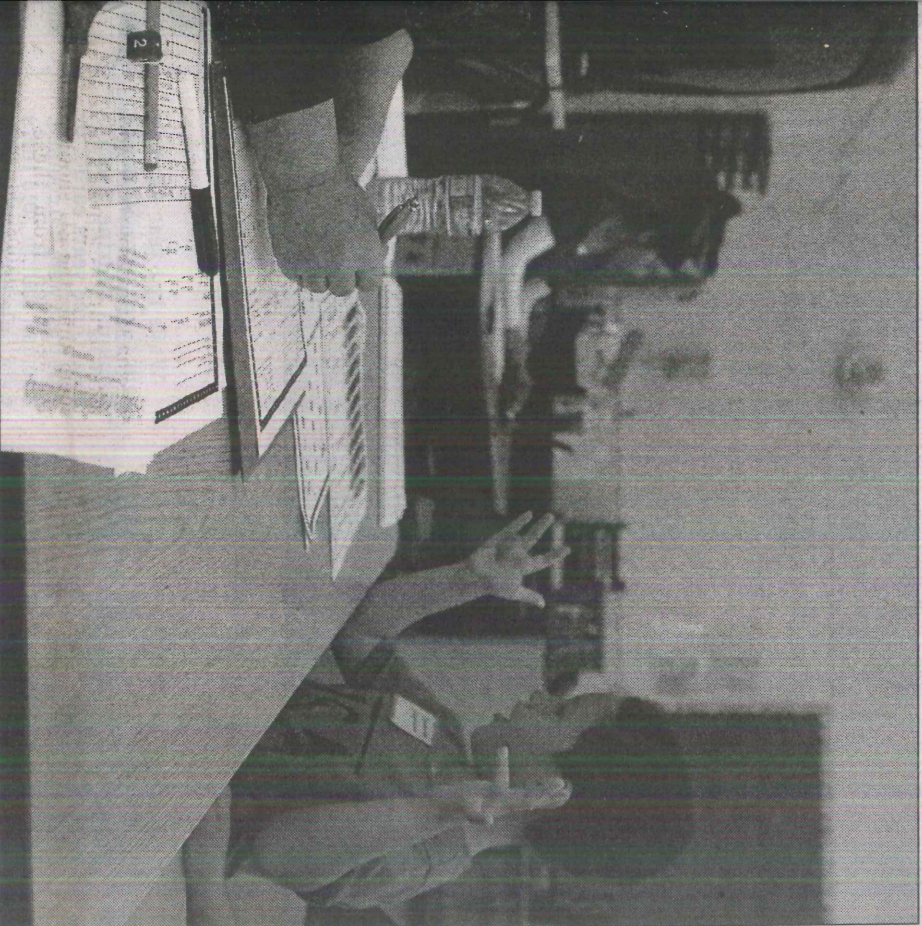


includes an additional... ing Tighthead, approved by the... supervisors, emerged after nego-... tations with a range of potential... sponsors in the wake of the county... for manufacturing... and longtime sponsor Mazda de-... ciding not to renew their 17-year... partnership late last year.

allowed the auto manufacturer... track access and other amenities... that WeatherTech won't be pro-... vided. An agreement with an en-... tity that is not an auto manufac-... turer, he said, allows other auto... manufacturers to get more in-... TRACK » PAGE 4

Ready for kindergarten



PHOTOS BY JUAN REVES — MONTEREY HERALD
Examined by Alisal Community School Instructional coach Maria Lepe, left, during the Kindergarten exam and prepare kids before starting kindergarten for the following school year.

Trick kicked off its annual Kindergarten Roundup

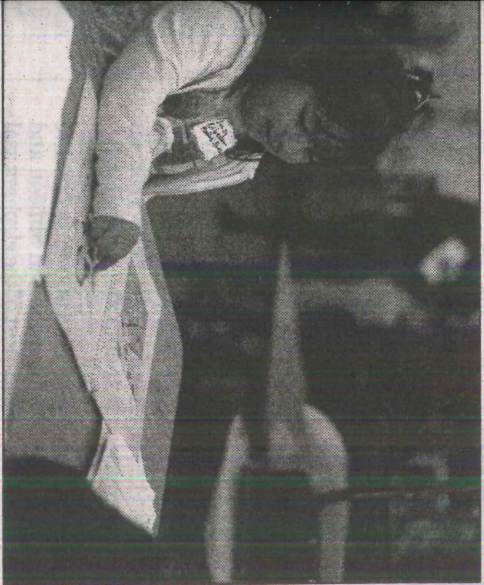


PHOTO BY JUAN REVES — MONTEREY HERALD
Alisal Community School Instructional coach Maria Lepe, left, during the Kindergarten exam and prepare kids before starting kindergarten for the following school year.

