



A celebration of the Carmel lifestyle ... inside this week!

In Your Dreams



The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 107 No. 25

www.carmelpinecone.com

June 18-24, 2021

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Heritage Society puts virus in history books



Coronavirus street art (left) at Camino Real and Ninth gives residents a none-too-subtle reminder to wear their face masks, while a 96-year-old woman at Sunrise Assisted Living in Monterey makes sure she has hers on properly. Both images are part of an exhibit by the Carmel Heritage Society memorializing life during the pandemic on the Monterey Peninsula. See page 12A.



PHOTOS/(LEFT) PAUL FARNWORTH, (RIGHT) COURTESY LAURIE LINDLEY

County opens up, people toss masks

■ Coming soon: Report card on officials' handling of local epidemic

By KELLY NIX

THE NEAR-PERFECT weather on the Monterey Peninsula this week coincided with the State of California's removal of most coronavirus-related restrictions, which among other things allows fully vaccinated people to remove face coverings in most venues, such as shops, restaurants and at most events. Putting at least 6 feet between you and others is also no longer necessary.

The sense of freedom and favorable weather have been bringing droves of tourists to the Monterey Peninsula, which is good news for shops, restaurants and hotels and inns.

"We are almost at pre-pandemic levels in terms of occupancy and visitors to Pacific Grove," Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce President Moe Ammar told The Pine Cone Wednesday.

While Ammar said restaurants are doing well, owners are struggling to find staff, which means they are limited in the number of people they can serve. Retail shops have been slower to recover than inns and restaurants, according

See VIRUS page 19A

CUSD employees get bonuses for Covid year

By MARY SCHLEY

TO ACKNOWLEDGE the extra work teachers, staff and administrators had to put in to keep kids learning during the pandemic, the Carmel Unified School District board unanimously voted last week to give most employees a \$3,000 bonus and to pay principals and other administrators for 10 extra days of work.

The payouts amount to more than \$1.7 million. The district's total 2021-2022 budget, which is funded mostly by property taxes, totals more than \$67.9 million.

'Outstanding service'

The district's human resources officer, Craig Chavez, recommended the bonuses "to acknowledge and honor outstanding service by district employees during the Covid-19 global pandemic during the 2020-2021 school year."

By issuing the onetime \$3,000-per-person payments,

See CUSD page 21A

Juneteenth event at Devendorf had no permit

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER CITY officials worked closely with organizers to hold a Juneteenth celebration at Devendorf Park last year despite pandemic shutdowns and orders that forbade people from gathering, they were surprised when an event happened in the park Wednesday without any advance notice — or the required permit.

"I thought we had a really good rapport with the June-

teenth organizers last year in spite of the pandemic, so I was a little surprised they didn't contact us this year to tell us they were having an event," city administrator Chip Rerig said Thursday.

No problem before

Last year, the community activities department wasn't issuing event permits due to the epidemic, but officials gave the Juneteenth gathering their blessing and did not charge organizers the fees they would have normally had to pay.

Wednesday's event in the park brought about 50 people and included amplified music, dancing and speeches. It marked the kickoff to a five-day celebration organized by a group called the Juneteenth Coalition.

The lack of any notice caused parking problems down-

See EVENT page 20A

Palo Corona adding park dedicated to dogs

By CHRIS COUNTS

A PORTION of the former Rancho Cañada Golf Club's east course in Carmel Valley will be transformed into a dog park, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District confirmed this week. The land is part of Palo Corona Regional Park.

Located along what was once the course's 10th Fairway, the park will include two fenced areas — one for small dogs and another for larger ones.

Everybody wants one

In recent years, dog parks have gained popularity around the country because they offer people a chance to exercise their dogs without doing too much walking themselves. For owners who are older or disabled, such parks make it possible for their pooches to blow off some steam — and socialize with four-legged friends.

"Everybody should be able to enjoy the outdoors," said Norm Leve, one of four locals who have led the effort to

See DOG PARK page 20A

CARMEL FOUNDATION PLANNING JULY 1 REOPENING

By MARY SCHLEY

ONLINE TALKS and curbside lunches will soon make way for in-person classes and dining around tables at The Carmel Foundation, which shut down March 11, 2020, a week before the county went into lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic. CEO Holly Zoller said this week that the nonprofit hopes to reopen for its roughly 3,000 members, all of whom are 55 or older, July 1.

More outdoors

"We have been doing a little 'remodeling' of our outdoor areas, and although they might not be fully completed by the time we are open, I think our members will be excited by all of the expanded outdoor seating areas we are



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Alfredo Campo delivers lunch to a Carmel Foundation member Thursday as the nonprofit prepares to resume indoor dining.

See FOUNDATION page 17A



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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Dogged determination

EVERY MEMBER of the family secretly believes Tex belongs to them. While the miniature labradoodle was brought home nearly 8 years ago as a Valentine's Day present for her then-8-year-old son, it was Mom who fell in love with the puppy first.

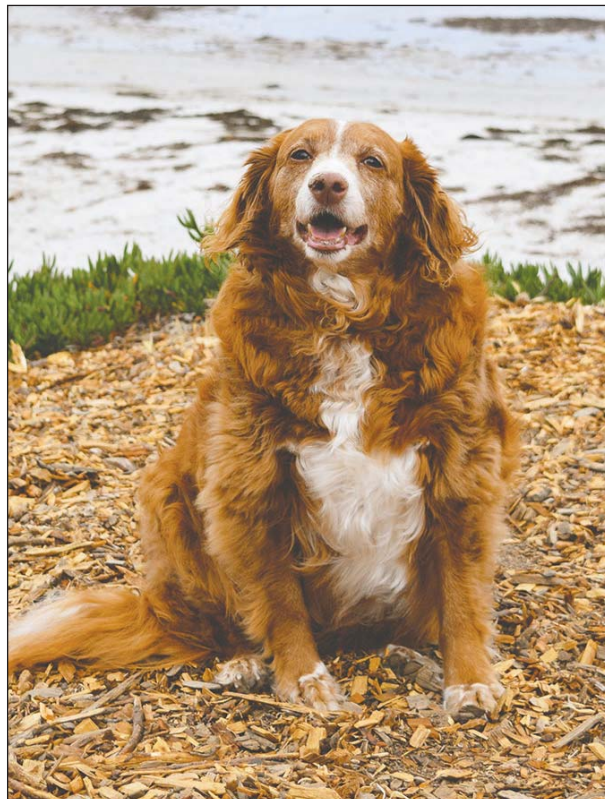
And Tex seems to know that.

"I was searching online for just the right puppy for my little boy," she said. "One that would be gentle with him, and grow with him, and chase a ball with him, creating that 'boy and his dog' childhood experience."

She loved Tex the minute she saw him online. He had curls like her son's, and a dusting of freckles on his face, just like her boy's. She wanted that exact dog, but the picture she saw gave no clue where he could be found, or even if he was available. Night after night, for weeks, she searched the internet for the puppy. Finally, she took a screenshot of the photo and sent it to a slew of breeders.

She'd been too thorough in her search to be surprised when the breeder called. From Texas.

"He doesn't actually look like a typical labradoodle," the breeder said, "which is probably why no one picked him. He's not very curly, maybe more



Lab than doodle. And he's an older puppy, already 3 months old."

Perfect.

Tex, who was called "Tux," due to his white paws and the white blaze on his chest, was flown from Texas to Monterey, in a little bed tucked into the flight attendants' station. Mom wrote a poem about her boy and his new dog, and printed it on a scroll, accompanied by a picture of the puppy, to present to her son at their Skyline Forest home.

Tex seems fond of everyone in his family of four, but he's most protective of Mom, and is deeply bonded to his boy, with whom he's happy to chase a ball at Carmel Beach.

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Police & Sheriff's Log

At least the apartment was clean

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.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

Pacific Grove: Responded to a residence on Cedar Street for a report of theft. Officer could not determine whether a crime had occurred.

Pacific Grove: Possible violation of a restraining order on Fountain Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Unknown subject(s) forged a person's name and cashed a false check for over \$6,000.

Pacific Grove: A 21-year-old male was stopped on Lighthouse Avenue for a vehicle code violation and found to be unlicensed. Subject also had an out-of-county warrant. Subject was issued citations for both and released.

Pacific Grove: Verbal dispute on Asilomar. Information only.

Pacific Grove: Person on Arkwright Court reported suspicious circumstances that occurred out of jurisdiction. Referred to the appropriate agency.

Carmel area: An attempted burglary on Carmel Rancho Boulevard was reported.

THURSDAY, MAY 27

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Officer responded

to a report of a loose dog at Mission and Seventh and located the owner looking for the dog. The dog was captured, and preventative actions were discussed.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of a female on Rio Road yelling and in distress. The female was contacted and offered services but declined.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report to CPD regarding a dog bite to a person that occurred out of town. Calaveras County report No. b21-001298.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: A report of a disturbance between a business and citizen over parking on private property at San Carlos and Fourth. The citizen was asked to leave the property and not return.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Trespass advisement on Dolores south of Ocean.

Pacific Grove: Unknown suspicious person possibly took photographs of a student at school on David Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Conducted a vehicle stop on David Avenue and determined the driver to have two warrants for his arrest. The 29-year-old male driver was cited and released on the warrants.

Carmel Valley: Sexual battery reported on Del Mesa Drive involving a 57-year-old male and a 19-year-old female.

Pacific Grove: Suspicious circumstances on Pine.

See **POLICE LOG** page 12 IYD in the *In Your Dreams* Section



The gavel falls

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

April 6 — Arturo Murguia Rodriguez, 21, a resident of Pajaro, pled no contest to rape of a minor under the age of 14, lewd act with a child under the age of 14, and assault with the intent to commit a lewd act, before the Honorable Rafael Vasquez.

On May 3, 2019, Victim No. 1, age 13, reported that Rodriguez raped her in an industrial park off Salinas Road. While the Monterey County Sheriff's Office investigated the crime, Victim No. 1 reported receiving a text message from a 12-year-old classmate which stated that Rodriguez had sex with her too. When a detective from the Sheriff's Office interviewed Victim No. 2, she reported that Rodriguez attempted to rape another one of her friends who was 13 years old at the time.

Rodriguez will be sentenced to 15 years in the Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation on June 15, 2021.

April 6 — Steven Flores, 27, a resident of Salinas, was sentenced by Judge Pamela Butler to two years in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for recklessly starting a fire.

On Nov. 9, 2020, officers responded to a carwash after Flores started a fire in a trashcan. A witness saw the defendant start the fire using a small lighter. The defendant advised he wanted to hurt himself and kill himself by setting fires. Subsequently, he was placed on a hold at Natividad Medical Center pursuant

to Section 5150 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

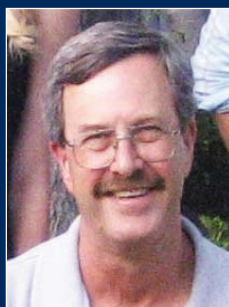
April 7 — Brenda Rojas Rangel, 42, and Jose Omar Chavez, 44, both residents of Salinas, pled no contest to felony welfare fraud.

Between the months of November 2009 and August 2019, the couple was receiving CalFresh benefits (food stamps) and CalWorks benefits (cash aid), claiming they needed these benefits to support their family as they were both unemployed. A subsequent investigation by the Department of Social Services and the Monterey County District Attorney's Office revealed that both Rangel and Chavez were in fact employed during the entire fraud period. This resulted in their household receiving income well above the income threshold level to receive benefits. The couple's failure to report their employment and income to the Department of Social Services resulted in an overpayment of benefits of \$21,331.00.

The couple will be sentenced on May 5, 2021. Both face 3 years of formal felony probation, up to 365 days in jail, and will be ordered to pay back the loss directly to the Department of Social Services.

April 7 — Monterey County Superior Court Judge Stephanie Hulsey sentenced

See **GAVEL** page 26 IYD in the *In Your Dreams* Section



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Man arrested for brandishing pellet gun

By KELLY NIX

A PACIFIC Grove man, who police say stood on the upper level of a Monterey parking garage last Friday and pointed an “imitation firearm” at people on a sidewalk below, was arrested and booked before being released.

Monterey police said witnesses told them that Gregory Pack, 25, aimed the semi-automatic-looking pistol — which turned out to be a pellet gun — at pedestrians at a parking garage on Tyler Street. After someone called police, officers searched the area for an hour.

“The search included a very strategic and deliberate search of the two garage structures and surrounding areas,” according to Monterey police.

“As would be expected, the Monterey Police Department deployed a number of tactical tools to address a potential issue of a subject with a gun in a highly populated area,” police said.

At about 1 p.m., City of Monterey em-

ployees reported a man matching the description in a parking lot in the 400 block of Calle Principal. Officer responded and arrested Pack, who at first gave them a false name. He was also found to be in possession of a pellet gun that police said was indistinguishable from a more powerful firearm.

Released on a cite

Pack was arrested on suspicion of brandishing an imitation firearm and providing a false identity to a police officer.

Monterey police Lt. Ethan Andrews told The Pine Cone that Pack was released on a citation after being booked at the police station because the crimes were misdemeanors. Pack’s release, Andrews said, was not related to overcrowding at the county jail in Salinas.

According to court records, in March 2018, a man with the same name pleaded guilty to evading a peace officer and had been on probation for more than two years before being released in February.

WANTED FELON CAUGHT AFTER WRONG-WAY DRIVING LEADS TO CHASE

By MARY SCHLEY

POLICE ARRESTED a suspected burglar with several felony warrants early Friday morning after he led officers on a chase, crashed his new car and fled on foot into a neighborhood near Highway 1 and Carpenter Street, according to Sgt. Jeff Watkins.

Las Vegas resident Michael Arias’ run-in with law enforcement began when officer Anthony Gotelli saw him driving northbound in the southbound lane of Junipero near Seventh shortly before 4 a.m. June 11 and tried to pull him over.

“Anthony went to stop him at Junipero and Fifth, and the guy took off,” Watkins said.

Arias ran stop signs as he headed north and at Carpenter and First tried to turn right on Valley Way but was driving too fast, didn’t make the turn and “slid into the side of the mountain there,” he said.

“He couldn’t get out of the driver’s side door, so he kicked out the window on the passenger’s side, jumped out and ran into the Upper Trail area.”

Arias fled through yards and across rooftops, and even broke into a house to try to escape capture, according to police, but officers caught up to him after Monterey County Sheriff’s deputies and California Highway Patrol officers helped set up a perimeter to close him in.

“They got there pretty quickly,” Watkins said. “We caught him jumping off a roof” and arrested him at a residence on Lower Trail.

Tools, drugs

After identifying Arias, officers learned he is a convicted felon with outstanding warrants in Riverside County for illegally possessing firearms and ammunition, and for providing false information to officers.

