

The Carmel Pine Cone

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December 3-9, 2021

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OWNERS PROTEST AS STR ENFORCEMENT LOOMS

By CHRIS COUNTS

WITH COUNTY supervisors set to vote Tuesday on an enforcement program that would focus on illegal operators of short-term rentals in Carmel Valley, backers of the industry held a protest Wednesday morning outside the county courthouse in Monterey where 5th District supervisor Mary Adams' office is located. They say the enforcement program would unfairly target their industry.

About 20 protesters dressed in yellow T-shirts imprinted with "Waiting Since 1997" carried signs with messages like "Save Property Rights" and "Fix It, Don't Kill It."

Adams told The Pine Cone she wasn't in her office during the protest because she was moderating a panel discussion at a statewide conference of county supervisors in downtown Monterey. But she did express her support of the enforcement program, which has been proposed on a trial basis. "We're trying to get rid of the bad actors," she said.

Only a few have permits

County officials say they have identified more than 600 short-term rentals in unincorporated Monterey County, while only a couple dozen have gone through the process of getting permits.

"The overwhelming majority of these unpermitted vacation rentals are located in the 5th District, including Carmel Valley," said Pris Walton, the president of the Carmel Valley Association,

which supports the enforcement program.

Opponents of STRs say the program is needed to address the problems they say are associated with short-term renters, including noise and traffic.

"If there is no control, the negative impacts of vacation rentals will continue to grow. The hotel and motel businesses will suffer," Walton said. "The number of

See PROTEST page 20A



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Protesters gather at the county building in Monterey Dec. 1 to speak out against a proposed enforcement program targeting illegal vacation rentals.

County has no new restrictions, no omicron cases yet

By KELLY NIX

MONTEREY COUNTY health and hospital officials are taking a wait-and-see approach to the new, much-hyped omicron coronavirus variant first identified two weeks ago in South Africa.

The strain is believed to be more transmissible, but there are a lot of unknowns about it, including whether it causes severe illness. On Wednesday, San Francisco health officials reported that a man there is the first in the country to be diagnosed with the mutation, but he only has mild symptoms.

Monterey County health and hospital officials this week weighed in on the new strain, which has not appeared here.

"It's too soon to say what the potential threat of omicron is, and our plans are adaptable to any new variants of concern and spikes in cases that result from them," Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula spokeswoman Monica Sciuto told The Pine Cone.

Mild symptoms

Monterey County Health Officer Dr. Ed Moreno pointed to the mysteries surrounding omicron.

"We don't know if it will cause more fatalities than other variants," Ed Moreno told news reporters Wednesday.

The San Francisco man who is infected with the omicron strain of Covid had returned from a visit to South

See COVID page 18A

Verizon could have tough go at city council

By MARY SCHLEY

FACED WITH unprecedented public resistance and a recommendation from the city's planning commission that its bid to install a cell tower on Carmelo Street be denied, Verizon Wireless is set to face significant challenges when its engineers, attorneys and experts ask the city council Dec. 7 for permission to attach equipment to an existing power pole near La Playa hotel.

In September, the planning commission unanimously

denied the wireless company's bid to install the tower and other equipment because it's too tall and because the city's zoning code frowns on having transmitters and other radio facilities in multi-family residential districts, which is the hotel's zoning. They are prohibited in the single-family residential districts that surround it. Further, the tower and equipment on the ground would create visual clutter and negatively affect public and private views.

Organized opposition

The decision followed hours of testimony from residents who opposed the idea on grounds ranging from property devaluation and aesthetics to noise and the possibly negative health impacts from radio waves. They also sent hundreds of pages of email and dozens of postcards asking commissioners to deny the application. Many of them organized under a new group called Stop Cell Towers in Carmel.

Verizon officials have argued the city has no power to stop it and that local ordinances violate state and federal laws favoring the installation of telecom sites. They promptly demanded the city council hold a hearing to overturn the planning commission's denial, arguing that

See VERIZON page 22A

More than 30 employees sue CHOMP over Covid vax mandate

By KELLY NIX

DOZENS OF Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula employees who resigned or were placed on leave because they refused to take the Covid-19 vaccine have filed a lawsuit against the hospital, accusing administrators of religious discrimination and retaliation.

In a civil complaint filed Monday in Monterey County Superior Court, the 35 workers allege CHOMP unfairly and unlawfully denied them exemptions based on their religious beliefs or medical conditions.

While the lawsuit says the state's Fair Employment and Housing Act offers broad workplace protections for "people of sincere religious faith," the employees allege CHOMP did not do that. Instead, they contend hospital administrators were cavalier in their handling of

See LAWSUIT page 16A

First mention —

Hugh Comstock — fairytale builder with 'a twinkle in his eye'

By ELAINE HESSER

SELF-TAUGHT ARCHITECT and builder of fairytale cottages, Hugh Comstock first appeared in The Pine Cone on July 26, 1924, when he and his wife, Mayotta, bought property on the east side of Torres between Fifth and Sixth. Now, of course, that land is home to two of Comstock's famously whimsical buildings — Hansel and Gretel.

Charming dolls

In December, the Comstocks once again appeared, this time in a classified ad announcing that they were business partners using the fictitious business name, Otsy Totsy Doll Company. Mayotta's primitive but charming handmade dolls were popular, and Hugh built Hansel — originally called The Doll House — so Mayotta could display them

See COMSTOCK page 19A

WILDFIRE CONDOR'S RELEASE TO BE LIVESTREAMED

By CHRIS COUNTS

FAMOUS FOR surviving a major wildfire that swept over her nest and killed her father, an 18-month-old condor, Iniko, will be released from captivity in San Simeon Saturday — and you can watch the bird fly in the wild from anywhere.

"People from all over the world have gotten to know Iniko from our Condor Cam, and they're excited about seeing her fly into the wild for the first time," Ventana Wildlife Society executive director Kelly Sorenson told The Pine Cone. Saturday's event will also be livestreamed over the internet (see ventanaws.org for details).

The group is also selling

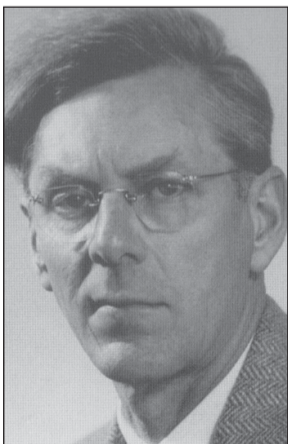
mementos — including Iniko-inspired Christmas tree ornaments and tote bags — that would make nice holiday gifts. Sales benefit the VWS, and you can go to the same website to buy.

When she was 5 months old, her nest went up in flames. On Aug. 20, 2020, a remote camera captured terrifying footage of a fire swiftly approaching her nest. Her father and leader of the local flock, Kingpin, died in the blaze. Iniko was feared dead for days, yet somehow survived.

Raised at a zoo

Iniko spent the next 14 months at Los Angeles Zoo, where she was raised in captivity. In October, she was moved to the group's release site near San Simeon,

See CONDOR page 20A



Hugh Comstock



SCREENSHOT FROM VWS CONDOR CAM

Iniko was just a chick when this image was recorded in April 2020. Four months later, her nest was destroyed.



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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Meet cute

THEY'D ALWAYS rescued golden retrievers and figured they always would. It went beyond breed loyalty to a lifestyle created around the loyal, loving, exuberant family dogs.

But then the couple puppy-sat a teacup Maltipoo for their daughter and fell in love. Well, Mom did. Dad, a big guy with movie-star looks, couldn't imagine carrying around a 1.8-pound powder puff in the palm of his hand.

Then the couple, who divide their year between Houston and south of Ocean in town, bought a condo and decided a teacup Maltipoo would be just right for the scale of the home.

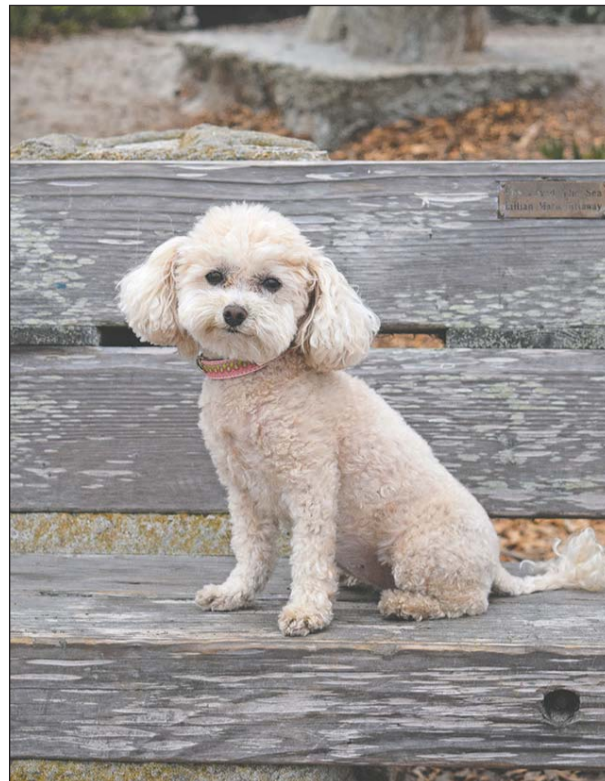
"Besides, my husband's favorite TV show was 'The Big Bang Theory,' so I promised to name the puppy Penny, a key character in the show," she said. "That sold him."

