



From left, Siday Diop, Natalie Rozen, Mei-Ling Chen, Emily Frye and Lee Eisenberg attend a staff meeting at Monterey Language Services. Chen, a 1999 graduate of MIIS, opened the translation and interpretation business in Marina. VERN FISHER/The Herald

MIIS grad returns, starts language service

By LANE WALLACE
Herald Staff Writer

When Mei-Ling Chen decided to open a translation and interpretation service, she didn't hesitate in choosing Monterey County for her headquarters.

The county's diversity of cultures and languages provide "a very inspiring environment," said Chen, who spent 10 years in the translation industry in Washington, D.C., before opening Monterey Language Services at the Marina Technology Cluster.

Chen was no stranger to the Peninsula — she earned a graduate degree at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in 1999. Now, she teaches localization in the school's Translation and Localization Management program, and uses some students as freelancers



"Translation is not an abstract concept. We use it to help people better their lives."

—Mei-Ling Chen, Monterey Language Services

for translation.

The Peninsula, with MIIS and the Defense Language Institute, has developed into a hub of translation and interpretation education and services. Language Line, the largest translation and interpretation service in the country, is based in Monterey.

Chen came to the U.S. 20 years ago in the foreign service for her native Taiwan. It wasn't part of her title, but interpreting (verbal) and translation (written) were a part of her job as she dealt with various delegations. Chen is fluent in Taiwanese,

Mandarin and English.

It wasn't just language that Chen had to keep up with — she also learned about cultures and kept up with current events.

"You have to read newspapers," she said.

"Translation is not an abstract concept," Chen said. "We use it to help people better their lives, bring out the best in their writing, add excitement, or open up opportunities."

"Passion and understanding of languages and cultures help me figure out who is in the best position to translate or interpret. Those

who understand a topic, fluently speak the language, love what they do and aim to bring out the best result in communication are the profile of our team."

Like many interpretation and translation services, Chen's staff is small — there's five in the office. But she has connections of hundreds of translators and interpreters around the world, whom she can hire as freelancers.

Chen had a "soft opening" for her business last year; the Technology Cluster announced she is in business last week.

Next week, one of Chen's freelancers will accompany a client from China who will attend a trade show in Chicago. Before the client arrives, Chen's staff will have researched what needs to be

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Language

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done, and that information will be forwarded to the freelancer.

The free-lancer will help the client distribute flyers in English.

Monterey Language Services

- At Marina Technology Cluster, 3180 Imjin Road.
- Phone: 655-3460;
- Web: montereylanguages.com

"I want the client to be exposed" to others at the show, Chen said.

Chen's services include copy editing, proofreading, website and

software localization, multimedia transcription, dubbing, subtitling and foreign-language desktop publishing.

"I'm a matchmaker," she said. "I'm very good at matching people and projects."

Lane Wallace can be reached at 646-4478 or mhbusiness@montereyherald.com.

Jobs plan critical to schools

TEACHER GROUP BLASTS CUTS TO EDUCATION

By CLAUDIA HELLERZ-SALINAS
Herald Staff Writer

Cuts to education will decimate California schools unless the Legislature adopts the "Jobs Budget Plan," members of the California Teachers Association said Wednesday.

At a rally at Aullman, the site of a weekend teacher training

workshop, union members deplored recent cuts to schools they say ultimately affect children and urged the Legislature to approve the so-called California Jobs Budget, a proposal by Democratic members of the Assembly.

"Over the last two years, we lost over 100 teachers," said Dennis Wright, president of the Monterey Bay Teachers Association.

Wright, a music teacher for 22 years, said there were 24 music teachers when he began at Monterey Peninsula Unified

School District. Now he's one of four.

"When we shortchange our children, we shortchange our future," he said.

Carol Rodriguez, president of the Salinas City Teachers Council, said more than 30 retiring teachers will not be replaced, resulting in bigger class sizes and not enough time to help students.

As teachers are being asked to boost test scores, they're also having to deal with more students and less help from instructional

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CTA President David Sanchez says the plan will buy enough time for other reforms.

CHOMP plans cuts to budget

TWO SATELLITE LABORATORIES SHUT; LAYOFFS LOOM

By JIM JOHNSON
Herald Staff Writer

Faced with a decline in revenue and with cost-cutting efforts falling behind, Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula officials are planning to slash the hospital's budget by nearly twice what they originally planned.

That will mean a number of layoffs for hospital employees starting early next month, as well as cuts to employee benefits and other cost reductions. Two satellite laboratories in Pacific Grove and Carmel Valley have already closed, and several hospital administrative offices have consolidated.