... colors and the alpha-... the first step to get into... Alavez said.

Community Princi-... Beth Armenta said it's... tivity for her and the... engage with the future... and ask them questions... to school.

... this is the first oppor-... to get to know the par-

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'Life through sober eyes'

PG rehab center takes on partner to help clients

By Nicoletta Lanese
newsroom@montereyherald.com

PACIFIC GROVE » Over the past 60 years, the Beacon House in Pacific Grove has helped thousands overcome substance abuse. Now, they are teaming up with a national nonprofit called the Gateway Foundation to tap new resources and improve patient care.

"The two organizations have a very similar vision and culture," said Phyllis Meagher, the president and CEO of Beacon House. Thomas Britton, president and CEO of the Gateway Foundation, is on the Peninsula this week working out details of the partnership. While discussing the collaboration during a conference call, Meagher said to Britton, "It's nice to hear that we're already saying 'we.'"

On March 1, Beacon House became an official affiliate of Gateway, America's largest addiction treatment nonprofit. The organization has 50 sites nationwide and the capacity to serve 6,000 clients a day. In the last few years, both organizations have been looking to expand their operations; Beacon House within North California and Gateway into new states. As affiliates, they remain independent but can now provide each other infrastructural support, connections to care providers and capital to expand their centers and open new ones.

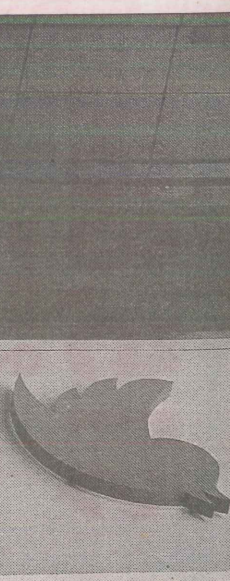
"We have the same backgrounds, services and expertise, but we're not in the same geography," said Britton. "Beacon House and Gateway both believe very strongly that substance abuse is really a symptom of a bigger problem."

This in mind, both organizations aim to treat the whole person, employing interdisciplinary teams to address the physical, mental and spiritual aspects of substance abuse. Each client's treatment is tailored individually with the goal to help them realize sobriety over a lifetime — not just a stint in a rehab center. The organizations offer inpatient, outpatient and daytime services, and remain resources to their alumni for life.

"If you get to the point where you need residential treatment, you've really struggled," said Britton. "Residential is really almost more of a grounding ... recovery is a life-long commitment."

At Beacon House, clients strive toward sustainable sobriety with the help of addictionologists, psychologists, chemical dependency counselors, and 24/7 on-site nurses. Through their medical protocols, the organiza-

REHAB » PAGE 4



A new study published Thursday in the journal Science shows six times faster than the truth and reaches far more people

Study finds false faster than the truth

By Seth Borenstein
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » Twitter loves lies. A new study finds that false information on the social media network travels six times faster than the truth and reaches far more people.

And you can't blame bots; it's us, say the authors of the largest study of online misinformation.

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology looked at more than 126,000 stories tweeted millions of times between 2006 and the end of 2016 — before Donald Trump took office but during the combative presidential campaign. They found that "fake news" sped through Twitter "farter, faster, deeper and more broadly than the truth in all categories of information," according to the study in Thursday's journal Science.

"No matter how you slice it, falsity wins out," said co-author Deb Roy, who runs MIT's Laboratory for Social Machines and is a for-

WORKPLACE LAW

Employee disc

Q : At a recent meeting with an employee to discuss his performance problems, the employee refused to sign the disciplinary notice. Can I force the employee to sign it?



Sara Boyns

A : Providing verbal and written feedback to employees about their work performance is an important part of managing your staff. If you have an employee who is performing poorly or engaging in misconduct, these issues must be documented objectively and specifically so that the employee understands the specific conduct that needs improvement. Simply relying on an assumption that

"everyone knows" is not fair to the employee and is risky for the employer. For example, instead of describing an employee as "poor performer" or "having a bad attitude," give specifics such as "arrive late to work three times in the last week," "missed two deadlines in the last month," "made multiple errors on a work assignment." These descriptions clearly state what the employee needs to do to improve. Any supporting documentation should be included such as emails that informed the employee of the deadlines, the work assignment with errors.

The written disciplinary notice should also state why the performance has to improve. If written policies were violated refer to the specific poli-

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Monterey Health

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Price is \$5. Rapper B
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Joyce Van Patten is 84.
Country singer Mickey
Gilley is 82. Former
ABC anchorman Charles
Gibson is 75.

