

Whale takes rescuers on ‘Nantucket sleigh ride’

By CHRIS COUNTS

AFTER WEEKS of sightings confirmed it was tangled in fishing gear, a humpback whale was freed July 11 when rescuers removed ropes and buoys that came from a crab fishing operation, the Marine Life Studies Whale Entanglement Team reported Friday. The group noted it



PHOTO/MARINE LIFE STUDIES WHALE ENTANGLEMENT TEAM

A whale snarled in crab fishing ropes and buoys took a team of rescuers on a 12-mile-long ride into Monterey Bay July 12 before being freed from the gear.

was the year’s first successful whale disentanglement. In late May, the 40-foot animal was seen by whale-watching boats whose crews observed it was dragging fishing gear. Poor weather initially made it impossible for rescuers to reach the massive mammal.

About a month later, the humpback was spotted again along with several other whales just offshore of Moss Landing. The whale-watching boat’s crew guided the team to the site, about 2 miles from land.

“Responder Stephanie Marcos took photos to decipher and document the entanglement,” according to Marine Life Studies. “Then she threw a grappling hook to attach a telemetry buoy to the short lines trailing the whale. That allowed the responders to track it by satellite through poor weather.”

Telemetry buoy

Rescuers returned the next day and used the telemetry buoy to locate the whale. Once found, they put into action a strategy

See **WHALE** page 25A

Coastal agency calls oceanfront resort ‘exciting’

By KELLY NIX

ANALYSTS WITH the California Coastal Commission are recommending approval of an oceanfront condominium-hotel resort complex in Sand City proposed by the same company that sought to build a much larger project on the property more than a decade ago.

At an Aug. 12 commission meeting in Santa Cruz, the panel is set to consider The Collections Resort, a project on Tioga Avenue across Highway 1 from Costco. The plan includes a restaurant, spa, 100 condo-hotel rooms, a campground with 25 tent cabins, onsite parking, restoration of beach and sand dune habitat, public access improvements, and other features, according to the state agency.

Condominium-hotels are a hybrid in which buyers purchase a fully furnished unit in a resort. When the owner isn’t using it, the unit is part of the hotel’s rental program, where the public can book and use it like a traditional hotel room.

The developer, Sand City Collections, is tied to John King, whose King Ventures LLC sought approval in 2013 for a 340-room resort on the same beachfront property. Coastal commission staff recommended denying that larger project in 2015, citing coastal hazards and other concerns, but now view the redesigned proposal more favorably.

Downsized

The July 24 staff report calls the project an “exciting opportunity” to improve a degraded beachfront property and recommends approval if the developer meets conditions to reduce environmental impacts.

The proposal follows years of stalled resort plans, denials, lawsuits and appeals along Sand City’s oceanfront.

See **RESORT** page 25A

CITY BOARD DECLARES STONEHOUSE HISTORIC

By MARY SCHLEY

IT’S NOT yet 50 years old, but the Stonehouse Terrace complex designed by late architect Olof Dahlstrand is significant enough to be on Carmel’s list of buildings that must be preserved, the historic resources board decided last week. Further, the state historical resources commission should nominate it for the National Register of Historic Places at its Aug. 7 meeting.

“There’s no reason that I can see to back off from our original position,” board member Kathryn Gualtieri said at the July 20 meeting, referring to the board’s disputed vote in April to recommend the listing.

The decision followed lengthy testimony from residents and experts on both sides, with some arguing in

favor of the nomination, which was spearheaded by Stonehouse Terrace resident and co-owner Kristi Reimers, and others insisting the complex doesn’t qualify.

Appeal kicked back

After the board backed Reimers in her bid to have Stonehouse Terrace listed on the national register alongside the Carmel Mission, Sunset Center and Flanders Mansion, neighboring property owner Patrice Pastor’s local development company, Esperanza Carmel, asked the city council to overturn the board’s decision. The listing would automatically qualify the complex as historic in the state’s eyes, bringing a higher level of scrutiny for nearby projects under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Instead, the council kicked it back to the historic resources board after two consultants, Barbara Lamprecht, who was hired by Reimers, and Meg Clovis, who was hired by the city, revised their original reports to provide more information. While they agreed the complex is historically significant based on its architectural style and the man who designed it, they were divided on its eligibility,

See **STONEHOUSE** page 18A

Woman says P.G. principal abused her 20 years ago

By KELLY NIX

A WOMAN in her 30s who says she was groomed and sexually abused by a teacher during her freshman year of high school two decades ago has filed a lawsuit against the man and the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District.

The veteran educator, who has served as principal of a Pacific Grove school for about 13 years, categorically denied the allegations.

In a civil complaint filed July 17 in Monterey County Superior Court, a woman using the name Karri Hollister said then-teacher and softball coach Sean Roach engaged in a “calculated pattern of grooming” and sexual abuse from 2005 to 2006, when she was 14 and 15 and a freshman at Cypress Grove Charter High School for the Arts and Sciences in Seaside. She was a member of the softball team.

“The acts of grooming and sexual abuse took place in various locations, including Roach’s classroom at school, the school softball field, the school bathroom and Roach’s

See **LAWSUIT** page 24A

UC professors want admissions tests back

STUDENT PERFORMANCE across the nation has been lackluster in recent years — math and reading scores on standardized tests hit record lows in 2024 after a decade of declines — so it shouldn’t come as a surprise that when these kids reach college, they only have a rudimentary

Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

understanding of math, English and other subjects. But what is a bit of a stunner is that the trend extends to some of California’s top universities.

‘Severe deficits’

According to faculty at UC San Diego, 1 in 12 freshmen in 2025 had math skills below middle school level. At UC Berkeley, it’s a similar story, with professors in the department of mathematics reporting one-third of students in first-year calculus display “severe preparation deficits,” with many needing remedial work before they can take the course.

“For many years, our students in the college of engineering bypassed the first year of calculus because they

See **TESTING** page 26A

Camera helps catch man destroying camera



PHOTO/COURTESY MCSO

A still photo taken from a surveillance video shows a truck peeling away after flattening a license plate surveillance camera pole in South Monterey County. The driver was arrested Tuesday. See page 11A.

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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Secure in her embrace

Maximillian is a Jack Russell-bichon frisé mix with a small body and a big name. That's why his person calls him "Maxi." As it turns out, his personality lives up to the full name — which means "greatest" — whether that was by design or just a happy coincidence.

Maxi lives with his person in Anaheim, but he joined her on a trip to the Monterey Peninsula for her sister's graduation from CSU Monterey Bay. Afterward, they wandered around Devendorf Park during the Carmel Art Festival. While his person admired the art, Maxi looked perfectly content, tucked into his stroller.

"Maxi, who's 13, was born to my sister's Jack Russell, Ruby, who's now 15," his person said. "One sister had left Ruby at our mom's house, and another had left her bichon, Mr. West, there too. It must have been kind of a 'Secret Life of Pets' situation, like in the movie."

Maxi had visited plenty of Southern California beaches, but Carmel Beach was new to him, and he approached it with some caution. As he got older, his eyes started to cloud over, and now he's blind.

"Maxi was unsure about the beach at first, but once he felt the sand under his feet and figured out where he was," his person said, "he took off, running faster and farther down the shoreline. The water, though, was a bridge too far."



No matter what, Maxi seems to think everything is great, his person said. He's never barked at a cat or chased another animal. He's just a happy, contented little dog.

"In the car, Maxi sits on his blankets," his person said. "When my friends say I spoil him, I tell them, 'You don't get it. I saw him being born and taking his first breath. He was born into my heart.' We're happiest when we're snuggling."



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4A The Carmel Pine Cone July 31, 2026



Police & Sheriff’s Log

Please don’t hurt your colleagues

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

THURSDAY, JULY 9

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Traffic stop at Ocean and Junipero led to the 29-year-old male driver being released with a promise to appear for driving while suspended for DUI and probation violation.

Pacific Grove: At about 1254 hours, a resident reported an abandoned vehicle in the 100 block of Pacific Avenue. The vehicle was marked, indicating that the vehicle can be towed if not moved by July 12.

Carmel area: Deputies responded to the report of theft of jewelry at a residence on Edgefield Place.

Carmel Valley: Adult Protective Services call at Hacienda Carmel.

Big Sur: Person on Highway 1 reported fraud.

FRIDAY, JULY 10

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Wallet found on Ocean Avenue at 0346 hours returned to owner.

Pacific Grove: Property found in the 100 block of Caledonia Avenue.

Carmel area: Deputies responded to the theft of an e-bike from a 14-year-old male on Morse Drive.

Pacific Grove: At about 1413 hours, an officer was dispatched to the lobby on report of a firearms surrender. The firearm was collected and booked for destruction.

Pacific Grove: Violation of a domestic violence restraining order on Pine. A 59-year-old female was booked into Monterey County Jail.

See POLICE LOG page 24A



The gavel falls

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

July 24 — A jury found Jose Guadalupe Reyes, 64, guilty of 14 counts of Penal Code section 288(b)(1), forcible lewd or lascivious acts on a child under the age of 14, and two counts of Penal Code section 269(a)(1), aggravated sexual assault of a child under the age of 14. The jury also found true the multiple victim enhancement for each count of Penal Code section 288(b)(1). All the offenses are serious and violent felonies and are considered strikes under California’s three strikes law.

Judge Carrie Panetta will sentence Reyes on Aug. 13. The maximum sentence Panetta could impose is 225 years to life in state prison. Reyes will also be required to register as a sex offender.

Reyes molested Jane Doe 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, all children under the age of 14, from the years 1996 to 2012. Three of the victims were his nieces, one of the victims was his girlfriend’s daughter, and one of the victims was his granddaughter. Reyes would touch all five victims inappropriately both under and over their clothing, using force and duress to accomplish the acts. The victims waited until adulthood to report the assaults. According to research into sexual assault victim behavior, it is very common for victims to delay reporting the sexual abuse, especially when the victim is a minor and has a close relationship with the perpetrator. Reyes was apprehended in 2025 in Texas and extradited to Monterey County to face prosecution for his crimes against Jane Doe 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

This case was investigated by former

See GAVEL page 24A



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‘Agitated, intoxicated’ Carmel teacher arrested at Marina State Beach

By LILY PATTERSON

A CARMEL Unified School District teacher was arrested Monday at Marina State Beach, adding fresh charges to a record that includes public intoxication and violent behavior toward law enforcement — the lesser among offenses that led to his abrupt departure from Carmel River School in February 2025.

“On Monday, July 27, at around 9 p.m., officers were on patrol and contacted Christopher Debellis in violation of park hours at Marina State Beach, which closes at sunset,” said Chief Ranger Mike Dippel, who oversees the Monterey district of California State Parks.

“Debellis was highly agitated and confrontational. He had the odor of alcohol and was clearly intoxicated, moving in and out of his vehicle.” Concerned that he would attempt to flee the scene in his car, state parks rangers detained Debellis with assistance from Cal State University Monterey Bay police.

Debellis, 59, allegedly provided a fake name and resisted arrest, attempting to kick one officer and screaming sexual expletives at female officers. It took “more than five” officers to subdue him, according to Dippel.

‘I’m going to kill you’

Debellis was booked into Monterey County Jail on Monday night, and his bail was set at \$5,000. According to the county sheriff’s office, Debellis did not post bail but was released Monday night with written assurance that he would return for all future court dates. A preliminary hearing is set for Sept. 3.

In February 2025, Debellis was arrested under similar circumstances outside the Marina Library. That incident, however, involved three children whom he allegedly threatened.

“First asking if they spoke English or were foreigners, Debellis yelled at them, ‘I’m going to kill you,’ as he approached,” according to a complaint filed by the

Monterey County District Attorney’s Office.

Initially charged with two felony counts of criminal threats and false imprisonment, along with two misdemeanors for public intoxication and resisting arrest, Debellis took a leave of absence from his post at River School, where he had taught for more than 10 years. He pleaded not guilty to the misdemeanors and felony criminal threats, and no contest to the false imprisonment charge — later reduced to a misdemeanor, for which he is on probation.

Debellis has remained on leave since his arrest last year. In May, rumors that the district planned to reassign him to Tularcitos Elementary drove a group of nearly 500 concerned parents and individuals to petition the superintendent and school trustees.

Parent concerns

“Recently, it has come to our attention that a teacher with a recent and serious criminal history involving threats to children has been assigned a teaching position that grants direct access to young children. This situation is unacceptable and poses a potential risk to our students’ safety,” said the change.org petition.

Parents also appeared at June meetings of the board of education to voice their concerns.

In response to Monday’s incident, The Pine Cone received the following statement from CUSD:

“The district cannot comment on personnel matters. The safety, well-being, and success of our students remain our highest priority, and we remain committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for every student. The district can confirm that Mr. Debellis has not been in a classroom with students since February 2025.”

Stench report unfounded

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

A MAN whose newly assigned numerical address was cited in a recent Pine Cone story because it appeared in a city-published list of code compliance cases objected to the reference, which he described as “unsubstantiated, false and hurtful.” The story focused on the slow rollout of Carmel’s new standardized addresses and included his because it was one of the rare cases in which the city itself referenced a house by its number, even though the system hasn’t been officially implemented.

It was erroneous to reference it, he said, because the accusation described in the case — “a stench coming from waste accumulation” — was unfounded and had been levied by “a vindictive neighbor who lives vicariously through contacting the city,” while other nearby residents know he takes “meticulous care of my home.”

Carmel code compliance technician Leah Young confirmed there were no issues. After the city received the complaint, she responded and found nothing out of place.

“I investigated the property at Santa Rita 4 SE of Second/248 Santa Rita (Code Compliance Case 26188) and found no evidence of any stench anywhere on the property,” she said. “This case is now closed.”



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\$170,000

Learning & The Arts

\$68,600

Community Needs

\$4,500

TOTAL GRANTS AWAREDED

\$243,100

ESSENTIAL LIVING & WELL BEING

\$170,000

Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula (CASA) of Monterey County	\$7,000	Cancer Patients Alliance	\$5,000
Jacob's Heart Children's Cancer Support Services	\$10,000	Rancho Cielo Inc.	\$7,500
The Salvation Army Monterey Corps	\$5,000	Valley Health Associates	\$6,000
Alzheimer's Association	\$21,000	Food Bank for Monterey County	\$15,000
Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP)	\$6,000	Coastal Kids Home Care	\$10,000
Interim, Inc.		Men's Breakthrough Community	\$5,500
Nancy's Project	\$10,000	Cake4Kids	\$3,000
Meals on Wheels of Salinas Valley	\$10,000	Set Free Monterey Bay	\$8,000
Center for Farmworker Families	\$5,000	Central Coast VNA & Hospice	\$5,000
	\$10,000	Harmony At Home	\$6,000
		San Carlos School	\$5,000
		Sun Street Centers	\$5,000

LEARNING & THE ARTS

\$68,600

Carmel High School Mock Trial Team	\$4,000	Point Lobos Foundation	\$4,000
Carmel Chamber of Commerce Founder	\$2,000	Arts Council for Monterey County	\$2,500
Monterey Bay Swim Club	\$4,000	Carl Cherry Center for the Arts	\$3,100
Big Sur Charter School	\$4,000	Greenfield Community Science Workshop	\$7,500
Monterey Peninsula Ballet Theatre Corp.	\$2,500	Foundation for Monterey County Free Libraries	\$2,000
Young Life Salinas Valley	\$2,500	New Canon Theatre Co.	\$3,000
Salinas Regional Sports Authority	\$5,000	Action Council of Monterey County	\$5,000
Monterey Jazz Festival	\$4,000	Sunset Cultural Center	\$3,000
Ventana Wilderness Alliance	\$2,000	Big Sur Fiddle Camp	\$4,000
Monterey Peninsula Gospel Community Choir	\$3,000		
	\$4,000		

COMMUNITY NEEDS

\$4,500

BirchBark Foundation	\$1,500	SNIP Bus	\$3,000
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Incumbents running out of time to reup

■ Four candidates now qualify for ballot

By MARY SCHLEY

IN ADDITION to incumbent councilwoman Alissandra Dramov and planning commissioner Stefan Karapetkov, who secured their spots on the ballot last week, two candidates have collected enough valid signatures to enter the Nov. 3 race. Former councilman Bobby Richards, who decided earlier this month to run for council again, had his nomination papers validated Monday, and councilman Hans Buder, who is unopposed in his bid for mayor, got the sign-off Tuesday.

No one else had expressed interest in running, until two-time council candidate Parker Logan made an appointment for Monday morning to pull papers for the office of mayor, city clerk Nova Romero said Thursday, so Buder might have a challenger after all.

“I’m going to run the same campaign with the same budget and same level of effort regardless of who enters the race, so that’s not really where my focus is,” said Buder, whose petition signers include former mayors Ken White and Dave Potter, councilman Bob Delves and former councilmembers Paula Hazdovac, Carolyn Hardy, Victoria Beach and Steve Hillyard.

Campaign plans

Others who signed his papers are forest and beach commissioners Kelly Brezozcky and Tamara Michie, Carmel Residents Association board members Graeme Robertson and Tim and Nancy Twomey,

Stationaery restaurant owners Anthony and Alissa Carnazzo, and Bill Doolittle, Stan Meresman, Jim Beck, Laura Bowling, Janine Chicourrat, Vinz Koller, Don and Cecily Butts, and Chris Campbell.

Buder said his campaign efforts will include going door to door, just as he did for his council campaign in 2024, to have “as many conversations with residents as I can, listening to their concerns and sharing my vision for Carmel.”

“My top priority is to work with the council to build a more responsive and



Hans Buder



Stefan Karapetkov

accountable city government that delivers the high standard of service our residents deserve,” he said, by setting goals, measuring “what matters,” and using that information to develop better processes and systems.

“I believe strongly that as a council, we need to spend less time debating what our government should do and more time making sure it’s doing those things well,” he said, while also focusing on “our most important long-term challenges,” like repairing aging infrastructure and “the

See **CANDIDATES** page 18A

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LIBRARY REDO COULD IMPACT SIXTH AVENUE PARKING

By MARY SCHLEY

PART OF the \$17.5 million renovation of Harrison Memorial Library at Lincoln and Ocean calls for revamping the entrance on Sixth Avenue to make it ADA accessible, including installing another bump-out on the block between Dolores and Lincoln. Last Tuesday, the Carmel Traffic Safety Committee — which comprises the police chief, public works director, planning director and public works superintendent — OK’d the concept.

The alterations will likely lead to the loss of a parking space and could encourage drivers to veer into an already busy traffic lane that frequently sees commercial trucks double parked — but they will make the library more attractive and better enable patrons, especially those with

disabilities, to get into and out of the building, according to architect Chris Hamilton. “It really feels like a back door, but it’s the only partially accessible way to get into the building,” due to the stairs at the main entrance at Ocean and Lincoln, he said. “We wanted to focus on that north entry and improve the pedestrian experience within and without.”

How many spaces?

With a curbside book drop on Sixth near the corner of Lincoln and two trees, one of them quite large, in the sidewalk on the north side of the library, the walkway is fairly narrow, which makes accessibility and the ability to create a more welcoming appearance “quite a bit more difficult.”

“You don’t really encourage people to come in that way, so we propose opening

it up,” he said. The alterations would also provide more of a visual interior connection between the front and back of the library, he said.

Marci Meaux, president of the board of the nonprofit Carmel Public Library Foundation — which is overseeing the project and raising the funds for it — thanked the committee for considering the idea.

“We are very excited about this project and really believe this north entry is an important component of the library for people who can’t come through the south entry,” she said, adding that installing a landscaped bulb-out in the street “would make it more attractive, but also safer.”

Acting public works director Shari Carlet suggested there are other ways to make the library accessible, including removing the trees in the sidewalk, without taking up parking spaces, which would negatively affect nearby businesses.

‘Not acceptable’

Public works superintendent Rob Culver agreed. When the city implemented California’s Daylighting Law in January 2025, “we lost a considerable number of stalls,” he said, including 26 spaces that became red zones. “So I think one or two more would just not be acceptable to the community — the community is so vocal on parking in town.”

Culver also didn’t see why the planter is necessary.

“Every business has parking in front of it, so I don’t think it’s a safety issue,” he said. “Losing parking for beautification I don’t think would be a good idea.”

Acting city administrator Brandon Swanson, who was representing the planning and building department on the committee, said the bulb-out could be made smaller. “I’m comfortable with the loss of one space for the benefits for pedestrian safety,” he said.

Police Chief Todd Trayer was, too. “If we could fit the bulb-out in one space, that

would still allow accessibility,” he said. “To me, that would be a win. I think it does outweigh the need for one spot.”

The committee voted “to approve the loss of no more than one parking space,” that the applicant should work with the public works department on design, depth of the bump-out and other aspects of the project, and that the block be restriped “to have a net zero loss, if possible.”



PHOTO/MARY SCHLEY, RENDERING/MRY ARCHITECTS

The north side of historic Harrison Memorial Library (top) isn’t very welcoming or ADA accessible. An impending renovation proposes to change that with a new entry and bulb-out (rendering, above).

While the building is owned by the city and the library is overseen by a city-appointed board of trustees and staffed by public employees, the nonprofit Carmel Public Library Foundation is responsible for much of its funding and operations.

It’s the lead on what’s being called the Centennial Restoration Project and is covering almost all of the costs, including renting the hall at the Church of the Wayfarer down the street to serve as a temporary library during construction, according to CEO Alexandra Fallon. The city council approved the rental contract earlier this month.

“We are all very excited about it and working diligently toward its successful completion,” she told The Pine Cone.



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Rose Clark has proudly called California’s Central Coast home for most of her life. A top-producing REALTOR® for more than 25 years, including the past 18 years specializing in the Carmel-by-the-Sea market, she has built a reputation for exceptional service, integrity, and results. Her dedication to excellence has earned her numerous professional awards throughout her career.

Known for her strong negotiation skills and unwavering commitment to her clients, Rose has successfully represented buyers, sellers, and real estate investors alike. Her experience working with investors has given her a deep understanding of the fast-paced world of property renovation and investment. Whether marketing a multimillion-dollar coastal estate or identifying the hidden potential in an investment property, Rose has a remarkable ability to see opportunities that others may overlook. As many of her clients say, “She has the vision to see beyond what meets the eye.”

Rose has always believed that serving the real estate profession is just as important as serving her clients. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Monterey County Association of REALTORS® and has devoted more than two decades to advancing the industry through leadership and volunteer service. Since 2001, she has served on numerous committees, including Local Government Relations, Professional Standards, Professional Development, the Grievance Committee, the Political Action Committee, and the Local Candidate Recommendation Committee, where she served as Chair and was honored with the Outstanding Leadership and Service Award.

Her commitment to service extends well beyond real estate. Rose has also been actively involved with the Monterey County Film Commission, the Monterey County Cultural Council (now the Arts Council), and served as the Charter President of Carmel Sunset Rotary in 2017. Today, she is a proud member of the Carmel-by-the-Sea Rotary and the Carmel Foundation, continuing her commitment to strengthening the community she loves.

Although her accomplishments speak for themselves, Rose will tell you that her favorite part of real estate is still “the thrill of the hunt.” There is nothing more rewarding than knowing the inventory, understanding a buyer’s vision, and connecting someone with the home they never imagined they would find. Those moments, she says, are where the magic happens.

For Rose, success has never been measured solely by transactions, but by relationships built, communities strengthened, and lives touched along the way. Whether representing a client, serving her profession, or volunteering in the community, she believes every person deserves to feel valued. That philosophy, combined with her experience, leadership, and passion for helping others, has made Rose Clark one of the Central Coast’s most respected and trusted real estate professionals.



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Brush cleared in Pescadero tinderbox

By MARY SCHLEY

LESS THAN three weeks after the Carmel Planning Commission OK'd it, crews got to work clearing brush, trees and other potential fire fuels from several city-owned lots bordering the canyon separating Carmel and Pebble Beach. The efforts follow similar measures recently taken in Mission Trail park and come after resident Paul Falworth and his support goat showed up at Carmel City Hall last month to urge the city council to get moving on reducing wildfire risks at the north end of town.

One of the city's chosen contractors, Community Tree Service, was busy this week weed-whacking, cutting, sawing, clearing, piling up debris and removing it before it feeds a wildfire.

The planning commission's July 8 approval of a permit "to allow vegetation management for fire fuel reduction within 100 feet of structures on the four city-owned parcels along Second Avenue directly above and adjacent to Pescadero Canyon" was a boost for Falworth's campaign, but while he advocated for using goats to munch away the poison oak, weeds, brush and other shrubs, the city opted against that method.

Arborist, biologist

"Vegetation management will occur through the use of hand crews and light machinery," planning director Anna Ginette wrote in her report for the July 8 meeting, which was her last day on the job. "A certified arborist and qualified biologist

will work with the fuel-management crew to ensure protection of sensitive species and protected trees."

Ginette said the clearing project is consistent with the city's "goals, objectives



PHOTO/PAUL FALWORTH

Crews working along Second Avenue clear brush, trees and debris from the edge of Pescadero Canyon.

and policies calling for the protection and enhancement of the natural beauty of open space, sensitive habitats and hillside areas," and that it will "provide fire protection to nearby properties by reducing fuel loads."

