlos.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost cell phone at Carmel Beach.

Pacific Grove: Property was found in the 800 block of Pine Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Deceased cat at Ocean View and 15th Street was removed from the public roadway. The cat's owner is currently unknown.

Seaside: Fireworks detected in the 1700 block of Soto and surrounding area. Illegal

fireworks going off near Seaside High School and surrounding neighborhoods.

Pacific Grove: Subject on Pine Avenue was placed on a 5150 W&I hold [danger to self or others].

Pacific Grove: Theft by false pretenses reported on David Avenue.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Welfare check requested on a suspect at San Carlos and 12th. The 52-year-old female was arrested and booked into county jail for probation violation.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Unregistered vehicle was towed for being in a no-parking zone at Junipero and Second and having expired registration over six months.

Carmel area: Female on High Meadow Drive was served with a restraining order.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Carmel-by-the-Sea: No calls to report.

Pacific Grove: Officers responded to the 600 block of Sinex Avenue for a physical domestic. Both parties were gone on arrival and do not live together. Case forwarded to DA's office for arrest warrant.

Pacific Grove: A sexual assault was reported at an unknown beach.

Pacific Grove: Dog bite on Congress Avenue.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261149

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
BEAN DOG FILMS, 160 Laurel Dr., Carmel Valley, CA 93924.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
BOYTE CREATIVE, 160 Laurel Dr., Carmel Valley, CA 93924.

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, 2018.

S/Shawn Boyte, President
Date: May 29, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 29, 2026.
Publication Dates: June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 656)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261220

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
PAWS CLAWS WINGS AND THINGS, 3270 Del Monte Blvd. #100, Marina, CA 93933.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
JOANNE JESSICA KRAJESKI, 3270 Del Monte Blvd. #100, 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 June 8, 2026.
S/Joanne Krajieski
Date signed: June 9, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 9, 2026.
Publication Dates: June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 658)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261276

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
**1. DIRECT FRONT TRAINING GROUP
2. FAITH BRIDGE SOLUTIONS
17510 Ramadero Way, Aromas, CA 95004.**

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
HENRY EMILIO CORZANTES-ORTIZ,

17510 Ramadero Way, Aromas, CA 95004.
DAISY VERENICE CORZANTES-ORTIZ, 17510 Ramadero Way, Aromas, CA 95004.
This business is conducted by a married couple.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 16, 2026.

S/Daisy Verenice Corzantes-Ortiz
Date signed: June 16, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 16, 2026.
Publication Dates: June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 659)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261187

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
ARCHITECTURAL GLASS CONSTRUCTOR, 1354 Noche Buena St., Seaside, CA 93955.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
RODERICK ALLEN STANDISH, 1354 Noche Buena 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 June 4, 2026.
S/Roderick Allen Standish
Date signed: June 4, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 4, 2026.
Publication Dates: June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 660)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. 20261308

Filing type: ABANDONMENT:
County of Filing: Monterey
Date of Original Filing: Feb. 9, 2024
File No.: 20240303
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as:

**1. A PLUS MARINA QUALITY WATER
2. UNDER PRESSURE WATER MANAGEMENT COMPANY
3. A PLUS POSTAL SERVICE
215 Reservation Rd., Suite O, Marina, CA 93933.**
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: California
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
FLAT WATER BLUES, LLC, CALIFORNIA
This business is conducted by a limited lia-

bility company.
S/Kenneth Ray Stratton, Member
Date: June 18, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 22, 2026.
Publication dates: June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2026. (PC661)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261259

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
PLAZA GRANDE HOMES, 50 E. Market 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.:
PLAZA GRANDE HOMES, LLC, 610 N. Santa Anita Ave., Arcadia, CA 91006.
FFAH V PLAZA GRANDE HOMES, LLC, 384 Forest Avenue, Suite 14, Laguna Beach, CA 92651.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited partnership.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Oct. 4, 2022.
S/Rao R. Yalamanchili
Date: April 15, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 15, 2026.
Publication Dates: June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 662)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261297

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
LONGHORN ESTATES, 19315 El Cerro, Aromas, CA 95004.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):
ADDAM MATTHEW BANUELOS, 19315 El Cerro, Aromas, CA 95004.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 22, 2026.
S/Addam Matthew Banuelos
Date signed: June 22, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 22, 2026.
Publication Dates: June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 664)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261283

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
MEYU NAILS AND SPA, 212 Alta Street, Gonzales, CA 93926.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
MEYU NAILS AND SPA.
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 17, 2026.
S/Tien Huynh
Date: June 17, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 17, 2026.
Publication Dates: June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 2026 (PC 665)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261335

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
LOS HERMANOS 99 CENTS PLUS DISCOUNT, 585 Front Street, Suite A, Soledad, CA 93960.