But the hospital's expansion plans remain intact as part of an effort to reach more patients and meet the goals of health care reform.

Spokesman Mary Barker said hospital officials have a cost-cutting plan in place that calls for trimming \$21 million from the \$440 million budget this year.

Barker said the hospital originally planned on cutting

"We're not eliminating services that patients can't find elsewhere."

Mary Barker
hospital spokeswoman

\$12 million this year after a \$20 million reduction in 2009. That's part of a multi-year strategic plan designed to reduce its costs to the industry median based on comparisons with a 17-hospital group in Northern California.

But Barker said hospital officials realized they were falling short of the cost-reduction goals and would be forced to cut deeper to keep up.

She cited three factors: The number of patients with low-paying government insurance rose to a record 75 percent.

A move by health insurance benefits managers for teachers and public

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RED BULL U.S. GRAND PRIX



Alex Barros of Brazil competes at the MotoGP in 2007. The event is broadcast all over the world.

VEJA (FAP/ST) The Herald

Beyond the next turn

MOTOGP ORGANIZER LOOKS AT TRACK'S FUTURE

By DANIEL LOPEZ
Herald Staff Writer

The Red Bull U.S. Grand Prix is the largest event for Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, attracting more than 100,000 spectators over a three-day span in each of the last five years since the premier motorcycle races were added to the offerings.

The races feature the top riders in the world competing on the MotoGP circuit. A contract extension will bring them back through 2014.

With the green flag set to come down for the 2010 edition starting Friday, The Herald visited with Gil Campbell, CEO and general

manager of the Sports Car Racing Association of the Monterey Peninsula. The nonprofit, which runs the track for Monterey County, has organized races since 1967, when the now 2.238-mile, 11-turn course opened.

Campbell, a native of England, has led the association since 2002 after briefly working in an interim position.

In 1994, she began Campbell Productions & PR LLC, an event promotion and public relations firm that would later be responsible for operations and hospitality for the Monterey Historic Races. The company has also

promoted the American Le Mans Series at Portland International Raceway.

The conversation with Campbell covered the efforts to organize five annual racing events, how things are shaping up for this season and what the future could hold for the track, including the possible addition of IndyCar and NASCAR races.

Question: Has the economic downturn of the last two years affected operations at the Laguna Seca race track?

Answer: It has certainly

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"We would love to see a NASCAR Nationwide race here."

Gil Campbell, CEO and general manager of the Sports Car Racing Association of the Monterey Peninsula

See The Herald at www.facebook.com/montereyherald to win two three-day general admission passes to the MotoGP.

Inside
World's fastest road Laguna Seca this weekend, B1

Communities in the shadow of secrecy

By DANA PRIEST
and WILLIAM M. ARKIN
The Washington Post

PORT MEADE, Md. — The brick warehouse is not just a warehouse. Three through the gate and around back, and there, hidden away, is someone's personal security detail: a fleet of black SUVs that have been armored up to withstand explosives and gunfire.

Along the main street, the signs in the median aren't advertising homes for sale; they're inviting employees with top-secret security clearance to a job fair at Calix Inc., which is anything but a typical tech hub.

The new gunmetal-colored office building is really a kind of hotel where business can rent carved-out rooms.

All of these places exist just outside Washington in

3-day series

- **TUESDAY:** The vast, untapped world of U.S. intelligence.
- **WEDNESDAY:** The government's increasing dependency on contractors.
- **THURSDAY:** How to transform their communities.

what amounts to the capital of an alternative geography of the United States, one defined by the concentration of top-secret government organizations and the companies that do work for them. This Fort Meade cluster is the largest of a dozen such clusters across the United States that are the nerve

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Blogger posts misleading clip that later is picked up by national media

Ag Department offers forced-out official a new job

By SHIRLEY GAY
STERNBERG
New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — The White House and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack apologized profusely and reportedly Wednesday to a black midlevel official for the way she had been humiliated and forced to resign her Agriculture Department job after a conservative blogger put out a misleading video clip that seemed to show her admitting antipathy toward a white farmer.

By the end of the day, the official, Shirley Sherrod, had



Shirley Sherrod
Her appointment to the NAACP was about overcoming racism.

gained instant fame and emerged as the heroine of a compelling story about race and redemption.

Pretty much everyone else had egg on his face — from the conservative bloggers and pundits who first pushed the inaccurate story to Vilsack, who looked

stricken as he told reporters he had offered Sherrod, until Monday the Agriculture Department's rural development director in Georgia, a new job that would give her a "unique opportunity" to help the agency move past its checkered civil rights history. She told him she would think about it.

"This is a good woman, she's been put through hell and I could have and should have done a better job," Vilsack said, as he conceded

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