They also call her "Little P," which sounds best with a Houston drawl.

Penny, now 7, walks daily along Scenic Road with her person, who says she can't count how many times they stop so people can pet the pup. Passersby in their cars lower their windows to say she's the cutest dog they've ever seen.


One morning, during a visit to Carmel Bakery, a young woman said, "That puppy is a 10 out of 10." Maybe it's the puppy cut, or maybe she's just that cute.

"Walking back from the bakery, we meet so many people," her person said. "If you ever feel alone, just take an adorable dog for a walk through town. Every-



one stops to talk." Although Penny spends a lot of time walking through Carmel-by-the-Sea, she's never set foot on the sand. "I watch with envy as other dogs have so much fun, but it's just not her thing," her person said. "If I let go of her leash, she looks up as if to say, 'What are you doing?'"

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Tula Girl



Tula Girl is a senior lady who enjoys napping and spending her day snuggling on her person's lap. She is not particularly interested in toys but she does love receiving pets! She enjoys short walks and does fantastic living with other dogs even cats.

Tula is a 15-year-old, 18 pound Lhasa Apso.

If you'd like to meet Tula Girl, please fill out an online adoption questionnaire.

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CATE ELECTRICAL

Brouhaha over plan to add benches

By MARY SCHLEY

WHEN THE planning commission in October discussed locations and designs for 16 future benches along the Scenic pathway, no one objected, and the plan was approved.

But now some who live in the area and who tend to the path as volunteers are demanding the city stop the addition of any benches.

Numerous emails and letters came in this week from people complaining about the commission's decision, which was made to streamline the process for anyone who wants to dedicate a bench — including donating the funds — to a loved one. The half-mile pathway already contains 37 benches in three different styles, and planning commissioners decided new ones should be clustered alongside them in matching styles, whether half-logs on stone footings, wood slabs on stone footings, or those with backs, also on stone footings.

Scenic Road resident Liz Morten wrote that “bench clutter will denigrate the

beauty of this unique walkway,” and will bring even more people to an already busy street. She said the plan should be put on hold until it can be reviewed by volunteer group Carmel Cares, the forest and beach commission and the community.

“You are not enhancing the pathway, instead you are bulking it up with more benches, increasing congestion and distracting from the simplicity the pathway deserves and gives all who enjoy walking there,” said regular Scenic walker Barbara Oman.

Sit on the beach

Mary Westra also said more benches would ruin the walkway. “There are plenty of benches already — and a beach — for those who want to linger on the pathway,” wrote Westra, who recently moved here and subsequently joined Carmel Cares as a volunteer. “The beauty of the pathway is that it is used by many walkers who generally keep moving. It does not feel congested. We have enough benches and pathways to maintain regularly.”

Carmelo resident Sandra Berris suggested allowing 16 additional memorial benches could make way for even more, turning the bluff pathway into a “cemetery of sorts.”

“With such a precedent, just imagine a bench with a plaque for each resident as he/she dies,” she wrote. “One long string of benches undulating in a line above our beach, perhaps gaining notoriety for its length and the ability for visitors to accomplish ‘head-to-toe’ sleeping records in the Guinness Book. Ludicrous, of course.”

See **BENCH** page 31A



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

How many more benches should be allowed on Scenic? The planning commission says 16, but some say zero.



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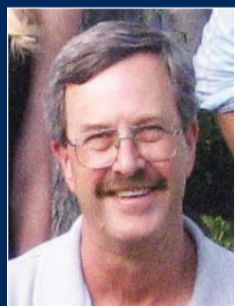
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Police & Sheriff's Log

Picnic inexplicably abandoned

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.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Pacific Grove: Dog owner on Del Monte was bitten by own dog.

Carmel area: Resident reported theft of bicycle from a locked garage on Portola Road.

Pacific Grove: Vehicle vs. deer on Forest.

Pacific Grove: Found ID card on Ocean View Boulevard.

Carmel area: Deputies responded to a report of theft on Pescadero Road.

Carmel area: A 32-year-old male at Point Lobos was cited and released for vehicle burglary and several other criminal charges.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Dispatched to a welfare check of an elderly female at Lincoln and Eighth who needed assistance with routine activities and access to social services. Ongoing issue with female and local social

service organization. Subject given a courtesy transport via a rideshare service.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Outside assist courtesy report for a stolen cell phone and theft of a credit account.

Pacific Grove: Domestic dispute on Lighthouse Avenue. Parties agreed to separate for the remainder of the evening. Information only.

Pacific Grove: Subject on Gibson was placed on a hold for being a danger to others.

Pacific Grove: Unknown subject stabbed a victim while walking on the rec trail. Victim was transported to the hospital for his injuries. Ongoing investigation. (A 29-year-old male transient was later identified as the suspect and was arrested and taken to Monterey County Jail.)

Pebble Beach: Possible physical abuse of a minor on 17 Mile Drive.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Possible theft of mail on Monterey Street.

See **POLICE LOG** page 12RE
in the Real Estate Section



The gavel falls

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

Sept. 24 — After a two-week jury trial, Salinas Valley State Prison inmates Brian Curtis Pacheco, 40, and Jason D. Partee, 42, were found guilty of attempted willful, deliberate and premeditated murder, assault by prisoners serving life with malice aforethought, and possession of weapons by state prisoners with allegations they personally used deadly weapons.

On Sept. 14, 2017, at 11 a.m., correctional officers on SVSP's C 1 yard observed inmates Pacheco and Partee striking inmate Manual Gonzalez, who was lying defenseless on his back, with inmate-manufactured stabbing weapons. Officers testified that as they moved to help Gonzalez, inmate Partee turned and stabbed Gonzalez several more times in the neck before he surrendered with inmate Pacheco. The jury heard evidence that officers found inmate Gonzalez non-responsive, lying in a pool of blood with more than 25 stab wounds, including punctures to his chest and stomach and gashes to his neck and throat. Two inmate-manufactured stabbing weapons were recovered at the scene. Officers further testified to finding a weapon sheath next to inmate Pacheco and a hidden pocket, consistent with a concealed weapon,

on inmate Partee's clothing.

In a separate trial, the Honorable Sam Lavorato Jr., who also presided over the jury trial, found that inmate Pacheco had seven prior strike convictions and inmate Partee had eight prior strikes. Lavorato will pronounce sentence on Jan. 28, 2022. Under California's three strikes law, each defendant faces a minimum sentence of an additional consecutive 27 years to life in prison, with a maximum of 37 years to life for inmate Pacheco and 45 years to life for inmate Partee.

Oct. 11 — After a three-week trial that was delayed by Covid, a Monterey County Jury found Amy Agtarap, 57, of Lemoore, guilty of 12 felonies including counts of grand theft and forgery. Judge Mark Hood will sentence the defendant, who faces a maximum sentence of 10 years and four months.

The investigation began with a victim filing a complaint with the Monterey County District Attorney's Office real estate fraud unit. The defendant was investigated for running an unlicensed mortgage modification business. Additionally, she illegally charged upfront fees. Numerous victims through-

See **GAVEL** page 19A



SPCA
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Kitties of the Week

Maxi 4 years old

Hi, I'm Maxie, and I'm 4 years old. I was a stray in Seaside when the SPCA rescued me. I am a little shy right now, but I promise that will change. Please take me home, and I will love you unconditionally.



Twix 2 years old

Hello, my name is Twix, and I'm 2 years old! I came to the SPCA because my owner could no longer care for me. I am a little nervous right now, but I promise that will change. Therefore, I would prefer to live in a household without children or other cats.