Crews are required to control erosion and sediment and to protect trees and nesting birds, according to Ginette's report, which said the project is exempt from environmental review.

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

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New whale-safe gear offers hope for crab fishermen

By LILY PATTERSON

WITH THE next crab season just a few months away, the recent discovery of an entangled humpback whale near Moss Landing could prompt local Dungeness fishermen to rethink their gear. Thanks to a government-industry

collaboration that involved a local scientist and Monterey Bay fishermen, new technology is now available that could restore months of lost profit due to early-season closures. In late December 2025, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife approved a “pop-up” system that can be retrofitted to traditional crab pots. The system keeps vertical lines and buoys — common culprits in whale entanglements — off the water until needed. The state says fishermen who use the gear are allowed to continue working through the end of the statutory season, June 30, even if traditional gear is banned.

‘You can’t make a living’

California’s crab season technically begins Nov. 15, but for three consecutive years, the Department of Fish and Wildlife has delayed opening until January due to whale migration patterns in Fishing Zone 4, which includes Monterey Bay. This year, the presence of domoic acid — a toxin linked to whale deaths — compounded the problem. More concerning for small-boat operators are early closures. This year, the state ended the season March 27, three weeks earlier than last year. “You can’t make a living on a two-and-a-half-month season, when it used to be a seven-month season. In November, the big boats would skim the cream off the top — sometimes they only have to fish for a few weeks



PHOTO/SUB SEA SONICS

A new crab pot system keeps fishing lines and buoys coiled and out of whales’ way — until they are released via smartphone app.

to meet their quotas. Us smaller crews would stick it out through June,” said local fisherman Khevin Mellegers, who owns the vessel Areona.

This spring, however, Mellegers and his crew attached a pair of high-tech “sleds” to their lines and went out. The sleds keep buoys and lines grounded on the sea floor, preventing entanglements with passing whales. When it’s

See **FISHERMEN** page 24A

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Vandals wreak havoc on cameras

By MARY SCHLEY and KELLY NIX

THE PROLIFERATION of Flock license-plate-reading cameras — crowd-sourced mapping projects suggest there are in excess of 90,000 nationwide, more than double the total two years ago — has led to growing arguments over whether they’re valuable crime-fighting tools or constitute warrantless searches that violate constitutional rights. It has also led some to take matters into their own hands.

On Tuesday morning, the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office arrested a Pismo Beach man for allegedly vandalizing at least three cameras in South County, while Pacific Grove police reported earlier this month that several cameras in that city were damaged, and similar acts have occurred in Seaside.

Caught on video

The Monterey County sheriff’s case resulted in the arrest of 40-year-old Marcus Bee in Pismo Beach, according to Cmdr. Andy Rosas. The arrest came after months of investigation that relied upon, ironically, surveillance images. Nearby cameras recorded Bee ramming his pickup truck into the back of one of the pole-mounted devices, driving over it, and speeding away.

“During the investigation, detectives determined Bee traveled to Monterey County and intentionally damaged multiple Flock Safety cameras, causing thousands of dollars in damage to public safety infrastructure in the communities of Lockwood and Bradley,” Rosas said. “Although Bee intentionally damaged the cameras, his actions were captured by other surveillance cameras located nearby.”

Armed with that evidence, the sheriff’s

office obtained a warrant, and deputies took him into custody in Pismo Beach after a traffic stop, according to Rosas. He was booked into Monterey County Jail for felony vandalism, with bail set at \$30,000.

On July 18, the poles of two Flock cameras in Pacific Grove were severed from their bases, PGPD Cmdr. Brian Anderson told The Pine Cone this week. Twelve Flock cameras are positioned around Pacific Grove.

“One solar panel was damaged, and the second one appears to be intact, but it’s unknown if it is operable,” Anderson said, declining to specify the locations of the damaged cameras.

Replacing them could cost several thousand dollars, though police aren’t yet sure of the precise amount. “We are currently working with Flock to get them repaired and reinstalled,” Anderson said.

In Seaside, Police Chief Nick Borges said a vandal cut down a pair of pole-mounted Flock cameras.

“We’ve had two — they’re using saws and cutting these things off — it’s really as simple as that,” he said.

Devices defended

All three agencies defended their use of Flock cameras and said they’ve been critical in fighting crime and identifying perpetrators.

“Flock cameras are an important investigative tool used by law enforcement agencies throughout Monterey County to solve crimes, recover stolen vehicles, locate missing persons, and identify suspect vehicles involved in investigations ranging from property crimes to violent

See **FLOCK** page 18A



Marcus Bee



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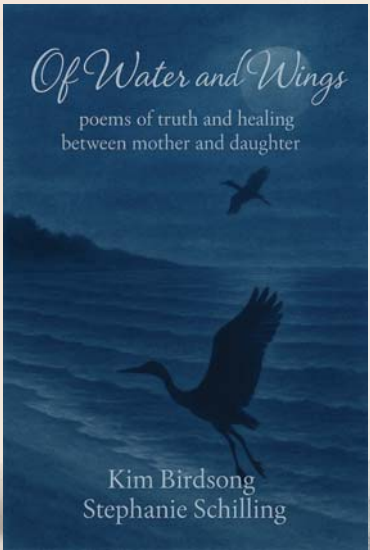


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Moss Landing fire not health threat

By KELLY NIX

AN ENVIRONMENTAL review released this week found that hazardous chemicals detected after a major January 2025 fire at a Moss Landing battery storage plant probably won’t pose any serious risks to human health.

The Jan. 16 blaze at the Vistra Moss Landing Energy Storage Facility on Highway 1 forced about 1,500 people to evacuate and prompted complaints from residents who reported health problems from smoke. The fire broke out in a building that housed about 100,000 lithium-ion battery modules.

Terraphase, a consultant hired by Vistra, tested soil, sediment and surface water near the plant. Its final report, issued Wednesday, evaluated whether the fire released chemicals that could threaten public health or the environment. It addressed comments from multiple regulatory agencies on earlier drafts.

“Based on the conservative screening level evaluations presented in this report, concentrations of chemicals of interest in offsite soil, sediment and surface water do not indicate conditions that would represent an unacceptable risk to human or ecological receptors,” according to the consultant’s “characterization and screening-level risk evaluation report.”

Air tested

The report also reviewed air-monitoring and air-sampling data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health, a consultant. Terraphase said the few chemicals detected in the air were generally “low magnitude” and “brief” and did not indicate ongoing exposure at levels that could be harmful to people.

Terraphase noted that nickel concentrations in sediment exceeded screening levels

See **CHEMICALS** page 25A

STUN GUNS HELP RESCUE STEELHEAD

By CHRIS COUNTS

THANKS TO taxpayer funding from the California Coastal Conservancy, the Carmel Steelhead Association can continue rescuing steelhead from the tributaries of the Carmel River for another decade.

The group, whose volunteers rescued nearly 8,000 juvenile steelhead this season, recently received an \$80,000 grant from the state agency. Most of the funds were used to buy four high-tech electro-fishing devices costing \$16,000 each. The devices are used to stun young steelhead without injuring them, making it possible to relocate the fish to lower sections of the Carmel River where there is more water.

Brian LeNeve of the Carmel Steelhead Association told The Pine Cone that the

new devices are critical to the group’s rescue efforts.

“If the old ones went down, there were no parts available to repair them,” said LeNeve, the group’s conservation chair. “This sets us up for another decade.”

Group credits agency

LeNeve gave credit to the California Coastal Conservancy, which he said “shepherded us through the whole process.”

While dozens of volunteers working to save thousands of juvenile fish sounds admirable, LeNeve said his group wanted to rescue even more, but water in tributaries like Cachagua Creek and Finch Creek is quickly disappearing. The season’s last

See **STEELHEAD** page 17A

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Communities, cops, county gear up for Car Week traffic, shenanigans

By MARY SCHLEY

FOLLOWING THE sideshows that plagued Seaside and other cities during Car Week last year, law enforcement officials throughout the county are collaborating to reduce automotive bad behavior when tens of thousands of people descend on the Monterey Peninsula next week.

In Carmel, where drivers like to cruise and crowds flock to eyeball the numerous high-end and otherwise notable cars rolling through or parked on its streets, Police Chief Todd Trayer said he and his officers are ready.

“I think we have planned more than ever before — I’m willing to go out on a limb and say that,” he said Wednesday. “We have had weekly meetings on Car Week for months, and we’ve brought in a lot of institutional knowledge to make sure we have what we need to make this place safe.”

Bumps

For one, in response to community feedback, Trayer said he’ll deploy more speedbumps on busy streets.

“Right now, we have one set, and we’re moving to at least four sets,” he said, with plans to position them on San Carlos, Santa Lucia, Ocean and Carpenter, though he’s not sure where. The bumps might be annoying for nearby residents, “but they’re game to find out” if they’re effective.

He also developed a new route to direct drivers downtown — and then back out again — and that aims to keep them out of neighborhoods.

“We’re going to control the traffic and confine it to Ocean,” he said, by making some streets one-way and using cones and barriers to keep cars moving, giving them fewer opportunities for stopping and engine revving.

Trayer said he’ll have a lot more officers on patrol,

the department advertised its acquisition of the tools and started using them.

“If they respect our community and they want to show their beautiful cars, they’re not going to have any issues with Seaside P.D.,” he said. “We’re not playing.”

Speaking to media at a Car Week roundtable organized by tourism group See Monterey and WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca earlier this month, Monterey County

See **TRAFFIC** page 17A



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

A Dodge Charger burns a donut on Ocean Avenue in 2019 — a particularly bad year for Car Week chaos in Carmel.

including some from other agencies, and has invested a lot in training them to use noise-monitoring devices. Drivers who are found to have illegally loud exhausts could be cited and have their cars towed. Citations for unlawful modifications require correction, including dealing with the onerous process of getting an inspection from a California Bureau of Automotive Repairs referee before a vehicle can be reregistered.

And Carmel Towing will have plenty of trucks “out and ready to use for significant enforcement issues,” Trayer said. “For people who are flagrantly in violation, or who shouldn’t be driving, we’ll take their cars.”

Amidst all that, he also plans to do a little research. To collect data on noise levels before and during Car Week, Trayer will deploy four detectors. “All they do is register decibel readings every second,” he said. “I’m going to do it downtown and throughout the community.”

#notinseaside

Seaside Police Chief Nick Borges, a fierce defender of his city who takes misbehavior as an affront to his community, is intent on preventing the dangerous sideshows that occurred in the parking lots at In-N-Out and Home Depot, where hundreds of cars and thousands of people ended up congregating last year.

“It was really reckless,” he said. Since then, the department has been working on solutions.

“We’ve been very proactive,” he said, by convincing those in control of the Home Depot lot to close it down after dusk on event days and working with the fast-food restaurant on ways to limit activity there.

Similarly, Borges said he contacted management at Embassy Suites and other businesses with large parking areas to request they restrict access, and has urged police departments in Sand City and Monterey to do the same.

“We are coordinating and meeting regularly, and making sure on the days of events, we have live command posts and an open line of communication,” he added, so any hot spots or issues can be quickly addressed.

Seaside P.D. has also invested heavily in noise-detection tools and training officers on their use, and they’ll be at the ready, Borges promised. “Fourteen of our officers have gone through that certification,” he said, and they are prepared to impound vehicles as necessary.

He admitted some of the car clubs got upset when



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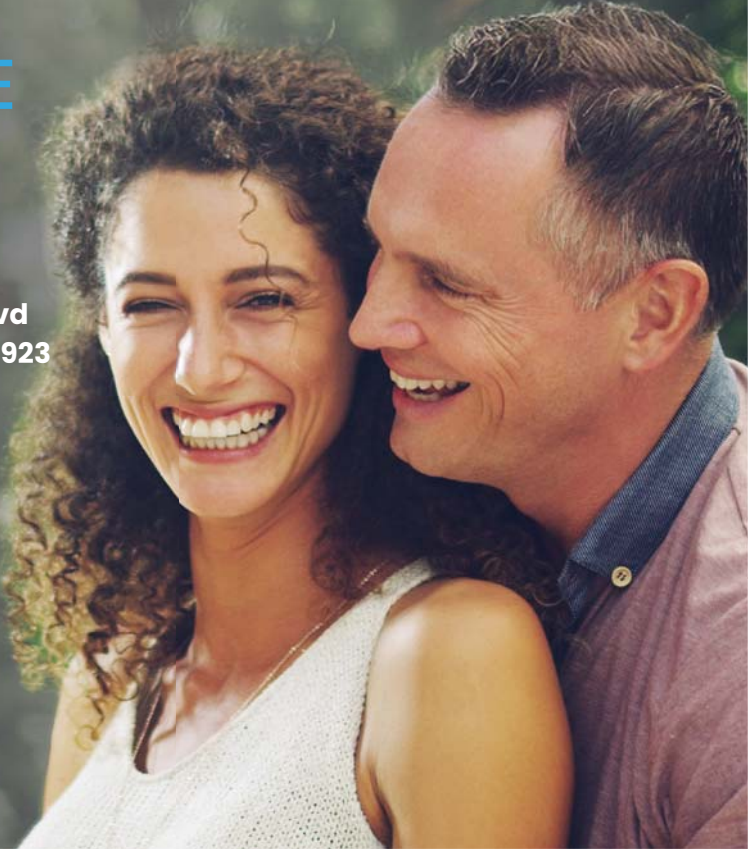
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CODE REQUIRES REFLECTIVE NUMBERS FOR HOMES IN SOME FIRE ZONES

By MARY SCHLEY

IN WHAT’S become an achingly familiar refrain for those eager to get on with it, Carmel’s new standardized street addresses “are still not official,” as the process of integrating them into various Monterey County systems drags on.

“We still don’t have an update from the county,” acting assistant city administrator Marisa Bermudez said in the weekly YouTube video Friday, but the city’s working with the assessor’s office, and completion is “very, very close.”

Internally, Bermudez said, city officials are checking and testing the system with the fire and police departments, dispatch centers at Carmel P.D. and beyond, and the California Highway Patrol “to make sure that the street addresses are in their systems — that when they get a call, they’re able to retrieve those addresses.”

Reflective

But people are installing numbers on their houses and businesses anyway, especially as the digits show up in Google Maps, Waze and other mapping and navigation tools. Last week, Bermudez announced some might have to take the numbers down and try again, depending on where their properties are located.

Newly added to the 17-page guidelines produced by the planning department to explain addressing dos and don’ts is a requirement from the California Wildland-Urban Interface Code that properties inside the “wildland-urban



PHOTOS/READER SUBMITTED

Happy homeowners have been putting up street numbers all over town, including Mark Teague (center), Neil and Jill Sheffield (right) and Leslie Penny, whose dog Lily provided the proper adornment for a photo of the occasion (left).

interface” use reflective numbers.

The city’s building official recently dug up the section, and the fire hazard severity zones and WUI map posted on the city’s website show the affected area, which runs along the northern boundary and east of Carpenter before getting as far west as Junipero south of Eighth. In that zone, “address numbers need to be made from a material that

bounces light back, so they’re easy to see at night or in smoky conditions when headlights or flashlights hit them.”

“This small change makes it easier for firefighters, police and paramedics to find your home quickly in an emergency,” the city said in its weekly email July 24. “Thank you for your cooperation and for helping keep our community safer and more accessible to first responders.”



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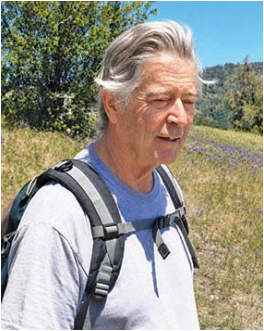
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Professor Donald Morgan’s lecture will provide a lecture focusing on the subject-matter of the social science of economics, the causes of inflation (too much demand, too little supply and pricing power) and the policies that might be used to correct inflation. He has been studying the social science of Economics since the mid 1960s, graduating magna cum laude from Xavier University in 1966. He attended graduate school at The University of New Hampshire where he received a Master of Arts degree in Economics. In the fall of 1968 he began a full-time position at St. Bernard College in Cullman Alabama. Next he accepted a position at the College of Steubenville in Ohio, and in the fall of 1972 he returned to The University of New Hampshire graduate school PhD program. Over the following eight years he taught at The University of New Hampshire, New England College, and New Hampshire Business College. In 1980 he moved to Monterey and taught at MPC for two years in the 1980s and then devoted his time to the business of selling firewood and the building of a house on 40 acres of undeveloped property that he purchased in Jamesburg in Monterey County, where he has been living since 1982. In 1996 he returned to MPC as an adjunct instructor of Economics.



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Photographer eyes houses, painters push back against darkness

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS after publishing a book featuring images that capture ordinary houses at night — offering “a raw look at the white paint chipping off picket fences” in suburban America — Todd Hido looks back on the project in the exhibit, “Many Small Decisions,” opening Saturday at the Center for Photographic Art.

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

Located in Sunset Center, the gallery will host a free public reception and book signing at 4 p.m. A talk by the artist will precede the reception at 3 p.m. in Sunset Center’s Carpenter Hall next door.

Hido’s book, “House Hunting,” was published in 2001. On his website, he describes what draws him to photographing the homes of strangers while they sleep. “I take photographs of houses at night because I wonder about the families inside them,” he writes. “I wonder about how people live, and the act of taking that photograph is a meditation.”

Voyeuristic

While many people might find something voyeuristic about Hido’s work, he said there’s nothing secretive about it.

“You’re allowed to take pictures in public,” he said. “It’s interesting that so many people regard their surroundings as inherently private.”

In addition to displaying images from the book, Hido will share new work as well. “Don’t miss the chance to hear this acclaimed photographer speak about his work,” executive director Ann Jastrab said.

Sunset Center is located at San Carlos Street and Ninth Avenue. More info: photography.org

‘A Visual Refuge’

Offering a respite from the stress and chaos of the modern world, painters Patricia Qualls and Tatiana Cabrera unveil a new show, “Remembering,” Saturday at Patricia Qualls Contemporary Art.

“Through vibrant abstract expressions, Qualls channels a steadfast refusal to remain silent or succumb to despair,” according to her gallery. “Her work represents a conscious

choice to expand inner light, honoring her privilege and freedom while standing up against systemic harm and darkness. Complementing this vision, Cabrera’s pieces approach the theme as a sanctuary, capturing the quiet goodness found in nature — the evening breeze, fertile land, the night sky, and quiet moments of human connection — to create a visual refuge for the soul.”

The show runs through the end of the month. The gallery is located on Dolores Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues.

Art in the Village

Just in time for the annual Carmel Valley Fiesta celebration, the Carmel Valley Art Association is hosting “August-Fest” Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. More than a dozen local artists will be on site working on their latest creations, and there will also be a silent auction. The participants include Sam Johnston, John Aliotti, Linda Elling, Ginna Gordon and Thomas Hawley.

The event offers people a chance to take home “one-of-a-kind pieces of art to express your individuality,” suggested the gallery, which is located at 8 Del Fino Place in Carmel Valley Village. You can also “meet professional artists and watch the creative process in action,” the gallery said.



Painter Judy Verlenden and others will be working on their latest pieces this weekend at the Carmel Valley Art Association.



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TRAFFIC

From page 13A

Sheriff Tina Nieto said agencies throughout the county, as well as the California Highway Patrol, are working together to try to make the streets safer.

“There are drivers who overestimate their abilities — usually young enthusiasts,” she said, and agencies constantly monitor social media, “so we can get ahead of problems before they occur.”

She urged residents to “cut down on being on the roads during Car Week” as much as possible and emphasized pedestrian safety.

“We get a lot of enthusiasts who don’t attend events but go out to see these exotic cars move from point A to point B,” she said. “We don’t want to see them running across the street and getting hit.”

And she cautioned people against partying too hard and then getting behind the wheel.

“We all know we can’t exist without alcohol as a human race,” she joked, “but try to be responsible.”

Nieto said the sheriff’s office will be ready to provide mutual aid as needed and encouraged people to report any problems they encounter.

“If you see something, say something,” she said. “We

want everybody to have an enjoyable experience during Car Week.”

During the roundtable, Kathleen Lee, who heads the Pebble Beach Foundation, said that in order to reduce the number of people racing along the roads of Del Monte Forest, 17 Mile Drive will be closed to tourist traffic Thursday through Sunday of Car Week.

Useful tools

Monterey County offers an interactive map (mccar-week.com) to help locals and visitors navigate during the 10 days of automotive festivities, and an official said it has been revamped to include driving directions to each event, along with road hazards and other information. Users can also click through to Caltrans cameras.

“You can click and see live traffic conditions wherever you’re going,” a county official said. “It’s devised to help people navigate Car Week and not get stuck in traffic.”

Work on Carmel Valley Road will be suspended during the week, according to county spokesperson Nick Pasculli, and a Caltrans spokesman said road closures will be put on hold, as well.

He encouraged motorists to use an app called Quick-Map (quickmap.dot.ca.gov) to get the latest information, but he pinpointed Big Sur as a particular trouble spot that’s unlikely to see much relief.

“Big Sur has seen unprecedented tourism since

reopening,” he said. “We have three specific closures by temporary traffic signals, so please know there is a lot of traffic and wait times of varying degrees, up to 30 minutes, because so many cars are trying to get through on the weekends.”

STEELHEAD

From page 12A

outing to rescue fish was June 23.

“It wasn’t as good as we had hoped it would be,” he said. “We had the most eggs we’ve ever seen, but it was really hot in March, and it killed many eggs. Now it’s drying so fast, it’s hard to find viable pools. We measured the temperature in one pool, and it was 85 degrees. Fish die at 78 degrees. In two weeks, it’s going to be all dry.”

Once the fish are rescued, they are placed at one of three locations along the Carmel River: one near Cachagua, another near Carmel Valley Village, and the third near Garland Ranch Regional Park. They don’t release them any farther downriver due to the threat of striped bass.

Besides paying for the electrofishing devices, the grant also provided funds to buy thousands of passive integrated transponder tags, which allow researchers to track fish without human intervention.

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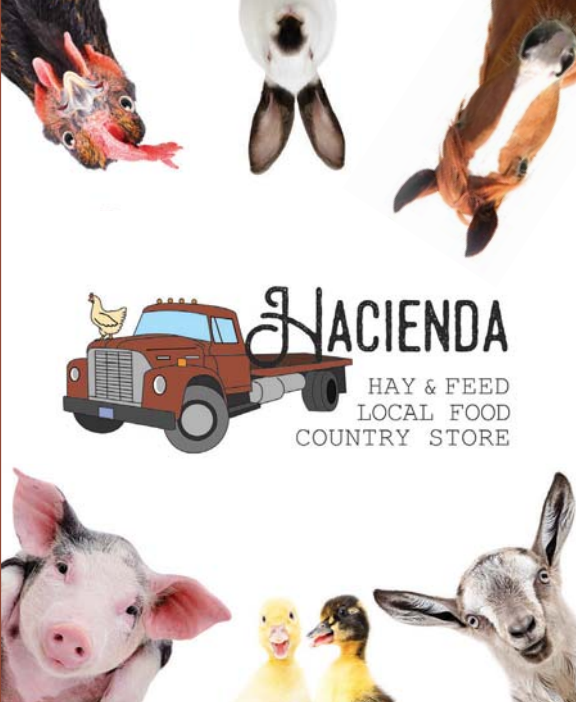
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STONEHOUSE

From page 1A

with Clovis finding it is not exceptional enough to be listed before it hits the 50-year mark — Stonehouse Terrace is 48 years old — and Lamprecht concluding it is.

During 40 minutes of public testimony, Reimers and those supporting the listing reiterated their points, while opponents argued theirs, and both enlisted more experts to bolster their positions.

Creativity, beauty

Proponents pointed to the complex’s creative integration of a smaller, older building on the San Carlos Street property and the design’s use of materials, landscaping and other aspects, and described Dahlstrand as a master architect whose work warrants protection.

Opponents argued that while Stonehouse Terrace may be beautiful, it doesn’t rise to the level of exceptional, and

ANGELYN MARIE LUCIDO SEYMOUR

Oct. 27, 1957 – July 14, 2026

Angelyn Marie Lucido Seymour, 68, passed away peacefully on July 14, 2026, with her husband and son by her side.

Born Oct. 27, 1957, in Monterey, California, Angelyn grew up in Monterey and graduated from Monterey High School. Known for her generous heart and desire to help others, she went on to



study social work at California State University, Sacramento. It was there that she met David H. Seymour, who had recently left the U.S. Air Force and lived in the same apartment complex. Soon afterward, they

moved into the Paradise Apartments together, beginning a lifelong partnership that led to their marriage on Aug. 1, 1981.

Later that year, Angelyn and David moved to Fremont, where they eventually settled on Applewood Street in November 1984. Throughout her life, Angelyn faced the challenges of Type 1 diabetes, having been diagnosed at age 9. She received a kidney transplant and lost her eyesight in 1983, but those hardships never diminished her determination. She dreamed of becoming a mother, and on March 16, 1993, she and David welcomed their son, Donovan C. Seymour, at Stanford Hospital in Palo Alto.