They also found drugs in the beige 1995 Buick sedan he’d crashed — and which he’d just purchased the previous day, Watkins said — along with a pair of bolt cutters possibly used in burglaries and cordless tools he’s suspected of stealing from a construction site. (Watkins said he told



Michael Arias

See ARREST page 27A



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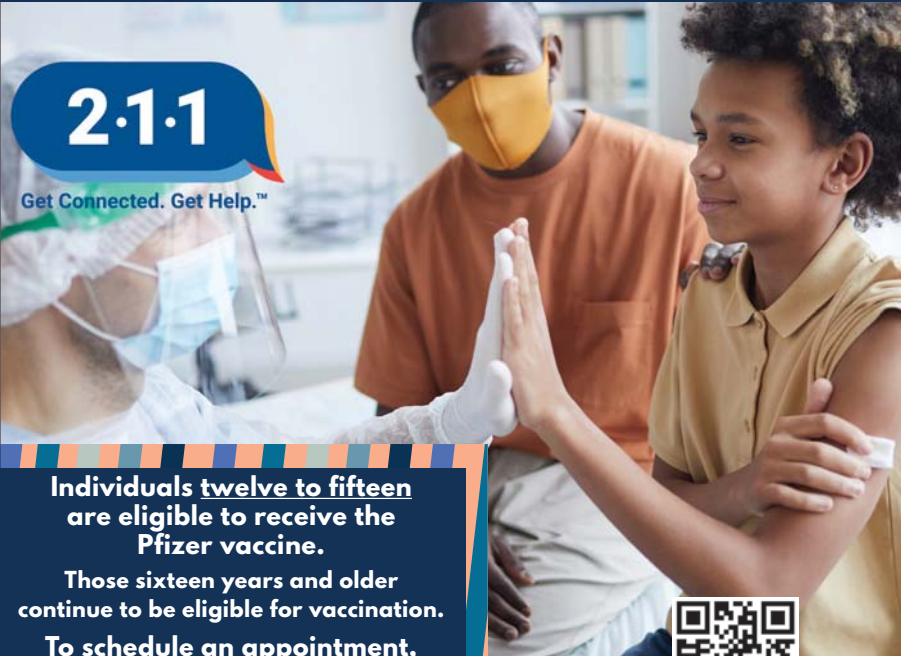
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Cause still a mystery in fatal crash that destroyed P.G. warehouse

By KELLY NIX

INVESTIGATORS DO not yet know why a 29-year-old Pacific Grove man plowed his pickup truck into a city public works warehouse about two weeks ago, killing himself and damaging much of the building.

Pacific Grove police say Joseph Braig was driving on Grove Acre Avenue at about 1 a.m. on June 5 when his Ford Ranger crossed Sunset Drive and crashed through a chain-link fence and into the warehouse. A fire erupted in the truck and building, and Braig was killed. The structure was heavily damaged.

But little is known about the mysterious crash, and the Pacific Grove Police Department — which is investigating it — is also stumped.

“Due to the subsequent fire, it was extremely difficult to collect physical evidence and the cause remains unclear,” police spokeswoman Jocelyn Francis told The Pine Cone Wednesday.

Braig’s body was badly burned, and the Monterey County Coroner’s Office had to use dental records identify him.

California Highway Patrol spokeswoman Jessica Madueno said the CHP helped identify the burned Ford Ranger and who it belonged to, but that the PGPD is leading the investigation into the cause of the crash.

The Pine Cone couldn’t find any information about Braig online.

Building unsafe?

Meanwhile, the cleanup process at the public works yard continues, but an estimate of how much damage was done to the building and an adjacent structure has not yet been determined.

“Cleanup activities are underway and will continue in the coming week,” Joyce Halabi, deputy director of public works said Wednesday. “Once cleanup activities have concluded, a structural engineer will determine what needs to



PHOTO/KELLY NIX

A structural engineer is expected to determine if this burned P.G. public works building can be saved. A man driving a pickup plowed into the building on June 5. He died in the crash.

be done with the building.”

The yard’s electrical panels, information technology and phone systems were housed in the warehouse and were destroyed. But Halabi said a generator has restored power to key areas of the public works yard, and wifi and phone service is back up thanks to hotspot technology, Halabi said.

No city vehicles were damaged but some historical blueprints and other paperwork were lost, as well as some other items that had been stored in the warehouse, including emergency response equipment, public works director Daniel Gho said last week.

Gho said the city would eventually conduct an inventory of the lost items, which could be in the millions of dollars.



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Promotions, job vacancies at CPD

By MARY SCHLEY

WITH THE loosening of restrictions and return to business as usual, the police department is working to fill vacancies, including three officers and two dispatchers, according to Police Chief Paul Tomasi, and a round of interviews took place last week. Meanwhile, three officers are being promoted: Mike Bruno from corporal to sergeant and Rachelle Lightfoot and Jacob Clifford to corporal.

The retirement of Cpl. Ken Shen, officer Ricardo Mendoza’s switch to the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office, Cmdr. Luke Powell’s move to Gilroy P.D. early last year, dispatcher Shannon Brawner’s transfer to Pismo Beach, and other departures have left a total of seven vacancies at the police department, according to Tomasi.

Last week, CPD was conducting interviews for three officer positions and two dispatchers, and Tomasi said the department is still accepting applications in hopes of finding just the right people for the jobs.

“I want candidates to understand what Carmel is and what community service is.

You can’t just come earn a paycheck,” he said. “You have to love this community to work here.”

The chief said he was also happy to be able to promote people from within.

“We don’t have to go outside to look for leadership — we’ve built it internally, so I’m proud of that,” he said. “We have strong leaders within the organization.”

Mentoring younger officers

Lightfoot, who joined the force in 2003, has served as the department’s detective, and has attended and helped organize the annual Women Leaders in Law Enforcement conference, was promoted to corporal this week.

“Rachelle is a veteran officer who’s done a great job and in the last couple of years has really started to mentor the younger officers,” Tomasi said. “She’s become a leader and a mentor in our department, and her experience as a field training officer has paid off.”

Clifford, who came to Carmel P.D. in 2016 and is currently working as detective,

See **POLICE** page 27A



Officer Rachelle Lightfoot with several of the Community Emergency Response Team volunteers she helps train and oversees for the city. Her hard work and extra efforts earned her a promotion to corporal this week.

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Firefighters object to raises, want help on engines

By MARY SCHLEY

OVER THE protests of firefighters who want money spent on hiring more people to staff their engines, the Monterey County Regional Fire District’s board of directors unanimously voted last month to give generous raises to the district’s chiefs and other administrative positions. The new pay rates take effect July 1.

Firefighters in the district, which covers Carmel Valley and parts of the Salinas Valley and Highway 68 corridor, have consistently fought to have three firefighters on an engine but often end up with two, several of them said at the May 25 meeting.

Many said they feel that’s simply not enough to respond to a fire, car crash or other emergency and pointed out that most fire departments have three or four firefighters on their engines.

“I’m frustrated, angry, and I feel betrayed,” said firefighter Justin Reyes. “For the last 20 years, we’ve all lived up to our job and put service before self.”

But when they ask for help, Reyes said, “we are constantly met with rhetoric — ‘Do more with less.’”

“Ninety percent of the time, we have been a two-person engine company,” engineer and paramedic Matt Weed said. “We’re very concerned someone will get hurt and/or die” because there aren’t enough people on hand to help.

“How can you afford the wonderful pay raises to admin, which we all deserve, when we need more firefighters on the engine and are in constant deficit spending?” he asked.

Sacrifices

Longtime engineer Wyatt Uribe suggested board members ask themselves whether the district is living up to its mission of protecting lives, property and the environment by providing excellent and fiscally responsible service, and Capt. Jeremy Pratt said the board and administration should ensure that when residents and business owners dial 911, “they get the most for the taxes they pay.”

Capt. Dale Williams recounted a medical call in which his shift partner had to immediately secure the patient’s airway while he administered medicines. “We didn’t have enough hands, so I was forced to enlist the help of frightened family members to do tasks that we should not ask them to do,” he said.

Others mentioned the sacrifices made in the budget, even cutting out jump ropes and other fitness equipment to try to scrape together more money for salaries and benefits, only to have those efforts come to nothing.

Crickets

None of the board members responded to the comments, and after hearing the new pay rates — which increased overall by 11 percent to more than 42 percent — were based on comparable salaries at other agencies and were negotiated by the union, they unanimously voted to approve it.

According to the new contract, which runs through June 30, 2023, annual base pay will range from \$62,553 to \$68,942 for administrative assistant, \$77,702 to \$85,666 for human resources officer/finance officer, \$78,807 to \$82,747 for fire prevention specialist, \$86,885 to \$95,573 for deputy fire marshal, \$148,431 to \$163,273 for division chief, and \$171,437 to \$188,581 for deputy chief.

The contract states the new salaries include onetime increases to bring them in line with other agencies and a general increase of 3 percent, and also incorporate the “education incentive” that previously compensated them for getting college degrees. On July 1, 2022, the pay rates will rise again by 2 percent to 2.5 percent, depending on CPI.

According to their own separate contract that expires June 30, 2022, firefighters make \$70,664 to \$85,904, engineers get \$90,199 to \$99,219, and captains earn \$103,682 to \$114,045.

Most administrative and frontline workers also get overtime pay.

The chief’s base salary is \$206,208.

Hand-painted posts lead the way to healing

By ELAINE HESSER

DURING THE pandemic, some people turned to social media to vent frustration or share words of comfort. However, the folks at All Saints Episcopal Church have gone a bit retro, adding inspirational posts (the wooden kind) to the church’s garden, which has long been a spot for people to pray, meditate or just enjoy a little fresh air.

Sixth- through eighth-graders at the church’s All Saints Day School in Carmel Valley have been working for several months to create three 8-foot-tall, 5-by-5-inch “peace posts,” dedicated June 2.

‘Holy evolution’

The church’s pastor, the Rev. Amber Sturgess, said the idea began a year ago, when, she recalled, she “began to think about ways that we might provide a space for people to mourn and remember all those who had died and were dying from Covid-19.”

She spoke with parishioner and interior designer Susan Britton, who suggested something along the lines of

See POSTS page 26A



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Rev. Amber Sturgess of All Saints Episcopal spoke in the church’s garden at the dedication of three peace posts, designed to promote healing.

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Pollacci to be held at county jail

By MARY SCHLEY

CONVICTED RAPIST Tom Pollacci will be moved to Monterey County Jail and held without bail after he is released on parole from Valley State Prison, a judge ordered last week. The Monterey County District Attorney’s Office is petitioning to commit Pollacci, whose 14-year sentence for rape convictions in 2010 and 2011 has ended, to a state hospital for treatment as a sexually violent predator.

The first hearing on the DA’s petition was set for June 11 before Monterey County Superior Court Judge Sam Lavorato, but Pollacci didn’t have an attorney and asked for representation. The public defender’s office agreed to take the case, and the hearing was delayed to June 23.

Chief deputy public defender Thomas O’Keefe, however, filed a memo with the court this week saying he has a “conflict of interest” and therefore can’t serve as Pollacci’s attorney, and asking the court to appoint private counsel to represent him. Taxpayers will foot the bill for Pollacci’s defense.

In addition, while the court originally indicated Pollacci’s bail would be set

at \$250,000 after he’s released from state prison and transferred to Monterey County Jail, Lavorato agreed Friday he should instead be held without bail “until the final conclusion of this case.”

Multiple charges

Pollacci, who was living with his parents in Pebble Beach before he was jailed for raping a Colorado woman in the loft of his family’s Pacific Grove liquor store and then leaving her at the hospital with a serious head injury in April 2008, was found guilty by a jury of forcible rape. During the investigation of that case and the trial, which ended in April 2010, two more women came forward to accuse him, and Pollacci was charged with forcibly raping Jane Doe 1 in April 2007 and Jane Doe 2 twice in the fall of 2008.

With the second case set for trial in July 2011, he pleaded guilty to one count of rape to avoid going before a jury in a case that was set to include several other alleged victims testifying against him and a prosecutor who wanted to seek a life sentence.

A few months later, he dropped the appeal he had filed in the summer of 2010 to try to overturn his first conviction.

Man who faked drowning convicted

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

KIM AVIS, the Scotsman who tried to fake his own death at Monastery Beach in February 2019 in order to avoid trial on several rapes, battery and other crimes, was sentenced Friday by the High Court in Edinburgh, Scotland, to 15 years in jail.

Avis was convicted last month of raping three women and sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl, according to the Scottish prosecutor’s office.

He was also found guilty of failing to appear in court.

Following his odd disappearance last year, Monterey County Sheriff’s deputies worked with other agencies to track down Avis, who was arrested by U.S. Marshals in Colorado Springs, Colo., five months later.

He was extradited to Scotland and held for trial on crimes that occurred mostly in Inverness between 2006 and 2017, according to the Crown Office.

“Kim Avis went to great lengths to evade justice for his crimes,” prosecutor Fraser Gibson said in a statement. “Thanks to the efforts of police and prosecutors, he has been brought to justice.”

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Tested by coronavirus, town’s ‘resiliency’ is captured in photo show

By CHRIS COUNTS

A SMALL cottage with a special place in the town’s history, the First Murphy House will be the site of a Carmel Heritage Society exhibit of photographs that chronicle the challenges residents and workers faced during the coronavirus epidemic.

Titled “Resilience,” and including images captured by 26 Carmel-area residents, the display opens Tuesday.

“It’s a photo diary of what the Covid year was like for the residents of Carmel,” Linda Jaffe, executive director for the Carmel Heritage Society, told The Pine Cone.

“The photos show how people can face something scary and tragic, and manage to adapt their lives to it. It shows the resiliency of our community, and that’s what we’re celebrating.”

A number of photos show residents doing their best to keep busy while they had to stay away from each other.

“We were compelled to work from home and struggled to find a corner or a room or a table on which to conduct business,” reads the caption on a collage of images that shows people coping with a new world of Covid protocols. “Children were at home also, studying in classes on computer screens. Holiday gatherings of fami-

ly and friends were replaced by distanced dinners and Zoom celebrations.”

Town without tourists

Some images capture a town without tourists and a beach without beachgoers.

“The stay-home order had a devastating effect on the local economy, with restaurants struggling to survive on takeout business, stores shut down and hotels with single digit occupancy,” a display reads.

Other photos call attention to the vital work done by some.

“Not enough can be said about the value of our essential workers during this crisis,” the exhibit notes.

“The valiant efforts of our medical community to take care of the sick and to educate and reassure us about mandated protocols cannot be ignored,” the show says. “Teachers quickly responded to home schooling. Other workers, including those in retail and mail delivery, provided some sense of normalcy.”

From the fearful early days of the pandemic, to the elation people feel now that they can go inside a restaurant without a mask, the virus tested the resolve of residents.

“At first there was disbelief, and then, as the reality appeared, there was fear — for ourselves, our families, our neighbors and our community,” one display reads. “As understanding of the enormity of this tragic time sunk in, we got to work to figure out the best way to manage it — as the Carmel community always does.”

‘Resilience’

With the pandemic on the retreat, the show calls out those who gave to others during a tough time.

“There is no doubt that the resilience of the community is visible and inspiring,” another caption declares. “We celebrate that resilience, and we celebrate our community.”

The First Murphy House is located at Lincoln and Sixth, and it’s open Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. The show will be up through the end of the year. Admission is free.



The Pine Cone’s March 20, 2020, front page — the newspaper’s first that had the coronavirus epidemic as its lead story — is also part of the exhibit.

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BY LARRY MESLER

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Security company makes sure students live where they say they do

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL Unified School District board of education voted last week to approve a contract with a local security firm not to guard its students, but to investigate whether they reside in the district.

Considering its strong reputation for high-quality academics and generous property-tax-funded budget, the district — which covers Carmel, Carmel Valley, Cachagua, Big Sur and part of Pebble Beach — is attractive to many parents who want their children enrolled in good public schools. It's often a selling point for realtors marketing homes in the area, and people who own houses elsewhere in the county have been known to rent them out and relocate to the district, just so their kids can attend school here.