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Dear Larry

BY LARRY MESLER

Dear Larry, I have a vase with OBK on the bottom, can you tell me who manufactured the vase? - Elizabeth in Carmel

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— MONDAY, DECEMBER 6 —

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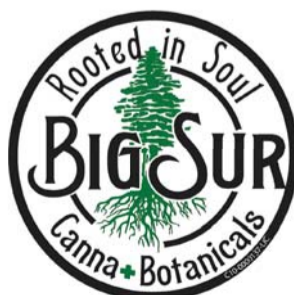
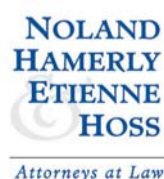
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Prisoner sues county sheriff, claims he was beaten in jail

By KELLY NIX

A FORMER Monterey County Jail inmate — who is now serving more than three decades in a state prison for lewd acts with a child and assault — is suing the Monterey County sheriff over injuries he claims he sustained in a jailhouse beating last year.

In a civil complaint filed Nov. 22 in Monterey County Superior Court, James Paul Andrew Torfason, 43, contends that on Aug. 5, 2020, an inmate, who is not identified, battered him for several minutes without any intervention from sheriff's deputies.

He blames the assault on Sheriff Steve Bernal, who said Thursday he could not comment on the suit.

"I suffered multiple contusions, lumps and bruises to my face, head and body, as well as a concussion," according to Torfason's lawsuit, in which he's representing himself.

Torfason alleges there was no response because the deputy assigned to "the tower" was not there at the time of the beating, and that two other deputies assigned to monitor the floor "failed to make sure the dorm was safe in their routine walk-through."

Bernal failed to properly train and made sure his deputies followed jail procedures, according to Torfason, whose handwritten statement was included in court documents.

He also lists a deputy assigned to the jail as a defendant in the lawsuit.

The deputy, he claims, told him that other jailers didn't respond to the attack because "no one was in the tower at the time of the assault."

Torfason alleges Bernal was negligent and cites "oppression" in the complaint, which could make him eligible for punitive damages, something he is seeking.



James Torfason

Criminal history

Since 2000, Torfason has been accused of or charged with numerous crimes in Monterey County, including lewd acts with a child, attempted lewd acts with a boy younger than 14 and molestation of a boy younger than 18, according to court records. Torfason is serving 34 years in Salinas Valley State Prison.

His lawsuit includes a corroborating statement by John Fickas, a former fellow jail inmate who witnessed the attack.

"The assault lasted approximately two to three minutes, and no deputies ever responded during or after the assault," Fickas claims.

Fickas, 50, a former North Salinas High School junior varsity field hockey team coach, was sentenced in January to more than 28 years in prison for raping two women and sexually assaulting two 15-year-old girls, and other crimes.

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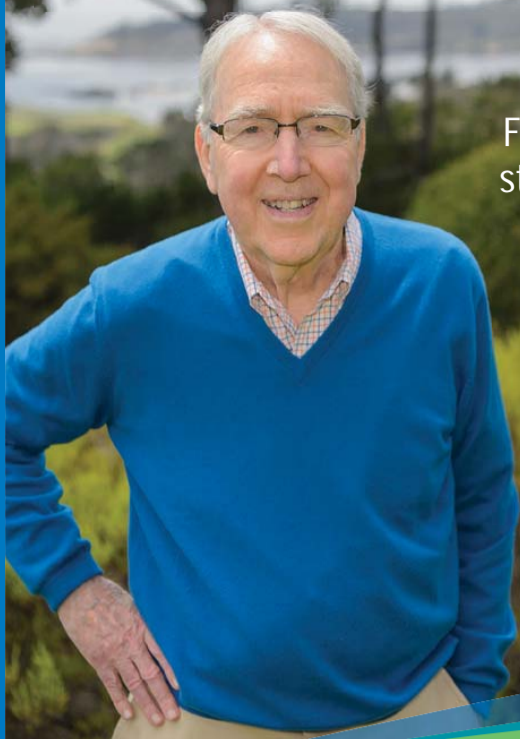
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Water management district needs help redrawing election regions

By KELLY NIX

THE PENINSULA'S water agency is seeking nine people to serve on a volunteer commission that will be responsible for redrawing voter boundaries for the 2022 election.

Because the 2020 census shows that more than minor adjustments are needed to evenly distribute the population of the Monterey Peninsula among the water management district's five regions, the voting areas must be redrawn, the water district said.

To do that, the public agency needs residents who live within its boundaries to help.

Applicants will be asked to issue statements of interest to the board for consideration and final selection for the Redistricting Advisory Commission. Statements are due by Jan. 7, 2022.

"Water knowledge is not important," Stoldt told The Pine Cone when asked about possible qualifications of applicants. "Redistricting is more about keeping voter rights intact."

\$45K for consultant

While the water district prior to 1993 used at-large elections, in April of that year the panel established five voting divisions.

Water district directors will appoint participants from their divisions, and the mayoral and county representatives for the board will appoint one each from their city or supervisorial districts, according to the water district. Additionally, the board

as a whole will agree on two at-large participants.

The commission will start meeting in January and wrap up its duties by April of next year. It is expected that commissioners will meet at least three times.

The commission will be helped by a consulting a company called Lapkoff and Gobalet Demographic Research Inc., which Stoldt said would be paid \$45,000 plus out-of-pocket expenses for its services.

Once approved, the new map will be used for board elections until the next census in 2030.

Stoldt said district lines would be adopted using the following criteria:

- Geographically contiguous districts,
- The geographic integrity of local neighborhoods or communities shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division

- Geographic integrity of a city shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division

- Easily identifiable boundaries that follow natural or artificial barriers (rivers, streets, highways, rail lines, etc.), and

- Lines shall be drawn to encourage geographic compactness.

In addition, boundaries shall not be drawn for purposes of favoring or discriminating against a political party.

Candidacy statements for prospective members of the commission should be sent to water board clerk Joel G. Pablo at joel@mpwmd.net or by mail at 5 Harris Court, Bldg. G, Monterey, CA 93940.

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Trashcan lids, chewing gum, stop signs, dead plants and benches

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CITY'S inaugural "Beautification Week," which had city workers, volunteers, residents and business owners doing a lot of scraping, cleaning, weeding and washing to make downtown a more beautiful place during the last week of October, was a success, according to planning director Brandon Swanson. But he wants the next one to be bigger, better and more organized.

"The next Beautification Week will be planned more in advance and advertised to a wider audience, which will allow for the selection of more defined projects, and an opportunity for more people to participate if they are interested," he said.

But the first go-round saw a lot done, Swanson noted. Among other things, employees and volunteers:

- Cleaned 25 trash cans and cigarette receptacles
- Replaced damaged trashcan decals
- Cleaned seven map display cases

- Replaced three squirrel cans and five lids
- Removed the damaged bench at Lincoln and Eighth
- Lowered and repaired sidewalk pavers at three trouble spots
- Removed "close to 100 pieces of chewing gum" from sidewalks
- Trimmed vegetation at stop signs
- Removed dead vegetation from Ocean Avenue medians and adjusted lights
- Washed all the Ocean Avenue sidewalks
- Scraped and cleaned stickers and graffiti off all the street signs on Ocean
- Began rebuilding the wooden frames around the stop signs.

Parklet rents — which will be charged to restaurants with outdoor dining on public property through at least mid-January 2022 and generate around \$38,000 per month — covered the costs of all the supplies and materials, as well as overtime, according to Swanson. The week's efforts supplemented what the public works department handles daily.

"Beautification Week really was a way to focus everyone's efforts in a concentrated area and demonstrated what can be accomplished when volunteers and city staff work together on a common goal," he said, and the improvements are noticeable and generated a lot of positive responses.

"We plan to make this a recurring event every three or four months," he said, with the next one coming in early 2022. People who are interested in participating can sign up for updates at ci.carmel.ca.us.



PHOTO/BRANDON SWANSON

Cleve Waters with the public works department adjusts lights in the Ocean Avenue medians as part of October's Beautification Week. Planning director Brandon Swanson is holding the flashlight.

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MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL FIRE CHIEF MIKE URQUIDES RETIRING

Longtime deputy fire marshal also leaving

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER DECADES in the fire service — most of it with the Monterey County Regional Fire District covering Carmel Valley and parts of Salinas — Chief Mike Urquides will retire at the end of the year. He’s held the top position in the department for nearly 16 years and is one of the few who’s worked in every rank in the department.

“The average fire chief is usually in for five years,” he said Wednesday. “I’ve tripled that, and it’s like any leadership role,” where new blood is needed at some point.

“I’ve done three five-year strategic plans, and sometimes it’s time for new innovation, new leadership, a new voice,” he said.

Urquides, 53, is a lifelong Monterey County resident who attended River School for a couple of years, then public schools in Pacific Grove and high school in Salinas. He

said he always knew he wanted to be a firefighter.

“It was a passion in high school, when I was in the regional occupational training program,” at Salinas High, he said. “I had the desire, and I was really fortunate to get hired right out of high school.”