With the support of her devoted father, Ernest A. Lucido, Angelyn and David raised Donovan in Fremont. Although their means were modest, they created a warm, loving home. Type 1 diabetes remained a constant challenge, and Angelyn spent more time in hospitals and doctors’ offices than most people do in a lifetime. Even so, she met each obstacle with strength and unwavering devotion to her family. The death of her father was especially difficult, but she faithfully honored his memory by bringing flowers to his gravesite in Monterey. Angelyn loved animals and shared her life with many beloved pets, including her dogs Nikki, Huffer, Rosie, Ginger, Sally, Gracie, Bolo, Babygirl, Dinky, Ringo and Jager, and her cats, Bensen and Simon.

After several years of searching, Angelyn and David found their home in Marina in July 2024. She cherished being back near the ocean and close to family. Their home became a peaceful refuge from the pace of life in Fremont and a welcoming place for family gatherings and celebrations.

Beginning in November 2024, Angelyn experienced increasing health complications that led to multiple hospitalizations. On July 14, 2026, she passed away peacefully with her husband and son holding her close.

Angelyn was deeply loved by her family and by the communities of which she was a part. She will be remembered for her resilience in the face of lifelong medical challenges, her unwavering devotion to those she loved, and the kindness and thoughtfulness she extended to everyone she met.

She is survived by her husband, David Seymour, and her son, Donovan Seymour.

they pointed to Lamprecht’s own determination, when evaluating Dahlstrand’s Mid Valley Shopping Center for a Monterey County hearing, that he was not considered a master architect.

In the end, the board showed no reluctance to back the listing, including placing it on the local inventory, which Gualtieri said wasn’t necessary for it to qualify for the National Register, anyway.

“We evaluated a professional architectural historian’s report, and we were able to come to the conclusion that the property merited listing,” she said.

“I think this whole thing has been a big fuss over nothing,” she continued, adding that the appeal amounted to little more than a waste of everyone’s time. “It’s as significant today as it was a month ago.”

Responding to a speaker who asked why the board sided with Lamprecht over Clovis, considering Clovis was hired by the city at taxpayers’ expense, board member Erik Dyar said the HRB is capable of making such decisions.

“This board is pretty powerful,” he said, considering the cumulative knowledge and experience of its members. “You have a very independent-minded board that can make its own decisions and evaluate the information in a professional way.”

CANDIDATES

From page 7A

loss of full-time residents, especially families with children.”

With councilman Jeff Baron’s decision not to run for reelection after all, the filing period for city council candidates will be extended from Aug. 7 to Aug. 12. Mayor Dale Byrne announced several months ago that he would not seek a second term, which extends the period for that race, as well.

Should they change their minds, incumbents who have not filed papers cannot do so after Aug. 7, Romero said.

“The extension period only applies to non-incumbents to pull/file papers,” she said. “If an incumbent does not file papers by Aug. 7 at 5 p.m., then it’s too late.”

JOSEPH ‘JOE’ MENDES

Joseph “Joe” Mendes went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on July 20, 2026, at the age of 88.

The eldest of three children, Joe was born Sept. 7, 1937, in New Bedford, Massachusetts, to Joseph Mendes and Alice Raphael. He moved to California in 1953, where he built a successful career as a builder and real estate investor.

Joe married Sylvie Mendes on June 23, 1986, and they shared 40 loving years together. In 1993, he built their family home in Aromas, where they welcomed two daughters and created countless family memories before moving to Monterey in 2010.

Joe leaves a legacy of loving and serving God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength. A devoted husband and father, he was known for his deep knowledge of Scripture and faithfully mentored many men in their walk with Christ. His example of faith continues through his children, grandchildren and extended family.

Joe is survived by his loving wife, Sylvie Mendes; his two brothers; and his two daughters.

He also said Pastor’s pending project next door is unlikely to be affected much by the designation, considering it’s even closer to other historic resources, including the Seventh & Dolores complex, and Stonehouse’s undecorated western façade — the one facing Pastor’s property — is unremarkable from a historic standpoint.

“We’re here because the council wanted us to evaluate the new information,” Dyar said, and those reports bolstered his belief in the importance of Stonehouse Terrace. He called the 50-year threshold “ridiculous.”

‘A few seconds’

“It’s not significant, then it is significant just because you get that few seconds over the line, which is kind of a ridiculous idea,” he said.

Gualtieri and Dyar also commented that while the term “master architect” has no set definition, Dahlstrand’s work earned him that distinction.

Board members unanimously voted to add the property to the inventory and to send comments to the state in time for the commission’s Aug. 7 meeting.

Specifically, they declared the property, with its courtyard, landscaping and creative design, “an exceptional example of the commercial courtyard typology of Carmel from the 1970s and in the organic style of a master architect, Olof Dahlstrand,” and that the “period of significance is 1977.”

FLOCK

From page 11A

crimes, including shootings and homicides,” the sheriff’s office said.

“These cameras are used exclusively to support legitimate criminal investigations and are not used for civil immigration enforcement or federal immigration investigations,” the sheriff added.

Seaside police conduct weekly audits of the data to ensure that information from the cameras is secure and not being shared improperly, and Borges credits the system with helping resolve a wide range of cases, including missing persons, stolen cars and attempted murders. Borges said he’s always willing to discuss the issue with people who disagree.

“If someone wants to sit down with us and lay out their concerns, we’re going to do that,” he said, though he questioned the logic of being alarmed about cameras when practically everyone carries a cell phone that tracks locations and compiles and shares a lot of data, including their precise location on a minute-by-minute basis.

No feds

The Pacific Grove City Council in early 2023 voted to approve its contract for Flock cameras, which are at numerous key intersections.

Though a few Pacific Grove residents have expressed concern that federal immigration agencies could access the data, Anderson said this week, “Federal immigration has not requested information, and even if they did, we would not release it. The information is not stored past 30 days and is unavailable after that time.”

Carmel Police Chief Todd Trayer said he’d heard about the vandalism but has seen no trouble in Carmel.

“I feel fortunate that I was able to talk to the community about how our Flock cameras are used and that there is no outside access to our data,” he said. “The community understands the access goes through us — it’s not just some automatic thing.”

He said the technology is “100 percent effective at helping us solve crimes big and small here.”

TONY MASAMI TANAKA

The family of Tony Masami Tanaka celebrates his life and lovingly remembers him following his passing on July 20, 2026, at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula.

Born Jan. 25, 1955, in Fukuoka, Japan, Tony’s life, like anyone’s, was shaped by both joyful and challenging moments. Through it all, he had a knack for making his family laugh. Tony graduated from Monterey High School in 1973 before attending California State University, Long Beach. He built a career in medical and laboratory sales and, together with his wife, Julie, made homes in Pinole, California; Virginia; Hawaii; and Groveland, California, before returning to the Monterey Peninsula.

Tony is survived by his wife, Julie; their two children, Jenna Poguntke (Mark), Evan Tanaka (Anissa); his three grandchildren, Kekoa Poguntke, Harper and James Tanaka; his sister, Nancy Hart (Bob) and his mother, Irene Tanaka. He was preceded in death by his father, James, his son, Kelley, and his grandson, Kai.

His family will remember not only the milestones they shared but also the everyday conversations, family meals, inside jokes and the laughter Tony brought to so many moments. It is those simple, joyful moments, shared together, that they will carry with them always.

Arrangements are being handled by The Paul Mortuary. Family and friends are invited to share memories and messages on the mortuary’s website.



RED CROSS DECLARES BLOOD EMERGENCY

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

FOR THE second time in the organization’s 140-plus-year history, the American Red Cross has declared a national blood crisis. Supplies are critically low, and the local chapter is organizing several donor days in response. All blood types are needed, but the situation is especially dire for type O blood, with O-positive dropping below a one-day supply. “Despite thousands of people who have stepped up to help end the emergency blood shortage since it was declared earlier this month, donations are still not keeping pace with hospital demand, and the situation has escalated,” he said, due to extreme heat, poor air quality and widespread foodborne illnesses. Donor days are set for Aug. 1 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at All Saints Day School at 8060 Carmel Valley Road, Aug. 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the LDS church at 255 E Alvin Drive in Salinas, Aug. 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Carmel Mission Inn at 3665 Rio Road, and Aug. 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the community center at Soper Field, 220 Coe Ave. in Seaside. Appointments can be booked through the Blood Donor app or by visiting redcrossblood.org or calling (800) 733-2767. People who donate during the month of August will receive a \$20 Amazon gift card by email.



DAVID HENDRICK
March 29, 1940 – April 16, 2026

Dr. David Russell Hendrick passed away peacefully at his longtime home in Carmel on April 16, 2026, surrounded by his three children, Jeff, Michael and Jodie. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Joan, in 2024. David was born March 29, 1940, in San Francisco to Russell and Welcome Hendrick. He attended Burlingame High School and was an accomplished swimmer. He fondly recalled walking beyond his backyard into the open fields of San Mateo, where he hunted rabbits with his dog and BB gun. David graduated from Stanford University before earning his medical degree from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. David married Joan in 1967, and they spent the next four years in Germany while he served as a battalion surgeon with the 2nd Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. During their time overseas, they traveled extensively throughout Europe, beginning a lifelong love of travel they shared throughout their marriage. After returning to the United States, David completed his residency in diagnostic radiology at the University of Kentucky. He practiced radiology in Turlock until his retirement. In 1988, he and Joan moved to Carmel, a place that had captured their hearts many years earlier. Those who knew David appreciated his quiet nature and dry wit. A man of few words, his understated sense of humor made his comments all the more memorable. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather who enjoyed gardening, reading, watching movies and walking the trails of Point Lobos. The world lost a true anachronism with David’s passing: a quiet, stoic man who was content simply to be himself. He will be deeply missed by his children; his daughter-in-law, Lynn; his granddaughter, Lauren; his great-granddaughter, Ellie; and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Carmel Valley Fiesta kicks off Friday

By CHRIS COUNTS

PROVIDING A weekend of family-friendly summer fun and raising funds to support an array of worthy local causes, the annual Carmel Valley Fiesta starts Friday at 5 p.m. with the Hoopla BBQ at the Trail and Saddle Club. The event will offer “live music, dancing, a silent auction and an unforgettable evening of great food and company,” said the Carmel Valley Kiwanis Club, which puts on the yearly three-day festival. Tickets to the BBQ are \$60 for adults and \$30 for kids 12 and under. They are only available online. Visit cvkiwanis.org for details. The club is at 85 E. Garzas Road.

Lots of live music

Saturday and Sunday, the celebration moves to Carmel Valley Community Park, 25 Ford Road, where admission is free. A pancake breakfast is set for 8 a.m. each day, followed by a busy slate of live music. Performers include Greasy Peaceful (rock, Saturday at 10 a.m.), River Voices (Americana, Saturday at 12:30 p.m.), the Undecided

(rock, Saturday at 3 p.m.), Three Good Reasons (Americana, Sunday at 10 a.m.), the Chuck Brewer Band (rock and blues, Sunday at noon), and Smoke and Mirrors (rock, Sunday at 2 p.m.).

Cars, dogs, food and art

Besides providing a stage for live music, the park will be the site of a classic car show (Saturday at 9 a.m.), a horseshoe tournament (Saturday at 10 a.m.), a doggie show (Sunday at noon), and a busy marketplace featuring food vendors and many artists. There will also be a fundraising raffle, with the grand prize awarded Sunday at 3 p.m. Raffle tickets are \$1 each and can be purchased at Friday night’s BBQ and at Kathy’s Little Kitchen, 13 W. Carmel Valley Road. All proceeds from the Fiesta support scholarships and programs for Carmel Valley youth. “Since the program began, nearly \$500,000 has been awarded to more than 400 local graduates,” the club reported. “We awarded 25 scholarships totaling more than \$40,000 to Carmel Valley students this year alone.”

Everybody reads The Pine Cone

TAIHI PAIK

Taihi Paik, a longtime Monterey resident and a respected CPA who practiced in Carmel until her retirement, passed away of natural causes earlier this month in Irvine, California. She was 98. Taihi was one of eight children, with six brothers and one sister. Although she was Korean, she was born in Japan while her parents were living there temporarily during her father’s business assignment. During Japan’s occupation of Korea, she became fluent in Japanese through her grade school and high school education.

While attending her first two years of college at Korea’s Ewha University, Taihi met her future husband, Harkmoon Paik. After a brief courtship, they married and shared a vision of immigrating to the United States to pursue opportunity and raise a family. Harkmoon traveled to the United States on a scholarship to Florida Southern College and later persuaded the college’s president to award Taihi a scholarship as well.



Supported by a generous \$500 contribution from the Methodist Church in Lakeland, Florida, Harkmoon sent the funds needed for Taihi’s journey to America. Before she could leave, however, war broke out on the Korean Peninsula, forcing her to flee the advancing North Korean army. Her eldest brother, Tae Hak, a brewery owner, instructed one of his employees to drive her and other refugees to safety in a truck. Once out of danger, Taihi secured passage on a large barge, enduring severe seasickness during voyages first to the Philippines and then to San Pedro, California, where her husband awaited her arrival. After reaching Florida Southern College, she transferred her credits from

Ewha University and completed her remaining coursework in two years, earning a bachelor’s degree.

Taihi and Harkmoon later settled on the Monterey Peninsula, where they raised their three sons. She held several temporary jobs before joining the accounting firm of Heckenlaible, Apger & Co., which later underwent several name changes before becoming part of Hayashi Wayland, a prominent Central California accounting firm.

Taihi began her career there as a secretary. Recognizing her potential, the firm’s managing partners encouraged her to continue her education. She returned to school and earned a second bachelor’s degree, this time in accounting, from the University of California, Berkeley. In 1968, Taihi achieved the distinction of becoming the first Korean-born woman in the United States to earn a CPA license. She later became a partner alongside Bert Heckenlaible, Harold Apger and Ward Jennings. Together they formed Heckenlaible, Apger, Paik & Jennings, which became the largest CPA firm on the Monterey Peninsula during the 1970s. As the firm’s only female CPA at the time, Taihi often remarked that her partners were honorable, ethical and true gentlemen. She considered it a privilege to work alongside them. While practicing as a CPA, she also earned a master’s degree in taxation.

Taihi maintained lifelong relationships with many of her clients, often assisting them with estate planning and later serving as an executor or trustee. A soft-spoken pillar of the local Asian American community, she helped countless professionals and business owners achieve their financial goals while navigating tax and business matters.

She also devoted herself to community service. Taihi was active in Rotary and later served as treasurer of the Carmel Music Society’s board of directors for several years. During her tenure, internationally renowned artists, including violinist Itzhak Perlman, performed before sellout audiences at Carmel’s Sunset Center. Taihi fondly recalled meeting Mr. Perlman and was struck by his warmth, graciousness and remarkably strong hands.

Despite her many professional accomplishments and civic contributions, Taihi believed her greatest roles were those of wife, sister, mother and friend. She accompanied disabled friends to church and regularly visited former clients and friends who were homebound. Even after retiring, she continued working part time during tax season, providing accounting services for longtime clients through Hayashi Wayland.

When her husband developed dementia, Taihi retired fully and relocated to Irvine, where she was able to care for him at home with the support of her sons, David and Edmund. She embraced life in her new 55-and-older community, where she quickly formed close friendships with her neighbors. Yet she never lost her affection for Monterey and returned often to visit the many friends and neighbors who remained an important part of her life.

Taihi was preceded in death by her husband and her youngest son, Benjamin. A devoted son and promising attorney, Ben died of pancreatic cancer in 2003.

She is survived by her sons David and Edmund; David’s daughters, Nathalie and Tiffany; Edmund’s wife, Connie, and their children, Erin and William; and her brothers, Tae Wang Min and Dr. Tae Cheol Min.

Taihi will be buried with her husband in the San Carlos Cemetery in September. In lieu of flowers, please consider a small memorial contribution to the Taihi Paik class of ’59 and the Ben Paik class of ’92 Alumni Scholarship Fund.

Stevenson grad sets new pole-vault record at Pomona-Pitzer College

LIFE’S LEARNING curve can have unusual arcs and unexpected hard knocks, and the education of Siobhan Ong has happened upside-down, right-side up, in rain, wind, broiling L.A. heat, and, in one mem-

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

orable/forgettable moment, while bouncing off her head.

As heads go, hers is both hard and pliable — qualities which, it turns out, have conspired nicely in the creation of a record-setting pole vaulter who is pursuing a degree in (what else?) psychology and considering a career as a sports psychologist.

On April 16, Ong boggled her own talented mind by vaulting over a bar that was 11 feet, 5 3/4 inches off the ground, a feat that wiped out a 17-year-old school record

at Pomona-Pitzer College. “I actually had no idea that I broke our school record until somebody yelled out to me. And I was like, ‘Wait ... what?’”

Then, the news got better. “My coach told me I was way over the bar — it was a clean 12-foot jump.”

There’s also this embarrassing little secret: She thought the crossbar was at 11 feet (not 11-5 3/4) as she stood on the runway, deep in concentration, preparing for the vault.

A three-year journey

The record-setting jump marked the first time in three years that Ong had exceeded her personal best, having reached the 11-foot milestone during a club competition in April 2023, just days after completing her sophomore season at Stevenson High.

Ong was a freshman at Stevenson School in 2021-2022 and already a stand-out on the varsity golf team when she went out for track and field in the spring.

Coach Ron Provost noticed her speed, flexibility, strong arms and diminutive size and asked her to consider the most harrowing event in track and field — the pole vault.

“I mean, why not?” thought Ong of a circus stunt requiring an athlete to sprint full speed down a runway while angling a long, fiberglass pole skyward, stab the end of the pole into a 15-inch-wide metal box (which, by the way, looks much

smaller from the end of a 30-meter runway), hang on while the flexible pole bends into a formidable catapult that lifts its passenger airborne, elevate the hips until both legs are vertical, twist acrobatically into a graceful, controlled arch as the pole (ideally) flings the body above the crossbar, feet first, then knees, hips, upper torso, armpits, elbows, forearms and hands, push the pole in the opposite direction to keep it from contacting the crossbar, surrender to gravity and fall backwards (shoulder blades first), into a thick landing pad — all without disturbing the bar’s precarious perch.

How tough could that be? On a Friday — a day off for the rest of Stevenson’s team — the 15-year-old freshman went alone to the practice facility to find out. She began galloping along the running track, holding her pole aloft.

What happened next is an unclear memory, for good reason.

Burrito grudge

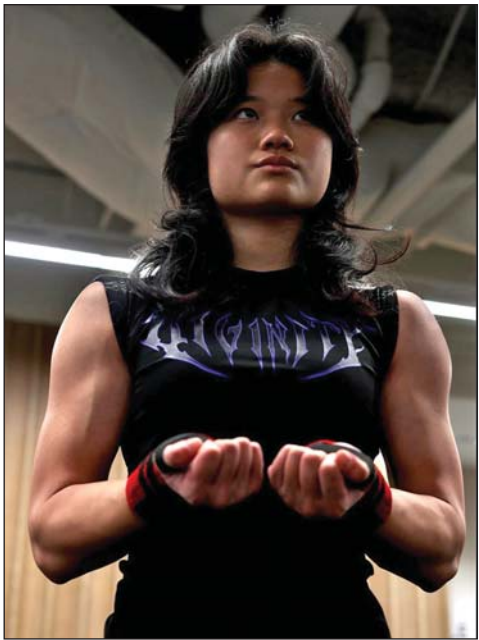
At some point, the tip of her pole apparently touched down. She remembers being lifted about 6 feet in the air, inverting, then falling hard onto the track, landing on her head.

“It just so happened that my parents were in town,” said Ong, a boarding student from Hong Kong who wound up in the hospital with a severe concussion.

“All I remember from that night is that my dad ate the burrito he supposedly was bringing to me from Chipotle. I still hold that against him.”

The knock on her noggin resulted in a temporary loss of memory, so other details remain fuzzy — but Ong recalls that her parents, Tara Brennan and Henry Ong, both corporate lawyers in Hong Kong, wondered aloud whether she might want to choose a less-harrowing event.

Nope.
The fledgling pole vaulter with the



PHOTO/COURTESY SIOBHAN ONG

Formidable biceps on a lightweight body — and aptitude for footspeed and flexibility — are reasons Stevenson alumnus Siobhan Ong has become a record-setting pole vaulter as a freshman at Pomona-Pitzer College in Claremont.

hard head was sidelined for a month but returned in time to compete in the Mission Division finals, where she vaulted 8 feet to win the meet. A week later, she cleared 8-6, her season best, to place second in the Pacific Coast Athletic League Masters Championships, becoming a Central Coast Section qualifier as a ninth grader.

In her sophomore season, she reached the CCS finals, sailing 10-6 (a new personal record).

Less than a month later, she achieved that 11-foot height with her club team — a personal best that stood until she broke that school record in college.

At Pomona-Pitzer, a school she chose

See **SPORTS** next page



PHOTO/PONOMA-PITZER ATHLETICS

Ong cleared 11 feet at the Junior Olympics in Eugene, Ore., the spring after her sophomore year at Stevenson. That height was her personal best until she eclipsed a 17-year-old school record this season as a freshman at Pomona-Pitzer College.

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SPORTS

From previous page

over Vassar, Occidental, Lewis & Clark College, UC Davis and others, Ong’s physical training has exponentially increased: Mornings are spent in the weight room, afternoons she’s on the track. In between, the athletes do plyometrics — movements



PHOTO/COURTESY SIOBHAN ONG

Rigorous physical training has transformed her physique, but strengthening her mental approach has made the biggest difference for Ong as a college athlete.

emphasizing explosiveness — and other exercises customized for their specific events.

Her full-body strength has improved exponentially, but Ong believes her athletic mentality has developed even more: She’s learning not to stress over things she can’t control.

“When you’re at a meet, it might be pouring rain, or so windy that the bar is

getting blown off the standards. It might be scorching hot. There’s nothing you can do about that stuff,” she said. “But I can control what I eat in the morning, how hard I train every week, whether I got my rest instead of going with friends to some party”

The psychology major also has adjusted her reactions to successes and failures.

“A bad day used to get into my head,” she said. “Now I understand that a bad day isn’t the end of the world. In fact, you’ll learn more about yourself from a bad day than you will from a great one.”

In advance of an important vault, Ong often will wander away from other jumpers, meditate, visualize her jump, reassure herself, purge any negativity.

At the top of the runway, she’ll attempt to clear her mind. “If I think too much, I’ll screw up,” she said. She’ll stare at that small, intimidating metal box where, hopefully, she’ll plant her pole while running full speed. (Safety tip: don’t miss.) She envisions success. She takes a deep breath, and

Stratospheric aspirations

The future she envisions is all about success. Setting the school record as a college freshman is only a starting point.

Ong’s blueprint over the next three seasons is to stay focused, positive and healthy (she’s rehabilitating from a late-season injury, a small tear of her anterior cruciate ligament). If she can accomplish that, all things are possible.

“When my mind becomes as strong as my body, the personal records will come,” promised Ong, whose high-altitude dreams include representing Hong Kong in the 2032 Summer Olympics in Brisbane, Australia.

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



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Editorial

Surveillance cameras and warrants

YOU’VE PROBABLY noticed the recent controversy on social media over those networks of cameras that automatically read and record the license plates of passing cars. One widely cited figure puts the number of these devices — many of them made by Flock Safety — at more than 90,000 nationwide, with some estimates exceeding 100,000. The cameras capture plate numbers, vehicle characteristics, time and location, then store the information in searchable databases used by police departments. These systems help them recover stolen vehicles, solve crimes and locate missing people, including in numerous cases right here on the Monterey Peninsula. Critics, nevertheless, call them a form of mass surveillance. Some of them, as we report this week on page 11A, have taken their anger out on cameras in Pacific Grove, Seaside and South County.

Much of the fury has come from open-borders activists and immigration advocates. Their objection is straightforward. Records from these cameras have been searched thousands of times, they say, in ways that assisted federal immigration enforcement. Audits in places such as Dayton, Ohio, showed more than 7,000 immigration-related queries of local camera data. Similar patterns appeared in other cities, with local officers or regional centers running searches that benefited ICE or Border Patrol even when local policies discouraged it.

To groups that want open borders, any tool that makes it easier to identify and locate people who are in the country illegally is inherently suspect. That political disagreement has fueled protests and contract cancellations in dozens of cities, and calls to ban the technology outright.

Yet the debate is much larger than one company’s cameras. In today’s hyperconnected society, a person’s whereabouts are already tracked in numerous ways, often on a near-continuous basis. The cell phone in your pocket constantly monitors where you are, and your cell phone company retains a record of it. Modern cars transmit GPS information to manufacturers and service providers. Credit card transactions create time-stamped records of where purchases occur. Air travel produces records of passenger names and locations. Public and private surveillance cameras, transit cards, ride-sharing apps, fitness trackers, Wi-Fi networks and retail loyalty programs add still more data points. Together, these systems map everybody’s whereabouts with a precision that would have been unthinkable a generation ago.