According to the new agreement — which was included on the June 9 agenda in a list with 19 others covering all sorts of

contracted services, from piano tuning and photography to environmental planning — Uretsky Security will provide “investigation services for CUSD residency.”

Carmel Unified will pay the company, which was founded by a former Carmel P.D. lieutenant years ago, a maximum of \$5,000, at a rate of \$60 per hour, to look into students' residency as needed this year. The contract approved by the board as part of the consent calendar runs from July 1 to June 30, 2022, and states the company will “provide surveillance and administrative services with regards to residency investigations for the 2021-2022 school year.”

A decade ago, the district struggled with crowding, particularly at its elementary schools, and more measures were imposed to make sure the kids live within its boundaries. More recently, enrollment declined during the pandemic but is rebounding.

Uretsky has handled similar investigations for the district for the past few years.

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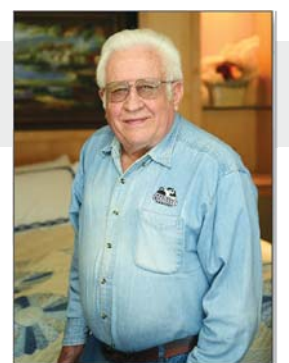
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P.G. to gauge interest in pot sales

By KELLY NIX

THE CITY of Pacific Grove wants to hear from residents about the possibility of letting a marijuana store open in “America’s Last Hometown,” and it’s planning to launch a public outreach program to do just that.

The P.G. City Council Wednesday OK’d a plan by city manager Ben Harvey to convene a cannabis outreach program by the end of summer to determine how citizens feel about the idea of allowing a recreational marijuana shop in the city. Council members also created a subcommittee composed of councilmen Joe Amelio, Luke Coletti and Chaps Poduri, who will advise Harvey on the outreach program.

“If a commercial cannabis retail dispensary is allowed, it will be a recreational use dispensary,” according to Harvey’s report to the council. “It will not be a medicinal-use only dispensary. This is due to the

cost/benefit analysis of a medical-use only dispensary, changing state laws, etc.”

Pacific Grove for the past few years has wrestled with the idea of a pot shop, which could theoretically bring in a lot of tax revenue. But it has also faced pushback from some residents and the Pacific Grove Unified School District.

Will survey

In September 2020, the council OK’d an ordinance for up to two commercial cannabis stores, but a citizens’ referendum a month later gathered just short of the necessary signatures to repeal it. In December 2020, the council repealed the law and directed city hall to come up with a cannabis outreach plan to gauge interest and solicit concerns.

If cannabis sales are allowed, the city council will have to decide how many

See **POT** page 27A

Liquor license sought for gas station

By KELLY NIX

THE PACIFIC Grove City Council this week postponed a vote on whether to let a gas station owner — who says he struggled financially during the Covid-19 pandemic — sell liquor to boost sales.

The P.G. planning commission on May 13 voted 4-3 to reject a petition by Valero owner Surya Raj Shrestha to sell hard alcohol at the business at 1140 Forest Avenue. Shrestha paid \$1,140.50 to city hall to appeal the decision, which the city council was expected to consider Wednesday, but instead tabled it to July 7.

“It is not fair for me not to have a full liquor license for my business,” Shrestha wrote in his appeal.

Shrestha explained that the coronavirus

crisis has been bad for sales, and that getting a full liquor license would help turn that around.

“I’ve been going through financial hardship and I am lucky that I am able to keep my doors open to the public,” said Shrestha, who already has a license to sell beer and wine.

No reason

In her recommendation that the city council approve the permit, City of Pacific Grove associate planner Laurel O’Halloran noted that members of the planning commission who voted against liquor offered no “specific reasons” for the denial, only that one commissioner stated “they did not

See **BOOZE** page 27A

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FOUNDATION

From page 1A

creating,” she said Tuesday, the day many of the state-imposed restrictions were lifted.

Offering low-cost lunches for curbside pickup four days a week during the closure has been “highly successful,” Zoller said, but starting in mid-July, she and her staff will test the waters for onsite dining.

“The last two weeks of July, we will be adding two seated lunches per week in our dining hall while reducing the curbside meals to two days per week,” she said. “We want to see how many people feel safe enough to come in person, as compared to curbside pick-up.”

Most of the foundation’s instructors plan to return to lead classes in various subjects on site, and eventually, the monthly Wednesday lectures will resume, too.

Masks for now

Whatever happens, she said, the foundation will be as flexible as possible. “Everything is subject to change, based on the response we get for each program,” she said.

Considering the older populations it serves, the foundation hosted vaccine clinics for members several months

ago, and Zoller also required all her employees to get vaccinated. All but one opted for the shot instead of finding work elsewhere, she said, since none qualified for a medical or religious exemption.

“When you really look at the purpose of doing the mandatory vaccination policy, it’s for our health and the health of our membership,” she said. “When you have about 3,000 members, you have to do what’s best from your point of view.” The foundation’s board supported the policy as well, Zoller noted.

Nonetheless, she plans to require everyone to wear masks, for now, since trying to verify whether members have been vaccinated would be too unwieldy, and the foundation’s buildings have multiple entrances and exits that would be difficult to police. She’s also waiting for guidance from county and state officials on what the rules are, now that many of the previous rules have been rescinded.

“It is likely we’re going to be more strict with our rules

than other places,” she said, especially since the foundation serves older people who are considered higher risk for debilitating and even deadly Covid symptoms.

And while the pandemic has had numerous deep downsides, it’s also brought about some positive change. “We’ve learned how to work more efficiently, so some of our business practices have been more refined, and we’ve learned we can perform well with a smaller staff,” Zoller said. “We got by with a fairly lean budget.”

She just hired two new employees and is now fully staffed at 15, three fewer positions than before the pandemic shut the foundation down.

“We’ve all learned to work smarter,” she said. Considering the nonprofit is 71 years old, some practices were deeply entrenched and unquestioned. The shutdowns, a leaner budget and the ever-changing rules and restrictions of the last 15 months forced her and her staff “to think outside of the box,” she said.



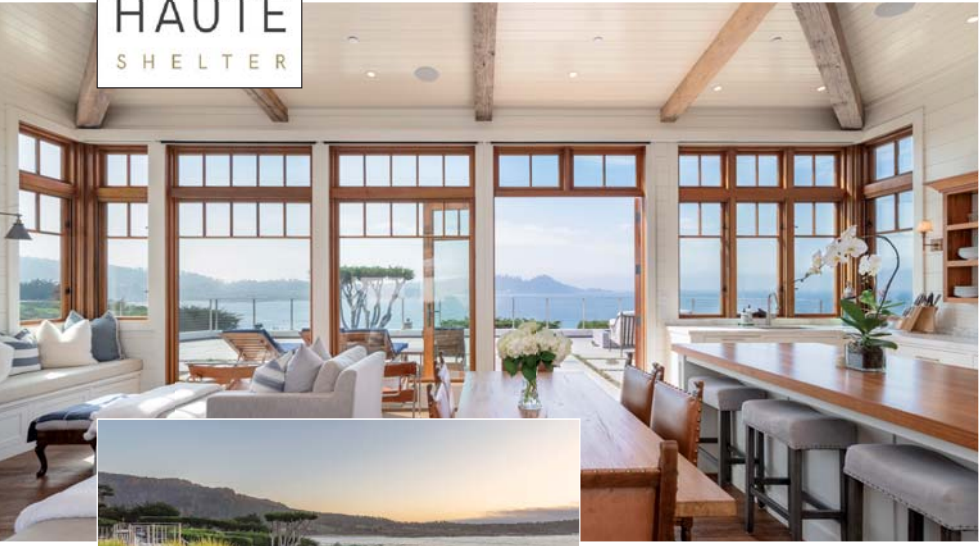
PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Carmel Foundation staff members Susan Sailow and Laurel Smelser get the library ready to start receiving members in person again after more than 15 months of closure.



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Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

In accordance with Section 15072 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, this notice is to inform the general public that the Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) has completed an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for replacing existing pipeline infrastructure that crosses over the Carmel River Lagoon and intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project:

Project Title: CRFREE Mitigation Pipeline Undergrounding Project
Project Location: Carmel River Lagoon; APN 243-021-007, APN 243-011-001, APN 243-031-037
Comment Period: June 25, 2021 to July 26, 2021
Contact Person: Mr. Patrick Treanor, Plant Engineer
Carmel Area Wastewater District
3945 Rio Road
PO Box 221428
Carmel, CA 93922
downstream@cawd.org

The purpose of the project is to replace existing wastewater pipelines that currently span the south arm of the Carmel River Lagoon with new pipelines installed deep below the bed of the lagoon so that they would not be subject to damage by increased river flows in the south arm created by the CRFREE project being proposed by Monterey County. The new pipelines are proposed to be installed under the lagoon by means of horizontal directional drilling installation methods in order to minimize the amount of ground disturbance required to install replacement pipelines. Once the new pipelines are installed and connected to the existing pipes on either side of the lagoon, the existing aerial pipe structure crossing over the south arm of the Carmel River Lagoon will be removed.

The IS/MND shall be made available for public review on the CAWD website at www.cawd.org and at the following location:
Carmel Area Wastewater District
Administrative Offices
3945 Rio Road
Carmel, CA 93922

Please submit any comments on the IS/MND in writing to Attn: Patrick Treanor by email, hand delivery or postal carrier to the above noted Contact before 5:00 PM on July 26th, 2021. A public hearing to approve said IS/MND before the CAWD Board has been scheduled for August 26th, 2021 at the CAWD Board Chambers located at 3945 Rio Road, Carmel CA 93922.

Publication dates: June 18 & 25, 2021. (PC624)

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Goats gobble weeds on Jacks Peak, lower fire risk

By CHRIS COUNTS

IN AN effort to reduce the threat of wildfire at Jacks Peak Park in Monterey, the county has brought in 600 goats to chow down on its dense — and potentially dangerous — brush. The feeding frenzy will go on for another week or so, and will cover about 40 acres.

“The goats will eat their way through thick vegetation to clear away growth that can fuel wildfires,” parks planning manager John Akeman explained.

By clearing vast swaths of greenery, the animals make it easier for human work crews to come in and take out problem trees.

“First, hand crews were used to clear fire fuels and selected dead or dying trees that pose a risk,” Akeman said. “After the goats have completed their work, work crews will go back into the target area to remove additional debris exposed by grazing.”

Happy and hungry

The county often rents goats to clear vegetation, which reduces the threat of fire, and improves habitat.

“We’ve frequently used goats in county-managed areas,” Akeman said. “Their voracious appetite and ability to both graze down vegetation and reach low-hanging tree growth make them a helpful and ecologically friendly partner in fire prevention and vegetation clearing efforts. This type of vegetation clearing is also beneficial to native plants and trees.”

Akeman said the prevention work is necessary because the nearly 900-acre county park poses a “high risk for a wildfire due to its location, environment and vegetation.”

The work is funded by a \$116,789 grant from Cal Fire, which is funded by California taxpayers.

The county is seeking feedback as it develops a long-term plan for the park, which was intended by the people who donated it to be a “wilderness in the city.” But dense vegetation makes the park a risk for nearby neighborhoods, and officials say they are trying to balance resource protection and the safety of homes.



PHOTO/COURTESY MONTEREY COUNTY PARKS

Just as they have been employed elsewhere in the county, goats are being used to reduce the threat of wildfire at Jack Peak Park in Monterey.

CITY FORESEES RETURN TO IN-PERSON MEETINGS

By MARY SCHLEY

THE COUNCIL, planning commission, historic resources board and other public bodies should start meeting in city hall again come September, city administrator Chip Rerig said this week.

“That’s our target,” he said.

Since March 2020, they’ve all been holding their meetings remotely via various platforms and only recently migrated to Zoom.

Much of the planning for returning to in-person sessions relies on guidance from the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Rerig said, even though the governor’s office removed all capacity limits, social distancing requirements and many other restrictions this week. In most cases, vaccinated people don’t have to wear masks, either, though those who have yet to get their shots still do.

“We’re watching the OSHA regulations to determine whether we need to socially distance in the chambers, if we need to limit the number of visitors, and how many people can we have up at the dais,” he said. “And we’ll be working with the council members about their comfort levels, as well.”

City clerk Britt Avrit and other administrators who run the meetings will have to sit at the dais because all the technology they need is there, but the lectern used by guest speakers and members of the public can be moved around for spacing as needed. And if only so many people are allowed in the chambers at once, chairs can be moved into the lobby and the proceedings shown on a monitor.

“We’re really excited to get back to meeting in person,” Rerig said. But, he noted, even with the relaxed restrictions, “we need to make sure we’re keeping our visitors safe.”

He would also like to continue having a remote interface so those who aren’t comfortable sitting in council chambers can still participate and ask questions during public sessions.

“One of my goals that I take very seriously is to make sure people have as much access as possible,” he said.

Richard Alan Mohr

1959 ♦ 2021

On Sunday, June 6, 2021, Richard Alan Mohr, loving husband and father, passed away at age 61. Rick suffered a heart attack while playing golf at Quail Lodge Golf Course. Rick was born in San Francisco, CA on July 27, 1959 to Jo Ann Patricia Fritz and Richard Alan Mohr. Rick is survived by his wife, Rhonda Mohr, and children — Tanner Mohr, Samantha Richards, Dakotah Mohr, Brittany Mohr and Matthew Richards.



Rick was a star football player at the University of California at Davis. While at Davis, Rick played in the Knute Rockne Bowl in 1977 (NCAA II Semifinal game) and the NCAA II Quarterfinal game in 1978. He was a four-year varsity letterman, outstanding freshman (1977), Defensive Captain (1980), Far Western Conference All League 2nd team (1979), Far Western Conference All League 1st team (1980), and UC Davis Outstanding Lineman, (1980). He lettered in Varsity track and field all four years in the shot put and discus. He was selected as one of UC Davis Chancellor’s Outstanding Student Leaders, (1981) and graduated with a degree in Architectural Design.

Rick signed as a free agent with the Green Bay Packers in 1981. Released after playing two games, he signed with the Toronto Argonauts in the Canadian Football League. He led the Argonauts in QB (quarterback) Sacks with 9.5 for the season. His team played in the Eastern Final game and then the Grey Cup. In 1983 Rick continued to play for the Toronto Argonauts leading the team in QB sacks, this time with 15.5 (still the 3rd most in their history). He was

selected to the CFL Eastern Division All-Stars and the CFL’s All-Canadian All-Star team. His team played in the Eastern Final and the Grey Cup again, winning this time and securing a Grey Cup ring. Rick was chosen to play in the CFL All-Star game. In 1984 he signed with the Tampa Bay Bandits of the USFL (coached by Steve Spurrier). Part way into the season he was traded to the Oakland Invaders and played 2 games before he re-signed with the Toronto Argonauts and then traded to Saskatchewan Roughriders. He started all 16 games with them and led the team in QB sacks, with 10.5. In 1985, Rick continued with the Roughriders starting all 14 games and led the team in QB sacks with 10. In 1986, he retired from Saskatchewan.

After Football, Rick started his career in Security as a Security Systems Consultant in 1986 with Robert C. Hardy and Associates. From 1989-1991 he was the Principal and Founder of Mohr and Associates. From there, Rick stepped in as CEO and Managing Partner for Andersen-Mohr and Associates from 1991-2001. He went on to be National Accounts Manager for Siemens Building Technologies from 2001-2005 before joining HID Global in 2005; where he would spend the remainder of his career as the Director of North American Channel Sales / PACS.