A volunteer first

He worked as a seasonal firefighter for Cal Fire and volunteered at what was then called Salinas Rural Fire Protection District before getting hired on as a firefighter in 1990. He worked in every position in the department and was ultimately promoted to chief in 2006.

“I’ve been very fortunate to work where I was born and raised,” said Urquides, who lives on River Road near Pine Canyon — and was evacuated during the River Fire in 2020.

Soon after taking the top spot, Urquides spearheaded the effort to train the department’s firefighters as paramedics



PHOTO/COURTESY MIKE URQUIDES

Fire Chief Mike Urquides testified at a California Senate hearing in 2019 on a bill to prohibit hiring private companies for dispatching.

See **RETIRE** page 31A

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CARMEL VALLEY ASSOCIATION

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO PROTECT OUR NEIGHBORHOODS!

A well-funded group of Short-Term Rental owners and managers recently has taken out ads attempting to discredit Supervisor Mary Adams' effort to address the impacts of unpermitted vacation rentals in the 5th District. The ads are misleading, histrionic and filled with erroneous information about a proposed action to enforce existing regulations on transient use of residential properties.

The number of Vacation Rentals (formerly known as Short-Term Rentals STRS) has increased dramatically during the inexplicably 7 long years taken to develop a Vacation Rental Ordinance with effective enforcement.

According to county staff, **there are more than 600 identified vacation rentals in Monterey County, of which only 24 properties have required permits.** The overwhelming majority of these unpermitted Vacation Rentals are in the 5th District, including Carmel Valley.

At its last meeting, at the urging of 5th District Supervisor Mary Adams, the Board of Supervisors unanimously took the first step to deal with this urgent problem. The Board directed county staff to take action to enforce the existing regulations on Short Term Rentals in the 5th District. The response by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors is to be commended.

This enforcement action is to determine how resources will be allocated to enforce existing regulations. Additionally, enforcement will serve to provide information on how vacation rentals can be effectively regulated and the best enforcement practices for potential inclusion in the final Vacation Rental Ordinance.

Immediate enforcement is also needed because, according to county staff, **it may take more than another year to develop an effective Vacation Rental Ordinance.** If there is no control exerted now, the negative impacts of vacation rentals will continue to grow:

- **HOTEL, RESORT, AND MOTEL BUSINESSES WILL SUFFER.**
- **THE NUMBER OF LONG - TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND WORK HERE WILL DECREASE, AND RENTS WILL CONTINUE TO RISE.**
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CVA believes that the enforcement of current regulations is critically important to maintaining the residential character of our neighborhoods. Not surprisingly, a group representing the owners and managers of Vacation Rentals is trying to stop enforcement.

Our opponents are well-funded by vacation rental owners, guests, managers, and national and international investors. They are soliciting more funds to defeat any attempt to enforce existing regulations.

That's why we need you to take action to fight back now. **Please write a letter to the Board of Supervisors. Their addresses are on our website at www.carmelvalleyassociation.org.** Also plan to voice your support for the enforcement of the existing regulations for Short Term Rentals at the next **Board of Supervisor's meeting on December 8, 2021.** You could make the difference!

*Thank you for helping to protect our residential neighborhoods
and to preserve the rural character of Carmel Valley.*

CARMEL VALLEY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

800 miles from home, wolf is killed on I-5

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE INSPIRING story of a wolf with a serious case of wanderlust turned tragic last week when a young male known to researchers as OR-93 was found dead near Lebec after he was hit by a car. The San Bernardino County site was more than 800 miles from the wolf's home.

"On the afternoon of Nov. 10, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife received a phone call from a truck driver who witnessed the deceased wolf along a dirt trail near a frontage road running parallel to I-5," California Fish and Wildlife reported. "A warden responded to the scene to collect the carcass, which was quickly identified as OR-93 because of its collar."

A necropsy was done at the Wildlife Health Laboratory in Rancho Cordova.

"The wolf had significant tissue trauma to the left rear leg and a dislocated knee as well as soft tissue trauma to the abdomen," A report concluded. "The injuries were deemed to be caused by a vehicle strike."

The lone and lost wolf was originally part of what's known as the White River pack, which is based in Oregon east of Salem and north of Bend. Oregon Fish and Wildlife put a radio collar on him two summers ago. He attracted media attention when it was reported that he crossed into California last January.

The journey begins

The agency successfully tracked him through at least 16 counties until early April, but lost track of him near the border between Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties.

In late August, researchers discovered footage showing a wolf resembling OR-93 in southwest Kern County, but the footage dated back to mid-May.

It's roughly 800 miles by car between there and Lebec, but OR-93's route zigzagged through Oregon and California, no doubt adding many hundreds of miles to the trip.

While the wolf's voyage was extraordinary, it wasn't unique.

See WOLF page 30A

Military officers assoc. celebrates 50 years

By ELAINE HESSER

FOR SOME, 1971 feels like yesterday — how could it be 50 years since high school graduation or that first job?

For the Monterey County Military Officers Association, which received its charter from the Military Officers Association of America on Dec. 15 of that year with 299 members, it marked the origin of a group that's withstood the tests of time and Covid, not to mention the closure of Fort Ord, which once produced a steady supply of new members.

Dick Barratt, a retired Army lieutenant colonel who taught at the Naval Postgraduate School, is the group's president — or "president for life," some say, only partly in jest. He's held the post for 13 years and said he wanted to stick with it through the pandemic and its aftermath, as did the rest of the organization's leadership team.

Barratt does what good leaders do. He gives a lot of credit to other officers and board members. "They're all leaders, all real good people," he said, noting that the former editor of the group's newsletter was 96 before he passed it on to someone else.

Involved for veterans

According to Doug Hartman, the association's historian, the last surviving member from World War II died in 2020. As the group ages, new members are needed.

Hartman and Barratt said it's open to all officers — not just those who are retired or served in wartime — from eight branches of service. In addition to the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, officers from the Coast Guard, NOAA's Commissioned Corps, the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and Space Force are welcome. "We're the third-largest veterans' group, after the American Legion and VFW," Barratt said.

Members recently resumed luncheon meetings, where Hartman said they hear presentations by speakers from NPS, club members and representatives of veterans' groups, as well as folks from the Monterey County Sheriff's Office, the Food Bank for Monterey County and other nonprofits. The organization has a college scholarship program and supports the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps at five local high schools.

In addition, Hartman said, "The group is actively involved with many local Monterey area military organizations including the Veterans Transition Center, the Navy League, the Ord Military Community, Veterans Issues Advisory Committee, Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation, Monterey County Military/Veterans Affairs Office, the Fort Ord Area Retired Soldiers Council and the United Veterans Council."

Backup, support

Barratt explained that the association is involved with veterans' issues because members feel an obligation to continue to take care of the troops — active and former enlisted and noncommissioned officers and their families — just as they did when they were on active duty. "We're part of the same brotherhood," Hartman said. Barratt added, "We're continuing to lead."

That "brotherhood," of course, includes women — the U.S. military began integrating women into its regular ranks in the late 1970s and early 1980s, but they have served in separate branches like the Women's Army Corps, Women of the Air Force, WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service in the Navy), the Marine Corps Women's Reserve and in other roles for decades. The Monterey County Military Officers Association counts nine women who were active duty officers among its 75 members.

Barratt noted that the group is reaching out to young officers and their families at NPS "to give them backup support" during their time here — two years at most. He said that they're invited to be part of the organization and the chapter allows them to join at no charge. Officers attending DLI are also welcome.

Hartman said that active or former officers who want more information should contact Louise Goetzelt, membership chair, at (831) 717-4469. "Come join with other people who understand the military and have similar experiences," Hartman said. "It's a strong bond."



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PHOTO/COURTESY MOCO MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOC.

Monterey County Military Officers Association chapter president Richard Barratt, shown with the group's chaplain, Michael Bowhay.

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Man, 21, arrested for stabbing, making threats

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

THE MAN who was arrested for stabbing one person and threatening another in Big Sur last week has been identified as 21-year-old Erric Allen Bliss.

The incident happened on Garrapata Ridge in the Palo Colorado Canyon area Nov. 26 shortly before noon.

According to Monterey County Sheriff's Cmdr. Derrel Simpson, Bliss was living with his grandmother, who was having problems with him. Simpson said the grandmother reached out to a friend, Scott Thompson, and asked him to speak with Bliss. Shortly after the two began to talk, Bliss attacked Thompson with a knife, the report indicated, and the grandmother called 911.

Simpson said Thompson, who is 57, tried to pin Bliss to

the ground but was unable to wrestle the knife away, and was repeatedly stabbed during the effort.