Importantly, most of this information is not freely available to law enforcement. After the Supreme Court’s 2018 decision in Carpenter v. United States, police generally need a warrant based on probable cause to obtain cell phone location records. Detailed vehicle data typically require a warrant or court order as well. Even credit card records, which receive somewhat less protection, usually demand at least a subpoena or court process. Airline and government travel databases are likewise accessed through formal legal channels or internal rules that impose limits. In short, the most revealing digital trails are protected by judicial oversight before investigators can examine them.

License-plate cameras operate under a different rule. They do not need a warrant simply to photograph a car’s license plate and record its location. The legal reason is straightforward — a license plate is displayed on a vehicle traveling on a public road. Courts have long held that people have no reasonable expectation of privacy in what they expose to public view. An officer standing on a street corner could lawfully note every plate that passes, and the cameras merely automate and scale up that observation.

That distinction, however, does not end the argument. Once the photographs are aggregated into vast, searchable, permanent databases that can be queried across jurisdictions, the practical effect begins to resemble the continuous tracking that requires a warrant in other contexts. The same plate can be spotted dozens of times a day, revealing patterns of travel, frequent locations and associations. When those databases are shared widely or used for purposes far removed from the original crime-fighting justification, the absence of a warrant requirement for initial collection starts to look like a loophole rather than a coherent principle.

A more consistent approach might be to recognize that a person’s real privacy interest lies not in any single public photograph but in the compiled record of movements over time. Requiring a warrant or comparable judicial process before officers can search historical plate-reader databases — especially for nonemergency purposes — would align this technology more closely with the rules already applied to phones and cars. It would still allow rapid use of cameras for active investigations and stolen-vehicle recovery, while placing meaningful limits on large-scale data fishing.

The license-plate camera fight is therefore a useful flashpoint, but it is not the whole story. Americans already generate location data through phones, vehicles, financial transactions, air travel and countless digital services. The proper question is not whether tracking occurs — it does, extensively — but what legal thresholds should govern access to the resulting records. Treating the automated collection of public plate data as entirely warrantless while demanding warrants for other forms of location history creates an uneven system. Closing that gap, rather than simply dismantling one visible set of cameras, would produce a clearer and more principled balance between public safety and personal privacy.

BEST of BATES



“Do they really get mail in these itty bitty boxes?”

Letters to the Editor

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

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

Grab a bulldozer

Dear Editor,

As a 30-year resident of the Highlands, I have watched the chaos around Point Lobos grow steadily year after year. And, like most people, I am deeply concerned — but my concern lies with the safety of the human beings using the park, not the impact on the trees, rocks or the dirt.

I have an idea: Let’s grab a bulldozer, maybe two, and make a big parking lot off the highway. We could even hide it behind any of the thousands of trees near the entrance. I can imagine there are those who are horrified at the idea of putting people and their safety above the environment ... but not me.

Bob Nunes,
Carmel Highlands

Raise the TOT

Dear Editor,

Carmel made news again this past

weekend in the San Francisco Chronicle and San Luis Obispo Tribune for its “stressed-out tourism.” We have millions and millions of visitors each year coming to enjoy this beautiful town we live in and love.

But tourism isn’t the only thing that’s stressed out in our village. Our roads, sidewalks, storm drains, city buildings and beach are stressed out too. Our own city staff has estimated we are \$100 million behind in maintaining our infrastructure and have proposed a 10-year catch-up plan.

This November, we’ll have a chance to ask visitors to contribute a little bit more when we vote to support an increase in the transient occupancy tax. This tax, which hasn’t been raised in 28 years, will only apply to overnight lodging guests. Yes, you read that correctly — Carmel’s TOT rate hasn’t been raised in 28 years.

Our city’s 10% is behind Monterey (12%), Pacific Grove (12%), Marina (14%) and many other coastal destination cities such as Half Moon Bay (15%) and St. Helena (13%).

I’ve been a hotelier in this town and I know we are long past due for a TOT true-up that puts us more in line with our neighboring cities. We need to stop the special interest negativity that has been intimidating our city council. It’s time to fully support the council and its unanimous vote to put this small TOT increase on our November ballot.

Twenty-eight years is too long. I hope you’ll join me in voting for visitors to help contribute just a little bit more to improve our streets and sidewalks.

Andi Carr, Carmel

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Address: 734 Lighthouse Ave.,
Pacific Grove CA 93950

Telephone: (831) 274-8593

Email: mail@carmelpinecone.com
or firstname@carmelpinecone.com

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Stay curious, give back, have fun

SOME PEOPLE know Ben and Carole Heinrich from their decades of work with Carmel Realty, where they’ve built the highly successful Heinrich Brooksher Group. They also have a reputation as philanthropists who have supported numerous charitable organizations and endeavors.

But, said Ben, to many dog-loving Carmelites, they’re just Puddin’s parents. Adopted at 7 months from Peace of Mind Dog Rescue, the little 16-year-old mixed breed pup has become well known as their team’s head of security and mascot. She has, of course, been in Sandy Claws, basically a pawprint on Carmel’s dog walk of fame.

The Heinrichs are longtime POMDR supporters, hosting an annual fundraising

the vast isolated flatlands of West Texas, a base Ben said was “a five-hour drive from anything that looked civilized.”

“It was great for what I was doing, but it was very hard on both of us,” to be so far from any cultural centers. “It was especially hard on Carole,” he said, because he kept busy flying every week.

Oh my goodness

They had married in 1968, and she had left school to follow Ben. She worked as a bank teller while he fought the fatigue of constantly rotating teaching shifts that left him with no hope of establishing a regular sleep schedule. Flying with novice pilots day after day for those five years was risky, but he took it in stride.

“It’s 95% smooth sailing and 5% ‘oh my goodness,’” Ben said.

By 1976, the couple and their young son, Grant, had moved to the Monterey Peninsula, where Carole’s parents had retired. Carole worked as a stockbroker —

Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

“pawty” at Hofsas House Hotel. Ben is a past president of the Harrison Memorial Library Foundation and the Monterey County Boys and Girls Clubs, and for four years, the couple ran a local youth poetry competition.

That arose from Ben’s love of poetry and the fact they wanted children “to read and read and read.” He also sits on the board of the Carmel Bach Festival, and the couple gives to other local charities, as well.

Five-hour drive

Insatiable curiosity leads them from one interest to another, weaving each new bit of knowledge and inspiration into the fabric of a shared history that began in the 1960s at the University of Oklahoma. Carole, who had come from Memphis, Tenn., to major in French, met Ben, a native Oklahoman who was on a pre-med track, yet abruptly chose a different path.

“I had the grades, I did well in all the courses, but I changed my mind,” he said. “I was not sure what I wanted to do.”

Then the 81-year-old laughed and added, “I tell people I’m still not sure what I’m gonna do when I grow up.”

In light of that uncertainty, he joined the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps and was commissioned as an officer in the Air Force, where he learned to fly jets. When he finished training, the Air Force made him an instructor in

Ben said that even as a teller, she gave prudent financial advice — and then became a mortgage broker. In 1987, she earned her designation as a certified financial planner and in 1990, she became a realtor. Ben started out doing what he called “investment work,” but the lure of the local scenery was too great.

“I looked at the gorgeous landscapes and the beautiful coastal environment and thought, ‘I’ve got to do real estate,’” he said, calling it “an honor” to be able to work with such beautiful land.

Carole, who had educated people about finances for years before becoming a realtor, and Ben, the former flight instructor,

See LIVES page 27A



PHOTO/RYAN ROSENE

Puddin’ (left) provides realtors Carole and Ben Heinrich with VIP (Very Important Parent) security. She’s pretty serious about it.

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

From nurturing children’s minds to finding magic in nature

THE INSPIRATION to pursue art — mostly dormant since her college days — might have been reignited in Holly Cousins in 1984, when she and her husband saw the Monterey Peninsula for the first time through the windows of a tour bus, then on rented bicycles.

“I wasn’t an artist at the time — I was an educator — but the scenery here felt absolutely magical. The clouds over the Peninsula were just bursting with purples

loved it, and decided to go back to school for my master’s degree (in education).”

As a kindergarten teacher, she frequently integrated art, math, science and other subjects into her lessons in creative ways — part of a philosophy that encouraged “teaching the whole child.”

“We actually did a whole week of lessons about Claude Monet,” she remembered. “I drew a picture of Monet’s famous bridge, traced it onto a big round piece of paper for each child, gave them watercolors to paint it and sprinkles and other fun things so they could decorate it any way they wanted.”

Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

and blues. I looked at the trees and saw so many shades of orange and yellow.

“I didn’t really feel like I had an artist’s eye at the time, but that might have been the awakening,” said Cousins, who was visiting from Webster Groves, Mo., a clean, safe, Victorian-style suburban city on the outskirts of gritty St. Louis.

Four decades later, Cousins shows her representational-impressionist paintings at Reflections Elegante in Monterey, but her dedication to creating art took a while to evolve. Life, higher education, career and raising children took priority.

Back in the day, at Webster College — a small, private, liberal arts school in her hometown — Cousins had enjoyed figure-drawing and art history classes, but earned her degree in sociology, a major that felt like a good fit.

Passion for helping people

“I’ve always had a love for helping people, and I saw a lot of need for that kind of thing,” she said. “I worked at different jobs in the business sector after I graduated, taught for a year at a Catholic school and

The children also painted pictures of Monet’s house and the lilies in his pond, all while learning about the artist and his life.

“We had children’s books about Monet in our library, so we’d read those and talk about all the pictures,” she said. “I went to the St. Louis Science Center, where they had artifacts we could borrow and discuss. It was thematic teaching.”

A sad playground

Her instinct to nurture was stimulated by the sad sight of a school playground shared by four kindergarten classes with 20 students each.

“It was just old and tired — kids could easily get hurt — so I decided to hold a fundraiser to build a new one,” Cousins said. “We got that done, which was exciting, so I started doing fundraisers for the library at our school, and then at two other schools in our district.”

Her next project was to create an after-school program for students in kindergarten through eighth grade, “because those kids needed things to do.”

Then she began to recruit mentors, which in 2006 inspired her to create and direct the Special Friends Extended Mentor Program (originally kindergarten through 12th grade), a nonprofit for “fostering growth and guiding students toward success.”

The volunteer mentors are community professionals in all fields.

Rewarding

In 2013, the year she retired, Cousins founded a similar Special Friends program at Seaside High, where mentors worked with ninth graders over a four-year period.

“The mentor program was so rewarding, giving back and helping others,” said Cousins, who



PHOTO/DENNIS TAYLOR

Pacific Grove artist Holly Cousins shows her impressionist-style oil paintings at Reflections Elegante in Monterey’s Portola Plaza.

See ARTIST page 41A

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LAWSUIT

From page 1A

car,” according to the complaint. Hollister named Roach and Monterey Peninsula Unified, which operated the charter school, as defendants.

Roach, the longtime principal of Pacific Grove Middle School, is “stepping away” from his duties at the school on Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove Unified superintendent Linda Adamson said Thursday afternoon. The school’s assistant principal, Jason Tovani, will step in for Roach.

Denies claim

The Pine Cone presented Roach — who said he had not been served with Hollister’s lawsuit — with some of the claims. He strongly denied them last week.

“This is the first I have seen or heard of any of these allegations,” Roach, 57, said July 22. “I have never committed any of the actions alleged in the complaint with anyone at any time. I find the allegations shocking and upsetting. I do not know who this person is or who it could be, but I do know that I did not commit these acts. In my entire career in education, I have never been the subject of a complaint, allegation, investigation or accusation involving inappropriate sexual behavior with a student or minor.”

Roach has not been arrested or charged with any crimes related to the accusations. A lawsuit is not evidence of criminal wrongdoing.

The civil complaint was filed by Gould Grieco & Hensley, a Los Angeles law firm representing clients in “high-stakes litigation involving sexual abuse, catastrophic injury and institutional accountability.”

Cypress Grove Charter operated from August 2001 through June 2006 before Monterey Peninsula Unified School District shut it down.

MPUSD spokeswoman Marci McFadden said that the district “is aware of a recently filed civil lawsuit involving allegations about a former employee from more than 20 years ago. The safety and wellbeing of our students is our highest priority. MPUSD is committed to maintaining safe, supportive schools through established policies, staff training, and reporting procedures.”

‘Groomed’

Hollister contends that when she started at Cypress Grove Charter, Roach recognized she came from a “troubled home environment,” including the absence of a father figure, and “deliberately positioned himself to fill that emotional void, cultivating a relationship of trust and dependency that he then exploited.”

The abuse, Hollister alleges, included Roach fondling her breasts, buttocks and genitals over and under her clothing, and digitally penetrating her.

Hollister suggests her allegations can be corroborated. She cites an alleged incident when Roach’s colleague, another teacher, walked into his classroom and “observed Roach kissing” her “and groping her breasts.”

Hollister’s Los Angeles attorney, Jamie M. Majerus, told The Pine Cone last week that Hollister knows the colleague’s identity and that person will be deposed to give sworn testimony in the case.

Negligence alleged

Additionally, Majerus said Monterey Peninsula Unified officials were “aware of Roach engaging in sexually inappropriate behavior with minors before the last instance of abuse” with Hollister.

Hollister’s 24-page lawsuit says Roach “sexually assaulted and abused plaintiff and other students” and blames the district for failing to question or investigate him. She also accuses the district and school officials of

FISHERMEN

From page 10A

time to retrieve a trap, an acoustic receiver — similar to a garage-door opener — releases the buoy on demand. The entire system is trackable via a GPS-based smartphone app, visible to both fishermen and Fish and Wildlife officers within a 5-mile radius. The pop-up technology was developed by SubSeaSonics, an oceanography tech company that also supplies the U.S. Navy.

“There’s been no big innovation in crab fishing for at least the last 100 years. Remote gear-marking is revolutionary,” said Geoff Shester, senior scientist for the Monterey chapter of the nonprofit Oceana. He added that lost gear — another factor in whale entanglements — has been reduced nearly to zero with the new system.

Sightings more common

Oceana helped organize informal testing of the pop-up traps as early as 2021, with Mellegers among the first Monterey Bay fishermen to participate. It took several years for Fish and Wildlife to issue an experimental permit, and new legislation was required to allow gear-testing on this scale.

The agency came under legal pressure in 2017, when the Center for Biological Diversity sued Fish and Wildlife for violations of the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The year prior, a record 71 entanglements were reported off the West Coast, many in Monterey Bay.

Shester and Mellegers both noted that sightings are more common here than anywhere else in California, largely due to the high number of whale-watching boats. During the season, a single sighting can lead to the closure

failing to report the abuse in violation of state law.

While the alleged misconduct occurred about two decades ago, Majerus said delayed reporting is common in childhood sexual abuse cases.

“This action was brought when the survivor was able to come forward and pursue justice, and we intend to let the evidence speak for itself in court,” said Majerus, whose online bio indicates her practice within Gould Grieco & Hensley is dedicated exclusively to representing survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

Hollister’s causes of action include negligence, negligent hiring and supervision, sexual battery and false imprisonment. She alleges “great mental pain, embarrassment, humiliation, distress, anguish, emotional distress and suffering” because of the alleged sexual abuse.

She is seeking an undisclosed amount in monetary damages, including punitive damages exceeding \$35,000. The case is set for a November hearing in Monterey.

of the entire fishery — even if the entanglement occurred elsewhere.

“These are 100-pound traps entangled with 30,000-pound animals. Some whales have actually dragged pots all the way to the southern hemisphere and back,” Mellegers said. In early July, one humpback disentangled near Moss Landing led rescuers on a 15-mile chase after spending at least two months attached to the gear.

‘Backlash’

Despite industry skepticism, Mellegers volunteered to test alternatives to vertical-line traps. “There’s been a lot of backlash from the fishing community. They want to go on strike and fight to get the season back. But I was ready to do this for myself and my family,” he said.

He’s cautiously optimistic about the technology, which costs several thousand dollars per unit. “It’s still rocky. There’s a lot of tech that goes into this. It’s slower work, and these long lines of grounded traps are a little more dangerous than vertical-line gear, but with a crew it’s doable,” Mellegers said. “I don’t think it’s a cash cow, but I need the longer season to reap any rewards. To pay for my year — trap tags, boat maintenance, slip fees, fuel — is about \$30,000 of my net profit.”

The pop-up traps proved effective last spring, when the state issued experimental permits to Mellegers and about 40 other fishermen statewide. But due to pushback, the state has limited the use of the new gear to “in-season closures” during the spring.

Shester estimates that about 5% of local fishermen have adopted the new system, with grants and subsidies available through the state and nonprofits like Oceana. “The idea isn’t how soon we can transition the rest of the fleet. We just want to give them the option,” he said.

For 100 years,
no innovation
in crab fishing
technology

POLICE LOG

From page 4A

Pacific Grove: Vehicles on Spazier and on Second Street marked for 72-hour parking.

SATURDAY, JULY 11

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle towed from Mission and Third.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Information report at Mission and 10th for an item missing from a delivery.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found bracelet at Monte Verde and Eighth.

Pacific Grove: No calls to report.

Pebble Beach: Sheriff’s office documented a physical altercation on Cypress Drive between two co-workers, an 18-year-old male and a 20-year-old male.

SUNDAY, JULY 12

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury collision at Camino Real and 13th. Info exchanged.

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

The Monterey County Sheriff’s Office reported no calls on the Monterey Peninsula.

GAVEL

From page 4A

Marina Police Department Detective Ivan Santana. District attorney investigator Isabelle Rhodes conducted follow-up investigation in the case and assisted with the trial process. Jane Doe 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were assisted by the district attorney’s office victim witness program manager Alma Sanchez as well as district attorney victim advocates Mayra Sandoval and Kristin Peterson. Court facility support dogs Norma Jeane and Armani provided the Jane Does with much needed support during trial testimony and throughout the whole trial process.

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RESORT

From page 1A

After the 2015 denial recommendation, commission staff and the developer worked intermittently toward a smaller project, with talks resuming earlier this year. Staff said the revised plan is significantly smaller and better addresses the site’s constraints.

The resort would have 125 rooms on a 2.5-acre footprint, compared with the earlier 340-room, nearly 12-acre proposal Sand City approved in 2013 before it was appealed to the commission.

Sand mining

Unlike other coastal areas on the Monterey Peninsula, the dune areas west of Highway 1 in Sand City are not considered “environmentally sensitive habitat areas” because of a history of sand mining operations.

They ceased nearly 40 years ago, but left the area with a “variety of unpermitted materials,” including hardened concrete slurry, rubble, granite rock debris and crumbling asphalt. The resort developer would be required to remove the waste as part of a restoration and protection plan for about 22 acres of dune habitat outside the development footprint.

The restoration, the staff report indicates, “represents a substantial improvement to much of the site’s visual resources.”

The commission acknowledges concerns about the project’s size and complexity but says conditions would resolve violations and create coastal resource benefits.

The conditions of approval include adding free parking for the public, building a new section of trail between Sand Dunes Drive and Playa Avenue, at least one new public trail providing beach and overlook access, public restrooms with at least four unisex stalls and outdoor shower facilities, and other amenities.

The review praises the resort’s proposed 25 “all-weather tent cabins,” which

would be capped at \$150 per night.

The staff report says the campground would provide lower-cost coastal lodging next to the California Coastal Trail.

The cabins, positioned on 10-by-10-foot platforms, will be available via reservations, except for three that would be available on a first-come, first-served basis. They will have “rudimentary amenities, including storage areas, hangers for lights and other camp gear.” There will be a communal restroom and shower building for campers.

The report describes the cabins as basic rather than high-end “glamping,” comparable to a modernized version of Curry Village in Yosemite.

There will also be one centrally located fire feature that looks and feels like a natural beach fire but is fueled by propane or equivalent clean-burning fuel.

Campsites will include free Wi-Fi but no utilities such as electricity, heat or plumbing.

The owners of the 100 condominium-hotel units at the resort may use their unit for no more than 84 days in any calendar year, with no stay exceeding 29 consecutive days or 14 total days between the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through the Monday of Labor Day weekend, according to the analysis.

“Whenever any unit is not occupied by its owner(s), that unit shall be available for use by the general public on the same basis as a traditional hotel room.”

‘Significant change’

Due to the resort’s location — particularly along the eastern Monterey Bay shoreline, where high erosion rates are well documented — the staff report raises issues with respect to coastal hazards, including “the appropriateness of developing large structures along an eroding shoreline, particularly in an age of sea-level rise and the threats associated with and exacerbated by same.”

However, it says the resort can be situated “landward of anticipated erosion and coastal hazard threats.”

WHALE

From page 1A

developed after consultation with experts.

“The telemetry gear was attached with a line that trailed behind the whale,” the report indicated. “Responders in a smaller boat used it to grab onto the whale so they could safely approach it from behind.”

The team in the small boat was soon taken on what whalers have long called a “Nantucket sleigh ride” — named for the wild rides harpooned whales would give their pursuers along the coast of Massachusetts in the 18th century.

“The whale off Moss Landing reacted to the responders’ small boat as it might try to evade predators, speeding up and diving,” the report continued. “They gradually attached five large floating plastic balls to the line to temporarily slow the whale down and keep it near the surface.”

No strings

Eventually, they got close enough to put a GoPro camera in the water and get a better look at the gear stuck to the whale. “The whale had pulled them about 14 miles west of Moss Landing by this time,” according to rescuers.

Next, they used a knife attached to a long pole to make cuts at three specific points in the lines. At first, nothing happened. The plan was to remove the plastic poly balls, but soon there was movement.

“As we began to move up the working line that connected us to the whale, there was a short little pop in the line and the rest of the gear slowly fell off,” said Scott Benson, a retired NOAA Fisheries scientist

and team member. “Disappointment turned to elation in a matter of seconds.”

Once it was free of fishing gear, the whale sped off and disappeared beneath the waves. It was seen with other humpbacks near Moss Landing during the next few days — and was photographed breaching, showing no signs of having any gear attached.

Thanks to new state rules that make gear identification easier, officials learned who owned the gear, which carried a tag for the 2025–26 Dungeness crab season. NOAA Fisheries is working with California Fish and Wildlife to interview the gear owner and learn when and where the crab gear was set to avoid future entanglements.

CHEMICALS

From page 12A

in some areas but attributed those results to “natural variability and marsh conditions rather than lasting fire-related impacts.”

The consultant said its conclusions rely on conservative assumptions that the detected chemicals were attributable to the fire.

Because the report did not identify unacceptable health risks, Terraphase determined that no further human health or ecological risk evaluations related to the fire are warranted.

The analysis did not reach conclusions about possible contamination of groundwater, the Vistra property, or other watershed areas, county environmental health assistant bureau chief Marni Flagg told reporters Wednesday.

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TESTING

From page 1A

were already way beyond that, but in current years we find significant numbers of College of Engineering students in Berkeley struggle with basic calculus,” said professor emeritus David Atwood.

A’s for everybody

So how did kids who can’t do calculus end up in one of the most elite engineering programs in the country that boasts an acceptance rate of just 7%? Science and mathematics faculty are placing the blame, in part, on the UC system’s decision to go “test blind” six years ago.

While it may come as a shock to the millions of Americans who’ve sharpened their No. 2 pencils and taken the SAT over the past 100 years, the test — or its equivalent, the ACT — is no longer required as part of the admissions process at most four-year colleges. According to FairTest, which advocates against standardized testing, about 90% of schools today are test-optional, a trend that accelerated during the pandemic.

The UC system jumped on the anti-test bandwagon when its Board of Regents voted in 2020 to eliminate admissions testing requirements. The board cited Covid lockdown learning disruptions and concerns that minorities and low-income students didn’t do well on the tests. Instead, the universities relied on high school grade point averages, extra-curriculars and college essays.

The 2020 vote went against a unanimous recommendation the same year from the faculty-run academic senate to retain the test requirements. Now that same group of teachers and professors have set a June 2027 deadline to recommend whether the university system should bring back

college entrance exams. The deadline comes after more than 1,100 University of California science and mathematics professors wrote a letter this spring asking the regents to reinstate the tests. This summer, comments from many of those same professors dominated a July regents meeting in San Francisco.

“Some standardized testing opponents claim that high school GPA predicts success better than the SAT,” said William Fithian, an associate professor in the UC Berkeley statistics department. “Anyone who accepts it as an argument would flunk statistics 101.”

Easy A’s

In an era of rampant grade inflation, when AI can write a snazzy college entrance essay for anybody, having standardized test results to help admissions officers parse out who should receive an acceptance letter may be more important than ever.

According to College Board, which administers the SAT, A’s are the most common letter grade handed out in both college and high school across the country.

The propensity of teachers to give average students A’s has been making headlines for years, some of them quite eye-catching, like when Washington-Liberty High School in Virginia named 213 valedictorians in 2019.

Data from the National Center for Education Statistics show the cumulative grade point average for high school students has gone from 2.6 in 1985 to 3.1 in 2020. A separate study ordered by the ACT Assessment shows grade inflation got even worse with the pandemic, with the average GPA rising to 3.39 in 2021.

One could argue kids these days are just smarter, harder workers, but the standardized test scores from the National Assessment of Educational Progress have been steadily declining since 2013.

While many may rush to blame teachers

for the easy A’s, a 2025 survey from the Fordham Institute documents that many instructors feel pressure from administrators to comply with “equitable grading” policies, including no zeros, no late penalties, and allowing unlimited retakes, all aimed at making grading fairer for disadvantaged students.