Rick was inducted into the first-ever Analy High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2014 (Class of 1977). He loved golf, traveling, taking photos, great food and wine. He had fond memories of his lifelong friends and SAE brotherhood. He not only took a special interest in his team at HID and their personal lives but also his customers as many became close friends. He is remembered by friends and family as a gentle giant. He especially took pride in being a 3rd generation San Franciscan. He often told stories about sneaking under the fence to play golf at Harding Park. He will be missed by many and never forgotten.

Rick’s Memorial Service will be held Saturday, June 19th at 6 p.m. on the 15th green of the Quail Lodge Golf Course. All are invited to join the family to celebrate his life. Donations are being accepted in his memory to: Community Foundation of Monterey County with the memo line: MGA Scholarship Fund and mailed to 2354 Garden Road, Monterey CA 93940. To sign Rick’s guest book and leave messages for his family, please visit www.thepaulmortuary.com.

JAMES BAKER

**JAMES (JIM) BAKER,
BORN JULY 15, 1938,
OF SEASIDE, PASSED AWAY
JUNE 6, 2021
AT 82 YEARS**

**MARRIED TO VIRGINIA
FOR 54 YEARS.
THE FORMER U.S. MARINE
LEAVES 3 CHILDREN, 5
GRANDCHILDREN, AND 1
GREAT-GRANDCHILD.**

IN LOVING MEMORY



SEAN B. ROYSTER
February 11, 1972 ♦ June 18, 2019

VIRUS

From page 1A

to Ammar, who said “we’ll get there shortly.”

While the full reopening of the economy and lifting of restrictions is good news to most, some residents have said they would continue to cover their faces and distance from others, even in places where they don’t have to. Others are advocating for coronavirus safety measures to continue.

Fear of variants

At the Monterey County Board of Supervisors’ meeting Tuesday, a woman warned of the coronavirus variant from India known as the Delta variant, which experts believe could end up being the dominant strain in the United States. She urged the county not to remove plexiglass panels separating the public lectern from the supervisors’ seats.

“This Delta mutation is serious, and you need to keep these up here,” the woman said.

Many businesses took down signs warning customers they had to wear masks or no longer enforced a mask-only policy. Thinker Toys on San Carlos Street explained to its customers on social media this week what it plans to do now that the coronavirus rules have largely been lifted.

“Due to the exceptionally confusing, conflicting and ever-changing nature of government guidelines, we are taking the following stance for legal reasons: Walking through our doors without a mask counts as self-attestation that you’re vaccinated,” the store said.

The toy store also said it would accommodate customers with weakened immune systems by allowing them to come in before the store opens or after hours, when other customers aren’t there.

The Old Monterey Business Association this week defended shopkeepers who are opting to still require customers — regardless of vaccination status — to wear masks in their businesses.

“Please remember that each small business is run by someone who has a family and is dealing with challenges that you can’t see,” the association said.

The Pacific Grove Chamber’s Tourist Information Center, which has been closed for 15 months, reopened this week in a maskless, mostly outdoor ceremony that spokesman Peter Munteer said was “very well received.”

“The tourist center will not require entrants to wear a mask, however it is kindly encouraged,” Munteer told The Pine Cone.

Where to wear

Masks are not required for those who are fully vaccinated, except in settings where masks are required for everyone, including public transit, indoors in K-12 schools and childcare facilities, healthcare settings, state and local correctional facilities, and homeless and cooling centers.

But some confusion will likely persist until people get used to the new rules.

At the Monterey courthouse Tuesday, for example, a woman entering the building was not wearing a mask. When told by the security officials at the door that she needed to put one on, she asked, “Why is that?” She put one on and went about her business after being told politely that they were required in the county building.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said this week that more than 70 percent of Californians 18 and older have received at least

one dose. About 65 percent of Monterey County residents have gotten at least one dose.

Report card coming

Despite the full reopening of the state’s economy, Monterey County health officer Dr. Ed Moreno would not declare the Covid-19 epidemic over in Monterey County. The Pine Cone posed the question Wednesday during a media briefing.

“We still have cases of Covid, we still have people being hospitalized and occasionally we have people dying from Covid,” according to Moreno, who strayed from the question and pointed out that many people in other countries have still not been vaccinated.

The Pine Cone asked Moreno how well he believes he’s handled the coronavirus crisis in Monterey County, but he declined to say. However, the County Office of Emergency Services in July is expected to release an after-action report, which will review the county’s response to the emergency.

Hilda Mireya Holl (Moreno)

July 26, 1959 to June 3, 2021

It is with profound grief that we share our loss of Hilda Holl, sister of four, mother of two, best friend and wife of 40 years. She was 61 years young.

Hilda was born on July 26, 1959 in Mexico and moved to the California Central Valley at an early age. She lived in Hughson and Modesto for many years before attending Fresno State University in the early 1980s where she met her husband-to-be, Michael Holl.

After college Hilda had a career in retail as an owner of the locally loved unique gift store, Nature’s Gifts, and later as an event coordinator and highly skilled florist for a family-owned event venue, Evanshire Gardens, both in the Modesto area.

Hilda and Michael lived and raised their family in Modesto before moving to Michael’s hometown, Carmel, to take care of Michael’s aging parents.

Hilda was the ultimate caregiver. A compassionate, generous, unconditionally loving, and sensitive spirit to her family and many friends. Loving wife for Michael and nurturing mother to her two children, son Luke and daughter Kylie.



No funeral or memorial service is planned. The immediate family will celebrate her life privately. Those who so desire may make memorial donations for Hilda to Hospice of the Central Coast/Montage Health or Pacific Cancer Care.

Michael, Luke, and Kylie would like to thank the extended family and friends for connecting with Hilda during her 18-week battle with neuroendocrine cancer during the pandemic. Your support and condolences are greatly appreciated.

Hilda/Mom — We love you. Always.

MICHAEL SCOTT MACCLELLAND

1942 - 2021

Carmel

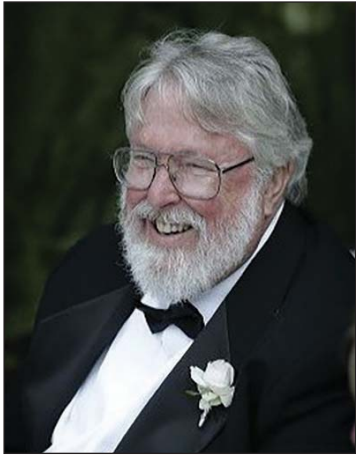
Michael Scott MacClelland took his final breath the afternoon of June 6, 2021. His wife of 53 years, Judy, his daughter, Rebecca, and son, Joshua, were by his side.

Born in Los Angeles in 1942 and spending his youth there and in San Diego, Scott found his love for classical music as a teen. He met Judy, who had arrived in Coronado from Kansas to teach high school French, at a lecture and the rest is history. They were married with Judy’s father, an Episcopal priest, officiating and enjoyed a reception at the Hotel del Coronado. From there they spent a short time in Redwood City then landed on the Monterey Peninsula in 1972 where Scott made a career in classical music and the arts as a radio announcer, program director, critic, teacher, writer, and publisher. He took advantage of UC Santa Cruz’ create-your-own-degree program and completed a bachelor’s degree in Performing Arts Journalism in 1988, the same year Rebecca graduated high school.

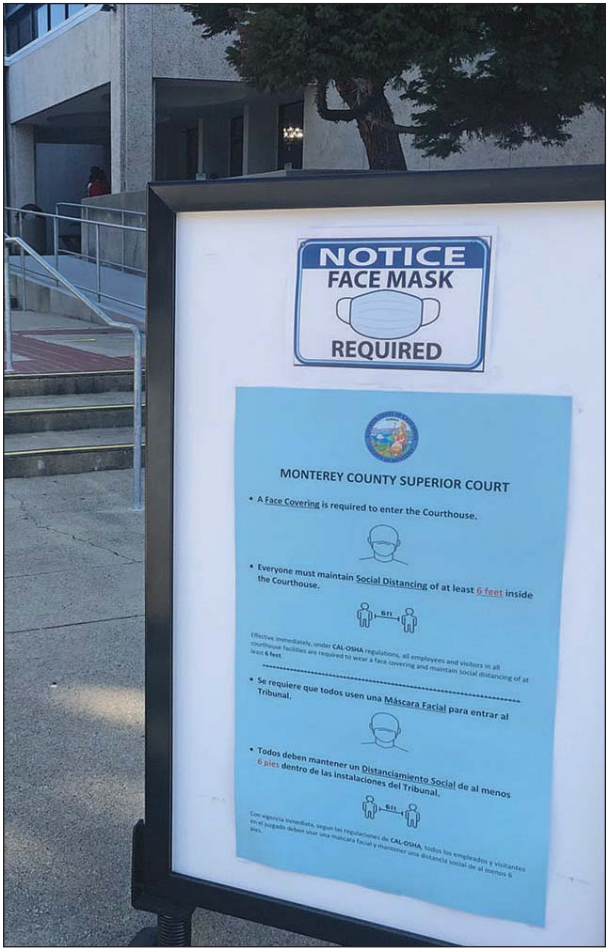
Scott’s loved ones include Joshua’s daughter, Jocelyn, and her mother, Julisa; Rebecca’s husband, Brandon, and their daughters, Amelia and Zoe; siblings Gerry (Kathy), Nora (Larry), and Greg (Teresa), nieces, nephews, and their families. Canine companions have been a near-constant element in Scott’s life from Abby, Oboe, Pepper, and Skully, to Heiba, who holds the current title. Encounters with Scott were memorable and often ended with shared laughter; there was none other like him.

The family wishes to thank Scott’s doctors and the team at Community Hospital for their kind and compassionate care.

A celebration of Scott’s life is planned for later this year.



“If music be the food of love, play on.” —Shakespeare



PHOTO/KELLY NIX

A sign at the Monterey County courthouse on Aguajito Road Tuesday warned that masks were still required despite Gov. Gavin Newsom’s order that vaccinated people no longer need them.

EVENT

From page 1A

town, Police Chief Paul Tomasi said, and it prevented his department from having extra people on duty just to make sure everything moved smoothly. Events on public property require organizers to apply and pay for permits and provide information on setup, scope and cleanup, so the city can allocate the appropriate resources. They are also required to pay fees for their use of public property.

“We don’t want to just see popup events happen, because it’s a safety concern,” Tomasi commented. “We had parking problems as a result, and as busy as we are, it’s already a challenge.”

Ready to help

Rerig said he and other city leaders stand ready to help event organizers achieve their goals, just as they did last year, when they honored the First Amendment right to free speech and assembly, despite state and local orders barring events due to coronavirus.

“We’re here to facilitate the right to gather,” Rerig said. “I was a little disappointed, because we welcome people. This is a public space, and we want to ensure people can gather safely, that traffic can traverse our streets safely.”

Community activities director Ashlee Wright, who worked with the group last year, said she “will be reaching out to the event organizer to discuss the city’s permitting process and its importance for public safety.”

“I know that there are a number of our community members who would have liked to have participated in a Juneteenth event but didn’t have any notice,” she said. “We are glad that they wanted to bring a Juneteenth event back to Carmel again and look forward to working with them in the future.”

DOG PARK

From page 1A

create the park. “This gives people with disabilities a chance to have their dogs play with other dogs.”

Leve said the site is ideal. “It’s a wonderful location,” he told The Pine Cone. “It has concrete paths and beautiful views, and it’s convenient.”

It’s also far from residential neighborhoods. “It won’t bother anyone,” Leve observed. “We have yet to find a single person who has objected to the dog park or the location.”

The fenced-in area for small dogs would be less than an acre, while the larger pen would measure about 2.5 acres.

Two couples take action

About five years ago, Leve and his wife, Fran, approached the park district and pitched the idea of a dog park. Unbeknownst to them, another couple — Linda and David Mullally — did the same. Soon the Leves connected with the Mullallys and formed a group to lead the effort to establish the park, calling themselves the Dog Park 4.

The group will host an “open house” July 17 (from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) at the site. They’re offering tours and looking for feedback on the dog park’s design. “This is an opportunity for you and your pooch to see the future site of the fenced, off-leash Rancho Canada Dog Park,” reads an invitation to the gathering.

While an illustration of the park is being circulated, Leve said the design is “preliminary,” and nothing is set in stone — not even the park’s name, which for now is the Rancho Cañada Dog Park.

It’s unclear how much it will cost taxpayers to develop the dog park — while fencing is relatively inexpensive, drawings show restrooms nearby, which would no doubt



MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

An illustration shows what a dog park at Palo Colona Regional Park would look like. Plans to create the park are in the works, and feedback is sought.

be costly.

Linda Mullally said she’s thrilled to see the project is moving forward. “Our community has been in need of safe fenced off-leash playground for a long time,” Mullally said.

Pets + exercise = happiness

The park will provide a low-impact alternative to other local dog-walking options. “We are fortunate to have Garland Park and Carmel Beach as super places for dogs to romp off leash, but it’s not suitable for some elderly or folks with mobility issues,” Mullally continued.

The park could make a big difference for mobility-challenged dog owners — and their four-legged friends. “It’s a fact that dogs who get adequate exercise and socialization are happier, better adjusted and better-behaved companions, not unlike humans,” she added.

While park district general manager Payan said much of the park can be created with minimal permits, the restrooms in particular will need permits from the county.

The park district is doing a survey on the dog park. To participate, visit mprpd.org/proposed-dog-park.

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SANDRA SMITH GRISWOLD

Born in Seattle, Washington, to Naval Officer William A. Smith and his wife Geraldine, Sandra was quickly followed by brother Craig and sister Suzi. Their father was transferred to Hawaii in 1943 and the young family soon followed.

Completely unaware of the dangers in their adult world, the children had wonderful adventures playing, swimming and exploring the island that was their young home.

At the close of hostilities, they moved to Carmel, California. Their father purchased Kips Market and their mother was very involved in the politics of Carmel. All the children attended local schools and graduated from Carmel High School. This was an experience upon which Sandra would draw upon fondly as she made friendships that lasted her whole lifetime.

In the day, it was not usual to go on the “world tour” upon graduation. Generally Europe. She wound up in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, where she studied art and later in London where she would be introduced to the retail business. Fashion was always one of her great passions. Upon returning to California, she settled in San Francisco and attended the San Francisco Art Institute. After finishing school, she went to work at I. Magnin and then Joseph Magnin.

The sixties were exciting times in retail. Boston Architect Ben Thompson started a company that would change retailing! It was called Design Research, and was better known as D/R. The San Francisco store was located at Ghirardelli Square. Her office was in the iconic Clock Tower. Many of her employees became lifelong friends. At that point, she was hired away by another visionary, Chuck Williams, founder of Williams Sonoma. The two hit it off and became great friends. Sandra was tasked with starting to grow their catalog business, then a new concept, for retail.

Sandra always had a great love of cooking and the tools that cooks use. She decided that she needed a new challenge and thought food styling for advertising was just the right thing. Through mutual friends, she was introduced to Allan Rosenberg, a photographer who wanted to move away from fashion photography to food and wine. After all, in an area like Northern California, including Napa and Sonoma, it made good business sense. They began to collaborate in the late seventies, opening their studio with Tim Sullivan in 1980 at 963 North Point, ironically, just across the street from the Clock Tower at Ghirardelli. They continued working together for the rest of their careers.