When police and medical personnel arrived on scene, Bliss was uncooperative, the sheriff's office said, but soon deputies were able to handcuff him.

"He had a knife in his hand," Simpson observed. "He also had a fireplace poker. They had to fight with him."

After Thompson was stabbed, a tourniquet was applied by emergency responders to stop the bleeding, and he was transported to the hospital.

"He was saturated with blood," the sheriff's office said. "He had a pretty substantial stab wound on his bicep, along with smaller cuts on his arms and face."

Bliss was charged with attempted murder, battery with serious injury, elder abuse and making criminal threats.

P.G. parks in need of TLC, report says

By KELLY NIX

WHILE MOST of Pacific Grove's public parks are in adequate or good condition, some of them are in bad shape or need upgrading, according to an inventory of 20 city parks.

The city's recreation board in November 2020 evaluated the condition of restrooms, benches, picnic tables, drinking fountains, landscaping, fencing, barbecue grills and other park amenities.

Public works superintendent Daniel Gho was expected to provide an overview of the report to the P.G. City Council Wednesday.

"A majority of the park assets are in either adequate or good condition," Gho said. "However, with some parks and amenities being newer or recently improved, and others being much older and requiring a higher level and frequency of maintenance, the rating of asset types varies from location to location."

Some parks, though, have "fallen below minimum maintenance standards" and require renovation, according to Gho, who recommended a "comprehensive evaluation" of the city's parks to identify when and where major improvements should be made.

Rating system

Board members used a scoring system, from 1 to 5, to rate various facilities at the parks.

Trash receptacles, signs, ball fields and playground equipment were also evaluated.

For example, at Caledonia Park, one of the city's most popular parks, the board gave mostly 3s for the condition of its restrooms, drinking fountains, benches, picnic tables, fencing, walking path, garbage bins, landscaping, playground and swings.

Nearby Jewell Park received a 4 for its three benches, 3 for its walking path and trees, and a 5 for lighting.

Popular Lovers Point got a 5 for its restrooms — although the recreation board noted that signs would help people find them — and 4s for its benches, picnic tables,

See TLC page 30A



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LAWSUIT

From page 1A

employees' religious and medical exemption requests.

"CHOMP's malicious and reckless actions are causing intense undue stress for its former employees, who were forced to choose between keeping their jobs, which they love, and honoring their most deeply held religious beliefs about life, purpose and death," according to the lawsuit, filed for the plaintiffs by Santa Ana attorneys Daniel Watkins and Parisa Fishback.

In similar denial letters issued to workers, according to the suit, CHOMP said that "after careful review and consideration," it determined that offering religious exemption requests would pose "a significant and direct threat to the health and safety of our patients," coworkers and others.

"The blanket denial to all employees requesting an exemption evidences an intentional disregard of the requests and

clearly constitutes a violation of these employees' rights under state law," the suit claims.

'Undue hardship'

Community Hospital chief human resources officer Greg Smorzewski said Tuesday afternoon that the hospital has not yet been served with the complaint, but he defended the hospital's vaccination mandate.

"We determined that the presence of unvaccinated employees at work, contractors, or volunteers created an undue hardship for our vulnerable patient population and for our coworkers," Smorzewski told The Pine Cone.

CHOMP, he went on to say, provided employees who requested religious exemptions a six-month leave of absence, "in which the first three months of the leave their job is protected."

While the lawsuit indicates the plaintiffs are "former employees," Smorzewski said the workers suing the hospital "are still employed and their jobs are protected

through the end of the year."

Asked if the employees on leave are being paid, he said "those who have paid time off available have been able to use that and keep their health benefits active. If they had no paid leave available, then the leave is unpaid."

Five Community Hospital employees and one doctor, who were able to work entirely remotely, were granted religious exemptions "because they do not present an undue hardship," he said.

Hospital spokeswoman Monica Sciuto said CHOMP fired four of its employees on Oct. 15 "due to non-compliance with the vaccine mandate."

Religious beliefs

While the CHOMP workers contend the hospital "is not permitted to determine which religious adherent has a 'correct' or 'proper' or 'valid' understanding of religious doctrine, or whether any employee's sincerely held religious beliefs are shared broadly among other faithful," Smorzewski said the hospital did not "question the sincerity of any of our employees' religious beliefs."

One of the reasons people with religious convictions object to the Covid-19 vaccine is the connection between fetal cells and the development of the medicine, according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, a federal agency. The CHOMP employees also make that point in their lawsuit.

"Because all three of the currently available Covid-19 vaccines are developed and produced from, tested with, researched on, or otherwise connected with the aborted fetal cell lines, plaintiffs' sincerely held religious beliefs compel them to abstain from accepting or injecting any of these products into their bodies, regardless of the perceived benefits or rationales," the suit says.

"Cell lines developed from past abortions are used in the testing or development of certain Covid-19 vaccines," according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine.

Coronavirus vaccines themselves, however, do not contain aborted fetal cells.

The civil lawsuit complaint alleges that CHOMP did not follow California Department of Public Health guidance for workers who refuse the vaccine, which includes twice-weekly Covid-19 testing for those who work in acute health care facilities and testing once a week for those in other healthcare settings.

The CHOMP workers, who are requesting a jury trial, are seeking an undisclosed amount in damages, including punitive damages, which can be awarded in cases involving fraud or malice, and financial losses, including loss of earnings and other compensation.

"The denial of any employee's request for a religious accommodation based upon the views of other individuals who do not share the employee's beliefs is unlawful," according to the suit.


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Computer-analyzed video to help detect, stop wildfires

By CHRIS COUNTS

WITH WILDFIRES becoming more common and more deadly in California, PG&E is turning to something that sounds kind of scary to respond quicker to the threat — artificial intelligence.

But before you conjure up the vision of an army of robotic firefighters being deployed in the Big Sur backcountry, the technology we're talking about here is far less sophisticated and definitely more benign.

The power company now has 487 HD cameras with what it calls "AI" in operation, including one that's located about a mile east of Yankee Point in Carmel Highlands.

So what separates an "AI" camera from one that isn't? While a regular camera captures an image, the enhanced one has the ability to recognize certain content within the image and send out alerts to those who programmed it.

Deployed here

PG&E has 22 wildfire cameras in Monterey County, but only two, the one in Carmel Highlands and another in Prunedale, utilize the new technology.

A PG&E official said his agency is trying to find ways to lower the risk of wildfire, which has devastated rural communities throughout the state in recent years.

"We are using every new tool and

technology at our disposal to improve situational awareness and intelligence to help mitigate and prevent wildfires," said Sumeet Singh, PG&E's chief risk officer. "Every bit of data and intelligence that comes to us could potentially save a life."

Software seeks out smoke

So how does the new technology help firefighting agencies respond quicker to wildfires?

"The software analyzes the video feed and if it thinks it sees smoke, we receive an alert via email and text, telling us it just detected smoke," explained Eric Sutphin, who works for the utility company installing the cameras. "Our analysts then pinpoint where the smoke is coming from and determine if it's a car fire, dumpster fire, or even a vegetation fire. Based on the location, we can assess for threat to the public or PG&E facilities — the technology filters out a significant number of false positives, for example, ruling out dust, fog or haze."

The enhanced camera can even detect wisps of smoke from long distances.

In Placer County in August, one such camera proved its worth by spotting smoke one minute before anyone else saw it, PG&E reported. The small fire the camera captured became the River Fire, which burned 142 structures and 2,619 acres in Placer County.

See **FIRES** page 30A

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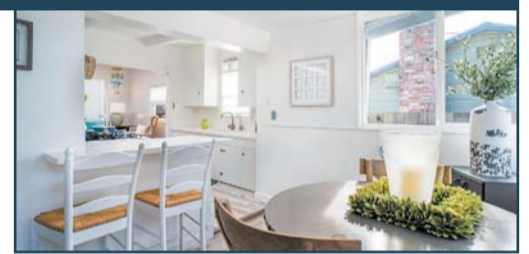
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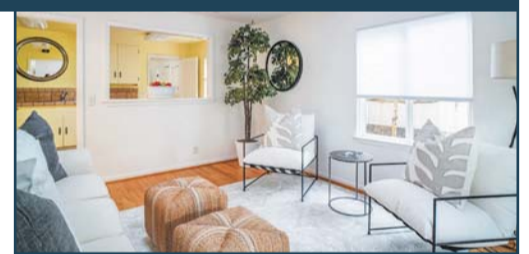
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COVID

From page 1A

Africa on Nov. 22, according to President Joe Biden's chief medical officer, Dr. Anthony Fauci, during a White House press briefing Wednesday. The man's close personal contacts tested negative for the virus.