County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
ABHAY JAGDISH KUMAR, 585 Front Street, Suite A, Soledad, CA 93960.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on March 28, 2026
S/Abhay Kumar
Date signed: June 24, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 24, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026 (PC 701)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261338

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
ALONDRA'S DAYCARE, 9562 Viva Lane, Castroville, CA 95012.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
ALONDRA VASQUEZ SEPULVEDA, 9562 Viva Lane, Castroville, CA 95012.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business

under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 25, 2026
S/Alondra Vasquez Sepulveda
Date signed: June 25, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 25, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026 (PC 702)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261251

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
ORTIZ LANDSCAPING, 1003 POLK ST, SALINAS, CA 93906
County of MONTEREY
Registrant(s):
JOSE ARMANDO ORTIZ, 1003 POLK ST, 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 N/A.
S/ JOSE ARMANDO ORTIZ
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 06/12/2026.
7/3, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24/26
**CNS-4049183#
CARMEL PINE CONE**
Publication Dates: July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026. (PC 703)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261322

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
NASHELLY'S TRUCKING, 538 Granada Ct., Soledad, CA 93960.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
EDVAN ABIGNOS GARCIA ROMAN.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Sept. 30, 2020.
S/Edvan A. Garcia R.
Date signed: June 23, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 23, 2026.

Publication Dates: July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026 (PC 704)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261352

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
TACOS 2 HERMANOS, 850 Elvee Dr., Salinas, CA 93905.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
VICTOR M. ZARATE JIMENEZ
SANTOS ZARATE.
This business is conducted by co-partners.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 29, 2026.
S/Victor M. Zarate Jimenez
Date signed: June 29, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 29, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026 (PC 706)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20261270

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
THE AUTO STORE, 330 N. Main 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.:
SALINAS AUTO STORE INC., 330 N. Main St., Salinas, CA 93901.
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 Oct. 2, 2018.
S/Khader Ohman, CEO
Date: June 16, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 16, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026 (PC 707)

LEGALS DEADLINE: Tuesday 3:00 pm

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irma@carmelpinecone.com

se habla Español

APTOS

\$5,495,000 3bd 3.5ba Sa Su 1-4
 643 Beach Dr Aptos
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 251-1985

CARMEL

\$832,000 2bd 2ba Su 12-2
 101 Hacienda Carmel Carmel
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-0971

\$1,095,000 2bd 2ba Su 1-3
 183 Del Mesa Carmel Carmel
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 293-3391

\$1,095,000 2bd 2ba Sa Su 12-3:30
 4000 Rio Road 49 Carmel
 Carmel Realty 650-380-9827

\$1,150,000 2bd 2ba Su 11-1
 3850 Rio Rd 63 Carmel
 Coldwell Banker Realty 917-7029

\$1,199,000 2bd 2ba Su 11-1
 130 Del Mesa Carmel Carmel
 Coldwell Banker Realty 917-3966

\$1,575,000 2bd 3ba Sa Su 1-4
 9903 Club Place Lane Carmel
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 601-9038 / 333-6060

\$1,690,000 2bd 2ba Sa 10-12 Su 1:30-3:30
 9542 Maple Court Carmel
 Compass 236-5290

\$1,750,000 3bd 2ba Fr Su 1-3
 25636 Morse Dr Carmel
 Compass 238-2022

\$1,792,000 4bd 3ba Fr 12-2
 27460 Loma Del Rey Carmel
 The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams 620-2243

\$1,850,000 3bd 2.5+ba Su 11-1
 25315 Flanders Drive Carmel
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 521-7363

\$2,099,000 3bd 3.5ba Su 2-4
 28088 Barn Ct Carmel
 Carmel Realty 595-0676

\$2,199,000 2bd 3ba Sa 11-1
 24875 Carmel Hills Drive Carmel
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 318-3808