Not only are these policies making it more difficult to decide who deserves entry into hallowed halls, they’re also not doing students any favors in the long run. In a 2026 study from the University of Texas at Austin titled, “Easy A’s, Less Pay: The Long-Term Effects of Grade Inflation,” researchers found students whose grades had been inflated often had worse outcomes, including fewer employment prospects and lower lifetime earnings.

Reversing course

UC system professors aren’t the only ones who want entrance exams back. This year Columbia became the last Ivy League school to reinstate the SAT and ACT after those universities went test-blind in 2020. MIT returned to entrance exams in 2022, and Stanford made the switch in 2024.

In 2018, the UC system formed a Standardized Testing Task Force, and in 2019

it produced a report that stated, “at UC, test scores are currently better predictors of first-year GPA than high school grade point average.” Unsurprisingly, the task force also recommended the UC system keep testing requirements.

Convincing the Board of Regents to reverse course on entrance exams will be a tough row to hoe. The demand goes against the grain of the equitable outcomes movement that’s gripped education policy at every level in California for years, and while professors may be pushing for change, their students aren’t.

In a letter to the regents from the University of California Student Association, President Aditi Hariharan pointed out that when the UCs went test-blind in 2020, the system saw a 19% increase in freshman applicants. Hariharan sees this as proof that the elimination of standardized testing increased access for some students. But making them do coursework they’re not prepared for is its own form of disservice.

Standardized testing was invented to reduce favoritism in college admissions. Going back to it is a way to make sure high achievers from even the worst neighborhoods have a chance to rise to the top of the applicant pile.

ICE

From page 3A

source of more than 80,000 jobs — one in every five. If farmworkers are afraid to go to work or are deported en masse, the county argues, there could be disruptions to the national supply of produce, leading to higher prices and possible shortages.

“One recent study estimated that deporting 1.3 million undocumented immigrants would result in a 1.7% increase in prices of agricultural goods nationwide over multiple years,” the legal brief contends.

Decreasing the number of farmworkers could lead to unharvested produce and force restaurants to seek new suppliers

from outside the region, the county says. That could raise prices for consumers and contribute to a decline in the tourism industry.

The document also claims increased immigration enforcement could reduce labor force participation, decrease business activity, and cut local tax revenue.

The signatories to the legal brief include San Benito and Santa Cruz counties and the cities of Monterey and Marina.

Asked about the cost to taxpayers for the county’s intervention in the case, spokeswoman Maia Carroll told The Pine Cone there was some county staff time spent on the brief and that one attorney filed the court document.

There will be “no additional costs to participate,” Carroll said.



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LIVES

From page 23A

brought their educational skills to real estate.

“It’s a learning process for buyers and sellers,” said Carole. “There are so many bumps in the road and so many unknowns. It’s important to make sure they understand the process.” She added that for sellers, surprises often come from discovering things that need to be repaired, and the fact that not everyone sees their home through their loving eyes.

‘Good play ethic’

Ben also talked about developing empathy. “We’ve become really good listeners,” he said.

“I can’t think of a process more emotionally difficult than selling a home. It often comes with another big change, something else going on,” like a move into assisted living or the loss of a partner. More cheerfully, it might be relocating to a new community to be closer to grandchildren.

Although not all married couples can earn a living together, Ben and Carole seem to have it dialed in.

“It’s just natural for us. We’re flexible, and we can

move and change. We have a good work ethic and a good play ethic — we make it fun,” she said.

Ben volunteered, simply, “I recognize that Carole is smarter than I am.”

Their routine starts early each morning in their Carmel Valley home, as they write in what Carole called their “grateful book.”

“It centers you for the day. You smile, get up and go to work,” she said.

The kids are fine

Among the many things for which they’re grateful are the people they work with — husband-and-wife realtors Zach and Isabel Brooksher, and Zach’s mom, Courtney Brooksher, a licensed realtor who works as the group’s executive assistant.

Grant, meanwhile, has a degree from UC Santa Barbara in engineering and an MBA from the University of Maryland.

“He sells sophisticated software to very large customers,” Ben said. They have two grandchildren, 18 and 20. The older studies public health at the University of Pittsburgh, and the younger will be starting school next year at DePauw University in Indiana for filmmaking — he’s already made some award-winning short films, Ben said.

And Puddin’ is doing just fine.

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Ocean & Mission
8:00am – 6:00pm

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

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Celebrating 100 Years
1:00pm-3:00pm
San Carlos & 9th

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

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5:00pm – 7:00pm
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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Palomas Anniversary Mixer
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2Q2026 MARKET UPDATE

Santa Lucia Preserve

The second quarter reflected a mild pause in closed Preserve home sales, but this sub-market is showing encouraging signs of renewed momentum. While only one home closed during the quarter, four properties are now under contract, ranging from \$3.895M to \$8.95M, signaling strengthening buyer demand heading into the second half of the year. Two homesites also sold, for \$575K and \$1.41M.

Silicon Valley buyers continue to be the primary drivers of activity, with all contingent sales concentrating around the Hacienda and golf course as there are zero homes currently available near the front gate. Buyers are also favoring move-in-ready homes as rising construction costs and longer build timelines make lot purchases and new projects less appealing. With the recent uptick in deal flow, existing home inventory has tapered back mildly with just three active homes, while the lot market remains well-stocked and subdued with 36 available homesites and slower turnover.

As summer arrives, residents are enjoying longer days filled with golf, hiking, equestrian trails, pickleball, swimming and fishing—reminders that the Preserve’s enduring lifestyle continues to drive demand, regardless of quarterly fluctuations.

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When you feel better all over, but your face doesn't share your joy

By LILY PATTERSON

LATELY, PEOPLE seem a little surprised to find themselves talking to Dr. David Morwood, a Monterey plastic surgeon. They believed Ozempic would help them to shed pounds, health risks, and years of insecurities — and it did.

Then came the sag. “A lot of people are losing weight. They feel really good about themselves, but suddenly they have all this extra skin. They didn’t expect that,” said Morwood, who has practiced here for 35 years.

Morwood estimates that 1 in 5 of his patients are on some form of GLP-1 medication, the appetite-shrinking drugs that 11% of Americans reported taking this year, according to a recent Gallup poll. The break-out Ozempic was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2017, initially for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. More potent alternatives have followed, with similar results for weight loss.

“These drugs are tremendously effective,” according to Dr. Douglas Sunde, also a plastic surgeon in Monterey — not to mention an adjunct professor at Stanford.

“I used to see one or two patients a year who had lost a massive amount of weight. They were exceptionally driven to diet and exercise or had undergone gastric bypass surgery. Nowadays, I see a couple of people a week who have lost 25, 35, 50 or more pounds,” said Sunde.

And plastic surgeons like Morwood and Sunde are busier than ever, nipping and tucking the cosmetic side effect of rapid weight loss: leftover skin.

Gaunt cheeks, drooping jowls and a sagging neck — the online media was quick to coin the term, “Ozempic face” — are the biggest concerns Morwood and Sunde are hearing from patients who are otherwise happy with the shape they’re in.

“We’re generally covered with clothes, especially people who have been heavy for a long time. But every day they see the sunken face, extra skin around the neck. It makes them look older,” Sunde said.

Bruised

Skin loosens with age, of course, as the body produces less collagen and elastin. But even in young patients, the rapid loss of subcutaneous (below-the-skin) fat is akin to letting the air out of a balloon.

“In that case, we have to replace missing volume, and it’s a fair amount,” Sunde said.

He explained that a syringe of dermal filler, a plumping medical gel, adds only 1 milliliter of volume back. The injections are quick, can be administered by medical estheticians, and the results aren’t permanent, which is why many people try them



People who have lost large amounts of fat often seek help when their faces look saggy and sunken, with deeper wrinkles. Fortunately, local plastic surgeons can make things better with relatively small changes.

first.

“I have patients come in with a list of seven different things they’ve tried, or who spent \$8,000 on injections. They’ve been bruised, they’ve been through it, but they didn’t really see a difference,” Sunde said.

Fat grafting, on the other hand, can restore 25-30 milliliters (about a shot glass) of fullness, he said. Via liposuction, which is minimally invasive, a small amount of

FACES *con’t. page 31A*

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HEALTHYLIFESTYLES

Helping people find comfort in all of life’s seasons

By SALLY BAHO

‘**BAD IDEA.**’ That was the entirety of the email response from Dr. Whitney Rassbach’s brother after Rassbach said he wanted a career in medicine.

“There are no doctors in my family,” Rassbach explained. “Their thought was, isn’t there something that can give you the same satisfaction but requires less training?”

But Rassbach was seeking a career in which he could help people — one that he would feel good about even if he had to get up in the middle of the night to do it. He found that in healthcare.

His father was an astrophysicist who had studied under renowned scientist Richard Feynman at Caltech. The family moved to Houston for his job at NASA, but he died when Rassbach was 9 years old, leaving his mother to raise him and his two siblings on her own.

“When you grow up in a family where the finances are uncertain, you want to feel you can help people but also know that you’ll be able to put a roof over your head and raise a family,” he said. He and his wife, Seung-hee, have six children, so he would know.

Variety and progress

Rassbach is an allergist and immunologist at Allergy and Asthma Associates of Northern California, but his wasn’t a direct path to medicine.

“I actually studied international relations,” he said. He traveled the world after his undergraduate studies at Carleton College, a small liberal arts institution in Northfield, Minn. First, he moved to Beijing to teach English and learn Mandarin. After that, he did something similar in Damascus, living in a Palestinian refugee camp and teaching English at the now-closed American School, which was part of the American Embassy.

While he was in Syria, a visit to Palmyra was canceled when the van in which he and several other foreigners were riding hit a camel train that was crossing the highway in the middle of the night. Instead of seeing the city’s famed Roman ruins, the group found themselves in a hospital in Deir ez-Zor.

“I ended up writing my medical school essays on the conditions of the hospitals there,” he said.

Rassbach attended Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and graduated in 2008. As if that

‘*I really liked the idea of allergy. You get to deal with adults and kids, and it is still a field that’s going through a lot of changes.*’

weren’t enough, he also met Seung-hee there. She was pursuing a Ph.D. in cell biology — which she completed — and attended a gathering he and his roommate hosted at their place.

Rassbach completed a combined internal medicine and pediatrics residency at the University of Michigan Hospital. Seung-hee moved to Michigan, too, and found a job at the university’s biology lab. While Rassbach was there, his professors encouraged him to explore taking on a specialty.

“I really liked the area of allergy,” he said.

“First, you do get to deal with adults and kids, and secondly, it is still a field that’s going through a lot of changes. There are a lot of new things coming out and it’s not so set in stone. You get to deal with food allergies and environmental allergies, as well as asthma, skin disorders like eczema, and immunodeficiency diseases,” Rassbach said.

He completed his allergy fellowship at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York in 2015,



Dr. Whitney Rassbach

then spotted a help-wanted ad for Allergy and Asthma Associates of Northern California. Two years before he died, Dr. Jeffrey Lehr had sold his practice to the group on the condition that he would be able to choose the person who would take over his patients.

Although Rassbach hadn’t heard of Monterey, he came

ALLERGIST *con’t. page 33A*

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

FACES from page 29A

fat is removed from another part of the body, often the belly or thighs, and injected into the face.

“We’re always trying to do more with less, Morwood said — especially above the shoulders. What he terms “the natural neck lift” involves making tiny cuts — usually two, located behind the ears — to sharpen the jawline. Interestingly, lifting the neck can be just as effective as a facelift for “rejuvenating” the lower cheeks and jowls.

“For some reason, a facelift is ‘radioactive’ to men, but many are interested in a neck lift, especially if they wear ties. Some complain of having so much excess skin or fat, it covers the knot,” Morwood said. He estimated that 30% of his patients are men.

Making it fit

Post-weight loss, they also tend to be interested in another procedure, the “tummy tuck,” which can solve excess skin on the abdomen. For women, Morwood said

he frequently performs similar procedures on the arms, thighs and upper back.

“Women have these really graphic terms — ‘bat wings,’ ‘bra rolls,’ ‘turkey neck’ — which I never like to say. What we’re really working on is self-image,” he said.

In cases of extreme weight loss, it’s also a question of health. Excess skin can cause rashes, yeast infections and other chronic skin conditions, Morwood explained. And it still takes up space.

“People lose weight, and their clothing still doesn’t fit. It can become like another appendage,” he said.

The size of incisions depends on what is being removed, but the principle of doing more with less applies even to the body.

When performing a routine tummy tuck, for instance, Morwood is able to peek at the fascia, the webbed top layer of muscle. Like the skin, it can stretch out due to weight gain, but it can be safely tight-

SKIN cont. page 36A



Dr. David Morwood provided these photos showing how a little surgery can improve the appearance of loose, saggy skin.

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A photograph of Dr. David S. Goldberg, a man with white hair wearing a white lab coat over a patterned tie and a dark shirt. He is standing next to a smiling woman with long dark hair wearing a light-colored V-neck sweater and blue jeans. They are both looking at the camera.

A logo featuring a stylized profile of a woman's head with flowing hair, rendered in blue and gold colors.

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While aesthetic medicine and concierge medicine may appear to serve different purposes, they are built on the same philosophy: treating every patient as an individual—not a number.

Throughout his years in aesthetic medicine, Dr. Singh has developed personalized treatment plans designed to enhance each patient’s natural features while supporting confidence and overall well-being. Every consultation begins with listening to the patient’s concerns, understanding their goals, and creating a plan tailored specifically to their needs.

That same approach forms the foundation of concierge medicine. By limiting the size of his practice, Dr. Singh will be able to offer patients more time during appointments, improved accessibility, proactive preventive care, and a stronger physician-patient relationship.

Rather than focusing solely on treating illness, concierge medicine emphasizes maintaining health, preventing disease, and supporting long-term wellness.

“Whether I’m helping someone improve their skin health or managing their overall medical care, my goal has always been the same—to provide compassionate, personalized care that helps patients live healthier, more confident lives,” says Dr. Singh.

Patients can expect the same attention to detail, trust, and commitment that have defined Dr. Singh’s aesthetic practice, now extended into comprehensive primary care. Dr Singh has been practicing family medicine for last 15 years, wants to create a seamless healthcare experience where medical expertise, wellness, and convenience come together under one roof.

As healthcare continues to evolve, Dr. Singh’s expansion into concierge medicine reflects a growing demand for meaningful relationships between physicians and patients. By blending the artistry of aesthetic medicine with the comprehensive care of family medicine, he is redefining what modern healthcare can look like—personalized, accessible, and focused on helping patients thrive at every stage of life.



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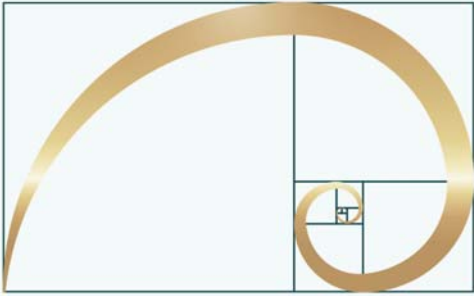
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SKINHAPPY

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Itching for some help

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

THE BODY’S largest and most visible organ, the skin can be a key barometer of health. When it becomes bruised, inflamed, blistered, swollen, itchy or tender, it is letting us know something is wrong. This also is true for our favorite furry friends, the dogs and cats who share our households.

“Cats and dogs get similar skin diseases,” said Brynie Kaplan Dau, a small-animal and exotics veterinarian who was raised in P.G. and owns Pacific Grove Animal Hospital. “There are a lot of different kinds, including autoimmune diseases and skin cancer, but the most common condition we see in general practice is allergic skin disease, which makes for itchy, uncomfortable pets.”

Among the four main causes of allergic skin disease in dogs and cats, she said, is flea allergy, which can go beyond a reaction to flea bites to affect pets that are allergic to an enzyme in flea saliva.

Dau continued, “Some dogs and cats get a little itchy, while others have a whole systemic reaction to a flea bite, causing a rash all over the body, general discomfort and extreme itchiness.”

Strangely enough, protein sources can be another trigger for cats and dogs. A lot of people assume their dog or cat must be allergic to soy or corn in the food, but it’s usually not the case, Dau said. It is typical-

PETS cont. page 35A





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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

ALLERGIST from page 30A

to check it out and found a home in the practice and for his family. As he'd hoped, he treats infants, centenarians, and everyone in between. Educating people on common allergy-related misconceptions is an important part of his work.

For instance, he said that patients often confuse food intolerance with an allergy. "Sometimes people are worried they have something life-threatening, when in fact it's just something that's a bother and it's not going to get them in trouble," he explained.

Another area where Rassbach can help is misdiagnosed allergies, or those someone has outgrown — a surprisingly common occurrence. He mentioned one old case in which he discovered that a patient

who was diagnosed with a penicillin allergy in 1944 was able to safely use the drug after decades of avoidance.

When he's not working, Rassbach loves spending time with his wife — a stay-at-home mom — and children. They enjoy mountain biking, boogie boarding, camping, hiking all over the Peninsula and visiting state parks.

"We're science nerds," he said with a laugh, "so we love to do science things." Some of his children are involved in the local classical music scene, too. Cooking is another hobby, since going to a restaurant with a family that size can be challenging. They also travel back to Korea regularly to visit his in-laws and his wife's extended family.

Maybe medicine wasn't such a bad idea, after all.



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MINUTES FROM CARMEL, PEBBLE BEACH & LOVER'S POINT

Chicory and herb salad with creamy miso dressing

Courtesy of chef Brandon Miller, Paella LLC

IS THIS a fair amount of work for a salad? Yes, and the result is a show-stopper of a side dish or first course that demonstrates chef Brandon Miller’s love of bold flavors. It could easily stand up to grilled lamb or salmon, and would also add sparkle to rockfish, chicken or pork loin.

You probably have some of the items in your pantry. The olive oil should be good quality, but don’t pull out your \$30 bottle. The other ingredients are assertive enough to override any delicate flavors a higher-end oil would bring.

Yuzu is a tart, aromatic citrus fruit native to China, and bottled juice should be often found in Asian markets. If you can’t track it down or don’t have time, Meyer lemon juice would be a good one-for-one substitute.

To peel the ginger root quickly, just scrape it with a spoon. It’s much easier and safer than trying to navigate all the bumps and knobs with a paring knife.

White (or shiro) miso is fermented soy paste available in many grocery stores, and opened containers keep in the fridge from six months to a year. It’s a nice addition to many soups and dips, among other things. Ginger beer is nonalcoholic but might be shelved with cocktail mixers, since it’s a key ingredient in a Moscow Mule or Dark and Stormy. Go for less-sweet brands like Bundaberg or Fever Tree.

And no, you don’t have to find pomegranates in summer — the seeds are sold in most larger grocers’ refrigerated produce section in sealed plastic cups.

Chicory is sometimes labeled “bitter greens,” and its family includes escarole, curly endive, frisée and radicchio, to name

a few. Any combination will work. The shiso leaves are a little tougher to come by, but you can bump up the amount of mint and add some Thai basil — abundant at farmers markets this time of year — if you can’t find it.

INGREDIENTS

(Serves 6-8)

- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 3 shallots, minced
- 1 4-inch piece ginger, peeled and minced
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon bottled yuzu juice
- 1 teaspoon white miso
- 1 large egg plus 1 egg yolk
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon rice wine vinegar
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup olive oil
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
- 2 teaspoons Asian chili oil
- 2 Fuji apples, peeled, quartered, cored and cut into 1/4-inch cubes
- 1 16-ounce bottle ginger beer
- 1 cup pomegranate seeds (see notes)
- 3 heads chicory, cleaned, trimmed, and torn into large pieces
- 1/2 cup loosely packed cilantro leaves
- 1/2 cup loosely packed mint leaves
- 1/2 cup loosely packed torn shiso leaves

In a small saucepan, heat the vegetable oil over medium-high. Add the shallots and ginger and cook, stirring until light golden,



about 5 minutes.

Using a slotted spoon, remove the shallots and ginger and drain on paper towels. Discard the oil.

In a blender, combine the mustard, yuzu juice, miso, egg and extra yolk and blend on low for 2 minutes. Add both vinegars and the minced garlic. Taste and season with salt and pepper. Blend on low until smooth, about 30 seconds more. With the motor running, slowly drizzle in olive oil until emulsified. Scrape the dressing into a bowl and stir

in the cheese and chili oil.

Meanwhile, in another small bowl, combine the apples with the ginger beer and let stand for 10 minutes. Drain the apples and discard the ginger beer.

Place the apples in a large serving bowl along with half the dressing and the pomegranate seeds.

Add the chicory, cilantro, mint and shiso and toss gently to combine. Sprinkle the salad with the shallot-ginger topping and serve with the remaining dressing on the side

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Chef Bio

CHEF BRANDON Miller is a familiar face to local foodies. The proud owner of Paella LLC (paellallc.com), a mobile catering operation specializing in his signature Spanish dish, Miller previously helmed kitchens at the former Mundaka in Carmel, a previous incarnation of Stokes Adobe, and at Alvarado Street Brewery, to name a few. You can often find him doing cooking demos at local events where he’s as much showman as chef.

Miller has been working in kitchens for more than 30 years. He started as a kid, cracking crabs at San Francisco’s Fisherman’s Wharf as a summer job, and at 20 took over the oyster bar at Pacific Heights Bar and Grill. By the time he’d moved on to the city’s famous Fog

City Diner — first in the pantry and then as sous chef — he said, “I knew this was the natural thing for me to do.”

His culinary education included stints in Amsterdam and France, and he said he “ate his way through Italy.” When he’s not cooking up a giant pan of paella and chatting up the crowd at a fundraiser or a private event, Miller grows some of his own food, makes a little homebrew and enjoys spending time with his wife, public relations maven Marci Bracco, and their French bulldogs.



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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

PETS from page 32A

ly the beef, chicken, turkey, lamb or fish.

A third cause of allergic skin disease is atopic dermatitis, a heightened immune response often due to a constellation of environmental allergens, among them dust mites, pollen, grass, trees and weeds. These trigger allergies that can show up as a skin infection and bad rash.

Finally, the fourth source is parasites such as mites and biting or sucking lice. A common response is super-itchy skin, said Dau, but it can lead to more severe reactions, such as hair falling out or red, crusty scabs, as well as a thickening of the skin.

“My job is to figure out what’s causing the underlying allergy, which is usually a secondary infection of yeast or bacteria on the skin,” she said. “When the animal scratches, breaking the skin barrier, the yeast and bacteria can colonize and create an infection.”

All of this, she said, is quite common among cats and dogs.

Tailored therapy

Once Dau has diagnosed the problem, she checks for any secondary bacteria or yeast, which she treats with an oral antibiotic or antifungal medication.

“Then I have to figure out the underlying allergy,” she said. “This is a little complicated. For starters, I want to make sure the cat or dog has good flea control, which has to be prescription strength. Over-the-counter medications are often ineffective, as fleas in our region have become resistant to some of them.”



Brynie Kaplan Dau

Once the flea issue has been addressed and any bacterial or fungal infection has been resolved, Dau investigates whether the dog or cat suffers from a food allergy or contact dermatitis by doing a hypoallergenic feeding trial with a prescription diet.

“It is important that it is a prescription diet, since studies have shown over-the-counter diets that claim to be hypoallergenic,” may actually be affected by cross-contamination in the processing plants. “This is really important,” she said.

If, during the feeding trial, the symptoms resolve, she said, then the animal is diagnosed with a food allergy. If they do not, environmental atopic dermatitis — a heightened immune response to common allergens — is at work.

“We also can do blood work to check for environmental allergens,” she said. “If the animal tests positive for dust mites or a certain weed or tree, we can tailor the therapy to the pet to desensitize the immune system via a pill or injection, as well as shampoos, which will help stop the itching and scratching.”

There is no cure for food or environmental allergies in pets, said Dau, but the symptoms can be managed. Still, it can mean a long, arduous process for people whose pets are really suffering, particularly if the skin condition is severe.

“It really depends on the pet. This is not a sprint, it’s a marathon. A lot of people come in and want a quick fix, hoping we’ll just give their pet a shot,” she said. “Intervention actually can be a long, involved process.”

Weather patterns

When dogs or cats seems to be scratching a bit more than usual, their owners might start at their local pet store, if for no other reason than to find something to help out until they can get to a vet appointment. Christina Torres, Pet Food Express store manager at The Crossroads Carmel shopping center, has some suggestions.



Christina Torres

(Of course, these are meant to complement what your vet is already doing.)

Growing up, Torres thought she wanted to become a veterinarian but later decided she’d like to become a teacher. Working for Pet Food Express, she said, feels like a little of both, and she shared some advice that has helped her customers.

For instance, local weather patterns can be a problem. Experiencing three seasons in one day — reaching light spring weather by midmorning and warming to summer weather at midday, with temperatures dropping again in the late afternoon — can be hard on an animal’s

skin and coat, said Torres.

“To help keep your pet’s skin from becoming dry and flaky, causing them to scratch, we recommend adding oil supplements and omega-3 fatty acids to their diet,” she added.