Creating images for such companies as Del Monte, Dole, E&J Gallo, Heineken, Coors, Round Table, Safeway as well as Williams Sonoma’s Kitchen Library series, Sandra not only did print, but worked with directors to create food and wine advertising for television. In between all of this, she indulged her love of architecture and interior design by starting Sandra Griswold Interiors. She proved ever a source of new and innovative ways to look at space and create many interesting and livable, unique homes up and down the State.

Sandra loved challenges and through a past relationship, she became interested in vintage car racing. Allan encouraged her to become a motorsport journalist. She, of course, was a natural. She knew everyone and at once was picked up by Rewind Magazine and Vintage Motorsport, as well as others. Her point of view was a refreshing change.

After more than four decades of friendship Sandra and Allan became domestic partners.

Sandra died at home with Allan close by on the 19th of May, 2021. She was born on the 13th of November, 1938.

The photo you see was taken two years ago.



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CUSD

From page 1A

the board “wishes to recognize the contributions of the employees of the district, which enabled students to return to daily instruction at all campuses,” Chavez said, including “designing and planning the instruction for distance, hybrid and in-person/simultaneous instruction,” the “unique work associated with the closure, re-opening and transition between instructional models for students, and flexibility in job assignments,” and providing “transportation, child nutrition, health, and instructional support services.”

Not based on merit

Teachers at all levels, school psychologists, the lead professional learning coach and the athletic director, as well as nurses, social workers, athletic training assistants, financial analysts and the administrative assistant in personnel, are eligible, Chavez said, as long as they worked at least three-quarters of the 2020-2021 school year. The bonus was not intended for management, the superintendent’s administrative assistant, or temps or substitutes.

The few parents who called in supported the bonuses. One praised the employees’ “attitude and fortitude” throughout the craziness of the school year, and another asked why substitutes were being left out. A third raised the issue that some teachers and employees worked harder, and therefore might be more deserving, than others.

Board member Anne Marie Rosen said employees worked together and are equally deserving, and board clerk Tess Arthur noted that it would be very difficult to allocate more money to some than to others.

“It’s never going to be 100 percent fair,” she said, but paying employees \$3,000 apiece to compensate them “for 15 months of a lot of stress and the emotional toll it has taken is the least we can do.”

“It’s an unprecedented time, and we need to acknowledge that,” board member Seaberry Nachbar said.

Chairperson Sara Hinds observed that the pandemic and remote teaching forced teachers “to recreate and really reinvent themselves,” and that everyone “put their heart and soul into making it work when we needed them most, so this is obviously our way of saying, ‘Thank you.’”

Money for managers

The board unanimously voted to give out the \$1.5 million in cash bonuses and then considered compensating managers and administrators for working during vacations and on weekends during the past year.

Chavez recommended the board acknowledge “the unusual efforts made by district and site administration during the 2020-2021 school year due to the ever-changing guidance by the State of California related to schools

Joyce Stevens preserve to be dedicated Monday

By CHRIS COUNTS

POSTPONED DUE to Covid, the dedication ceremony for 850-acre Joyce Stevens Monterey Pine Preserve near Jacks Peak is set for Monday at 1:30 p.m.

Shortly after buying the land in 2014 for \$7.45 million from Pebble Beach Company, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District named it in honor of Joyce Stevens, an environmental activist who has worked hard to protect the Peninsula’s native pine forest and to keep this property, in particular, from being developed.

Born in Alaska, Stevens became an architect when it was rare for a woman to do so. She and her young daughter moved to Carmel in 1962, where she took a job as staff architect at Fort Ord.

List of achievements

Stevens helped stop the Hatton Canyon Freeway and lobbied for the preservation of the Marina Dunes. She had a hand in forming the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, and served as president of the Big Sur Land Trust’s board.

“The naming of the preserve honors the many years of service Joyce gave to our community and the conservation achievements that she has contributed to the quality of our lives,” park district general manager Rafael Payan said.

Pebble Beach CEO Bill Perocchi called Stevens’ recognition long overdue.

“Joyce Stevens has been one of the primary catalysts for open space conservation in the Monterey Bay area, and has worked for over 50 years to safeguard, advocate, and educate on behalf of the Central Coast’s incomparable environment,” Perocchi said. “She is admired by local volunteers for her keen humor and indefatigable energy, and by civic leaders as an organizer, mentor and visionary.”

At least 10 threatened or endangered plants can be found in the preserve. Stevens, meanwhile, has called it “an integral part of the largest contiguous Monterey Pine forest habitat on the planet.”

and school programs” by paying each of them for an additional 10 days of work.

Their efforts, he noted, involved “rescheduling, updates to associated software and computer programs, building daily schedules that accommodated stable cohort guidance, adjusting busing schedules, testing staff and students and contact tracing, and more,” and they worked through vacation breaks and on weekends to get everything done.

Those eligible for receiving compensation for 10 additional workdays at their per diem rates include administrators and the administrative assistant to the superintendent.

Teachers union head Bill Schrier said he worked with administrators throughout the district and “would be surprised if they took any time off during the year,” and board member Karl Pallastrini acknowledged the amount of time and energy they put into their work, even while dealing with criticism and demands from parents, teachers and even the board.

“They were asked to enact some kind of distance learn-

ing program, only to be told to shut it down a couple of weeks later and do it differently or to continue to revise it to try to make everybody happy,” he said. “Ten days is honestly an understatement in terms of the extra time these people put in.”

Arthur advised the principals and others to “take a really good vacation this summer” to offset all the work they did during the school year, and she called the extra pay “a token.”

“You had to come up with 15 different plans and sometimes toss all 15 out and come up with 15 more plans,” and “you kept your cool while everybody was melting down around you with all the questions and the threats and the insults and everything else,” Rosen observed. “We’re going to need you next year, please get some rest this summer.”

The rest of the board expressed gratitude, too, before unanimously voting to approve the extra administrative pay, which totals \$210,000, according to Chavez.



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Editorial

A lottery for everything

STATE OFFICIALS did something very clever when they created a lottery to induce people to get the coronavirus vaccine. Whatever reason someone may have for not getting vaccinated — they haven’t gotten around to it, they’re worried about side effects, they think it’s unnecessary now that the epidemic has slowed down so much, or they’re sure their mind will be taken over by the Deep State — there’s nothing like a shot at a cool \$1.5 million to get them to change their minds.

We haven’t seen any data yet on how many people responded to the vaccine lottery, but we bet it’s a lot, because if you want people to do something they wouldn’t otherwise do, dangling a fortune in front of their noses is definitely one very effective way to get them to do it.

California has a lot of experience with this, of course. Every year, people spend about \$7.5 billion on tickets for the state’s regular lottery. The point of the lottery is to raise money for schools, but is that what the average ticket buyer is thinking about when he buys a couple of quick picks? Hardly. He’s thinking he might get rich. Even the fact that the California Lottery has worse odds than any Las Vegas casino doesn’t slow him down.

In fact, the schools are the last thing lottery officials want you to think about when you’re trying to decide whether to spend your hard-earned money on the Powerball, Superlotto Plus, Mega Millions, or Fantasy 5 daily drawings. Or maybe you’d prefer one of the scratcher games with tempting names like Ancient Riches, Lucky Cherries, Red Hot 10s and Frenzy. Either way, you’re sure to win, win, win!

Gambling used to be seen as a social evil that any civilized society would outlaw, but that kind of moralizing is so passé, we think it’s time for state officials to open their minds to all sorts of uses for lottery-type games. In fact, it would probably be much more effective, instead of passing laws hither and yon requiring people to do things, to just create a whole series of lotteries to achieve the same purposes — only the people would do it willingly.

Take income taxes. The government never seems to have enough money, and nobody likes paying taxes. Why not make everybody happy with a “No taxes for life” lottery? All you’d have to do is voluntarily pay 10 percent more on your tax bill every year for a chance to have your taxes waived for the rest of your life. That is a seriously good idea.

Same thing with electric cars. The government wants us all to give up our gas-guzzling SUVs, but why not do it with a lottery instead of an out-and-out ban? Buy an electric car and you’ll automatically be entered for a chance to own Disneyland! Perfect, right?

And we’re not through. One of the biggest problems in this country is the housing shortage. The silly old free market responds to the shortage by raising prices, but all that does is ensure that only people with plenty of money have a place to live. Instead of letting developers build more homes and apartments for people at all income levels, you could solve the shortage by having a housing lottery. The Grand Prize would be a mansion on 17 Mile Drive, and to qualify for a chance to win, all you’d have to do is let five or six homeless people live in your apartment for a week each year.

And where would you sleep?

In your electric car, of course.

BEST of BATES



“I don’t know ... I think they teach at DLI.”

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, although we may be able to publish your letter anonymously upon request. We reserve the right to determine which letters are suitable for publication and to edit for length and clarity. Please submit letters to mail@carmelpinecone.com

‘Wish you the best’

Dear Editor,

After 15 months, two surgeries and two vaccinations, I will no longer be a part of having anyone tell me what to do, what to wear, what shot to get or where to stand. I did my part, I went the entire time without seeing my family, I took no trips, I did not fly anywhere, I wore the mask, I had no visitors at my home and attended no get-togethers, I did not work, and I am moving on with my life come June 15.

For those not vaccinated, your health and choices are not my business. I wish you all the best.

Catherine Luciano,
Lafayette

They come with the town

Dear Editor,

A letter in last week’s Pine Cone complained about not catering enough to residents over “visitors.” My take on this is completely different. When we purchased a home here more than 20 years ago, we

knew it was a tourist town and what would come with that. We also knew the town would just get busier as time went on. And we purchased anyway. It’s like people buying a home near an airport and then complaining about jet noise.

Carmel has always and will always be a prime tourist destination and thousands rely on them for their income. “Sticking it to the tourist” is not the answer, nor is it welcoming or compassionate. We knew what to expect when we settled here. Carmel itself is not “our property” and we are happy to share this wonderful location and remember how blessed we are to live here. We chose this location and accept all that it brings.

Irene Stanek,
Carmel

‘A travesty to shut them down’

Dear Editor,

We are visitors for a month every June in Carmel-by-the-Sea. It feels like heaven on earth.

We were very disheartened to hear that the city council is planning to close down outdoor street dining as the pandemic recedes. We have been coming here for 20 years, and despite the changes caused by Covid that will disappear, these outdoor dining venues should survive. They have added immeasurable charm to an already charming town and allowed most of the wonderful restaurants in the town to survive.

Owners showed great faith in putting tens of thousands of dollars into making the outdoor dining attractive and safe. It would be a travesty to shut them down.

Jeffrey L. Zonis, Scottsdale, Ariz.

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A piano player who made a name for himself — but then changed it

IN LAST week’s column on the Carmel bath house, I told you about David Alberto, who was significant in his time but is largely forgotten today. While searching for information about him, an interesting personality emerged.

When Alberto came to Carmel, the June 30, 1921, Pine Cone announced: “The eminent Hungarian pianist, David Alberto, will have a recital at the Pine Inn at 8 o’clock Sunday evening.”

While his classically trained skill was polished through study in Europe, he was not Hungarian. Alberto was born as Albert David Cohn in San Francisco on Nov. 12, 1890.

Alberto’s father, Gus Cohn, worked as a tailor in the family business, initially in San Francisco. In 1901, the family moved to Oakland, where the budding pianist be-

gan to bloom. An item in the San Francisco Call of December 1905 announced a recital of his at Reed Hall, calling him “one of the most promising of W. J. McCoy’s pupils,” declaring “Young Cohn plays unusually well.” The Oakland Tribune was even more profuse in its praise, referring to him as “a lad who one day may be a second Pa-

History Beat

By NEAL HOTELLING

derewski.” The goal of the concert was to raise funds so that Alberto could broaden his musical education.

For the next two years, still using the Cohn name, Alberto studied and performed in the San Francisco area. He dropped out of high school so he could practice for seven hours a day. His parents approved, encouraged by musical experts who confirmed their son was truly gifted. Gus Cohn went so far as to step away from tailoring to manage Oakland’s Bell Theater, where he often booked his son.

Young celebrity

In October 1907, Madame Johanna Gadske, a Prussian-born soprano of international fame, came to San Francisco to perform at the Hearst Greek Theater. She had heard of Cohn and asked for a private recital for herself and her accompanist, Frank La Forge. They were so impressed they arranged for him to study in Europe. He initially stayed at Gadske’s home in Dresden, Germany, studying with La Forge. From there, Cohn went to Vienna and studied under Theodor Leschetizky, the instructor of Paderewski. At age 20, after two years under Leschetizky, he debuted as David Alberto in February 1911, at the Viennese castle of Princess Wrede.

Alberto returned home that summer as a celebrity. The newspapers used his new stage name, but always included his full name in parentheses. By this time, Gus Cohn and his brothers had expanded their business to own and manage a string of theaters in California. They booked Alberto to tour through their theaters so he could earn money to return to Vienna for further study. They billed him as “the boy who makes the piano talk.” In late 1912, he returned to Vienna but did not stay long. In April 1913, back in Oakland, he opened a musical studio for instruction in his parents’ home. Over the next three years, he focused on giving instruction with only occasional performances.

Secret marriage

What remained unknown to nearly everyone, including his family, was that while he was in Austria he had married Countess Oeriss von Ehrmsword, a German, who was also studying music

See HISTORY page 25A

A life-altering journey with Dad

WALLENDAS WALK tightropes. Barrymores act. Mannings play quarterback. Thing is, Ashley Bennett-Stoddard had no plan to become an artist, but DNA intervened.

Her father, Bob Bennett (1940-2003), and his identical twin, Tom (1940-2016), were world-renowned sculptors whose creations were presented to Pope John Paul II, President George H.W. Bush, and Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, among other notables.

In the late 1980s, the Bennetts had art galleries in Honolulu, Dallas, Chicago, Scottsdale, San Francisco, Beverly Hills, San Francisco, Palm Springs, La Jolla, Lake Tahoe and Carmel — originally on San Carlos Street, and now on Dolores, be-

ated his art. “He always described his sculptures as musical notes, and he’d have lights shining on all of his different sculptures, making shadows on the wall,” she said. “When he turned them, you could see those lines move, and from the time I was little, I was always looking at his ‘symphony shadows’ on the wall.”

Only one option

She began learning sculpting techniques from her dad as a high school student, then enrolled after graduation at the San Francisco Art Institute.

“I only stayed for a year, studying fashion design, before I decided that art school wasn’t really my jam,” Stoddard said. “My family has always been very open about discussing the art they’re creating — they want to talk about it — but everybody at art school was like, ‘I’m creating something nobody else has ever created! Don’t look at it!’”

A road trip with her father at age 19 changed the way she envisioned her future: She recalled transforming from a little girl who was intimidated by his shadow, into a young woman who felt fortunate to stand in his light.

“We pulled a trailer full of sculpture across the country, setting up and tearing down 13 of his art shows,” she said. “Discovering that I had so much to learn, and realizing that my art would be different from his, I decided that there was not an option for me to be anything but an artist.

“What I took away from that trip was an understanding of how art can move people to feel and think — how it can become part of the fabric of their lives.”

She came to Carmel to manage the gallery in 1993-94, a brief-but-pivotal time that further shaped her path. The original

See ARTIST page 27A

Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

tween Fifth and Sixth avenues. Terrie Bennett (Tom’s daughter) has been sculpting professionally for three decades.