Montage Health infectious diseases expert Martha Blum said more research is necessary to determine the danger from omicron.

"We are closely following the most up-to-date scientific findings regarding the characteristics of this latest variant, but have to wait like everyone for the information about vaccine and treatment efficacy and transmissibility and virulence," Blum said.

Fauci said it would take about two weeks for researchers to have definitive information about the strain, including how transmissible the mutation is, whether it eludes monoclonal antibodies, and how it reacts to vaccinated-versus-unvaccinated people and those who have had booster shots.

No panic yet

In the meantime, Sciuto and Moreno urged county residents to get the Covid-19 vaccine and a booster shot when eligible.

"We know that the vaccine helps minimize serious illness and hospitalizations with the delta variant, and our hope is that it will prove helpful in reducing transmission and serious illness with omicron as well," Sciuto said. "We hope to know more about this new variant as new information is released."

If the number of Covid hospital patients increases dramatically due to omicron or any other variant, Sciuto said Community Hospital has a surge plan it can enact at any time. The delta variant is the predominant strain in the United States.

Representatives from the county's four

hospitals have weekly meetings with Monterey County Health Department officials to discuss issues surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic, and omicron is now on the radar and will be a topic for ongoing discussion, Sciuto said.

"Currently, the hospital sends all Covid-19 tests that are positive to Monterey County so that they can test and identify the variant," she explained. "We will continue that practice."

Asked if another indoor face covering mandate was in order for Monterey County, Moreno said he would monitor local Covid-19 metrics, including the number of hospitalizations, which was 18 at the county's four hospitals Wednesday.

The case rate was declining at 5.9 per 100,000 people and the test positivity rate was stable at 2.8 percent.

"We will have to just continue to work with our hospital representatives and see how things progress," Moreno said. "What is most important is people who haven't been get vaccinated" and those who have been vaccinated get the booster shot.

Gov. Gavin Newsom addressed the presence of the variant in California in a social media post Wednesday.

"There's no reason to panic — but we should remain vigilant," Newsom said. "That means get vaccinated. Get boosted. Wear a mask indoors."

Grant Colfax, San Francisco director of health, told reporters Wednesday that while it's "likely" omicron is stronger than the delta variant, there would be no new restrictions for residents of that city. Moreno also did not announce any new restrictions for Monterey County.

While California's reaction to omicron has so far been muted, the Biden administration is reportedly considering imposing stringent travel restrictions for United States residents in light of the strain, including forcing those who travel abroad to quarantine for seven days after they return. Those who disregard the rules would be fined, according to news reports.

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COMSTOCK

From page 1A

for sale. On Nov. 21, 1925, a brief item noted that the Comstocks were “home in Otsy-Totsyville after a visit to Santa Rosa.”

By 1926, Hugh was well enough established to garner 93 votes (more than the incumbent, but fewer than the winner, Ray C. DeYoe) for the Carmel Sanitary Board on a write-in campaign. And beginning in March of that year, articles and mentions of his work as a builder began making The Pine Cone’s pages fairly regularly.

“Down at 12th Avenue and Dolores Street, contractor Hugh Comstock is building for Milton H. Douzensky, an Oakland attorney, an irregularly shaped five-room cottage,” noted an item on March 20, and on May 8, an article about the building everyone knows as The Tuck Box included an artist’s rendering. The reporter — who struggled to describe the building — referred to Comstock as “the Builder of Dreams,” and said that the design looked as if it was “built of dreams — of moth wings — of the shimmer of moonlight.” And, happily, it was not “one of those rubber-stamp things that consist chiefly of cement, glass and right angles.”

Sign of the Blue Bird

It wasn’t built as a tea room, however — it was going to be “Bonnie Lee’s shop, where she may chance to sell everything from lemon drops to opera glasses,” and the paper predicted Comstock would have a place of honor at the store’s opening.

Comstock paid for advertising that played to his strengths. “Your house can be unique in appearance — both inside and out — and yet be reasonable in cost,” the first such appeal read. A few subsequent reports of his work appeared in ads taken out by the Builders Exchange of Monterey County, which used them to report its members’ business activities.

The work must have been steady and plentiful, because on June 15, 1928, Comstock announced he was opening a new office in El Paseo Building dedicated solely to home-building services. And, in true Carmel fashion, he found himself being taken to task by The Pine Cone’s editor, Perry Newberry, for planning to construct “a second

woodworking establishment on Torres Street.” Actually, Newberry was less upset with Comstock than he was with the city, which he accused of allowing the approval of said shop and other projects “behind closed doors.”

Comstock continued his building, as well as managing rental properties, and made it on to the city’s Sanitary Board along the way, too (he was president by the 1940s). Mayotta, meanwhile, became president of the local PTA.

In January 1933, Comstock tried unsuccessfully to get the law on his side in a case involving a sign he’d made and sold to Elizabeth “Sammy” Sampson, a local businesswoman, on an installment plan. The woman moved the sign from her Blue Bird Tea Garden to her mother’s shop, the Blue Bird tea room, and for reasons that are unclear, Comstock filed a complaint to get it back. The judge didn’t agree and, according to The Pine Cone, “the Blue Bird chirped,” and the case was dismissed.

With an idea that would doubtless raise eyebrows today — not to mention blood pressures — in November 1933, Comstock came up with a scheme to build what he called “unit houses,” affordable homes with “a high quality of design.” He explained that using prefabricated and standardized materials would make them easy to build and

expand, and he planned to start work on a sample unit at Ocean and San Carlos, running an ad in the paper letting people know about it. By February 1934, the house was open for the public’s inspection, but the larger project, in which the builder envisioned similar homes all over town, vanished from the pages of the paper.

‘Fair and irreplaceable’

Comstock’s involvement in his adopted city, however, did not. In June 1941, he was re-elected to the school board, and The Pine Cone’s reporter described him as “a tall and dignified gentleman with a kindly smile and a twinkle in his eye,” going on to say, “He is generally respected and admired for his willingness to contribute to the welfare of this community.”

When Comstock died of an embolism at the age of 57 on June 1, 1950, his obituary was on the front page of the The Pine Cone eight days later. It described him as “just, clean, fair and irreplaceable in the orbit of his endeavors,” and lauded him not just for his buildings, but for his involvement in the city and a home life with “the same pattern of trueness, of the humorous, the gentle, the wise and the absolutely fair-minded.”



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Self-taught architect Hugh Comstock designed and built his first house, Hansel, to showcase his wife’s handmade dolls.

GAVEL

From page 4A

out California were identified. Many lost their homes due to her negligence. Additional victims of her fraud were identified but were beyond the statute of limitations.

As the investigation progressed it was learned the defendant filed for disability through the Social Security Administration in 2008. She claimed to be disabled and unable to work. She collected disability pay up until 2017. Investigators with the district attorney’s office and the federal inspector general’s office seized records from 8 different bank accounts, most of them opened in the name of the defendant’s 5-year-old daughter in an attempt to hide her income. It was determined that the defendant had over \$800,000 of hidden income. Social Security found that her fraudulent claim of disability cost taxpayers \$139,000.

Not only was the defendant acting as an unlicensed real estate agent, she also acted as an unlicensed lawyer by filing lawsuits and bankruptcy petitions. Several of which she did without the person’s knowledge.

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PROTEST

From page 1A

long-term rentals available for people who live and work here will decrease. The quality of life for residents will further decline as residential neighborhoods become de facto commercial zones.”

The Carmel Valley Association insists it isn't against

all vacation rentals, but it does want an ordinance that will bring them under control.

“We support a new ordinance that allows a reasonable number of predominantly owner-occupied vacation rentals, while maintaining the residential nature of our neighborhoods,” Walton said.

Is the process too difficult?

But supporters say the process to get short-term rental permits is too onerous and too expensive, with no

guarantee for an operator that a permit will ultimately be issued, despite a sizable investment of time and money. They note that the program makes enforcement easy but doesn't do the same for getting permits.

Richard Matthews of the Monterey County Vacation Rental Alliance urged supervisors to find common ground between the two sides when creating the pilot enforcement program.

“The solution should be a compromise,” Matthews said, “but the enforcement program offers nothing for vacation-rental owners. The program presumes that owners merely need to get a permit. However, the county's permitting process is totally unworkable.”

CONDOR

From page 1A

where she will be released Dec. 4.

Besides offering the public a chance to watch Iniko fly in the wild for the first time, the livestreamed event will also call attention to the collaboration between the VWS and another wildlife group, The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund. After Iniko's release, its executive director, Dr. Tara Stoinski, will present a talk about her group's work with protecting gorillas.