For dogs who suffer from seasonal allergies — a com-

mon culprit is ragweed — Torres said it’s important to wipe down their legs and paws after walks as a good step toward prevention.

“I can spend the day with cats and dogs,” said Torres, who has two French bulldogs and a pug, “while helping people with their pets’ well-being and diet.”

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SKIN from page 31A

ened with a few internal stitches, “like putting a pleat in a sail,” he said.

If a patient is concerned about any residual stubborn fat, liposuction is performed in the same outpatient procedure. It can be done almost anywhere on the body with millimeter-thin incisions. Morwood said he has to wear magnifying loupes — like a jeweler — and use a fiber-optic lighting to guide the cannula, a thin tube attached to a vacuum, into the layer of fat just below the skin.

When it comes to excess skin or fat, both agreed, the only option is removal.

“Everyone wants the lasers and the sculpting devices, but the non-invasive procedures haven’t shown big results. Operations are more involved, but they’re more effective,” Sunde said.

Are you done?

He has one important question for patients on any one of the GLP-1 meds.

“I always ask their current weight, their highest weight, and their lowest attainable weight. If they come to me expecting to lose another 20 pounds, I say we wait a bit, so we’re not performing another procedure in a year,” since weight loss on drugs like Ozempic tends to plateau after 12 months.

And both doctors start with an in-depth personal consultation.

“I start by listening to a person. What do

they want to improve? What do they want to leave alone? From there, I can talk to them about their options,” Morwood said.

Procedures are done in the doctors’ respective outpatient surgery centers, and recovery times can vary.

For face and neck procedures, “I like to say the goal is to get a patient to a cocktail party, wearing makeup, within two weeks,” Sunde said. Patients go home the same day, gentle activity can be resumed after a few days, and bruising subsides between two and six weeks.

Procedures on the body, especially surrounding the abdomen, require more R&R.

“Three days and three nights of rest in a compression wrap,” said Morwood. “Within two weeks, you can slowly get back to your life.”

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Dr. David Morwood



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New series looks at chamber music up close, library hosts tribute jam

AS PART of its 100th anniversary season, the Carmel Music Society will team up with the Sand Box in Sand City to present a series of intimate chamber concerts, “Stage 2,” that will highlight what the society calls “some of the most exciting young talents in classical music today.”

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

“With Stage 2, we want to create something different — a chance for audiences to experience chamber music the way it was meant to be heard, in close quarters, almost in conversation with the performers,” said **Michele Djokic**, artistic director of Carmel Music Society and founder



Mandolinist Dave Holodiloff and a group of his musical friends pay tribute to the late Grateful Dead frontman Jerry Garcia this weekend at the Henry Miller Library in Big Sur.

of the Sand Box. “There’s a kind of magic that happens when you’re close enough to see a bow change direction or watch musicians communicate with a glance.”

Stage 2 performers include pianist **Tanya Gabrielian** (Dec. 6) and **The Poiesis Quartet** (March 12).

Two weeks ago, Carmel Music Society unveiled its 100th anniversary season schedule, which kicks off Aug. 28 with a Gala Party at the Sand Box. Along with food and wine, the gala features music by pianist **Peter Dugan** — the host of National Public Radio’s “From the Top” program — and Grammy Award-winning clarinetist **Mark Dover**. Tickets are \$50.

Carmel Music Society’s season officially starts Oct. 11 at Sunset Center with a concert by the **Anderson & Roe Piano Duo**.

For a complete schedule, visit carmelmusic.org/events-2026.

■ ‘World-class blues’

Transforming Carmel’s busiest stage into a concert venue, blues singer and guitarist **Kid Ramos** takes the stage Saturday, 7:30 p.m., at the Golden Bough Playhouse. He’ll be joined by Johnny Main and the 44s.

“Kid Ramos has spent decades earning a reputation for fiery, soulful guitar playing and electrifying live performances,” said PacRep, which is presenting the show, calling it a “rare opportunity to experience world-class blues



Serving up a “a sonic tapestry of rock, funk and Americana,” Danger Kitty plays Saturday at Fernwood Resort in Big Sur.

in the intimate setting of our 270-seat theater.”

A former member of the James Harman Band and The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Ramos has been nominated 14 times for the Blues Music Awards, and in 2014 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Orange County Music Awards.

Tickets start at \$56. The Golden Bough is located on Monte Verde between Eighth and Ninth. For more details, call (831) 622-0100 or visit pacrep.org.

■ Jerry forever

An annual tribute to the late Grateful Dead icon Jerry Garcia, the 17th annual Holo-Fest comes to the Henry Miller Library in Big Sur July 31 through Aug. 2. Ticket sales will benefit the library, while merchandise sales will be donated to the Arts Council for Monterey County.

The Balkan String Projekt kicks off the festival Fri-

See **MUSIC** page 40A



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FOOD & WINE

Mixing things up at Estéban and keeping it delicioso at Alfredo's

AS LOCALS know, all automotive heck is fixin' to break loose on the Peninsula, and many of you are probably stocking up on essentials and rescheduling appointments so you can minimize driving in it. The events are great for the economy, and they raise a lot of money for charity, but they can be stressful for residents, so here are a few suggestions for taking the edge off, a comforting dish of pasta and a spot to get a different view of Monterey Bay.

You might have noticed a new occasional feature of this column — "Odds & Ends" — where you'll find quick references to things we came across during the week. If there's a bowl of soup or piece of pie we have to try, a cocktail that rocks your world, or a bottle of wine that made you blink because the price was so low, email elaine@carmelpinecone.com. If we don't get to it right away, please remember, we're eating as fast as we can.

■ Anthony Vitacca returns to Monterey

Anyone who's been around here long enough to have enjoyed a pre-Covid-era cocktail at the bar at Montrio can't possibly forget the craft and creativity longtime bartender Anthony Vitacca — now food and beverage director at Estéban — put into every drink.

He was king of mixology at Montrio for more than 17 years, and his personality appeared in those drinks as much as the ingredients did. In his more than 40 years on the job, Vitacca has won numerous awards and accolades and has taught more than a few people, whether in the business or not, how to make great cocktails.

Soup to Nuts

After leaving Montrio in December 2020, Vitacca went to work for Rich Pèpe's small Carmel empire, overseeing bar operations at Vesuvio (downstairs and the Star Bar) and Little Napoli for two and a half years, followed by a stint as beverage manager at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach. But the Monterey restaurant scene never stopped calling to him, and he answered by taking a job as food and beverage director at Estéban Restaurant in Casa Munras.

There, Vitacca and his team have redefined the cocktail



The new food and beverage manager at Estéban in Casa Munras Garden Hotel in Monterey, Anthony Vitacca, is well known to locals as the former bartender at Montrio. After also working at Little Napoli and Spanish Bay, Vitacca returned to Monterey and is bringing his craft and creativity to the cocktails guests sip alongside chef Steven Patlan's tapas and dinners.

experience with what a restaurant representative called "an inspired menu of imaginative, boundary-pushing drinks," and every one of them bears his touch, which can be found in the ingredients — many of which are house-made — the combinations, and the names.

Consider the "Mean Mr. Mustard," with coriander-infused tequila, Suze, cilantro, Dijon mustard, passionfruit, salted white pepper and orange. Among Vitacca's penchants is playing with savory ingredients, and the results are often surprising, though not like coming upon the drink's namesake "mean old man" in the park.

"If You're Not Into Yoga" (cue Rupert Holmes) contains pineapple rum, herbaceous Fernet-Branca, tiki bitters, passionfruit, coconut yogurt, pineapple and orange, while Lipstick & Leather is made with strawberry rhubarb-infused gin, Green Chartreuse, hibiscus, bitters, roasted beet juice, elderflower meringue and lemon.

The list goes on, with even mocktails getting such treatment. Under the "Like a Virgin" heading are three drinks, including "All Bite No Bark" (grapefruit soda, cherry-bark

vanilla bitters, rosemary syrup, guava and lime).

The happy hour lineup, which is offered daily from 4:30 to 6 p.m., has its own flair, including the "Four Eyed Bike Ride" featuring tequila, Aperol, guava, lime and Tajín, "Too Cool for School," with mint-infused gin, cherry-bark vanilla bitters, watermelon and soda, and "Hell Hath No Fury," with cucumber vodka, Italicus (an aperitivo made with bergamot, citrus and flowers), ginger bitters, pineapple, lime and cava. Those and more are a steal at \$8 apiece, while various tapas run \$9 to \$17.

To check it out, stop by Estéban at 700 Munras Ave. or visit estebanrestaurant.com.

■ Consistently good

Alfredo's Pastaria and Mozzarella Bar on Forest Avenue in Pacific Grove — formerly Mezzaluna — is under new ownership, but its food, drinks and service remain

See **PASTA** next page

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FOOD & WINE

PASTA

From previous page

excellent. The menu fits on one page but has something for almost everyone, including vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options.

Perhaps the consistency comes from Alfredo Ortiz, the “new” owner who was the restaurant’s long-time general manager under previous proprietors Soerke Peterson and Amy Stouffer. Nattily dressed and warmly hospitable, his smile seems to make everyone feel welcome.

So does the pillowy house-made focaccia served with a simple olive tapenade — it’s a nice snack as you peruse the menu, perhaps while sipping on a blood orange gin and tonic, a sweet and fruity take on a classic. The cocktail menu features quintessential Italian cocktails like the negroni and Aperol spritz, as well as interesting twists on martinis (earl grey, anyone?), Manhattans, and old-fashioned.

Vibrant saffron

Six novel mocktails are available, including the Apple Cider Pathfinder with nonalcoholic amaro, apple cider, lemon and cinnamon simple syrup, and the refreshing Yuzu Cucumber Spritz, with tart sparkling yuzu fruit, citrus and lime, mint and a thin ribbon of cucumber.

The impressive list of antipasti includes spring salad made with butter lettuce, Belgian endive, speck, English peas, fava beans, vinaigrette, Parmesan and pine nuts, or the gnocchi di patata, potato dumplings with brown butter, sage and Parmesan.

If cheese is your thing, the mozzarella bar offerings are delightful. The barbabietole (beets) al forno is a light and interesting combination with a smear of creamy, buttery soft stracchino cheese, chunky sea-salt-baked beets, blood oranges, pickled red onions, fennel, pea shoots and toasted hazelnuts that bring the whole dish together with a pleasant crunch.

Among more than a dozen house-made pastas, the asparagus ravioli is a standout. Vibrantly yellow from

the saffron in the pasta and filled with asparagus, English peas and ricotta, the round little pillows are drizzled with a white wine butter sauce and topped with Parmesan. It’s also hard to go wrong with comforting pappardelle con Bolognese di maiale, wide flat pasta topped with cured pork Bolognese sauce and pistachios.

Alfredo’s separate Blue Zones-inspired menu is focused on whole foods and simple, nourishing ingredients. That includes dishes with whole wheat pasta, such as



When Alfredo Ortiz took over and renamed Mezzaluna in Pacific Grove, he didn’t mess around with the popular pasta-centric menu — and that includes the house-made gelato and sorbetto. Seen here are Meyer lemon, rum raisin, and lavender flavors.

the linguine alla puttanesca, briny thanks to the capers and copious olives studding a sauce with tomato, chili flakes and garlic.

The diverse wine list features local, Californian, Italian, and French wines by the bottle and glass, plus specially priced bottles to take home.

For dessert, the gelato is made in-house with flavors like honey lavender — that tastes brilliantly like real lavender, but without the potpourri accent — and Malaga rum raisin. They’re part of a diverse assortment of flavors that can be mixed and matched with dairy-free options like the Meyer lemon sorbetto.

The dining room is on the small side, but you can book a reservation through the website, alfredospastariaand-

See **FOOD** next page



Pasta puttanesca, as spicy as the ladies who inspired its name, appears on the Blue Zones menu at Alfredo’s in P.G. thanks to the whole grain house-made linguine.



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CALENDAR

July 31 – Carmel Plaza’s Summer Live Music with The Chicano All Stars. Food & drink packages available for \$25 while you enjoy 2 hours of free music, 5 to 7 p.m., Ocean Avenue and Mission Street, CarmelPlaza.com/happenings

July 31 – The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB) will present a dinner lecture at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1000 Aguajito Road, Monterey. **Dr. Richard Feinberg**, Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego will present **“The Cuban Tragedy: whither Washington and Havana?”** Visit <http://www.wacmb.org> for event registration and information.

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

Aug. 1 – Jack Galante, owner of Galante Family Winery, celebrates the launch of his new book, **“A Life Well Seasoned.”** Book signing and celebration are set for 2 to 5 p.m. at the Galante Family Winery Tasting Room, Dolores between Ocean and Seventh, Carmel-by-the-Sea. Enjoy an afternoon of stories and Galante wines.

Aug. 2-18 – Baum & Blume will be closed for summer vacation! Time to get away and REFRESH! Back in the kitchen on Aug. 19 to prepare yummy takeout options for YOU! Café and boutique reopen Aug. 20. Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley. (831) 659-0400.

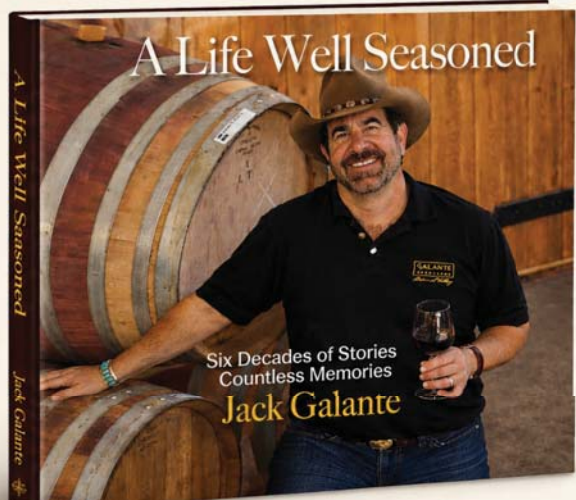
Aug. 9 – The Monterey County Composers’ Forum presents “Summer Song,” at 3 p.m., a concert of local composers and songwriters. Composers presenting are **Steve Ettinger, Paula Kaiser, Rolando Mejia, Ed Moncrief, Douglas Ovens, Julie Roseman** and **Dale Victorine**. Hidden Valley Music, 104 West Carmel Valley Road. Admission \$20. Info: macy@macalester.edu

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

Aug. 16 – The Monterey Elks Lodge, located at 150 Mar Vista Drive, invites classic, custom, and muscle car owners to attend our **Open to the Public Car Show and BBQ** between noon and 3 p.m. Barbecue is \$15 adults / \$10 kids 12 and under. **Car entry is FREE** and awards will be given for Best in Show, Best Restoration, People’s Choice. Contact Molly at mollyx313@aol.com to enter the contest.

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Celebrate the launch with us.

FOOD

From previous page

mozzarellabar.com. Prices are midrange -to-high for P.G. — appetizers start at \$14, mozzarella bar selections run from \$13 to \$20, and the pastas sell for \$25 to \$39 — but portions are large and the service is exceptionally pleasant and knowledgeable. Alfredo’s is located at 1188 Forest Ave. and is open Wednesday through Sunday from 5 to 9 p.m.



Sometimes, you want to get above all that noise down in the street. LindaRose Bar & Grill atop Hotel 1110 in Monterey offers reasonably priced drinks, snacks and meals with Middle-Eastern flair.

■ Odds and ends

One of our intrepid reporters hit LindaRose, the rooftop bar and grill at Hotel 1110 (that’s “eleven-ten”), this week. The bar is on the fourth floor of the boutique hotel at 1110 Del Monte Ave. in Monterey. In addition to craft cocktails (\$16), beer and wine, you’ll find appetizers, small bites and meals with Middle Eastern accents. We’re told the view is great, the kebab pita wrap with lamb (\$16) is delicious, and the Bullfighter Margarita is definitely worth a try.

Another outpost, the sparkling-clean Caffè by Rosine’s in Sand City, offered a much-needed breakfast burrito en route to a Saturday-morning youth event. For \$12, you get a ridiculously large, piping hot burrito filled with scrambled egg and bite-sized pieces of sausage and bacon, all laced with pico de gallo. There isn’t a lot of space to eat in, but parking’s easy and you won’t get snarled up in traffic near the big-box stores.

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

MUSIC

From page 37A

day at 7 p.m. with music from the Balkans. The musicians include festival founder and mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff**, multi-instrumentalist **Elijah McCullar**, percussionist **Avi Sinai** and many others.

Saturday’s music includes an acoustic tribute to Garcia at 2 p.m., and an electric tribute to the Grateful Dead legend at 7 p.m.

Wrapping up the weekend Sunday at 2 p.m. will be a jazzy acoustic set, “Hot Club Holo + Friends,” showcasing Holodiloff, guitarist **Nelsen Hutchison** and pianist **Michael Martinez**.

Holodiloff told The Pine Cone the library is the perfect site for the three-day celebration.

“It’s one of the coolest live music venues on earth with a full stage nestled underneath the superb redwoods,” he said. “All ages are welcome.”

Single-day tickets start at \$55, while three-day passes are \$188. The library is located at 4860 Highway 1. Visit daveholodiloff.com for more details.

Live music July 31-Aug. 6

■ Big Sur

Big Sur River Inn — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Saturday at noon), flutist **Tim Jackson** and friends (jazz, Sunday at noon), singer and guitarist **Victor Veysey** (Thursday at 6 p.m.), 46800 Highway 1.

Fernwood Resort — **Danger Kitty** (rock, funk and Americana, Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

■ Carmel

Carmel Mission Inn — **Open Mic Night** (Wednesday at 5 p.m.) in **Shearwater Tavern**, 3665 Rio Road.

Carmel Plaza — **The Chicano All-Stars** (Latin rock and r&b, Friday at 5 p.m.). Ocean and Mission.

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 — **New Wave Band** (‘80s pop and rock, Saturday at 6 p.m.), **Carmel Plaza**, Mission and Ocean.



The Poieisis Quartet is coming to the Monterey Peninsula, thanks to a new partnership between a music group and an intimate concert venue.

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

Baja Cantina — **The Money Band** (pop and rock, Thursday at 6 p.m.), 7166 Carmel Valley Road.

Bernardus Lodge — **Andrea’s Fault** (jazz and pop, Saturday at noon), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Sunday at noon), 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Edgar’s — singer and guitarist **RJ**

See **LIVE** page 43A



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ARTIST

From page 23A

downsized her St. Louis-area program in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It exists today, 20 years later, at the high school level in Webster Groves.

She also raised funds to establish the Holly Cousins Special Friends Extended Scholarship, which provides financial assistance to college-bound students — an annual fund that continues today.

Cousins devoted 30 years to children’s education, 23 as an elementary school teacher.

In 2022, she was honored with a lifetime achievement award from the St. Louis American Foundation.

Nature inspires her art

As a painter, Cousins directs her nurturing instincts toward nature, creating oil landscapes, seascapes, wildlife and florals.

“Yesterday, I saw sailboats out on the bay and knew I had to take some pictures for a painting,” she said. “That’s how inspiration hits, and kind of where my zone begins.

“I can spend three or four hours in that zone, listening to jazz music and feeling really enthused.”

Since moving to Pacific Grove, Cousins has improved through workshops, most notably two years of online lessons from Washington-based painter Ned Mueller, who has been designated a “master artist” by the American Impressionist Society and the Oil Painters of America.

“I learned so much from him about the basics of art, but I prefer studio art to plein air,” she said. “I always feel rushed when I’m painting outdoors.”

She also has grown from several lessons from Peninsula plein-air artist Marie Massey.

Her art has been included in exhibitions at Sunset Center’s Marjorie Evans Gallery, the Pacific Grove Art Cen-

ter, the Sally Griffin Center (now Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula), the Avery Gallery at Seaside City Hall and the Coastal Gallery in Half Moon Bay, where her painting received runner-up honors for the Best in Show award.

Widely traveled

In retirement, Cousins also enjoys traveling to picturesque places with Steve, her husband of 46 years and a semi-retired corporate attorney.

Venues they’ve visited have included France, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Argentina and Brazil, among others.

Cousins has two adult daughters who live in Southern California. Stephanie is an OB-GYN specializing in robotic surgery. Heather is a film editor in the movie industry who is working on a Netflix project.

Additional information and images of Cousins’ art can be seen on Instagram at [cousinshart](#), at [centralcoastartassociation.com/artist/holly-cousins](#) and at [reflectionselegantegallery.com](#).

See her work on exhibit Monday and Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. or Sunday noon to 4 p.m. at Reflections Elegante at 271 Alvarado St., Monterey.

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

Mother-daughter poetry reading at Crossroads

ON SUNDAY, Aug. 2, at 2 p.m. at River House Books in the Crossroads shopping center, local counselor and poet Kim Birdsong and her daughter will have a book signing and reading from their new book of poetry, “Of Water and Wings: Poems of truth and healing between mother and daughter.”

In this complex and challenging work, Birdsong and her daughter wrote a series of paired poems, each beginning from the same prompts, on the subject of healing from sexual assault. It’s a deeply intimate topic for both.

Survivors

As Birdsong put it, they chose to write it because if they had not, “We would miss the opportunity to share the truth of how it is to be a survivor of sibling sexual assault and how it is to be the mother not only of a survivor of sibling sexual assault, but also the mother of her perpetrator.”

A portion of the proceeds from the book will be donated to the Monterey Rape Crisis Center.

You can learn more about Birdsong at kimbirdsong.com.

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Publication Dates: July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026. (PC 708)

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S/Marcus McMillan
Date signed: July 2, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 2, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026 (PC 711)

legals@carmelpinecone.com

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 26CV003478
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, JENNEFA MICHELLE JEROME, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
A Present name:
JENNEFA MICHELLE JEROME
Proposed name:
NADIA MICHELLE ZOLA JEROME
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
DATE: August 25, 2026
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
DEPT: 15
The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.
Date filed: June 25, 2026
(s) Ian A. Rivamonte
Judge of the Superior Court
Publication Dates: July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026. (PC 713)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261383
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
KQ LUX JEWELS, 1626 N. Main St., Salinas, California 93906.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
VINH PHU PHAM, 1626 N. Main St., Salinas, California 93906.
This business is conducted by an individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on July 2, 2026.
S/Vinh Pham
Date signed: July 2, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 2, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026 (PC 715)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261252
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
BEE'S PET CARE, 205 Nido Way, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
BRIDGETT M. MAUGHAN, 3 E. Garzas Rd., Carmel Valley, CA 93924.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
S/Bridgett Maughan
Date signed: June 10, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 12, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026 (PC 716)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261377
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
KK I BROWS THREADING, 3084 Del Monte Blvd., Suite A, Marina, CA 93933.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
KKIBROWS, INC., 1268 Fremont Blvd., Seaside, CA 93955.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business

under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 1, 2026.
S/Kiran Kuar, Chief Executive Officer
Date: July 1, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 1, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026 (PC 717)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261390
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
MASALA EXPRESS, 398 Fremont St., Monterey, CA 93940.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
GURDISH KUMAR.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on July 3, 2026.
S/Gurdish Kumar
Date signed: July 6, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 6, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026 (PC 718)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261319
Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
1. INFOCENTER L.L.C.
2. MONTEREY INFOCENTER
3. SAN FRANCISCO INFOCENTER
4. LAS VEGAS INFOCENTER
62437 S. Starcross Dr., Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240.
County of Principal Place of Business: RIVERSIDE
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
INFOCENTER L.L.C., 395 Del Monte Center #220, Monterey, CA 93940.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: NV
This business is conducted by a limited lia-

bility company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on July 12, 2011.
S/John Zirwes, Managing Member
Date: June 16, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 23, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 17, 24, 31, Aug. 7, 2026 (PC 722)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261267
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
NANY'S COFFEE, 420 Wilson St., Salinas, CA 93901.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
PERLA VILLA.
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/PERLA VILLA
Date signed: June 16, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 16, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 17, 24, 31, Aug. 7, 2026 (PC 723)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 26CV003754
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner, DONIS AMAN MURRAY, filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
A Present name:
DONIS AMAN MURREY
Proposed name:
AMOND DONIS LUCKY-MURRAY
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
DATE: Sept. 8, 2026
TIME: 10:02 a.m.
DEPT: 14
The address of the court is 1200 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.
Date filed: July 9, 2026
(s) Ian A. Rivamonte
Judge of the Superior Court
Publication Dates: July 17, 24, 31, Aug. 7, 2026. (PC 724)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261263
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
ZANYARIN CONSULTING, 3495 Fisher Pl., Carmel, CA 93923.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
MEGHAN DUNSTETH RASMUSSEN.
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/Meghan Rasmussen
Date signed: June 11, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 16, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 17, 24, 31, Aug. 7, 2026 (PC 725)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261097
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
1. WORDS IMAGES & DESIGN
2. WRITERS ATTIC
1022 Ocean Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
DEBORAH JEANNE PETIT.
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/Deborah Jeanne Petit
Date signed: May 20, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on May 20, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 17, 24, 31, Aug. 7, 2026 (PC 726)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261384
Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
1. TLC PET PARADISE INC
2. TLC MOBILE PET GROOMING
3. CAMP TLC GOLDENS
2234 Leo Place, Aromas, CA 95004.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
TLC PET PARADISE, INC., 2234 Leo Place, Aromas, CA 95004.
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 Sept. 23, 2013.
S/Robert L. Benson, CEO
Date: July 2, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 2, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 17, 24, 31, Aug. 7, 2026 (PC 728)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261403
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
ULMER ANALYTICS CONSULTING AND EDUCATION, 507 12th St., Pacific Grove, CA 93950.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY

Registered Owner(s):
NICHOLAS ANDREW ULMER.
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/Nicholas Ulmer
Date signed: July 7, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 7, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 17, 24, 31, Aug. 7, 2026 (PC 729)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261326
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
AL CHILE FOODS, 1367 Torona Way, Salinas, CA 93905.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.:
CARDALENO LLC, 1367 Torona Way, Salinas, CA 93950.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 2, 2026.
S/Noel Cardona, CEO
Date: June 23, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on June 23, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 24, 31, Aug. 7, 14, 2026 (PC 731)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261439
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
LA BURRITA CAFE 831, 5 Mandeville Ct., Monterey, CA 93940.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
YESENIA JIMENEZ AHEDO, 1114 Cortez St., Unit A, 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 N/A.
S/Yesenia Jimenez Ahedo
Date signed: July 14, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 14, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 24, 31, Aug. 7, 14, 2026 (PC 732)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261460
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
4TH & HEART INTEGRATIVE LACTATION, 114 Abbott St., Salinas, CA 93901.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
JULIANA GARDNER, P.O. Box 885, 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 July 16, 2026.
S/Juliana Gardner
Date signed: July 16, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 16, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 24, 31, Aug. 7, 14, 2026 (PC 733)

Lien Sale Auction Advertisement
Notice is hereby given that Pursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act, (B&P Code 21700 et. Seq.), the undersigned will sell at public auction; personal property including but not limited to furniture, tools, and /or other misc. items
Auction to be held at 4:00 pm on August 18th, 2026:
www.storageasures.com
The property is stored at:
Leonard's Lockers Self Storage
Elba Gomez
Jerrelyn Faith Trujillo
Christopher Lopez
Andrew Dejillo
Porfirio Reyna
Cesar A Lopez
Jessie Marlin
7/31/26
CNS-4063072#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: July 31, 2026 (PC 734)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261420
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
KEEZA STARR CREATIONS, 27175 Los Arboles Drive, Unit A, Carmel, CA 93923.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY
Registered Owner(s):
KEZIA DANIELLE ANZINI, 225 The Crossroads Blvd., Box 169, Carmel, CA 93923.
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/Kezia Danielle Anzini
Date signed: July 10, 2026
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on July 10, 2026.
Publication Dates: July 24, 31, Aug. 7, 14, 2026 (PC 735)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 20261372
The following person(s) is[are] doing business as:
Ivy Park at Salinas, 1320 Padre Drive Salinas, CA 93901, County of Monterey
Registered Owner(s):
WELL Ivy 6 Tenant LLC, 4500 Dorr Street, Toledo, OH 43615, DE
This business is conducted by a limited liability company
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 06/28/2021
S/ Sharon Makowsky, Vice President
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on 07/01/2026 7/24, 7/31, 8/7, 8/14/26
CNS-4062297#
CARMEL PINE CONE
Publication Dates: July 24, 31, Aug. 7, 14, 2026. (PC 736)

HTTPS://CARMELPINECONE.COM

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 11/13/2021. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

On 8/11/2026 at 10:00 AM, CALIFORNIA TD SPECIALISTS, AS TRUSTEE as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded on 11/18/2021 as Instrument No. 2021078461 in book N/A, page N/A of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Monterey County, California, executed by: TODD WEAVER AND GENEVIEVE FORD, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS COMMUNITY PROPERTY WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP, as Trustor MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS INC., AS NOMINEE FOR HOMEXPRESS MORTGAGE CORP. , as Beneficiary WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). At: At the Main entrance to the County Administration Building, 168 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California describing the land therein: See Exhibit "A" Attached Hereto And Made A Part Hereof.

The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 27255 LOS ARBOLES DRIVE, CARMEL, CA 93923.

The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit:

\$1,446,482.61 (Estimated)

Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale.

The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation.

DATE: 7/13/2026

CALIFORNIA TD SPECIALISTS, AS TRUSTEE, as Trustee
8190 EAST KAISER BLVD., ANAHEIM HILLS, CA 92808
PHONE: 714-283-2180

FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION LOG ON TO: <https://prestigepostandpub.com>

CALL: 949-776-4697

JANINA HOAK, TRUSTEE SALE OFFICER
PPP #26-007663

CALIFORNIA TD SPECIALISTS IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

“NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid on a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of the outstanding lien that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. **Please be advised that the trustee may require entity or trust bidders at this trustee's sale to provide information, documentation and/or certification of the vesting instructions and the data required to be reported pursuant to FinCEN regulations effective for transfers of residential real property to covered transferees on or after March 1, 2026. The required information must be provided to the trustee before a trustee's deed upon sale will be issued for covered transfer. Additional information regarding these regulations and the required transferee information and certifications can be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers> and https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs#d_5**

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 949-776-4697, or visit this Internet Web site <https://prestigepostandpub.com>, using the file number assigned to this case T.S.# 88895. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.”

For sales conducted after January 1, 2021:

NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an “eligible tenant buyer,” you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an “eligible bidder,” you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 949-776-4697, or visit this internet website <https://prestigepostandpub.com>, using the file number assigned to this case 88895 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid; by remitting the funds and affidavit described in Section 2924m(c) of the Civil Code; so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an “eligible tenant buyer” or “eligible bidder,” you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase.

Disclosure

In compliance with CA civil code 2924f(F), the opening bid for the foreclosure sale is based on a valuation provided t the trustee by the lender of the lender's representative. The trustee does not determine, verify , or opine on the accuracy of this valuation and makes no representation regarding the market value of the property subject to foreclosures (the “Property”).

The trustee's compliance or non-compliance with CA civil code 2924f(f) shall not be construed as an opinion, warranty, or representation regarding (i) the priority of the deed of trust being foreclosed, (ii) the condition of title to the Property, or (iii) any other matters affecting the Property, including the value of the Property. The trustee relies solely on the trustee's sale guaranty and/or information provided by the lender regarding the lien priority and title condition and does not independently verify such information.

All bidders are solely responsible for conducting their own independent due diligence regarding the loan, the Property, its value, the lien priority of the deed of trust being foreclosed, and the condition of the title to the Property. The trustee assumes no liability for the accuracy or completeness of any information provided by third parties, including the lender.

The valuation used to determine the minimum opening bid applies only to the initially scheduled sale date. Any postponement or continuation of the sale does not obligate the trustee to obtain or rely upon a new valuation, nor does it alter the trustee's limited role in the process.

LIVE

From page 40A

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

Folktale Winery — singer and guitarist **Kito Rayburn** (Friday at 4 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

McIntyre Vineyards tasting room — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Sunday at 1 p.m.), 24 W. Carmel Valley Road.

■ Monterey

Hyatt Regency Monterey — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Reija Massey** (Friday at 7 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Saturday 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.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.), 750 Cannery Row.

Midici Pizza — pianist **Kevin McCullough** and bassist **Tony Bianchini** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl-Astrup** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.), 467 Alvarado St.

Monterey Plaza Hotel — pianist **Michael Culver** (jazz, Friday and Sunday 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 at 6 p.m.), multi-instrumentalist

Gary Regina (jazz, Tuesday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Wednesday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Thursday at 6 p.m.), 400 Cannery Row.

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 New Wave Band** ('80s pop and rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **Late at Last** (pop-punk and rock, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

■ Moss Landing

The Power Plant Coffee — **Dirty Cello** (rock and blues, Saturday at 7 p.m.). 7990 Highway 1.

■ Pacific Grove

Asilomar Conference Center — singer **Kaye Bohler** and an 8-piece band (blues, soul and r&b, Friday at 7 p.m.). 800 Asilomar Ave.

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 — singer and guitarist **Vick Silva** (rock, blues and reggae, Saturday at noon), **Wolf Dog Walker** (rock, Sunday at 2 p.m.), 1120 Lighthouse Ave.

PG Meetinghouse — **The Rod Squad** (rock, Friday at 7 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Saturday at 11 a.m.), **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Saturday at 7 p.m.), guitarist **Cat Broz** and drummer **Lisa Rutta** (Sunday at 11 a.m.), **Open Mic** (Monday at 6 p.m., sign-ups start at 5:30 p.m.), **Tribe in the Sky** (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.), 599 Lighthouse 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 — **The Andy Weis Trio** (jazz, Friday, Saturday and Thursday at 7 p.m.), **The Al James Duo** (R&B and rock, Saturday at 2 p.m.), 2700 17 Mile Drive.

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — singer and guitarist **Dan Cortes** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Tamas Marius** (jazz, Saturday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Fred McCarty** (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.



Award-winning blues singer and guitarist Kid Ramos plays Saturday at the Golden Bough Playhouse.

■ Seaside

Embassy Suites — singer and multi-instrumentalist **Meredith McHenry** (Friday at 5:30 p.m.). 1441 Canyon Del Rey Blvd.

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

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Continues on back page

■ MASONRY

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■ MOVING

J & M MOVING AND STORAGE, INC.
We can handle all your moving and storage needs, local or nationwide. Located in new 20,000 sf Castroville warehouse. We specialize in high-value household goods. Excellent references available. MTR 0190259, MC 486132. Call Jim Stracuzzi at (831) 633-5903 or (831) 901-5867. TF

■ PAINTING

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Continues from previous page

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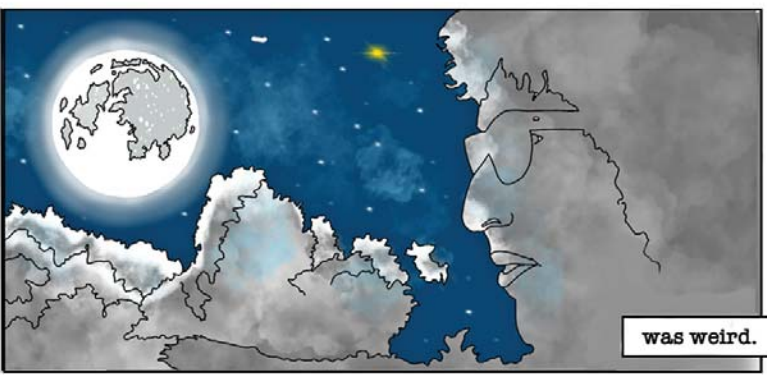
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Police Log: Carmel-by-the-Sea, Aug. 11

Person reports

the cloud formation around the moon


was weird.

And wanted to meet with an officer,

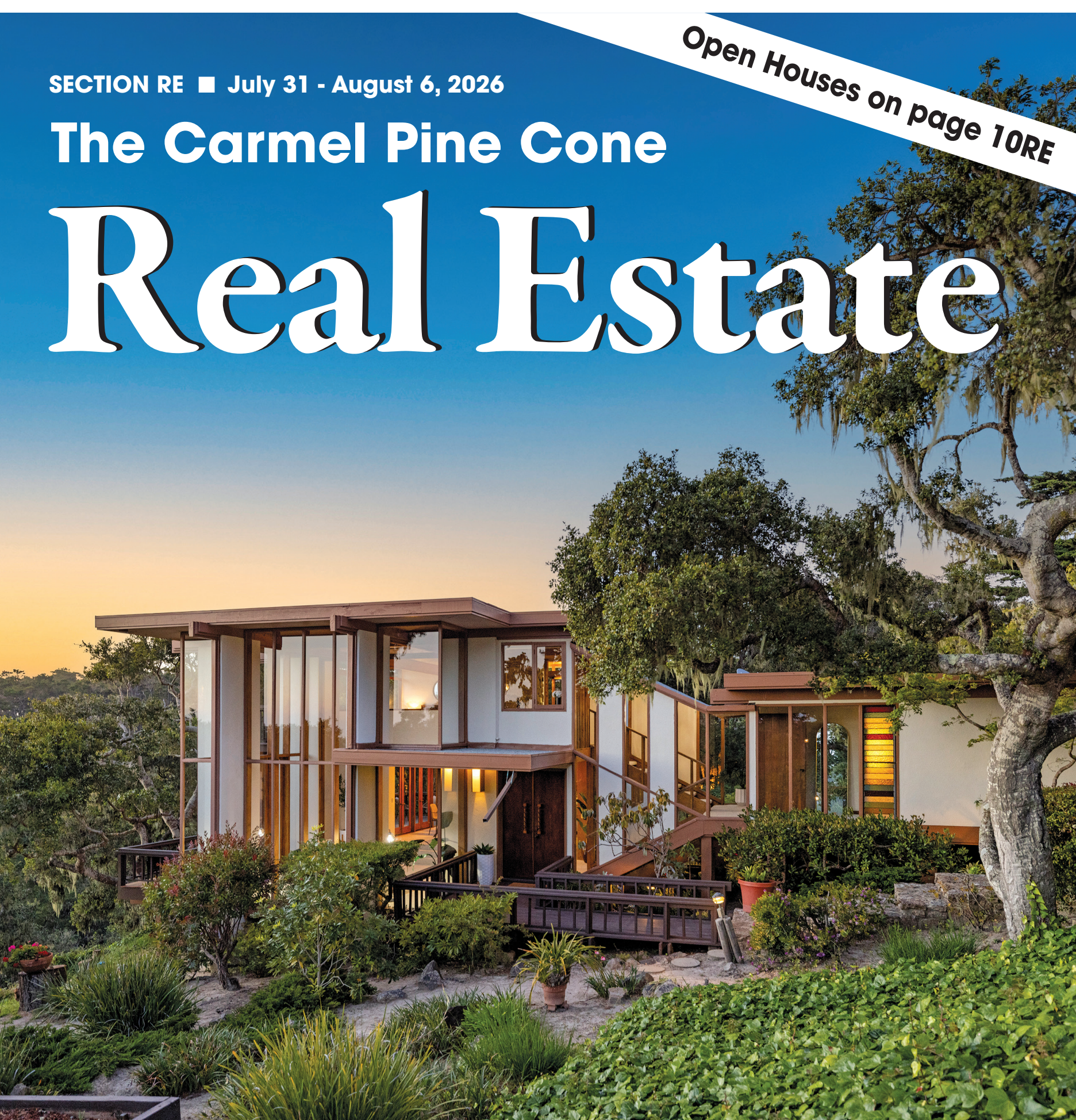
But later cancelled.
Domeniconi

SECTION RE ■ July 31 - August 6, 2026

Open Houses on page 10RE

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate



■ This week's cover, located in Carmel,
is presented by The Ruiz Group of Keller Williams.
(See Page 2 RE)





OPEN SATURDAY 1-3
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Real Estate Sales July 19 - 25

Escrows closed: 36
Total value: \$51,305,000

Big Sur

38019 Palo Colorado Road — \$1,000,000
Mary Breen to Jonathan Rising
APN: 418-131-019

Carmel

26020 Atherton Drive — \$1,300,000
Gregory and Nola Casserly to Madelyn Casserly
APN: 009-271-017

1188 Camino Real — \$6,600,000
Murphy's Camino Real LLC to Louise P. Murphy House LLC
APN: 010-273-006

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5030 Beach Wood Drive, Seaside — \$1,359,000

Carmel Valley

9500 Center Street unit 57 — \$580,000
Pamela and Jennifer Lawrence to Anthony and Elisabeth Pollard
APN: 169-237-057

13330 Middle Canyon Road — \$1,100,000
Matthew Heimbold and Karma Dod to Steve and Stephanie Johnson
APN: 187-272-004

7567 Paseo Vista — \$1,150,000
Terrence and Rosalyn Trapp to Del Mar French Laundry
APN: 259-101-112

28015 Quail Court — \$2,099,000
Lane Loyko to Gary and Deborah Convis
APN: 416-541-012

15475 Via Tulares — \$2,950,000
Donald and Gwen Reinke to Marc and Jaminia Colliard
APN: 197-142-006

Marina

605 Santa Lucia Way unit F — \$379,000
The Sea Haven LLC to Jose Galang
APN: 031-295-013

See HOME SALES page 4RE

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Carmel-by-the-Sea
Real Estate Activity This Week:

Status	Address	List Price	Sale Price	DOM
New Listing	NE Corner of Camino Real & 12th	\$6,600,000	---	0
List Price Decreased	1st Ave. 2 NE of Carpenter	\$2,995,000	---	23
Contingent	NW Corner 1st and San Carlos	\$3,995,000	---	31
Sold	NE Corner of Santa Rita & 3rd	\$3,395,000	\$3,225,000	6
Sold	NE Corner of Camino Real & 12th	\$6,600,000	\$6,600,000	0
Sold	NE Corner of Carmelo & 13th	\$16,500,000	\$15,500,000	29

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(Data from MLSListings Inc)



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Pebble Beach ■ 4 beds, 2.5 baths ■ \$8,995,000 ■ www.1651CrespiLane.com



Carmel ■ 4 beds, 3+ baths ■ \$5,450,000 ■ www.5ViaVaquera.com



Carmel ■ 3 beds, 3 baths ■ \$4,950,000 ■ www.SeaGrassCottageCarmel.com



Pebble Beach ■ 3 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$3,495,000 ■ www.3100FlavinLane.com



Carmel ■ 3 beds, 2.5 baths ■ \$2,995,000 ■ www.26346RiverParkPlace.com



Carmel ■ 3 beds, 3.5 baths ■ \$2,195,000 ■ www.28061HeronCourt.com

HOME SALES

From page 2RE

Marina (con't.)

172 Paddon Place — \$940,000
Reno Navales to Anita Altre and Nestor Robes
APN: 033-141-036

2708 Sand Dune Avenue — \$1,248,500
Shea Homes LP to Michael, Margaret and Rachel Demers
APN: 031-285-012

2311 Sanderling Avenue — \$2,419,000
Shea Homes LP to Angelo and Nguyet Onalfo
APN: 031-222-045

Monterey

820 Casanova Avenue unit 69 — \$515,000
Todd Reeves to Kelsey Alves



512 12th Street, Pacific Grove — \$1,650,000
APN: 013-254-022

1033 Carmelo Street — \$818,000
Patricia Zehna to Ryan Sherman and Robert Gale
APN: 001-603-006

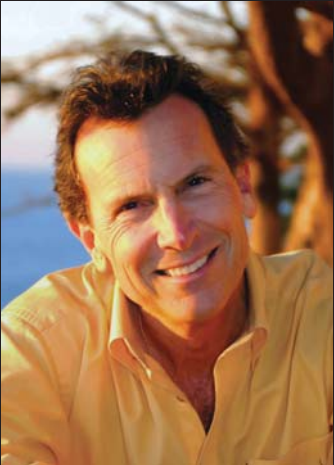


1091 Laurel Lane, Pebble Beach — \$2,425,000
515 Dickman Avenue — \$940,000
Michael and Heather Reinschmidt to Susan Couch
APN: 001-058-016

See **ESCROWS** page 6RE

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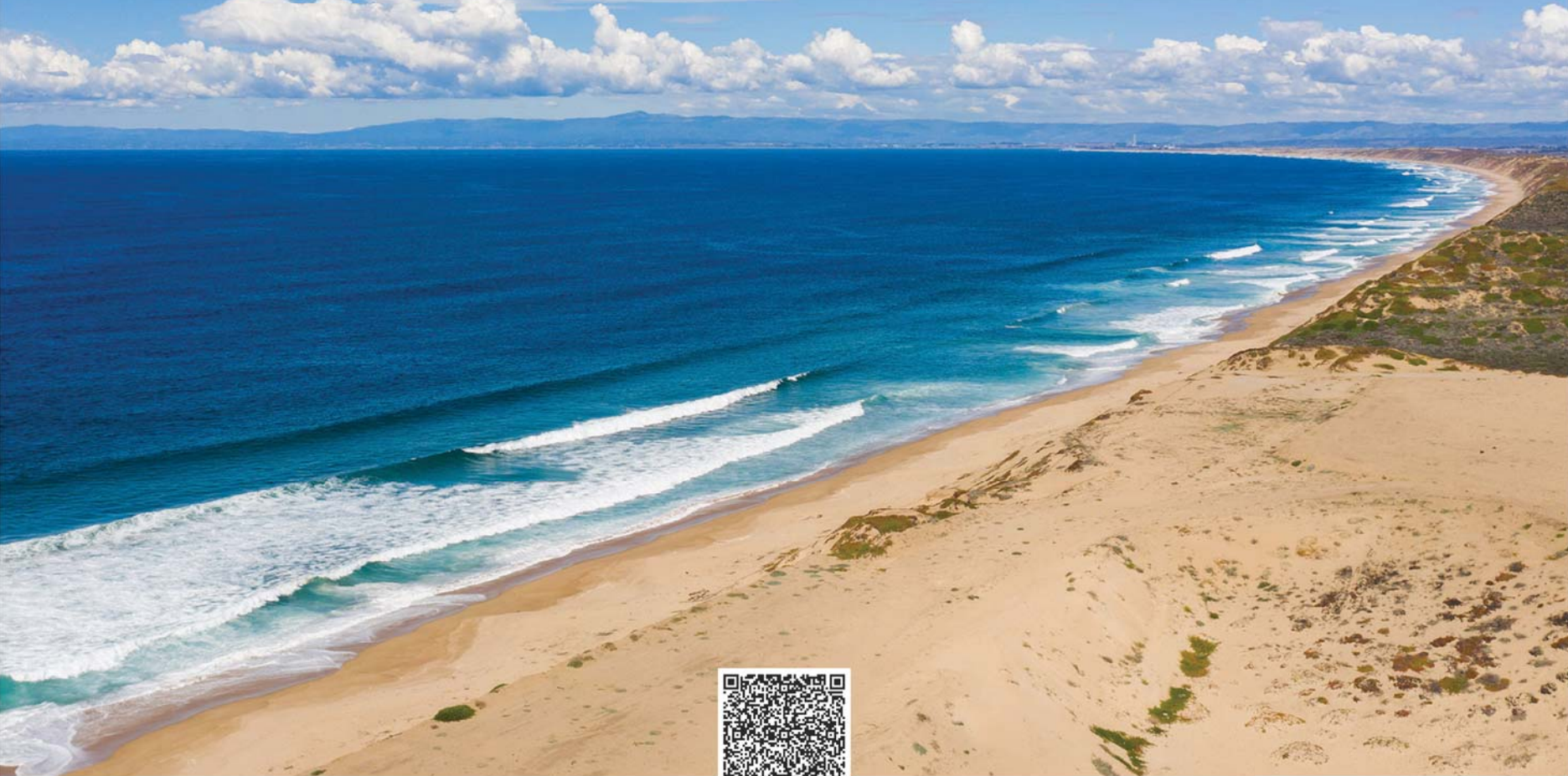
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252 Santa Lucia Lane, Marina
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The Marina Station Real Estate Team, in partnership with Monterey Coast Realty

ESCROWS

From page 4RE

Monterey (con't.)

1 Surf Way unit 216 — \$1,042,000
Barbara Dolbec to Brandi Richards

APN: 011-442-020

7 Via Joaquin, unit 5 — \$1,075,000
Ryan Sherman and Robert Gale to Paul Wilcox and Elsa Amboy
APN: 001-604-005

640 Alice Street — \$1,100,000
Jin and Keishun Jung to Jonathan Osburg and
Jennifer Boylan

APN: 001-164-013

36 Wellings Place — \$1,150,000
Richard Paroutaud to Keith and Sandra Muraki
APN: 001-972-012

127 Mar Vista Drive — \$1,240,000
Patricia Cal and Cynthia Heaton to Maliheh Bakhshi and
Sean Aval
APN: 001-921-010

See **DEEDS** page 14RE



Discover Coastal Sunshine | Monterra
7536 CANADA VISTA WAY | 4 BD | 4 BA | 3,868 SF | \$5,395,000

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\$4,400,000
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24489 San Mateo Avenue, Carmel
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24489sanmateo.com
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OPEN SAT 12-4 & SUN 11-1
39 Lilac Lane, Carmel Valley

4 BD | 3 BA | 1,994± SQ. FT. | 0.25± ACRE LOT
\$1,679,000
39lilaclane.com
Doug Steiny 831.236.7363
License# 00681652

20382 Franciscan Way, Salinas
4 BD | 3 BA | 2,284± SQ. FT. | 9,938± SQ. FT. LOT
\$1,495,000
20382franciscanway.com
Stephanie Park 831.229.0092
License# 00634519



OPEN SAT 1-3 & SUN 2:15-4:15



677 Taylor Street, Monterey
2 BD | 2 BA | 1,118± SQ. FT. | 4,331± SQ. FT. LOT
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677taylorstreet.com
Alecia Hull 831.238.8688
License# 02027849



OPEN SAT 2-4 & SUN 1-3
17755 Riverbend Road, Las Palmas

3 BD | 2 BA | 1,786± SQ. FT. | 5,017± SQ. FT. LOT
\$915,000
17755riverbend.com
Arleen Hardenstein 831.915.8989
License# 01710953

0 Sycamore Canyon Road, Big Sur
3.27± ACRE LOT
\$795,000
0sycamorecanyon.com
Sam Piffero & Aisha Krechuniak 831.236.5389
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OPEN SAT & SUN 12-2
45 Hacienda Carmel, Carmel
2 BD | 2 BA | 910± SQ. FT. | 1,168± SQ. FT. LOT
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In which a door opens and leads to a great deal of rumination

I’VE BECOME the recipient of everyday kindnesses and thoughtful gestures. I am the stranger whose door is held. It’s over in seconds, yet it’s a brief handshake between two lives passing in opposite directions. I thank them. Some people nod, some smile, and more often than not, they’ll say, “Of course.”