\$2,800,000 3bd 3ba Su 1-3
 24778 Guadalupe Street Carmel
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 760-5126

\$2,895,000 3bd 2ba Su 1:30-4
 24785 Santa Rita Street Carmel
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-8116

\$3,295,000 3bd 2.5ba Su 1-3
 San Carlos 2 SW of 12th Carmel
 The Agency 293-4878

\$4,250,000 4bd 3ba Sa 2-4 Su 1-4
 26047 Atherton Drive Carmel
 Coldwell Banker Realty 356-8123 / 206-0129

\$5,195,000 4bd 2.5ba Fr Su 1-3
 Dolores 4 SE of 13th Street Carmel
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 224-6891

\$6,750,000 4bd 3ba Sa 1-4 Su 3-5
 San Carlos 2 SW of 1st Ave Carmel
 Carmel Realty 521-4855

\$9,798,000 4bd 4ba Fr 2-4 Sa Su 12-2
 26308 Isabella Avenue Carmel
 Carmel Realty 236-2940

CARMEL HIGHLANDS

\$3,495,000 2bd 2ba Su 1-3
 88A Corona Rd Carmel Highlands
 The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams 224-0020

CARMEL VALLEY

\$1,595,000 3bd 3ba Sa 12-2
 10456 Fairway Lane Carmel Valley
 The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams 620-2243

\$1,895,000 4bd 3ba Su 1-3
 760 Country Club Dr Carmel Valley
 Compass 262-7768

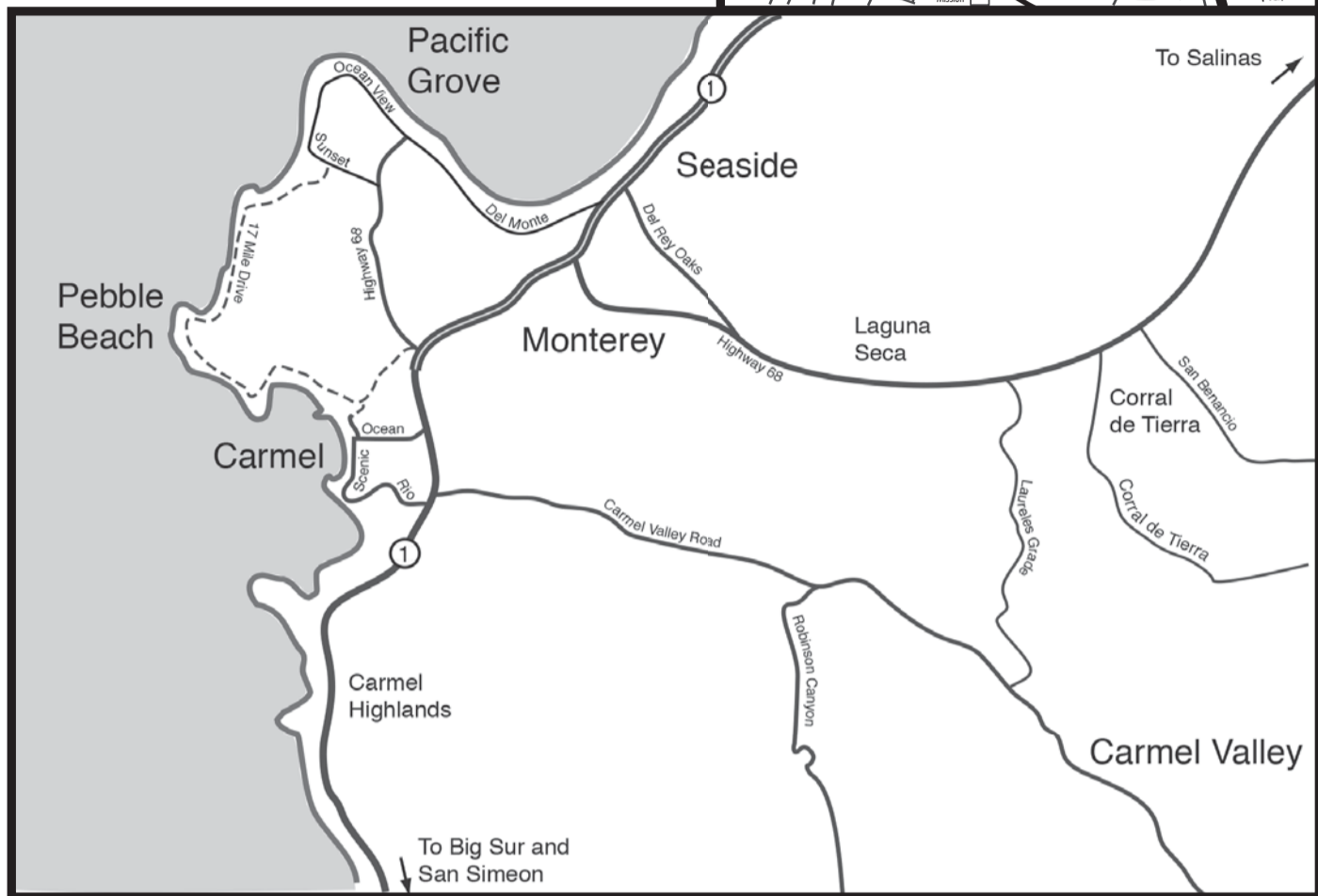
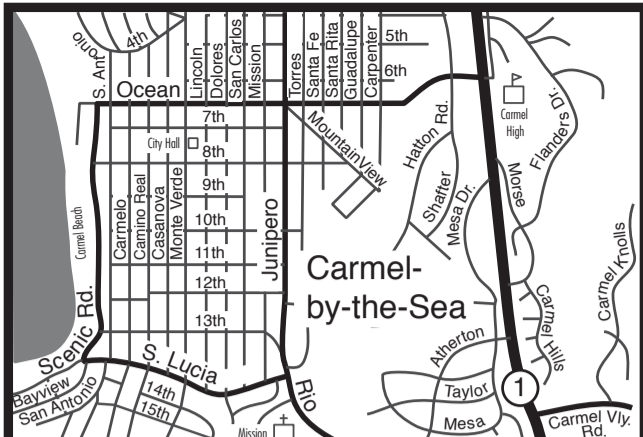
\$2,195,000 4bd 3ba Su 12-2
 297 El Caminito Road Carmel Valley
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 236-7363