Stoddard is a painter, sculptor and jewelry artist, known for the pendants she sells at the gallery, and which she has donated over the years to the fundraising events of 32 nonprofits. She even co-produced a short documentary, “Art and Soul,” about trying to find her own path in the art world.

She also runs the family’s Carmel gallery all but one day a week, when her semi-retired mom, Debi Bennett-Stephens, presides — she heroically kept the business afloat after Bob’s death.

A multi-faceted lifestyle

Stoddard handles all sales, bookkeeping, marketing and everything else that keeps the business going strong. In fact, as the pandemic began to wane, Bennett Sculpture enjoyed its most profitable spring in its 39-year history. Stoddard also paints there, drifting in and out of her “artistic zone” to greet and assist gallery visitors.

The mother of three — Amelia, 20, Kai, 17, and Bode, 15 — also is the board president of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce and an active member of the Rotary Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea.

“Honestly, I didn’t ever want to be an artist, but there was no escaping it in our family,” she said. “It’s just in you. You look at the world a little bit differently — you can’t help it.”

As a youngster, Stoddard adored her father, and regularly rode her bicycle to the Placerville foundry where he and her uncle had their studios. She’d take out the trash, wander outside and collect interesting rocks to “sell” to the foundry’s 175 workers, and watch with wonder as her dad cre-



PHOTO/CAMERON STODDARD

Ashley Bennett-Stoddard, daughter and niece of two renowned sculptors, is forging her own path as a painter.

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

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Fortunately for students, he knows that ‘not all who wander are lost’

IN 2004, Bill Schrier began working as a Carmel High School teacher. He was hired as a long-term substitute in chemistry, and had spent the summer reviewing and relearning the intricacies of the subject, since he hadn’t worked in the field for nearly 20 years.

Once he got to class, however, he said, “The first ques-

Great Lives

By ELAINE HESSER

tion — ‘May I use the restroom?’ — stopped me flat.”

He had the course content down, but wasn’t prepared for the nuts-and-bolts of the job, like the rules for bathroom visits. Moreover, he said, he didn’t realize how much of his success depended on his rapport with his students. He did have empathy for them, though.

“I was a terrible high school student,” he said. “I was a bit of a behavior problem, so know what it’s like to have a hard time in school.

Schrier was born in New York City, but when his father, a doctor, got a job teaching at Yale, the family moved to New Haven, Conn.

After Schrier graduated from high school there, he went to Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona, Fla., to become a commercial pilot.

“It seemed cool and I got my pilot’s license,” he said, but he didn’t pursue it further. “I wasn’t in the right frame of mind,” he said. Instead, he took a series of odd jobs in Florida, played soccer with his friends and learned Spanish.

Then, in 1983, he had what he called his “biscuit dough epiphany.” He was 23 years old, working at a Howard Johnson’s near Daytona, making biscuits before sunup.

Manhattan letdown

“I asked myself, ‘Is this how I want to spend my life?’” He thought not, so he decided to go back to school at The University of Miami in Coral Gables and study chemistry. He said he was “really into” his classes, but his subsequent job at a hospital supply company wasn’t as interesting.

So, in another attempt to expand his horizons, he re-

turned to New England and applied to Boston University’s school of law. Several professors there suggested combining his chemistry background with a law degree and going into patent law, but that wasn’t what Schrier wanted.

Instead, he fell in love with criminal law and charted the next step in his career. “I had wanted to serve my country for a long time, so one day I called 1-800-GO NAVY and asked a recruiter if the Navy needed lawyers.”

He was a third-year law student at the time, and said, “This was before the TV show, ‘JAG’ or ‘A Few Good Men,’” and it wasn’t that popular as a career choice. But the day he showed up to take his physical, he said, “there was a sea of humanity” at the processing center.

It was Jan. 17, 1991, the day that Operation Desert Storm began in Iraq, and young people were showing up in droves to join the military. Schrier spent his hitch in Norfolk as a military prosecutor and then in Washington, D.C., as an appellate defender.

As his time on active duty drew to a close, Schrier took a job in a big law firm in Manhattan, at Rockefeller Center. It was a bit of a letdown.

“I was used to flying out to aircraft carriers and handling court martials. The big firm wasn’t my cup of tea, he said.” A few years in, he took a job in lower Manhattan, working for the government, and became the assistant U.S. attorney for Southern New York.

Seeking answers at Esalen

He might have stayed longer, but a beloved uncle died, leaving what Schrier described as “a void inside,” making him examine his career choices yet again.

He decided to seek answers at Esalen Institute in Big Sur, beginning in spring of 2001. When the attacks of 9/11 came, Schrier said he heard about them on the radio that morning in Big Sur, and when he took a town run into Carmel later that day, he watched footage of the destruction in New York on a television at Wells Fargo Bank in the Crossroads.

“I wanted to be there so bad,” he said, but realized there was no point in trying to go.

He became a work-scholar at Esalen, doing jobs in the kitchen and as head of security, staying there for four years. One night, over dinner, he met a woman whose daughter was at Carmel High. As they talked, the woman suggested he’d be a great guest speaker for the kids.

See LIVES next page

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PHOTO/COURTESY BILL SCHRIER

Carmel High School teacher Bill Schrier with his co-pilot, Lucy, a rescued mixed-breed German shepherd.

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HISTORY

From page 23A

in Vienna. She was just 17 and feared telling her father about the marriage. So, they each kept the secret and returned to their respective parents.

In 1915, von Ehrmsword got her father’s permission to attend the Panama-Pacific International Exhibition in San Francisco. Once in San Francisco, she and Alberto reunited and had a long and happy marriage in America, where she Anglicized her first name to Iris.

Alberto came to Carmel to perform a series of concerts in the summer of 1921 and immediately decided it would be his home. By June, he began offering instruction on piano at the Arts and Crafts Hall, and later created a studio at his home on Santa Fe south of Eighth.



Edward Weston captured this study of David Alberto’s hand for the frontispiece of Alberto’s planned book, “Pianoforte Technic for Hedonists.”

Alberto was the subject of a story in the Dec. 22, 1921, Pine Cone. While Alberto had composed many pieces and was a gifted performer, the story said, “he, more than most great artists, enjoys the teaching side of his profession.”

He also partnered with Monterey Herald publisher Allen Griffin to form the Monterey Philharmonic Society. The plan was to book world-class performers and present them to the public at nominal prices. They arranged a series of four concerts; the first, held Oct. 24, 1922, featured Florence Macbeth. The coloratura soprano played to a full and appreciative audience, but the theater lacked heating, later performances that winter were poorly attended, and the society folded.

Also in 1922, Alberto joined the staff of the local art and music club. He taught piano while other top musicians taught the strings. While Alberto could have made a career as a famous concert pianist, he chose to make Carmel his home and focus on writing compositions and educating others.

Panetta’s piano teacher

In 1931, Alberto became music instructor at the Douglas School in Pebble Beach. There, one of his brilliant young students was Elayne Lavrans. In 1932, at age 15, she performed several of her compositions at Del Monte Lodge. In 1935, Lavrans earned a four-year scholarship to the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. Professionally, her 1954 score for a Los Angeles production of “Peer Gynt” earned acclaim.

While some of Alberto’s students became respected for their skills in music, others applied the lessons learned in fields seemingly removed from the arts. One of his students in 1948 was 9-year-old Leon Panetta, whose playing during a recital showed “poise, rhythm and musicianship,” the Herald said. “There is surprising artistry in his phrasing.”

Alberto also enjoyed discussing and writing about music theory. He wrote several articles and in the 1930s compiled a manuscript entitled “Pianoforte Technic for

LIVES

From previous page

Schrier wasn’t so sure, but said a teacher named Therese Strutner kept calling until he relented. “It was my first time back in a high school classroom since I’d graduated,” he said. And it was better than he expected. “The students were curious and they asked good questions.” He went back as a guest speaker twice more.

Word must have gotten around, because in 2004, he got an email from then-principal Karl Pallastrini asking if he’d like to try teaching chemistry. Since then, Schrier has moved into the social sciences, and uses his law background to coach the school’s Mock Trial team, which took the 2016 world championship and 2017 state championship titles.

Surprising circumstances

Schrier said once he got into the classroom, he began understanding that building relationships with the students was key. “I’m giving them a safe place that’s supportive. I care about them first as people,” he said.

When he’s having trouble reaching one of his pupils, he remembers New Haven, an upscale, wealthy area not unlike Carmel.

“Just because you’re affluent doesn’t mean you have a good home life,” he said. He described times when he didn’t understand the often-surprising circumstances of his students’ lives, until he started taking them aside and asking them. That has translated into better relationships

Hedonists.” While never published, it was designed with photographs by Edward Weston.

The Albertos remained active in the life of the Monterey Peninsula for the rest of their lives, living more than 50 years in their home on Santa Fe Street. David died in 1976. Iris, who had a weaving shop in the 1920s and 1930s, became better known in later years for her abstract paintings. She died in 1983.

They had no children to inform later generations of their contributions, but they clearly helped shape Carmel and are worthy of being remembered.

and better teaching, Schrier believes.

He was a runner-up for NBC Sports’ Bay Area All Star Teacher in 2019 and received a Crystal Apple award. Schrier is also the president of the Association of Carmel Teachers. For the most part, he said, the district and the teacher’s association work together well “to best serve the students.”

No straight lines

He has coached girls soccer and tennis, and was the academic coach for the football team. “I learned a lot about coaching mock trial on the sidelines of football games and on the bus, watching how Golden Anderson motivates his players,” he said.

When he’s not at school, Schrier said he enjoys ... being at school. When it’s off-season for mock trials, he judges other schools’ competitions. He likes attending concerts and plays at CHS — he was impressed that the drama club pulled off its production of “Little Women” so quickly after the pandemic.

He and his wife live in Marina with a rescue dog — Lucy, a German Shepherd mix — and he enjoys playing chess, cooking and watching soccer on television. But, he said, since he’s found his calling, “My favorite thing to do is what I get paid to do.”

He lets his students know that it’s OK not to have a straight line from high school to a career mapped out, and that it’s all right to try many things before you find the job you want. After all, it worked for him.



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BOARDING

POSTS

From page 10A

the peace posts that student artists create each year for First Night, Monterey’s community New Year’s Eve celebration.

As the idea took shape, Sturgess said it was decided to have three posts, applying the theme of the Christian trinity to three challenges facing the nation — the pandemic, racism and climate change.

Eighth-graders confronted the problem of racism, seventh-graders worked on the post commemorating the pandemic, and sixth-grade students took on the topic of climate change.

According to Sturgess, the project is called “Love is the Way: A Holy Evolution.” She said that she hopes “it will be healing for many people and will promote fruitful dialogue for us to find common ground with one another as we grapple with the state of our world.”

The students designed the posts with their teachers, spanning subjects including art, science, literature, history and culture. They were painted in acrylic, and the work was done in stages so many students could contribute without having to get too close to one another.

Gestures of love

The sixth-graders had a visit from LaNette Zimmerman of the city’s climate committee, spoke with them about climate change. In discussing the project with the school’s board of trustees, student Bearitt Langmann said, “Her presentation reinforced what we learned in science class about what is causing climate change.”

The post they designed has waves representing rising sea levels and flames symbolizing increased temperatures. About halfway up the post, human hands in prayer or gestures of love intervene, and the top depicts possible solutions, like windmills and solar energy, as well as a tree, urging people to seek protection for forests worldwide.

Sturgess said that the post’s religious

connection was to God, “the Holy Creator.”

For the seventh-graders, the pandemic became a jumping-off point to consider how people care for one another. Leah Sibley, a student who worked on the project, said that each participant chose “a symbol to represent humanity united, working to overcome the virus,” including a health-care worker, a beating heart, and different religious symbols.

Redemption

At Sturgess’ suggestion, they incorporated images from the Mexican Day of the Dead, which Sibley said were intended to give “a positive and hopeful message.” Emphasizing the concept are the familiar, spiked depictions of the virus, which appear to rise into the air and turn into marigolds, a flower used in Day of the Dead observances.

From a faith perspective, Sturgess said, it represents “the work of the Holy Redeemer,” the second person of the trinity, who Christians believe to be embodied in Jesus Christ, sometimes referred to as The Great Physician. Sturgess noted, however, that the description of God as a redeemer is also a Jewish concept, as in the book of Job, where the often-quoted text, “I know that my redeemer lives,” is found.

Eighth-grade students were inspired by “The Hill We Climb,” the poem Amanda Gorman wrote and recited at President Biden’s inauguration, and Maya Angelou’s poem, “Caged Bird.”

Their post depicts an olive tree, which eighth-grader Verena DeVilliers said was “a symbol of peace, wisdom and prosperity,” that would “symbolize our country and the wise principles it was founded on.” Bird cages hang on the tree, and a chain symbolizes slavery.

Sturgess added that the post represents the work of “the Holy Reconciler,” or the third person of the trinity (frequently referred to as the Holy Spirit), addressing “racial injustice and the path to freedom.”

Signage will include a QR code that visitors can scan with their phones to learn more about the posts. The garden is usually open during daylight hours.



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ARTIST

From page 23A

San Carlos Street location of Bennett Sculpture put her in close proximity to multiple working artists. “There was a lot of really cool energy in that courtyard — lots of painters — and that’s when I began to paint,” she said.

‘Great teacher, cool synergy’

In 1994, she returned to Placerville to work and apprenticeship as a sculptor with her father, while continuing to paint. “I apprenticed until I knew everything he was going to do next,” she said. “By the end, I felt like his sculptures were my sculptures. He was a great teacher, and we had a cool synergy.”

In 1995, while working as a waitress, Ashley Bennett met Cameron Stoddard, a local firefighter, whom she married four years later.

At 21, she and her husband sublet a former theater on Main Street in Placerville, converting the space into studios for 23 working artists, with a large room for art classes and workshops taught by resident artists. They also launched a once-a-month art walk that continues in the city today.

An employment opportunity for Cameron took the family to Utah, where his two-year contract turned into a 12-year stay, but they returned to Carmel three years ago so Stoddard could manage Bennett Sculpture, which moved to its new Dolores Street location during the pandemic.

“Mom was still running the place full-time, but she was tired and talking about closing the gallery,” Stoddard said. “I said, ‘You can’t do that — it’s my main income and my passion!’ And she said, ‘Well, then, you probably need to move back down here.’”

Returning to the Peninsula from Utah was an uplifting move, said the artist, who has developed a deep love for Carmel-by-the-Sea, and the supportive nature of its art community.

Tree ladies and angels

As a painter, Stoddard is best known for her abstract-expressionist “tree ladies” and angels, which sell briskly, but her creative range as a painter perpetually expands. She also continues to make sculptures and pendants.

“My art is inspired by nature. It is spiritual in color and form. It is a tool to connect and tell stories,” she said. “My art has become a way for me to honestly share how I look at the world, and it has provided me with opportunities to share other people’s visions as well.”

The family presence at Bennett Sculpture includes work by Tom and Bob Bennett, Terrie Bennett, and Kim Eckert-Bennett (Tom’s widow), along with bronze pieces by M.K. Shannon and pewter by Keith Shannon (Ashley’s aunt and uncle).

Paintings by Emily Randolph and glasswork by Rick and Janet Nicholson also are represented by the gallery, which is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. More information can be found on the website at bennettsculpturecarmel.com.

POT

From page 16A

shops would be OK.