They are strange words to say. Not “you’re welcome,” which admits that something was given and now must be received, but “of course,” which waves the whole transaction away before it can even land. As if to say, “Don’t mention it, because there was nothing to mention.” The door was always going to be held. I was always going to walk through.

Rushing ahead

I’ve started noticing how rarely anyone says “you’re welcome” anymore. It’s “no problem,” “of course,” “yeah, for sure,” “no worries” — a whole vocabulary built to minimize the gesture down to nothing, to make sure no one has to consider, even for a second, that they did something for someone else.

I used to think this was just a verbal tic, the linguistic equivalent of a shrug. Now I wonder if it’s something closer to a philosophy that kindness doesn’t count as kindness if you have to be thanked for it. It’s as if we’ve decided that kindness only counts if it’s effortless, if it doesn’t require acknowledgment. But isn’t the point of kindness that it does require something of us — even if that something is just the willingness to be present for a moment?

I wasn’t always the one waiting for the door.

There was a whole stretch of my life — my teens, my 20s, my 30s, further than that if I’m honest — when I was the one

rushing ahead. I’d see someone’s grandmother struggling with a grocery bag and I’d jog the last few steps to catch the door before it swung shut. I’ve carried a neighbor’s laundry up two flights. I never once thought of it as kindness. It was just what you did when you were young. Your knees

Scenic Views

By JERRY GERVASE

still worked, and someone else’s didn’t.

I walked Mr. Gugino to his car after church because his hip made the parking lot feel like it was a mile long. I gave up my seat on the bus so often I grew more comfortable reading the newspaper standing than sitting. I held elevators an extra beat longer than felt natural. I memorized which of my neighbors needed a hand and which ones would rather you didn’t offer.

My mother taught me that, though she never called it teaching. She’d catch my sleeve on the sidewalk if we passed someone struggling and steer me toward them without a word, the way you’d correct a posture.

“You have two good arms,” she’d say, like it settled something. I didn’t understand until much later — that she was handing me a whole way of moving through the world, one held door at a time.

Trivialities

I don’t remember any of them saying “of course.” I remember them saying “bless you,” or “aren’t you sweet,” or sometimes nothing at all — just a hand on my arm, which was its own kind of thanks.

Now I am Mr. Gugino. I have the hip

See GERVASE page 12RE

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MUST SEE!

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The Balog Report

EDITION NO. 84

JULY 2026 · PRICE REDUCTIONS & MARKET ANALYSIS

BALOGPROPERTIES.COM

1 in 3 \$2M+ SALES REQUIRED A PRICE REDUCTION	17.7% AVG. REDUCTION ORIGINAL LIST TO SOLD	253 AVG. DAYS ON MARKET WITH PRICE CUTS	66 AVG. DAYS ON MARKET WITHOUT PRICE CUTS
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A SPECIAL REPORT · PAST 12 MONTHS · \$2M+ SALES · MONTEREY PENINSULA

MARKET ANALYSIS

The Price You Pay for Waiting

Over the past year, 297 homes sold above \$2 million on the Monterey Peninsula. One in three required a public price reduction. The gap between those that did and those that did not is larger than most sellers expect.

JONATHAN BALOG · BALOG PROPERTIES · COMPASS

Homes that required at least one public price reduction sold for an average of 17.7% below their original list price and spent an average of 253 days on market. After all the reductions, buyers then negotiated an additional 6.5% off the lowest advertised price before closing. More than half of those that reduced needed more than one cut before selling.

Homes that sold without any public reduction averaged 2.3% below list and closed in 66 days. That is four times longer on market and seven times more price concession for sellers who reduced publicly versus those who did not.

"The single most expensive decision a Peninsula seller can make is spending months discovering through public reductions what the market would have told them on day one."

THE PATTERN BY PRICE RANGE · MLS · PAST 12 MONTHS · \$2M+

SELLERS WHO REDUCED AVG. REDUCTION & DOM · WITH PRICE CUTS	
\$2M to \$3M	13.5% · 164 days
\$3M to \$4M	17.1% · 216 days
\$4M to \$6M	19.0% · 333 days
\$6M to \$10M	22.4% · 345 days
\$10M+	36.5% · 402 days

PATTERN

As price increases, every metric worsens for sellers who rely on public reductions. The progression is nearly linear.

SELLERS WHO DID NOT REDUCE AVG. REDUCTION & DOM · WITHOUT PRICE CUTS	
\$2M to \$3M	1.6% · 54 days
\$3M to \$4M	1.1% · 60 days
\$4M to \$6M	2.5% · 60 days
\$6M to \$10M	3.0% · 93 days
\$10M+	11.4% · 177 days

NOTE

No-reduction sellers still negotiated privately. The concession is smaller and the timeline dramatically shorter.

BY LOCATION AVG. REDUCTION · SELLERS WHO REDUCED	
Carmel Valley	22.3% · 327 days
Pebble Beach	16.5% · 251 days
Carmel	17.7% · 240 days
Monterey	17.3% · 219 days
Pacific Grove	14.7% · 191 days

PACIFIC GROVE

Among sellers who did not reduce, Pacific Grove averaged 0.0% reduction and 41 days on market — the most efficient sub-market on the Peninsula.

WHERE YOU ARE MATTER

Carmel Valley & Pacific Grove

Carmel Valley stands out as the most challenging sub-market in the dataset. Properties there averaged 22.3% below original list and 327 days on market — the worst figures of any Peninsula location. Part of this reflects the buyer pool: Carmel Valley draws fewer luxury vacation home buyers than the coastal markets. Buyers there tend to be looking for primary or estate properties, and that pool is narrower and more deliberate than the secondhome buyers who drive demand along the 17 Mile Drive corridor or in Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Pacific Grove tells a different story entirely. Among homes that sold without price reductions, the 20 Pacific Grove properties in the dataset averaged 0.0% reduction from list to sold price and just 41 days on market. Correctly priced Pacific Grove homes are, in the current environment, selling in approximately six weeks at asking price. Sellers and agents there tend to anchor to actual sold prices rather than aspirational comparables, which produces more realistic list prices from the start.

CLOSING OUTLOOK

What This Means

The market rewards clarity. Realistic pricing from the outset, combined with flexibility when a serious buyer arrives, consistently outperforms listing aspirationally and reducing later.

The full analysis — including the re-listing data, the Pacific Grove appreciation comparison, and detailed buyer and seller takeaways — is available online:



READ THE FULL REPORT
**balogproperties.com/
the-balog-report**
SCAN OR VISIT ONLINE

CLOSING NOTE

This analysis covers MLS-listed residential sales above \$2 million on the Monterey Peninsula over the past 12 months. Off-market transactions and private exclusives are not included. One Big Sur property originally listed at \$100 million and sold for approximately one-third of that figure was excluded as a statistical outlier.

YOUR BROKER

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CARMEL

\$695,000	2bd 2ba	Sa Su 12-2
45 Hacienda Carmel	Carmel	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	277-6020	
\$899,000	2bd 2ba	Su 1-3
20 Del Mesa Carmel	Carmel	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	293-3391	
\$925,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 2-4
24501 Via Mar Monte, Unit 77	Carmel	
Compass	915-8010	
\$1,050,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 1-3
183 Del Mesa Carmel	Carmel	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	293-3391	
\$1,525,000	2bd 3ba	Sa 2-4
9903 Club Place Lane	Carmel	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	277-9022	
\$1,590,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 10-12
9542 Maple Court	Carmel	
Compass	236-5290	
\$1,750,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 2-4
25636 Morse Dr	Carmel	
Compass	238-2022	
\$1,999,000	3bd 3.5ba	Sa 12-2
28088 Barn Court	Carmel	
Carmel Realty	595-0676	
\$2,049,000	2bd 3ba	Sa 1-3
24875 N. Carmel Hills Drive	Carmel	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	318-3808	
\$2,095,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 2-4
26074 Mesa Drive	Carmel	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	238-7559	
\$2,195,000	4bd 4ba	Sa 12-2
28069 Heron Ct	Carmel	
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams	277-8712	
\$2,445,000	3bd 3ba	Su 2-4
25195 Stewart Pl	Carmel	
Coldwell Banker Realty	917-3966	
\$2,490,000	3bd 2ba	Su 12-2
24623 Upper Trail	Carmel	
Monterey Coast Realty	277-5821	
\$2,949,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 1-3
Mission 3 NW of 4th Avenue 5	Carmel	
Carmel Realty	915-3913	
\$2,995,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 1:30-3:30 Su 12-2
1st Ave 2 NE of Carpenter	Carmel	
Coldwell Banker Realty	917-7029 / 206-0129	
\$2,995,000	3bd 2ba	Sa Su 1-3
26346 River Park Place	Carmel	
Carmel Realty	884-3868	
\$2,999,000	5bd 3.5ba	Sa 1-3
25000 Pine Hills Dr	Carmel	
Coldwell Banker Realty	565-6118	
\$3,479,000	3bd 3ba	Sa 1-3
Crespi 2 NW Flanders	Carmel	
Compass	915-6187	
\$4,350,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 1-4 Su 2:30-4:30
26047 Atherton Dr	Carmel	
Coldwell Banker Realty	206-0129	
\$6,950,000	4bd 4.5ba	Su 2-4
228 Lower Walden Rd	Carmel	
Coldwell Banker Realty	356-8123	
\$7,450,000	3bd 3ba	Sa 12-3
2385 Bay View Ave	Carmel	
Coldwell Banker Realty	227-3914	

CARMEL HIGHLANDS

\$3,495,000	2bd 2ba	Sa 1-3
88A Corona Rd	Carmel Highlands	
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams	277-8712	

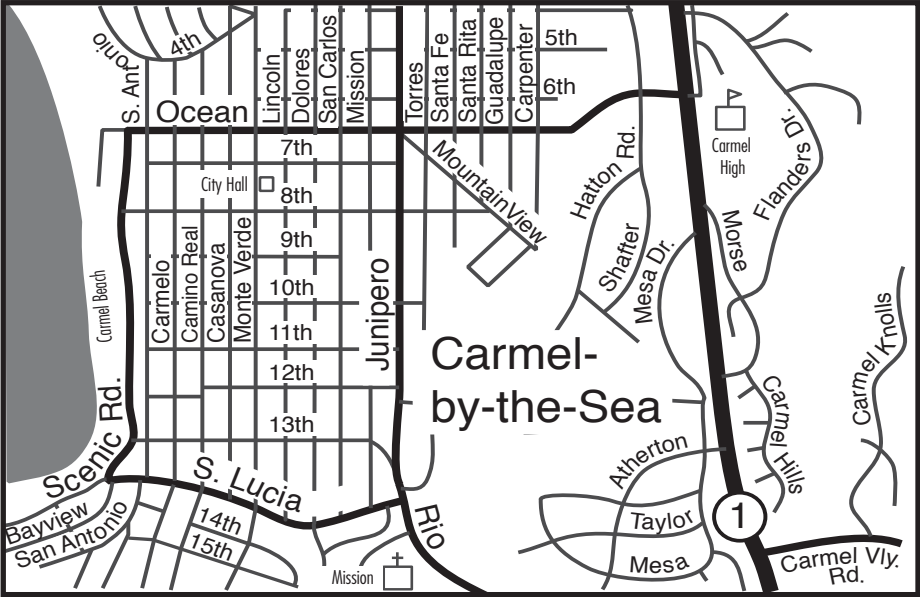
CARMEL VALLEY

\$1,679,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 12-4 Su 11-1
39 Lilac Lane	Carmel Valley	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	200-5007 / 917-3450	
\$1,749,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 11:30-1:30
4 Paso Del Rio	Carmel Valley	
Monterey Coast Realty	277-5821	
\$1,895,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 1-3
760 Country Club Dr	Carmel Valley	
Compass	262-7768	
\$2,195,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 11-1
297 El Caminito Road	Carmel Valley	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	277-2070	
\$2,395,000	4bd 4ba	Sa 1-3
15286 Via La Gitana	Carmel Valley	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	601-6271	
\$2,395,000	4bd 3.5ba	Sa 10:30-12:30
216 Vista Verde	Carmel Valley	
Carmel Realty	206-9969	
\$2,440,000	4bd 4ba	Sa 11-1
26245 Rinconada Dr	Carmel Valley	
Compass	236-5290	

This Weekend's

OPEN HOUSES

July 31 - Aug. 2



\$2,695,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa Su 11-3
36 Miramonte Road	Carmel Valley	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	236-7363 / 277-5971	
\$2,890,000	4bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-3
31499 Via Las Rosas	Carmel Valley	
The Agency	293-4878	
\$4,700,000	5bd 5ba	Su 2-4
7 San Clemente	Carmel Valley	
Compass	236-5290	

CORRAL DE TIERRA

\$2,495,000	4bd 3ba	Sa Su 1-3
28951 Falcon Ridge Road	Corral De Tierra	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	915-2800	
\$2,695,000	4bd 3+ba	Sa 2-4
13101 Corte De Encanto	Corral De Tierra	
Carmel Realty	277-5821	

DEL REY OAKS

\$548,000	1bd 1ba	Su 11-1
121 Quail Run Court	Del Rey Oaks	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	917-1631	
\$1,250,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 1-3
29 Los Encinos Dr	Del Rey Oaks	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	214-2545	

MARINA

\$1,149,000	4bd 2.5ba	Su 12-2
16406 E. Garrison Dr	Marina, East Garrison	
Compass	238-2022	

MONTEREY

\$448,000	1bd 1ba	Sa 1:30-3:30
2301 Golden Oaks Ln	Monterey	
Coldwell Banker Realty	884-3919	
\$475,000	1bd 1ba	Su 1-3
820 Casanova Avenue #108	Monterey	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	277-8622	
\$549,000	1bd 1ba	Su 11-1
300 Glenwood Circle #258	Monterey	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	915-0265	
\$1,125,000	3bd 1.5ba	Sa Su 11-1
814 Parcel St	Monterey	
Coldwell Banker Realty	717-7815	
\$1,399,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 10-2:30 Su 11-2
668 Alice St	Monterey	
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams	224-0020	

\$1,648,998	3bd 3.5ba	Sa 12-2
425 Via Del Rey	Monterey	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	236-4663	
\$1,699,000	4bd 2ba	Fr 1-6 Sa 11-3 Su 11-3
3 White Tail Lane	Monterey	
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams	241-1598	
\$1,790,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 12-3:30
113 Littlefield Rd	Monterey	
The Jones Group	917-4534	
\$1,950,000	3bd 3.5ba	Sa Su 11-3
2110 Messina Place	Monterey	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	444-1718	
\$2,450,000	3bd 3ba	Sa 1-4
150 Littlefield Road	Monterey	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	877-0389	
\$3,895,000	4bd 3.5+ba	Sa 10-3
500 Belavida Road	Monterey	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	277-9022 / 277-8622	

Monterey reads The Pine Cone

PACIFIC GROVE

\$1,375,000	2bd 1ba	Sa 11-4 Su 12-4
315 Cypress Avenue	Pacific Grove	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	277-9250 / 238-8029	
\$1,400,000	2bd 1ba	Sa Su 1-3
215 Lobos Ave	Pacific Grove	
Coldwell Banker Realty	594-6158	
\$1,595,000	4bd 3ba	Sa 12-2
219 Willow Street	Pacific Grove	
Compass	238-1380	
\$1,595,000	4bd 2ba	Sa Su 11-1
514 7th Street	Pacific Grove	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	917-1631 / 521-4118	
\$1,595,000	3bd 2ba	Sa Su 1-3
709 Lobos Ave	Pacific Grove	
Coldwell Banker Realty	884-3919	
\$1,950,000	3bd 3.5ba	Sa Su 1-3
917 Fountain Avenue	Pacific Grove	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	318-3808	
\$1,999,000	5bd 2.5ba	Sa Su 1-3
110 10th St	Pacific Grove	
Coldwell Banker Realty	915-4754 / 565-6118	
\$2,195,000	5bd 4ba	Sa Su 12-4
114 Carmel Avenue	Pacific Grove	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	521-0680 / 917-1631	
\$2,395,000	4bd 4ba	Sa 12-2 Su 1-4
135 5th Street	Pacific Grove	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	915-2800 / 510-589-6892	
\$3,129,000	3bd 4ba	Su 12-2
111 12th St	Pacific Grove	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	277-9250	

PEBBLE BEACH

\$849,000	2bd 2ba	Su 1-3
17 Shepherd's Knoll	Pebble Beach	
Carmel Realty	320-6801	
\$2,398,000	4bd 2ba	Fr 2-4 Sa 1-4 Su 12:30-3
3113 Sloat Road	Pebble Beach	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	915-6391 / 510-589-6892	
\$3,098,000	4bd 3.5ba	Sa 2:30-4
2905 Bird Rock Rd	Pebble Beach	
Compass	238-1380	
\$3,999,999	3bd 3ba	Sa Su 12-2
2976 Bird Rock Road	Pebble Beach	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	650-248-5030	



\$4,200,000	4bd 2.5ba	Fr 1-5 Sa Su 11-3
1633 Sonado Road	Pebble Beach	
Monterey Coast Realty	460-6864	
\$8,920,000	4bd 3.5ba	Sa 1-3 Su 11-1
3978 Ronda Road	Pebble Beach	
Compass	236-5290	
\$9,750,000	4bd 5.5ba	Sa 2-4
31 Poppy Ln	Pebble Beach	
Coldwell Banker Realty	356-8123	
\$9,995,000	5bd 6.5ba	Sa 12-2
21 Poppy Ln	Pebble Beach	
Coldwell Banker Realty	356-8123	
\$11,995,000	4bd 4ba	Sa Su 1-3
1031 The Old Drive	Pebble Beach	
Carmel Realty	333-6325 / 915-8153	

SALINAS

\$819,000	3bd 2ba	Sa Su 11-2
321 Primavera Way	Salinas	
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams	261-6468	
\$829,000	4bd 2ba	Sa 10-4 Su 12-5
69 Geil St	Salinas	
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams	867-1188	
\$889,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 11-3 Su 12-2
25658 Wisteria Ct	Salinas	
The Ruiz Group, Keller Williams	224-6759	
\$915,000	3bd 2ba	Sa 2-4 Su 1-3
17755 Riverbend Rd	Salinas	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	238-8688 / 915-8989	
\$970,000	5bd 2.5ba	Su 1:30-3:30
17554 Sugarmill Road	Salinas	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	236-7251	
\$998,000	3bd 2.5ba	Sa 2-4 Su 1-3
17506 Sugarmill Road	Salinas	
Carmel Realty	594-8767	
\$1,299,000	4bd 3ba	Su 11-1
14390 Mountain Quail Road	Salinas	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	236-7251	

SANTA CRUZ

\$898,000	2bd 2ba	Su 1-4
471 Country Estates Terrace	Santa Cruz	
Monterey Coast Realty	241-4259	
\$1,150,000	3bd 2ba	Sa Su 12-3
1328 Mission Street	Santa Cruz	
Sotheby's Int'l RE	227-9987	

See OPEN HOUSES page 12RE

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GERVASE

From page 8RE

that makes the parking lot feel so vast. And the boy who held the door for me today — 19, maybe 20, earbuds in, already halfway back to his phone before I’d cleared the

threshold — has no idea that I hereby recognize him. Not him exactly. The posture of him. The particular hurry of someone who hasn’t yet learned that holding a door is not an interruption of their day, but a small, correct use of it.

I want to tell him something. Not a lecture — I’ve had enough of those aimed at me to know how little they land — just

some small acknowledgment that I see what he’s doing before he’s even aware he’s doing it. That I was him. That someday, if he’s lucky enough to get old, someone will hold a door for him and he won’t recognize himself as the former door holder, not right away.

But I don’t say any of that. I just say thank you, the way I always do, and he says “of course,” the way he always does, and for a second we are both telling the truth without us knowing it. Of course. As if it were never a choice at all — as if kindness were just weather, something that

happens to you, passed hand-to-hand to a line of strangers who never meet twice.

Maybe that’s not loss. Maybe that’s how it’s supposed to work — you hold the door until you can’t anymore, and then you walk through the one someone else is holding, and nobody keeps score, and nobody’s supposed to. I don’t know. I only know that I stood there a beat too long today, half in the doorway, half in some church parking lot decades gone. And the boy had already put his earbuds back in.

Contact Jerry at jerrygervase@yahoo.com.

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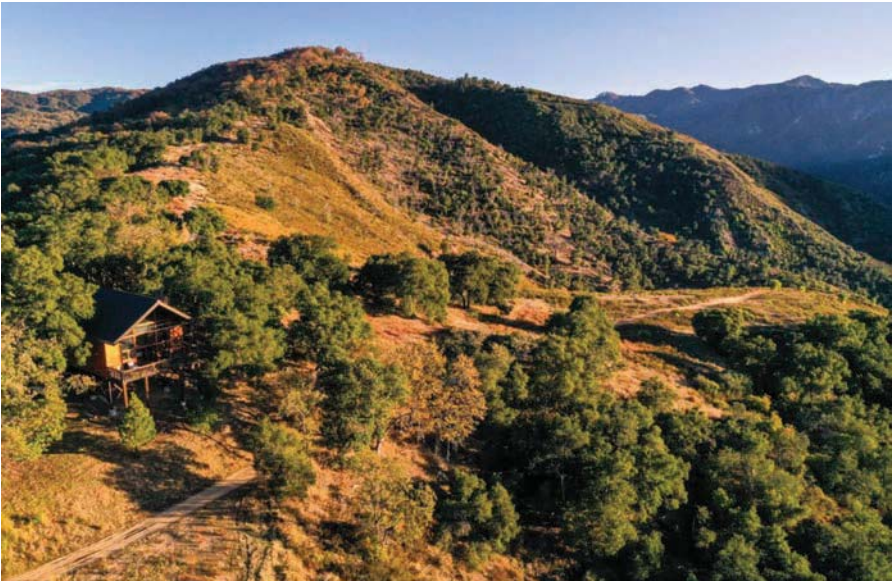
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4 Holding Field Run - Santa Lucia Preserve, Carmel 37.12 Acres
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Alan Drew

Broker Associate
DRE 02029344
831.920.7103
alan.drew@compass.com
LaTierraCarmel.com



Lisa Guthrie

Broker Associate
DRE 01250803 831.238.5725
lisa.guthrie@compass.com
LaTierraCarmel.com



DEEDS

From page 6RE

Monterey (cont'd)

17 Toda Vista — \$1,405,000

Janan and Robert Boehme to Doreen Jansen

APN: 001-791-029

Pacific Grove

605 Acorn Court — \$785,000

Jeannette Witten and McCoy Trust to Ranvir and Ramtirthpal Toor

APN: 007-711-009

8 Country Club Gate — \$1,155,000

Lynn Skarratt to John and Sharon Connell

APN: 007-673-002

301 7th Street — \$1,200,000

Michael and Adrian Morris to Rosario Marinello



13330 Middle Canyon Road, Carmel Valley — \$1,100,000

APN: 006-259-001

112 11th Street — \$1,300,000

Madelyn Casserly to Gregory and Nola Casserly

APN: 006-185-002

631 Junipero Avenue — \$1,370,000

David and Karen Diehl to Christina Monson



17 Toda Vista, Monterey — \$1,405,000

APN: 006-541-019

767 Sinex Avenue — \$1,491,500

Mark Vucina to Adam Lassiter

APN: 006-641-063

See **MORE SALES** next page



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MORE SALES

From previous page

Pacific Grove (con't.)

512 12th Street — \$1,650,000
Jonathan and Heidemarie Smith to Theodoros Mihopoulos
and Elizabeth Rountree
APN: 006-485-013

Pebble Beach

1147 Wildcat Canyon Road — \$1,280,000
Christopher Wyllly to David Wyllly
APN: 007-442-010

1091 Laurel Lane — \$2,425,000
Joe Capuccio to Trevor and Mamiko Hill
APN: 007-161-021

2835 Sloat Road — \$2,700,000
William Finn and Valenti Trust to Ming Liu and Xiaoling Wang
APN: 007-132-009



15475 Via Tulares, Carmel Valley — \$2,950,000

Seaside

1751 Judson Street — \$615,000
Kevin Haskin to Herbst Homes LLC
APN: 012-751-018

1348 Metz Avenue — \$739,000
Steven Caravello to Lourdes Barajas
APN: 011-033-004



631 Junipero Avenue, Pacific Grove — \$1,370,000

1249 Waring Street — \$825,000
Peter Henry and Sonya Ekstrom to Kevin Miller and
Emily Gottlieb
APN: 012-335-024

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