\$2,395,000 5bd 4.5ba Sa 1-3
 15286 Via La Gitana Carmel Valley
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-7559

\$2,440,000 4bd 4ba Su 11-1
 26245 Rinconada Dr Carmel Valley
 Compass 236-5290

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 15475 Via Los Tulares Carmel Valley
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 Agency One 206-6310

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 870 Portola Dr Del Rey Oaks
 The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams 595-9242

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\$1,080,000 2bd 2ba Sa Su 12:30-3
 101 Shell Dr 136 La Selva Beach
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 227-9008

LOS GATOS

\$975,000 2bd 2ba Su 12-3
 21568 Alma Court Los Gatos
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 252-0504

MARINA

\$799,000 3bd 2.5ba Sa Su 11-1
 21207 Ord Ave Marina
 The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams 867-1188

\$929,000 3bd 2.5ba Sa 10-12 Su 12-3
 2790 Telegraph Blvd Marina
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 574-9393 / 530-400-7593

\$1,325,000 3bd 2.5ba Su 1-3
 266 Sandy Gulch Drive Marina
 Monterey Coast Realty 238-0653

\$1,149,000 4bd 2.5ba Su 1-3
 16406 E. Garrison Dr. Marina, East Garrison
 Compass 539-6967

MONTEREY

\$475,000 1bd 1ba Su 1-3
 820 Casanova Avenue #108 Monterey
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-8622

\$849,000 3bd 2.5ba Su 1-3
 1360 Josselyn Canyon Road 40 Monterey
 Monterey Coast Realty 717-7959

\$1,295,000 2bd 2ba Fr 10-3 Sa 9-3 Su 9-1
 1199 Harrison St Monterey
 The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams 917-4707

\$1,395,000 3bd 2.5ba Sa 11-1
 17 Toda Vista Monterey
 Monterey Coast Realty 317-6336

\$1,399,000 4bd 3ba Fr 3:30-6 Sa 10-3 Su 12-4
 668 Alice St Monterey
 The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams 917-5129

\$1,490,000 6bd 4.5ba Sa 11-2
 947 W Franklin Street Monterey
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 277-9250

\$1,825,000 4bd 2ba Su 12-2
 3 White Tail Lane Monterey
 The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams 620-2243