Recently, the local condor group named five chicks after noted women scientists, including Fossey. That led to a dialogue between the two groups over what they have in common, and they decided to collaborate.

“They are an interesting group for us to spotlight,” Sorenson added. “Gorillas, like condors, are extremely sociable animals, which makes them similar — we're excited to have her join us.”



PHOTO/VENTANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY

At ventanaws.org, you can buy a tote bag with Iniko's image on it. Also available are Iniko-inspired holiday ornaments.

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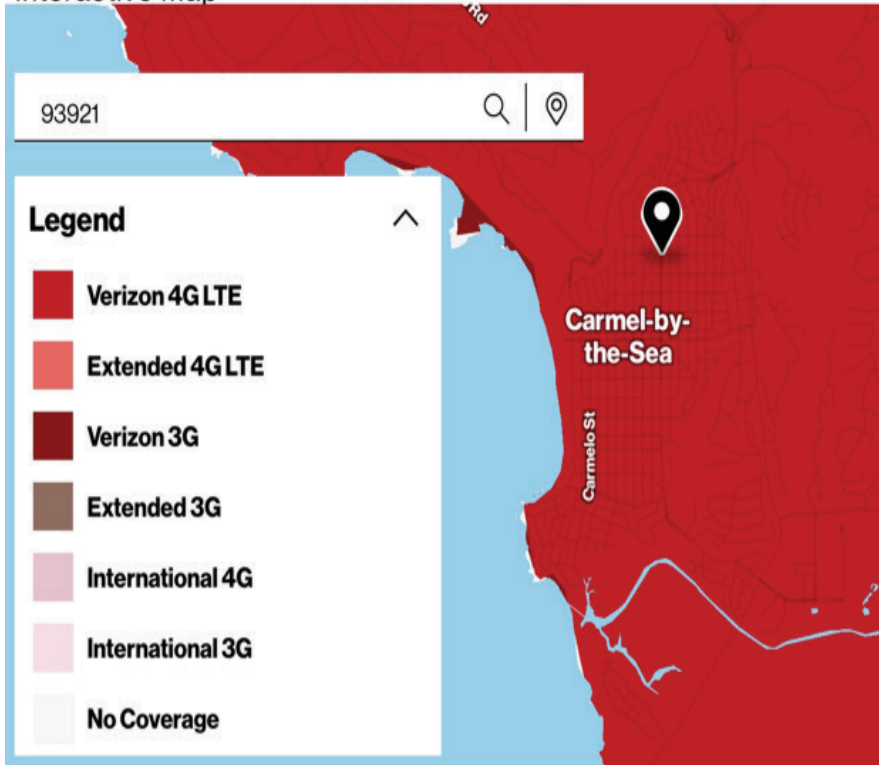
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interactive map ^



Verizon's Website Showing Current Full Coverage in Carmel-by-the-Sea

Dear Mayor Potter & City Council ~ Your hands are not tied!

We live in a fairy tale village... without streetlights or postal delivery but with strict building and zoning codes designed to keep our unique village the epitome of coastal aesthetic beauty. This is what draws tourists here from around the world. It's why we spend small fortunes to live here. We are not against cell towers that do not interfere with the preservation of our unique historic and residential character. The proliferation of visual blight is not tolerated here.

Our tiny square mile village already has existing reliable Verizon cell service as shown above. Verizon serves Carmel-by-the-Sea by having seven current cell towers and four more already approved within or directly encircling Carmel-by-the-Sea. By comparison, AT&T is providing seamless 4g lte from a single roof top facility at Junipero & 8th. Many residents here are satisfied paying Verizon customers.

Verizon tries to convince local decision makers their laws are preempted by State or Federal laws. But they are wrong. We know that State and Federal laws regulating cell tower placement specifically preserve local control over wireless siting decisions. Local zoning authority is constitutionally guaranteed. Cities have the right to preserve local aesthetic standards as long as doing so does not result in a prohibition of service. No prohibition of service will result from denial of this permit. You therefore have the power, authority and indeed duty to deny Verizon's appeal of the Planning Commission's unanimous denial. Courts are deferential to local decision makers, especially in beautiful coastal areas seeking to preserve codified strict aesthetic standards. There are less invasive and code-compliant alternative locations available a few blocks away in commercial and non-residential zones.

The sole evidence presented of claimed coverage gaps are confusing self-generated propagation maps that have been declared to be neither clear nor convincing by the Ninth Circuit. By legal definition, pockets with less than four bars but with reliable service does not constitute a "significant coverage gap". Verizon has not met the burden of proof required to demonstrate that enforcement of local laws prohibit provision of cellular service. City Code and General Plan provisions are not preempted Your duty is to enforce and be guided by them and to uphold the Planning Commission's legally defensible, well reasoned denial.

The Planning Commission understood their duty when they unanimously denied Verizon's permit to erect a fifty one foot tall cell tower directly adjacent to the historic La Playa and many R-1 homes. The planners saw first hand the proposed resultant damage to magnificent public and private views. They knew the proposed tower to be twice the codified height limit for antennas in R-4 zones. The bulky ancillary equipment would create more negative aesthetic impacts. They understood that if approved, federal laws would allow Verizon to add more bulk and equipment with no option for the City to deny these changes. While state law provides telecom companies a "limited" right to access public rights of way, the CA Supreme Court specifically reserved to municipalities the right to regulate such placement on the basis of aesthetic impacts. The law states that Telecom companies may not access the public rights-of-way in a manner that "incommodes" the public. The CA Supreme Court ruled that the term "incommode" includes aesthetic impacts. Federal Court decisions have also upheld this principle.

There are no cities that have more aesthetic beauty to preserve than Carmel-by-the-Sea. Our civic leaders' hands are far from tied and you have more than enough substantial evidence to support the Planning Commission's denial of a cell tower in this out- of-character location. The City has received over 800 written comments against approving this visually conspicuous and unaesthetic residential tower embedded next to R-1 homes and valuable historic resources. If approved, federal laws will bar the City from denying similar impactful residential access to all of Verizon's competitors. Many once beautiful coastal communities have been overrun with towers after setting this first unfortunate precedent.

No Carmel residential neighborhood would then be off-limits. We cannot allow that to happen here. Among the organizations and individuals urging you to uphold the Planning Commission's denial are: **The Carmel Residents' Association**, **Carmel-by-the-Sea Garden Club**, **The Village Preservation Committee**, **Carmel Friends of the Forest**, **Stop Cell Towers In Carmel Neighborhoods**, **The La Playa Hotel**, **Carmel Cares** and four former **Carmel Mayors**.

Neighbors, please email your comments to cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us subject line Verizon Tower and attend the City Council hearing Via Zoom or call-in on **Tuesday, Dec. 7th at 4:30**. To obtain more information and get the Zoom link and password to watch the hearing and give public comment, go to: www.stopcelltowersincarmelneighborhoods.com



VERIZON

From page 1A

“there is a significant gap in Verizon Wireless service in the vicinity, and there is no less intrusive alternative to address that gap.” Denial would therefore “constitute a prohibition of service,” in violation of federal law, and would also go against state law allowing telecom companies to install equipment “along any public right of way.”

Opponents are not buying those arguments, however, and have continued to mount their significant campaign against Verizon. They have said coverage in town is fine, that towers outside the city limits will suffice, and that allowing one tower in the neighborhood would open the door to a proliferation of them.

Verizon has been trying for the past several years to get permission to install cell towers in town. An initial proposal to put five new ones in residential areas south of Ocean Avenue failed, and later the company returned with a compromise calling for a new tower on the roof of Sunset Center — which was approved — and the one proposed for the power pole at Carmelo and Eighth. The company has threatened to pursue the original residential sites if it doesn’t get its way.

Golden Bough roof?

While the staff report wasn’t available this week, city administrator Chip Rerig confirmed it will recommend the council back the commission’s decision to deny Verizon’s proposed tower. As a rule, he noted, staff always supports a board or commission’s decision when the city council is

asked to overturn it.

“It’s always been my policy to carry forward the lower board’s decision,” he said.

There could be an alternative, though. “PacRep volunteered to house an antenna on top of the Golden Bough theater,” which is located on Monte Verde between Eighth and Ninth, he said.

“We commissioned a firm to do a technical analysis,” he said. The study revealed a tower on the theater’s roof would cover 85 percent of the area that the proposed antenna at Carmelo and Eighth would.

Of course, the company and the theater group would have to negotiate lease terms, and the installation would still have to go through the public approval process — where it, too, is likely to generate opposition.

