

Erik Cushman bio

August, 2022

Erik Cushman has been Publisher of the Monterey County *Weekly* since 2001, when it was known as the *Coast Weekly*. The *Weekly* currently reaches one in three households in Monterey County making it our most widely read publication. Erik joined in 1999 after serving as general manager of the Colorado Springs *Independent*. Previously, he had overseen business operations as publisher of the Missoula *Independent*, which he had co-founded in 1991 as a student at the University of Montana.

During Cushman's tenure, the *Weekly's* staff have received the First Amendment Coalition Free Speech & Open Government Award in 2015; the Association of Alternative Newsmedia's Free Speech Award in 2016; and the coveted General Excellence award in the California News Publishers Association's statewide contest in 2017. The paper has won nearly 100 local, regional, and national awards for editorial content, design and photography.

Under his guidance, the *Weekly* has formed meaningful partnerships within the community to highlight significant causes and raise money. The Monterey County Gives! program has raised over \$35 million since 2009 to support local non-profits including \$9.8 million last year.

Erik is a member of the Board of Directors of the California News Publishers Association – the statewide press association.

Cushman is also chair of the Monterey County Workforce Development Board and with unanimous support of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors the Workforce Development Board disbursed approximately \$2.7 million in CARES Act money to local business owners in 2021. The money was made available in grants up to \$10,000 to employers impacted by Covid-19.

Erik and his wife Kristin, who is CEO of an environmental consultancy, live in Pacific Grove. They have two daughters in college.