\$1,995,000 3bd 2.5ba Su 11-1
 11827 Saddle Rd Monterey
 Coldwell Banker Realty 747-5688

PACIFIC GROVE

\$789,000 1bd 1ba Sa 2-4 Su 2:30-4
 1203 Lincoln Avenue Pacific Grove
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 915-8989

\$995,000 1bd 1ba Fr 3-6 Su 10-12
 313 14th Street Pacific Grove
 Compass 574-9470

\$1,095,000 3bd 2ba Sa 1-3 Su 12-2
 1103 Kenet Pl Pacific Grove
 Coldwell Banker Realty 277-3914 / 224-0976

\$1,199,000 3bd 2ba Su 1-3
 665 Pine Ave Pacific Grove
 Coldwell Banker Realty 594-6158

\$1,400,000 2bd 1ba Su 1-3
 215 Lobos Ave Pacific Grove
 Coldwell Banker Realty 596-6118

\$1,595,000 4bd 3ba Su 1-3
 219 Willow St Pacific Grove
 Compass 224-6353

\$2,995,000 4bd 3ba Sa 12-2
 938 Lighthouse Ave. Pacific Grove
 Davi Properties Group 277-9988

\$3,199,000 3bd 4ba Fr 1-5 Sa 12-4 Su 11-5
 111 12th St Pacific Grove
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-8116 / 333-6995

\$7,495,000 7bd 4ba Su 12-3
 888 Del Monte Blvd Pacific Grove
 Coldwell Banker Realty 277-3914

PEBBLE BEACH

\$849,000 2bd 2ba Su 1-3
 17 Shepherd's Knoll Pebble Beach
 Carmel Realty 320-6801

\$975,000 2bd 2ba Sa 11-1
 75 Ocean Pines Lane Pebble Beach
 Monterey Coast Realty 317-6336

\$1,275,000 2bd 2ba Fr 11-1
 4 Ocean Pines Lane Pebble Beach
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 869-6117

\$2,495,000 4bd 2ba Fr 12-2 Su 1-3
 3113 Sloat Rd Pebble Beach
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 915-6391

\$2,650,000 3bd 2ba Su 1-3
 1034 Matador Pebble Beach
 Carmel Realty 277-5544

\$3,098,000 4bd 3.5ba Su 1-3
 2905 Bird Rock Rd Pebble Beach
 Compass 238-1380

\$9,500,000 5bd 1ba Su 11:30-1:30
 3159 Stevenson Dr Pebble Beach
 Coldwell Banker Realty 356-8123

\$9,995,000 5bd 6.5ba Su 2-4
 21 Poppy Ln Pebble Beach
 Coldwell Banker Realty 356-8123

\$11,995,000 4bd 4ba Fr 2-4 Sa 1-3
 1031 The Old Drive Pebble Beach
 Carmel Realty 277-5544

SALINAS

\$815,000 3bd 2ba Su 11-1
 21012 Country Park Road Salinas
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 915-8989

\$889,000 3bd 2.5ba Sa Su 12-2
 25658 Wisteria Ct Salinas
 The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams 224-6759

\$1,149,000 3bd 2.5ba Su 1-4
 7310 Timeview Way Salinas
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 682-0126

\$2,000,000 4bd 3.5ba Su 1-4
 9020 Hidden Canyon Road Salinas
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 840-5582

SANTA CRUZ

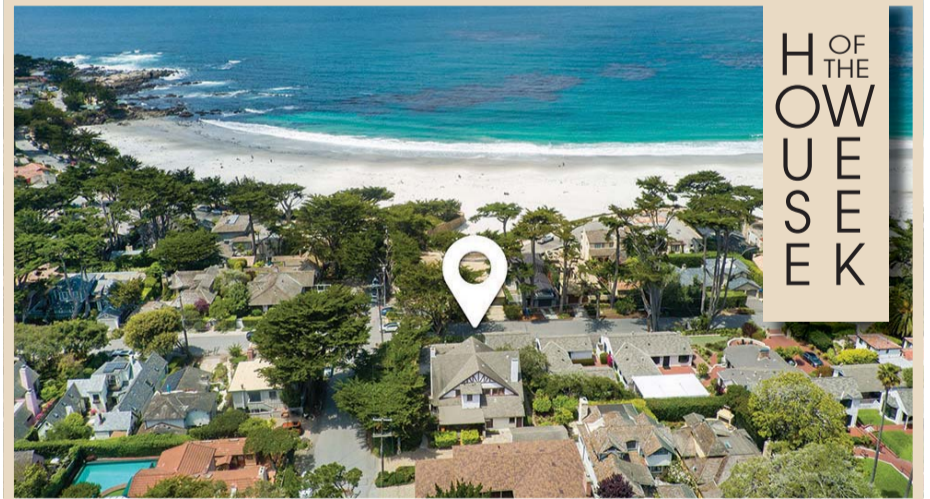
\$1,399,000 3bd 2ba Su 11-3
 1328 Mission St Santa Cruz
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 227-9987