Residents will be asked if they support or oppose marijuana retail sales in the city’s commercial zones, whether the state-required buffer between schools and pot sales “should be adhered to or increased,” as well as general concerns, including the potential for “noise, odor and loitering,” and possible impacts on children and public safety.

It’s expected that surveying residents will cost about \$10,000, though Harvey said the city could decide to spend more money on expertise from a consultant.

“The city will create a dedicated commercial cannabis retail outreach page embedded within the city website,” which will contain information on outreach, results of the survey, links to town hall meeting videos and other information.

Besides residents and businesses, the city will solicit comment from the school district, parent and teacher associations, chamber of commerce and business and hospitality improvement districts, and other groups.

POLICE

From page 9A

is set to become a corporal July 1.

“He’s very intelligent, understands policing and is ready to advance,” the chief said. “He’ll probably be detective until end of the year,” at which point Tomasi will appoint another officer to the role.

And Bruno, who was a reserve officer in 2013 and started working full-time for CPD in early 2014, became the department’s newest sergeant this week.

“Mike Bruno is an incredibly mature and competent human being,” Tomasi said. “I think he’ll be chief here someday, if he wants to be.”

BOOZE

From page 16A

believe the use was consistent with the Forest Hill Plan.” However, O’Halloran’s report to the council indicates otherwise.

Require an ‘amendment’

“The plan recognizes the sale of alcohol beverages as an allowable use within the plan area,” her document said. “The gas station store currently sells beer and wine with the appropriate ABC license. Adding distilled spirits will require an amendment to the ABC license, and it will continue to be regulated by the ABC.”

If the council decides in Shrestha’s favor, it can also opt to refund him the fee he paid to appeal the planning commission’s decision.

ARREST

From page 6A

officers he’d recently bought them.)

Arias was booked into Monterey County Jail on the outstanding warrants and several new charges, including felony evading arrest, hit-and-run, burglary for breaking into a house while he was trying to run and hide, and possession of burglary tools and drug paraphernalia. His car was picked up and stored by Carmel Towing.

Later that morning, Police Chief Paul Tomasi commended Gotelli and officer Greg Johnson for their work and self-restraint in pursuing and catching Arias.

“It was a dangerous situation, and they did it flawlessly and perfectly,” he said, lauding their “outstanding control” in a high-stress, frenetic situation.

Arias remained in county jail this week, and Carmel P.D. and the sheriff’s office are pursuing cases against him, since he is accused of crimes in both jurisdictions.

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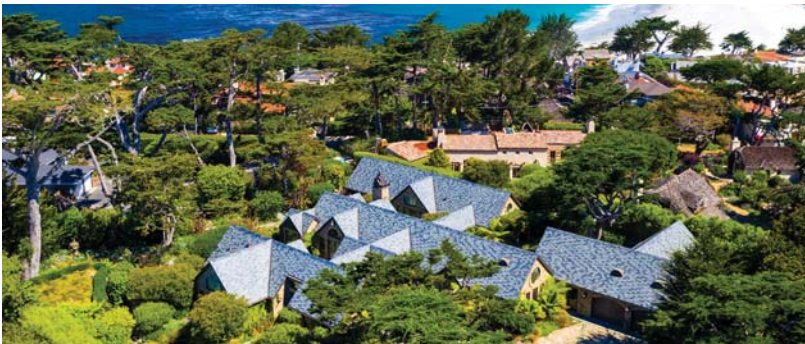
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Section 2

Tougher than a speeding foul ball, this dad was indeed a superhero

DEAR OL' Dad was nearing his 90th birthday and afflicted with three types of cancer (skin, bone and prostate) in 2008, the last time he flew from Denver to Monterey to visit me. By then, he also was a survivor of lung cancer and two heart attacks.

He wanted to play golf, even with two sore hips, so I

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

took him to Spyglass Hill, Poppy Hills and Black Horse, where we cumulatively took at least 800 hacks and shared a few thousand memories. It was one of the greatest weeks of my life.

Waiting on the porch

When I was a kid, Dad was a traveling salesman for Philco, a company that sold radios and televisions, and he drove his Mercury all over Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas and Wyoming for a week or two at a time.

After an exhausting trip home, if the sun was still in the sky, he'd invariably find me staring through our front window, or waiting on the porch, holding my baseball glove — and his — when he pulled into our driveway.

The routine was always the same: He'd give everybody a quick hug, change into his shorts and undershirt, and trudge into the backyard, where I'd bounce my fastball off his bony, white shins until Mom called us in for dinner.

My dad stood 5-foot-6 and weighed 150 pounds, but to me, he was Rowdy Yates.

"Make a muscle!" I'd insist.

He'd flex, I'd squeeze his biceps, and I'd always follow up with the same question. (I had a lot of questions in those days.)

"Are you really stronger than Superman?" I'd ask.

"You bet!" he'd affirm, as Mom rolled her eyes.

From the time I was 7, baseball was our mutual passion, and Dad showed unflappable patience at the breakfast table as he withstood a relentless interrogation: Why does Jesus Alou jerk his neck like that? Is Harmon Killebrew really a killer? What's a knuckleball? How come Minnie Minoso has a girl's name? Why do they call it a bullpen? Why does Nellie Fox's cheek bulge like that? No question went unanswered.

When I was 10, Dad took me to a minor league baseball game — Denver Bears vs. Indianapolis Indians — where a miracle occurred. An Indianapolis player hit a line-drive into the seats down the left-field line, straight at my dad, who tried to snag it barehanded. The ball dislocated the middle finger on his right hand, then fell into the lap of some other kid's dad.

My father, a Depression-era guy who had endured much worse, yanked the digit back into its joint with nary a complaint, and we watched it turn purple and swell for the next few innings. While he silently suffered, I brooded, envious of the kid behind a few rows me who was holding my ball.

"Two hands!" I scolded Dad, repeating what he always told me.

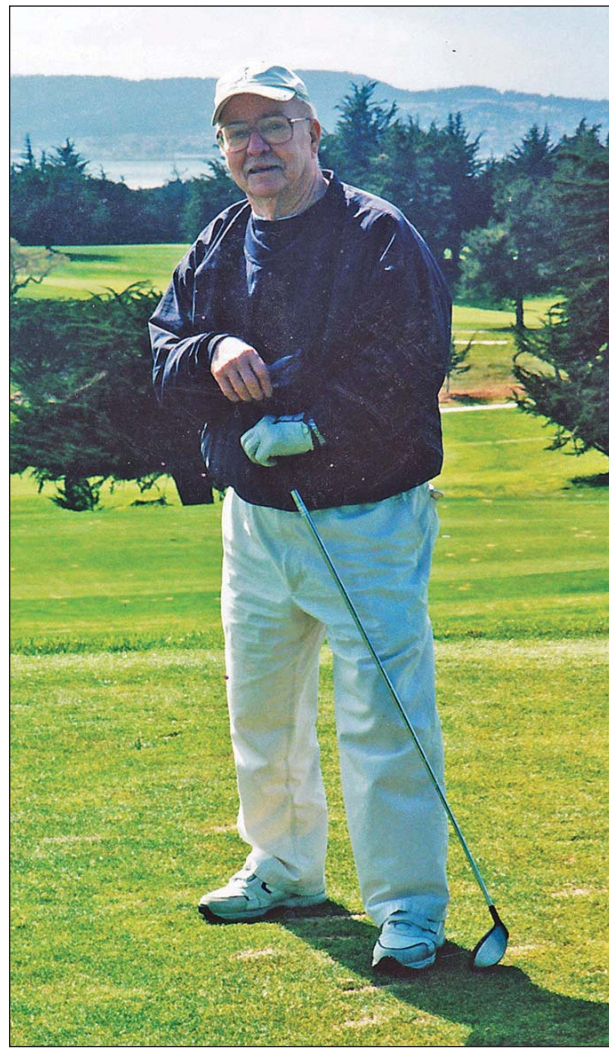
Deep-purple redemption

Several innings later, Tommie Aaron — Hank's younger brother, and a big attraction that season for the Denver Bears — scorched another foul ball right at us. I watched my dad, my hero, rise from his seat like a 5-and-one-half-foot-tall skyscraper and catch it with two hands, one pink, the other deep purple.

As people in our section cheered, acknowledging his redemption, he pulled off my baseball cap, dropped the ball inside, comically tugged it back onto my head, and sat down.

After sharing that detailed recollection on the back nine at Black Horse, Dad confessed with a rueful laugh that he

See **SPORTS** next page



My dad, Robert N. Taylor, in 2008 at Black Horse Golf Course in Seaside. He was nearing 90, but still went the distance.



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SPORTS

From previous page

only vaguely remembered the day. He was, after all, 90.

Next morning, a Tuesday, he wandered out for breakfast on creaky legs and said, "Fifty-four holes on one vacation is enough for this old guy. I want to watch a high school baseball game today."

So, we drove to Carmel High and saw the Padres beat Pacific Grove 7-6 in an eight-inning thriller, a game Dad enjoyed so much that he wet his pants in the bleachers due to his prostate cancer. He was reluctant to use his catheter in a public restroom.

As he regathered his dignity during our drive home, I told him how much fun the week had been, and how wonderful it had been to hear his stories, and share mine.

Tournaments to benefit breast cancer patients and families

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE CARMEL Valley Ranch Women's Golf Association and the ranch's tennis club will again dedicate their 23rd annual charity golf and tennis tournament June 23 to the Breast Cancer Assistance Group of Monterey County.

For years, the event has been a critical funding source for the nonprofit's grant program, which helps ease financial burdens on women battling breast cancer.

The tradition returns

More than 120 athletes who compete in will enjoy lunch, prizes, a raffle drawing and an awards ceremony, and each will receive a raffle ticket for the chance to win

Despite the pain that wracked his body, my dad remained upbeat and happy to the end, which came in 2011 at age 93. He called and emailed regularly. He'd update me on his latest golf triumph, or failure, against those 70-something whippersnappers at his retirement complex. We'd grumble about politics, and he'd review the most recent articles I had written.

'Coulda been a foreman'

"Y'know, if you had listened to me, you coulda been a foreman at the processing plant by now, y'dumb kid!" was a routine admonishment whenever he read a column he enjoyed.

He was a proud dad. I was a proud son. That relationship meant everything to me, every day of my life, and still does. RIP, dear ol' Dad, and happy Father's Day.

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

gift cards and merchandise from Carmel Valley Ranch and other local businesses.

According to C.V. Ranch membership director Travis McCabe, the tournament has raised more than \$500,000 for local breast cancer patients over the years, and BCAG President Kim Allen said she's eager to see the tradition return after a coronavirus-induced break in 2020.

The nonprofit is led entirely by volunteers who are also survivors, and the funds raised help cover basic living expenses so patients can focus on fighting their disease and recovering.

To learn more, visit bcagmc.org, and to participate in the tournament or become a sponsor, call (831) 649-6365 or email bcagdirector@gmail.com.

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Youth Music final online concert also offers Hidden Valley reunion

IN WHAT will hopefully be its last online performance, **Youth Music Monterey County** presents its Spring Concert Sunday at Hidden Valley Music Seminars — and online at YouTube.

For the student-musicians, the concert concludes a year full of challenges.

“It’s a wrap — we did it,” declared executive director **Suzanne Mudge**. “Congratulations to our young musicians for successfully completing the crazy pandemic year of online rehearsals and virtual concerts.”

The program includes music by Mozart (“Overture to the Magic Flute”), Jeremiah Clarke (“The Prince of Denmark March”), two pieces by contemporary African-American composers — Nkeiru Okoye (“Voices Shouting Out”) and Kevin Day (“Lightspeed”) — along with the Intermezzo from Bizet’s *Carmen* and Strauss’ *Overture to Die Fledermaus*.

The students will be led by musical director **Danko**

Drusko.

Not only can you watch the concert online, but a limited number of tickets are available inside Hidden Valley

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

Music Seminars, and more seating is available outside. Be sure to bring a blanket for the latter.

“We’re excited to offer this, and to be able to help reconnect students with audiences, families, donors and community members,” Mudge said. “It will be a wonderful opportunity to see everyone again.”

To attend in person, RSVP using the link at youthmusicmonterey.org. The concert starts at 3 p.m., and a live

reception — with masks and distancing — will follow. Hidden Valley is located at Carmel Valley and Ford roads.

■ ‘Best of the Rep’

PacRep Theatre pays tribute to its past musicals when it presents the “Best of the Rep” Wednesday at Monterey Fairgrounds.

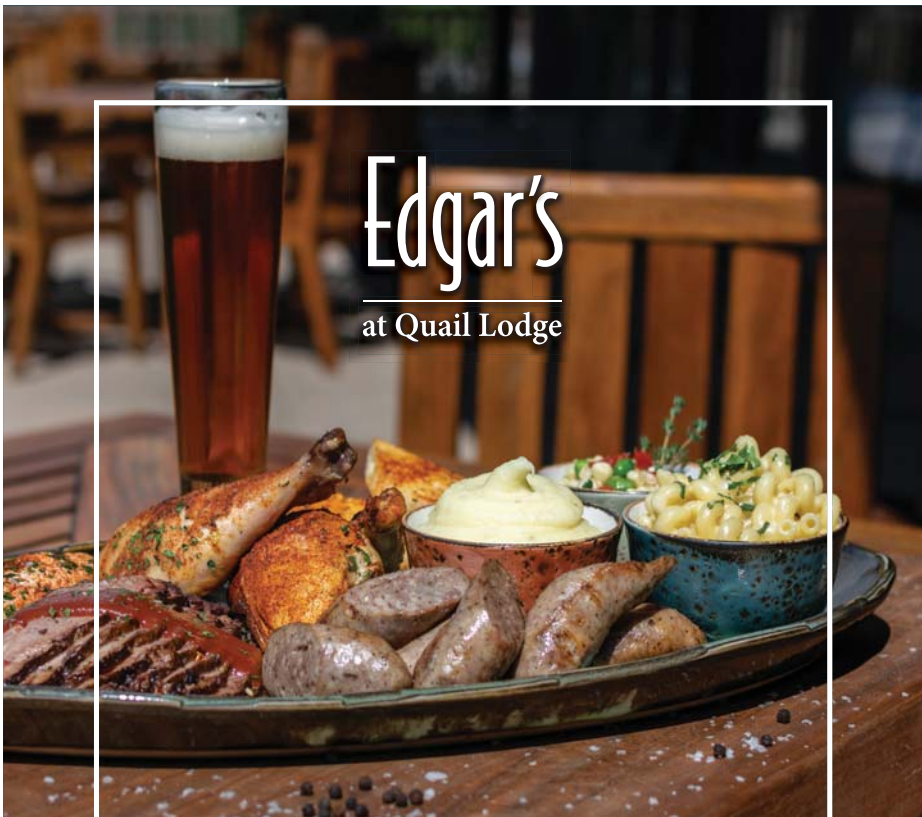
The fifth of six drive-in concerts offered by PacRep, the show includes a cast of PacRep alumni **Lara Devlin**, **Rhett Wheeler**, **Lydia Lyons**, **Malinda DeRouen** and **J.T. Holmstrom**.

Tickets are \$75 for each vehicle, and must be purchased in advance. The gates will open at 6:30 p.m., and the show will start 7:30 p.m. The Monterey Fairgrounds is located at 2004 Fairground Road in Monterey. For more information,

See **MUSIC** page 37A



Guitarist Adam Astrup (left) plays jazz Thursday with singer Miranda Perl at Midici Pizza in Monterey. Gary Meeks — who once toured with singer Dionne Warwick — joins the David Morwood Jazz Band Sunday at La Playa Hotel. Youth Music Monterey serves up its final concert of the season Sunday online.