POWERBALL

Wednesday's drawing:

6, 13, 19, 36, 51

Powerball: 18

**Saturday's estimated
jackpot:** \$385 million



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track for testing, promotions and the like, according to Woods. Woods said the county is looking to move quickly on the proposed naming rights deal so it can be in place, including signage changes, by April 1 in the wake of the Mazda agreement's March 31 expiration. The racing season kicks off with the Ferrari Challenge on May 3-6.

Mazda will continue to be a sponsor at the raceway through this year and next.

Meanwhile, Woods said there are also other sponsorship deals in the works, including a proposed four-year agreement with Rolex as the

"This is one step forward in our plan to really improve the facility," Woods said. "It's a starting point for many, many things to come."

Also Tuesday, the county board is scheduled to hold a ceremony marking March as Women's History Month with a resolution, and presentations by retired county historian Meg Clovis on women leaders in county history and by the county Commission on the Status of Women regarding women in area leadership positions. All women county department directors will also receive special recognition.

Jim Johnson can be reached at 831-726-4348.

The district nurse checks for any health concerns or questions regarding allergies and special medication. The parents then go with the migrant department to see if they qualify for certain services that are offered, while the kids head to a table where they take a syntax test to see if they're able to respond well to certain questions and determine where they're at in their native language.

Finally, the parents meet with Armenta to talk about the different instructional programs the district offers. She also gives out an English or bilingual folder with practice sheets for letter formation and tools to get the kids

kindergarten students can be shy at first but said it's not that common for them to be nervous while taking the test. However, the parents are more than welcome to sit with their kids if things aren't going as planned.

"We don't want them to be afraid," Armenta said. The kids also meet four days before school starts for what Armenta calls a kindergarten bootcamp. There, the new students get to meet with classmates and learn their surroundings.

"It's time consuming on our part but it's well worth it," Armenta said. "Like I said, it's very important that this is the first step in the child's education that us, as partners, begin the

Pupping

FROM PAGE 1

In the case of harbor seals, they reside mostly in local colonies along 15 miles of the rocky shoreline in the Monterey area from Point Lobos to Elkhorn Slough.

When it comes to rescued elephant seals, it's usually because they've become separated from their mother.

so on their own and maybe not having built up from Mom's milk fat prior to being weaned they are often malnourished."

recent years, said that if anything is certain from his last 15 years monitoring the harbor seals it's that he and others will be seeing more of the baby marine animals soon.

Rehab

FROM PAGE 2

tions' ease people through the withdrawal period after they initially stop using. "You can be nauseous, dizzy, throwing up, sweating," Britton said, specifically of those experiencing opiate withdrawal. "That's the kind of thing that sends people out the door before they really engage in treatment."

Beacon House itself is less of a house and more of a Victorian-era mansion. Sheltered by manicured gardens, the facility is minutes from downtown Monterey and Carmel. The nonprofit takes advantage of its location, integrating recreational activities like golf

and equine-assisted therapies into the recovery process. Santa Cruz surfer Darryl "Flea" Virostko, an alum of the program, has even provided clients surfing lessons in the past.

their surf lessons. Local educators teach at the center, and community members come share their own recovery stories. The center has ties to psychology and nursing programs at local institutions, including CSU Monterey Bay and UC Santa Cruz, and also offers internships.

Outside medical care, clients receive care from holistic providers, yoga and exercise instructors and nutrition specialists to revamp their health and lifestyle choices. Marriage and family counseling are also critical aspects of the recovery

process, Meagher and Britton stressed.

"There will be seal births - I promise that. But I have no idea how many they'll be."

"We cannot prioritize the family work enough," said Britton. "When that person comes home, how do you structure your life in a way that really does help the person?" Outside this educational element, the counseling program aims at healing wounds that families may have sustained while their loved one was abusing, he said.

Both Beacon House and Gateway are funded by private donations and compensation from their clients insurance. The nonprofits accept all private insurance carriers and negotiate on behalf of their clients to ensure they receive adequate coverage, and therefore, adequate treatment. They also provide scholarships for those who can't afford their co-pay.

"It's not uncommon for me to run into an alum who has 25 years of recovery, and they are so excited to share with me that their father went through treatment at the Beacon House, too. We have served thousands and thousands of folks in the area, and they're leading productive, wonderful lives." By collaborating with Gateway, she said, the organization hopes to help more families in the years to come.

Beacon House's 24/7 helpline can be reached at 866-421-6156, and Gateway's at 877-505-4673. Learn more about the organizations' services at <http://beaconhouse.org/> and <https://recoverygateway.org/>.

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