SEASIDE

\$799,000 3bd 1.5ba Su 1-3
 1233 Hilby Avenue Seaside
 Monterey Coast Realty 277-5256

\$938,000 3bd 2ba Fr 11-1 Su 1-4
 1140 Kimberly Ct Seaside
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 238-1984 / 510-589-6892

\$1,438,200 5bd 3.5ba Sa 11-1
 4890 Peninsula Point Drive Seaside
 Sotheby's Int'l RE 402-2017



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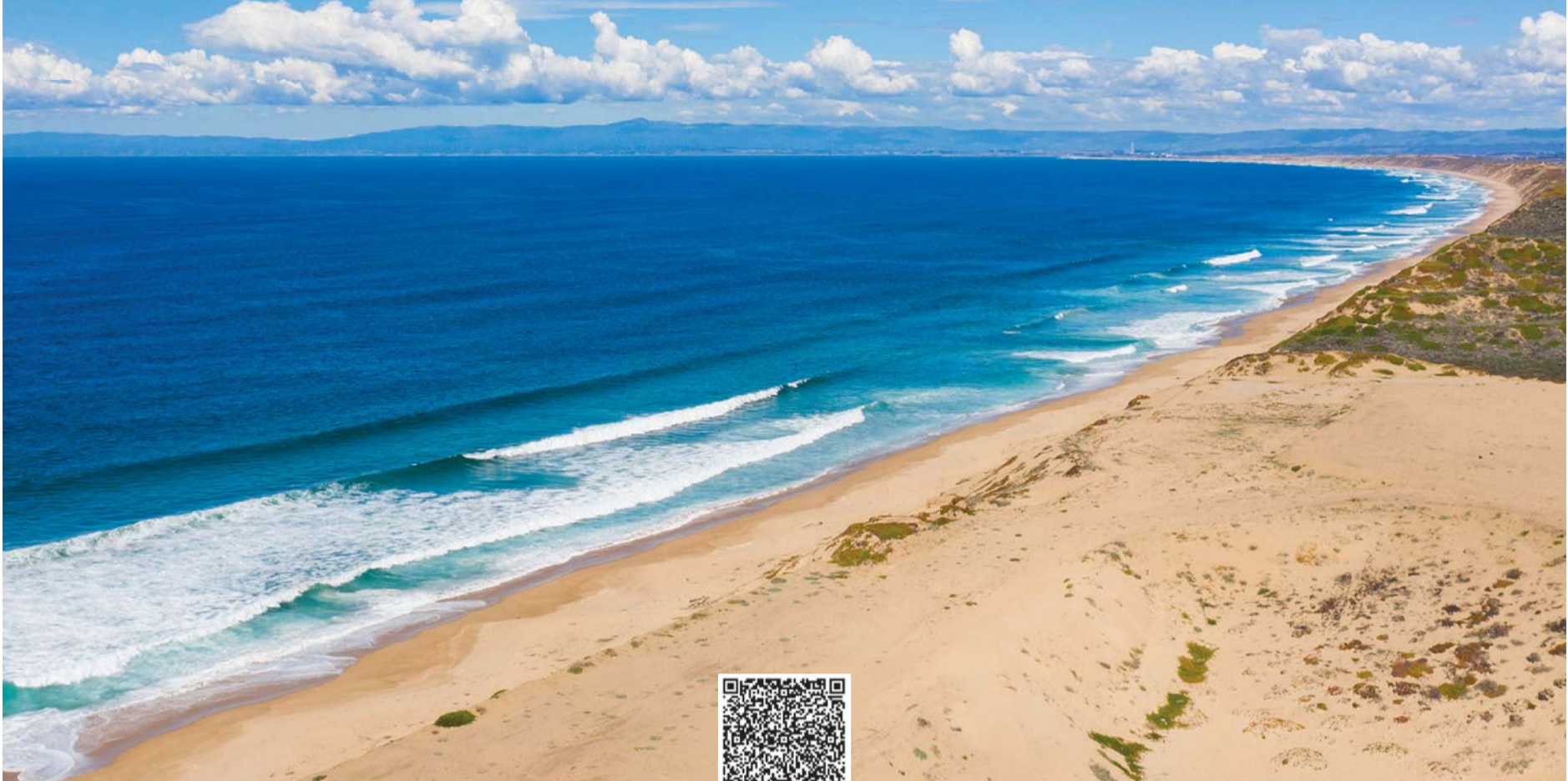
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The Marina Station Real Estate Team, in partnership with Monterey Coast Realty