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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

Albright said she envisions Carmel Burger Bar as having a “unique and innovative upscale casual dining atmosphere,” with efficient, friendly service and an accessible menu that draws on international flavors and local products.

“The menu will appeal to a wide and varied clientele,” she wrote to the commission. “It is international with an interesting twist.”

Designer Vita Rae presented her plans for the layout and exterior changes. “We are relocating the bar,” she told commissioners. “It used to be right at the front entrance, and we’re moving it back deeper into the space with a revised layout.”

The new restaurant will have fewer seats than Bistro Beaujolais, with just under 40 inside, including seven at the bar, and another two dozen outside. It will be open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. for lunch, Happy Hour and dinner, according to Waffle.



The Rio Grill in the Crossroads has several new seasonal menu items, including beef tenderloin tartare with crispy capers and whipped habanero egg yolk.

Bolton said the restaurant’s smaller capacity is an upside, and Lehman said she thought the burger bar would be “a nice addition to the Plaza.”

“It will be nice to have a hamburger place, and I was glad to see fish on their menu,” she said.

The planning commission unanimously supported the Carmel Burger Bar’s permit.

■ Quail Dad’s Day to go

Quail Lodge is offering an easy way to celebrate Father’s Day with an entire barbecue dinner to go. Available for pickup between 3 and 8 p.m. June 20, the platter serves three to four people and costs \$85 plus tax and service charge.

The feast includes beef tri-tip, BBQ chicken, spicy sausage, fire-roasted Spanish shrimp, mashed potatoes, garlic bread, sweet corn succotash, and macaroni and cheese, with additional sides available for \$8 apiece.

Order online at exploretock.com/quaillodge.com and pick up at the resort on Valley Greens Drive in Carmel Valley.

■ New Rio items

Executive chef Eduardo Coronel has introduced a handful of new dishes at the Rio Grill at the Crossroads, just in time for spring.

The new ahi tuna salad with local field greens includes avocado and the bright flavors of jalapeño and ginger-sesame dressing, with crispy wontons and grilled watermelon, while the charred romaine heart salad is accompanied by roasted poblano Caesar dressing, lime pepitas, sunflower seeds and shaved Manchego cheese.

Avocado fettuccine is adorned with smoked beef tenderloin, shallots, grilled corn, sweet peas and cotija cheese

See **FOOD** next page

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FOOD
From previous page

in New Mexico red chili broth, and the natural pork porterhouse is served with a chutney of green apples and plantains and green chili-cheddar mash.

Freshwater walleye, the largest member of the perch family and a fish commonly found in the Pacific Northwest, is sautéed with potatoes, bacon, charre d broccolini and smoked chili beurre blanc.

CALENDAR

- June 19 – Saturday Music Series at The Barnyard.** Live music noon to 3 p.m. every Saturday at the Barnyard Shopping Village, 3663 The Barnyard, Carmel. Local musicians perform in the gardens. No cover charge. www.thebarnyard.com
- June 22 – Book to Action – Join the community read of “Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents.”** Weekly book discussions June 22-July 24. Join on Zoom, or by phone. To register, visit www.monterey.org/library/events/book-to-action or call (831) 646-3933.
- June-July 2021 – Time to book your summertime event at Baum & Blume!** Our charming, intimate patio is perfect for celebrations up to 24 ~ Maybe it’s a birthday, graduation, wedding rehearsal or ANY festive occasion ...let us customize an event for you! Baum & Blume ~ 4 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley. (831) 659-0400
- June 23 – Aspire Health Plan Presents “Jump into Sewing,” a Virtual Community Connections Class,** 10 to 11 a.m. Always wanted to learn to sew? Or to get back into sewing? This is the class for you. Review basic terminology, materials and equipment. Discussion will include: how to choose a project, quilting, clothes making, patterns, and more. Register for this free class so we can know how many people to expect. RSVP to (877) 663-7651, or www.aspirehealthplan.org/connections2021
- June 28 – Aspire Health Plan Presents “Meet the Author – Alka Joshi,” a Virtual Community Connections Class,** 2-3 p.m. The New York Times bestselling author will participate in a discussion about her book. Joshi is a graduate of Stanford University and received her M.F.A. from the California College of the Arts. She was born in India and now lives on the Monterey Peninsula with her husband. Register for this free event. RSVP to (877) 663-7651, or www.aspirehealthplan.org/connections2021
- June 29 – Aspire Health Plan Presents: Discussion – Jo Mora, artist and longtime Monterey County local,** a Virtual Community Connections Class, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Join Aspire Health and Peter Hiller for a presentation and audience discussion about artist Jo Mora whose roots run deep in Monterey County. Event is free. Register so we can know how many people to expect. RSVP to (877) 663-7651, or www.aspirehealthplan.org/connections2021.

To advertise, email anne@carmelpinecone.com
\$0.50 per word (\$25 min. charge)
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The Rio Grill is open daily at 11:30 a.m. For information and reservations, go to riogrill.com.

■ Outstanding in the Field again

After a long time away, Outstanding in the Field — the traveling group that works with local chefs, farms and wineries to stage elaborate and expansive outdoor dinners — is back, and tickets are on sale for gatherings this summer and fall close to home, as well as far afield.

“The outlook is looking better each day, and we are so excited to welcome you back to the table this season,” founder Jim Denevan announced. “Once again, we will dine in appreciation of the places where our food comes from and the hands that harvest it.”

Since 1999, Denevan and his crew — who hail from Santa Cruz and for many years traveled in a giant converted vintage bus — have set their tables “at farms, beaches, vineyards. mountain tops, fishing docks, city streets and other extraordinary sites.”

This year’s tour begins at Happy Valley Farm in Santa Cruz June 20, followed by dinners on the coast and a trip down to Hearst Ranch. After that, the group has events organized in Oregon and Washington and then the Rockies, the Midwest, the East Coast, the South and the Southwest, interspersed with gatherings in Northern and Southern California — and even two in England and a couple in Africa. The season wraps up in November.

For details, including who’s cooking and where, go to outstandinginthefield.com.

■ Scheid scholars

Scheid Family Wines announced the winners of this year’s writing contest, which to date has distributed more than \$380,000 in scholarships to college-bound students. Owner Al Scheid launched the contest in 1984 for his alma mater, Bridgeport High School in Bridgeport, Ohio, and then added King City High four years later. Greenfield

High School — which, incidentally, was built on former Scheid vineyard land — was added in 2001.

This year, students wrote essays on social media regulation. Participants were asked to discuss the responsibility of social media platforms to monitor content and whether the removal of certain content is a violation of the First Amendment, to evaluate the positive and negative effects of regulation, and to explain how they would monitor content if they were CEOs of a large social media company.

The company distributed \$17,900 to eight winners from King City and Greenfield high schools.

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AFTER TRADING KILN FOR CANVAS, PAINTER FINDS AN ABSTRACT WORLD WAITING

THE SPOTLIGHT falls on nine artists at the Carmel Art Association this month, including abstract painter **Dennis Peak**. Peak was working as a sculptor making large wall-mounted fired-clay pieces when he was struck by a novel idea. Soon, his creative path took a sharp turn.

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

“At one point he decided to paint these sculptures rather than glaze them,” reads the artist’s biography. “What began as an experiment with layers, colors, and lines led him to sell his kiln and clay tools and begin painting with acrylics on canvas full time.”

With the coronavirus shutdown offering him time and space to create, Peak set about making the most of his down time.

“The confusion and uncertainty of the world’s past 14 months definitely impacted my creative work. I had more time to paint,” Peak said.

“While I found solace in exploring familiar themes, my paintings sometimes took me in surprising directions,” he added.

Like any abstract artist, Peak isn’t sure what’s coming next — or what the viewer will make of his latest creation. “I still remain thoroughly engaged with abstraction, and I still continue to write stories in paint that can be read differently and understood personally by each viewer,” he said.

‘Spiritual and cerebral’

Gallery manager **Sally Aberg** encouraged people to take a closer look at Peak’s paintings.

“His compositions reverberate with both deeply spiritual and joyfully cerebral messages,” Aberg said. “They bring to mind artist Paul Klee’s travels in North Africa where his awakening to light, color, form, and rhythms pushed him away from representationalism.”

The show continues through July 5, along with an exhibit that calls attention to six new members, and another that pairs illustrator **Will Bullas** with painter **Lucas Blok**.

Located on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth, the gallery is open Thursdays through Mondays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. carmelart.org.

museum will be curated by **Jeanne Falk Adams**, the photographer’s daughter-in-law.

The show will include images from her family and the museum — many of which will “reveal a personal side of Adams rarely seen by the public.”

For more details, visit montereyart.org.



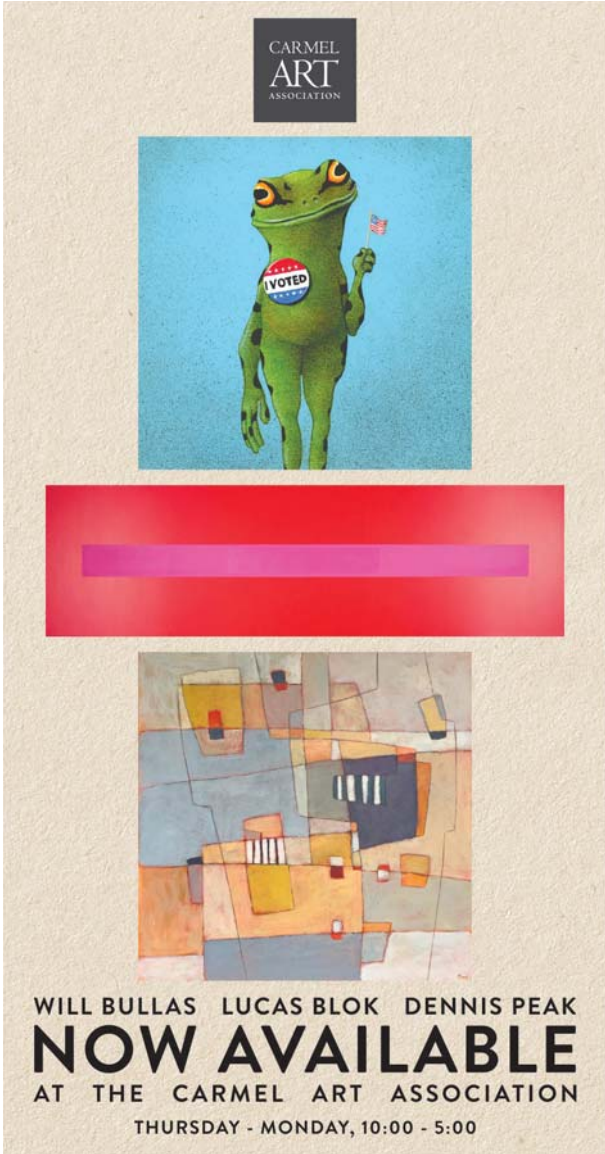
A new member of the Carmel Art Association, Craig Lauterbach (left) brings to life a new creation. Painter Dennis Peak’s “Storyline” (above) is on display at the CAA.

■ Ansel Adams show coming

Perhaps the most recognizable name among all fine art photographers, the late Ansel Adams will be the subject of a major exhibit that’s set to open Aug. 1 at the Monterey Museum of Art.

Besides helping to make Yosemite National Park famous with his photos, he was a Carmel Highlands resident late in his life, and co-founded the Friends of Photography, which was the predecessor of today’s Center for Photographic Art at Sunset Center.

The show at the local art



</

MUSIC

From page 31A

call (831) 622-0100.

■ Contra dance the night away

With **Elijah McCullar** on fiddle, and **Michael Martinez** on keyboards, **The Dave Holodiloff Trio** plays Saturday at the YMCA in Santa Cruz.

The trio will perform an upbeat and eclectic mix of acoustic music from at least three continents.

The show will be limited to 80 attendees — distancing and masks are required — it will also be streamed live on social media.

Presented by the Monterey Country Dance Community, the event starts at 7 p.m. The site is located at 600 Camino El Estero in Monterey. For more details, visit monterey-contradance.org.

■ Live music June 18-24

The Barnyard shopping center — singer and guitarist **Fred McCarty** (country, Saturday at noon). 3663 The Barnyard, thebarnyard.com.

Bernardus Lodge & Spa in Carmel Valley — pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock, folk and blues, Saturday at noon), pianist **Martan Mann** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Jenna Vivre** (soul, folk and jazz, Sunday at noon), singer-songwriter **Luis Fer** (Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.) and singer and guitarist **Steven Shook** (Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.). In the Lucia Restaurant & Bar at 415 W. Carmel Valley Road,

(831) 658-3400.

Big Sur River Inn — pianist **Dick Whittington** (jazz, Sunday at 1 p.m. On Highway 1 24 miles south of Rio Road, (831) 667-2700.

Cypress Inn — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Friday at 7 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Loktionov** and singer **Debbie Davis** (cabaret, Saturday at 7 p.m.), **The Andrea Carter Trio** (jazz and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.), guitarist **Richard Devinck** (classical, Sunday at 6 p.m.) and singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh, (831) 624-3871.

Cibo restaurant in Monterey — singers **Lee Durley** and **Scotty Wright** (jazz, Tuesday at 7 p.m.) and **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz, Wednesday at 7 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St., (831) 649-8151.

Folktale Winery in Carmel Valley — singer-songwriter **James Murray** (Friday at 3 p.m.), singer-songwriter **Kris Angelis** (Saturday at 3 p.m.), singer-songwriter **James Murray** (Sunday at 11:30 a.m.), singer-songwriter **Adrea Castiano** (Monday at 3 p.m.) and singer-songwriter **Talmon Owens** (Thursday at 3 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road, (831) 293-7500.

Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel — singer-songwriter **Adrea Castiano** (Friday at 6 p.m.) and singer and guitarist **Fred McCarty** (country, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road, (831) 372-1234.

Gusto Pizzeria in Seaside — singer **Lauri Hofer-Romero** and guitarist **Bruce Forman** (jazz, Thursday at 5:30 p.m.). 1901 Fremont Blvd., (831) 899-5825.

The Inn at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach — pianist **Gary Meek**, bassist **Steve Uccello** and drum-

mer **Andy Weis** (jazz, Friday at 7 p.m.) and pianist **Bill Spencer**, bassist **Steve Uccello** and drummer **Andy Weis** (jazz, Friday at 7 p.m.). 2700 17 Mile Drive, (831) 647-7500.

Intercontinental Hotel in Monterey — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock, folk and blues, Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m.). 750 Cannery Row, (831) 375-4500.

Juice and Java in Pacific Grove — Open Mic Night (Friday at 6 p.m.). 599 Lighthouse Ave., (831) 373-8652.

Julia's Vegetarian Restaurant in Pacific Grove — singer-songwriter **Zack Freitas** (Monday at 7:30 p.m.), singer-songwriter **Rachel Williams** (Tuesday at 7:30

See **MORE MUSIC** page 39A



Singer and guitarist Andrea Carter and bassist Joe Dolister play jazz on the patio at Cypress Inn recently. Like many venues on the Monterey Peninsula, Cypress Inn has welcomed back live music this month, and is offering shows four nights each week, along with Sunday during brunch.

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Golden Oldies has two shy ladies looking for forever homes. Both are indoor only cats and have lived with other cats but not dogs.

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