PROPERTIES

From page 16RE

Monterey (con't)

Elaine Macdonald to Blake Stocker
APN: 001-941-022

777 Parcel Street — \$1,200,000

Robert Alvarado to Lauren Ambrose
APN: 001-184-018

424 Herrman Drive — \$1,260,000

Mark Pina to Melaku Mendell
APN: 001-294-001

2120 Messina Place — \$1,265,000

Barbara Cartwright to Brad and Lesley van Dalen
APN: 013-272-011

3 Forest Rise Place — \$1,650,000

Douglas Rothnie and Carmen Knowles to John and Dianne Conner
APN: 014-062-019

Pacific Grove

3016 Ransford Circle unit 22 — \$1,050,000

Bradley Baker to John and Kelly Campos
APN: 007-613-022

251 Walnut Street — \$2,200,000

Cecilia Chazen CA Helm LLC
APN: 006-334-005

Pebble Beach

3896 Ronda Road — \$5,850,000



1148 San Lucas Street, Seaside — \$790,000

Barbara Duder to Yvonne Lo and Keiko Fukuda
APN: 008-233-004

1059 Marcheta Lane — \$9,000,000

Jacquelyn Fineberg to Kevin and Conor Green
APN: 007-341-013

Seaside

1238 Hamilton Avenue — \$472,500

Prime Recon LLC to Quita Martin and Thomas Johns
APN: 012-265-004

1777 Luzern Street — \$563,000

Lakeview Loan Servicing to Maurilio Serrano
APN: 012-785-012

1623 San Pablo Avenue — \$650,000

Sarah Murphy to Sophia Koot
APN: 012-784-006



3 Forest Rise Place, Monterey — \$1,650,000

1424 Contra Costa Street — \$707,000

Edward Messmer to Rose Silva
APN: 011-314-002

1148 San Lucas Street — \$790,000

Michael Melicia and J&M Real Properties to Sam Robinson and Chloe Hirahara
APN: 012-395-001

1394 Lowell Street — \$852,000

Leland Dandridge to Zhenhong Luo
APN: 012-283-001

933 Hilby Avenue — \$3,550,000

James Russo to Enrico Moises
APN: 012-362-017

The Pine Cone prints all Monterey Peninsula real estate sales shown on recorded deeds, and we do not omit sales for any reason. For more on our home sales policy, please go to pineconearchive.com/homesalespolicy.html.

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PUBLICATION DATES: AUGUST 7 & 14, 2026

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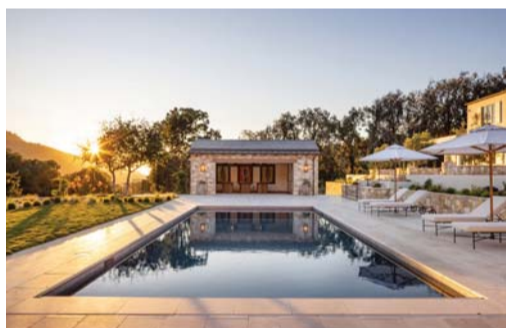
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www.CarmelValleyMasterpiece.com
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www.SeaArches.com
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www.CarmelPerfection.com
\$6,950,000

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www.PebbleBeachParcel.com
\$3,250,000

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www.CVRanchLiving.com
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www.MontereyVistas.com
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