PacRep executive director Stephen Moorer was candid about it. “We figured since we have the tallest building in the golden rectangle, with rooftop views from point Lobos to Pebble Beach, the Golden Bough might make a viable alternative,” he told The Pine Cone Thursday. “The roof is already halfway covered up with solar panels and our GoldenBoughCam, so there’s plenty of equipment already up there.”

Other business

The Verizon hearing is set for the council’s regular meeting Tuesday, Dec. 7, alongside several other items of business.

The reason the council’s agenda packets weren’t ready for public distribution Thursday, Rerig said, “is because I don’t have enough staff,” but he plans to ask the council to approve about a dozen new positions citywide.

“I just need help,” he said. “I’m trying to augment

services in every department,” and with more money coming in from sales taxes, hotel taxes and property taxes, the city is “in pretty good financial shape.”

He’ll also ask the council to give executives a 10 percent salary increase in hopes of attracting candidates for several vacancies — police chief, city clerk, and library and community activities director among them — and retaining the directors already under contract.

“We pay below the median in our competitive set. We’re having difficulty recruiting executives and retaining executives,” he said. Former city clerk Britt Avrit left to take a job in a San Francisco area city that pays significantly more, and others, including Police Chief Paul Tomasi and former planning director Marc Wiener, left because of the city’s comparatively low pay, according to Rerig.

Planning director Brandon Swanson, who joined the department nearly a year ago, took a salary cut from his job with the county to come here, according to Rerig. “He’s doing great, and unless we do something to keep him here, we’ll eventually lose him,” he said. “It’s so competitive — unfortunately, we’re competing against the bay area, and those salaries are astronomical.”

As a “thank you” to those who kept working through the pandemic, the council will also consider writing one-time \$500 checks to employees, according to Rerig. The payouts will total around \$42,000 and are “really a way of acknowledging the employees’ dedication and loyalty in taking care of the village.”

Also on Tuesday’s agenda will be Carmel Lodge owner Mark Stilwell’s request to install a grease interceptor under the sidewalk on the northeast corner of San Carlos and Fifth. Last month, the council considered his proposal and was divided over it, so members decided to put off a decision until he researched and presented alternative options, if any.

And there’s Monday

The prior day, Dec. 6, the city council will also meet and is expected to discuss, among other topics, grease traps. “There’s an item that talks about the philosophy of grease interceptors in the public right of way,” Rerig said. “Under what conditions would we allow an encroachment and why? Or never,” because they should only be installed on private property. Whatever the council discusses Monday should help inform its decision on the Stilwell matter the next day.

The city’s contract with Monterey for fire services is also on the Dec. 6 agenda, when council members are

See TOWER next page

JOSEPH CHARLES TANOUS

Jan. 10, 1925 • Nov. 22, 2021

Joseph Charles Tanous passed away peacefully, surrounded by family. Joseph, one of 11 from a small town in North Dakota, lived an artistic, adventure-filled life. Always and forever the Artist, at five years old he refused to go back to school because “the crayons were not ‘red’ enough” for his apple drawing. After graduating from high school, he was drafted and did his basic training at Ft. Ord. His first commission was a camouflage unit and later joined the engineers in Guam to build roads, bridges and airstrips.

With the G.I. Bill he entered San Jose State to study painting, but realizing he wanted a more rigorous program, he transferred to CA College of the Art and Design. After graduation he moved to S.F. to begin a career in advertising, working on campaigns for Bank of America with such talents as Nichols and May.

During a visit to the Fosters Coffee shop on the corner of Van Ness and Market his life took a turn for the best. Engaging an intelligent and beautiful waitress named Louise in conversation over an Ogden Nash poem, he had met his life partner. She put off her plan to enter graduate school at UC Berkeley and their new adventure began. They created an artistic life in beatnik SF, hanging with the likes of Odetta and partying at The Olde Spaghetti Factory, all the while haunting the Goodwill and benefit stores and beginning an adventure of acquiring and curating collections of wood and copper tools, Native American pottery, basketry and rugs.



After a few years and a couple of kids (Mark & Laura) in S.F., Louise decided they needed more education, and off they went to UC Davis. Joe thrived at Davis, working in bronze, aluminum and clay, all the while sharpening his painting skills. He was chosen to be a teaching assistant by Wayne Thiebaud and clashed with Robert Arneson for not attending classes. He shared a studio in an orchard with Bruce Nauman. These were exciting times. Joe showed his work at the Crocker and SFMOMA during his Davis years. With advanced degrees in hand and another child (Holly), Joe and Louise accepted teaching positions at the American University Beirut where Joe rose to Chair of the Art Department, teaching painting, sculpture and ceramics, inspiring and mentoring students who stayed in touch with Joe for decades.

After three years at AUB, the family moved to Carmel, jumping right into the Art scene on the Peninsula, Joe was juried into the Carmel Art Association where he showed his work for the past half century. One year he won both First Place in Painting and Best of Show in sculpture at the Monterey Museum of Art. He cherished his artist friends at the CAA and all across the Peninsula. He joined Art Studio 15 at Sunset Center where he painted daily for 30 years until the remodel forced Joe and his artist friends to find new studio space. He taught life drawing and painting at MPC where he was a much-respected creative force. He also volunteered at the Library book sales, Bach festival and many other Carmel causes. He never lost his passion for garage sales and “finds.”

Joe lost his beloved Louise on December 8, 2017. He continued to paint up until about six months ago and never lost his “eye” for what “worked” esthetically. He loved watching his grandchildren and great-grandchildren explore, create and gave them simple drawing lessons along the way. He will be missed by all those who knew and loved him. Joe leaves behind a creative legacy that includes his many works of Art, but also great-grandchildren Michael, Sawyer, Dashiell, and Rumi and his grandchildren Dylan, Hunter, Scarlett, Brianna, Stephen, Nick and Tony and three Very Lucky children Mark, Laura and Holly.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Youth Arts Collective in Monterey: <https://yacstudios.org/>



ROBERT NATHAN DANZIGER

July 1953 – November 2021

Clean energy pioneer, inventor, and accomplished musician Bob Danziger passed away peacefully on November 2, 2021. He is survived by his beloved wife, Martha Drexler Lynn; sister Ronna Perelson, and her children Jesse Thomas, Josh Perelson, and Alex Perelson.

For more information on Bob and the things he did and cares about, please see <https://rندamphitheater.com> or <https://digitalcommons.csUMB.edu/rند/>

As he said in his video dedicating the RND Amphitheater at CSUMB, “Thank God I am alive to tell you this, because I love you all.”

In lieu of flowers please make current and legacy contributions to the California State University Monterey Bay, csUMB.edu; the Monterey Jazz Festival partnership, montereyjazzfestival.org; or the Community Hospital of Monterey Ohana Program, montagehealth.org/support/ohana. Please be generous in supporting these unifying institutions.

‘Brighten the Harbor’ Sunday

By MARY SCHLEY

MONTEREY’S ANNUAL lighted boat parade — the only one in the country to leave protected waters and head to the open sea — will return to Monterey Bay Sunday, Dec. 5, at 5:30 p.m.

“It’s the only parade I know of in the United States that leaves protected waters — everyone else does it in a harbor or bay,” organizer and longtime boater Joe Headley said. The parade, dubbed Brighten the Harbor, has boats leave the wharf and head to the Aquarium, where they will turn around.

The route doesn’t daunt those who spend days and weeks adorning their boats with lights and other holiday decorations in a lighthearted competition to see who gets bragging rights for being the best.

Some choose themes, while others just go for the National-Lampoon’s-Christmas-Vacation look.

While it’s fun for the local boating community, it’s also great for locals to get down to the typically touristy waterfront, and for the businesses they patronize.

“The whole point of doing it on Sunday night is it’s a true locals’ event,” Headley said. “It’s traditionally the slowest night of

the year, since it’s after Thanksgiving and before shopping, but it has become one of the busier nights of the year on the waterfront, which is great.”

Now more than ever, Headley said, connecting locals and businesses is important.

“It’s a good time that benefits them, and after all we’ve been through in the last year-and-a-half, we need something like this,” he said.

The parade is very informal. There’s no pre-registration, and anyone who wants to decorate and float can participate. Outrigger canoes will be part of the parade this year, Headley said, and paddle boarders have taken part in the past.

Traditionally, boats were evaluated by a panel of judges in a range of categories and given prizes donated by local retailers. This year — and perhaps in the foreseeable future — there will be one winner who will take home bragging rights instead of shwag, in part because there will be no party at the yacht club after the parade, and because now is not the time to ask local businesses to give away their products.

Prime viewing of the lighted boat parade can be had anywhere along the shore between the wharfs and the Aquarium.

TOWER

From previous page

set to hear options and recommendations on what a new agreement with Monterey should include.

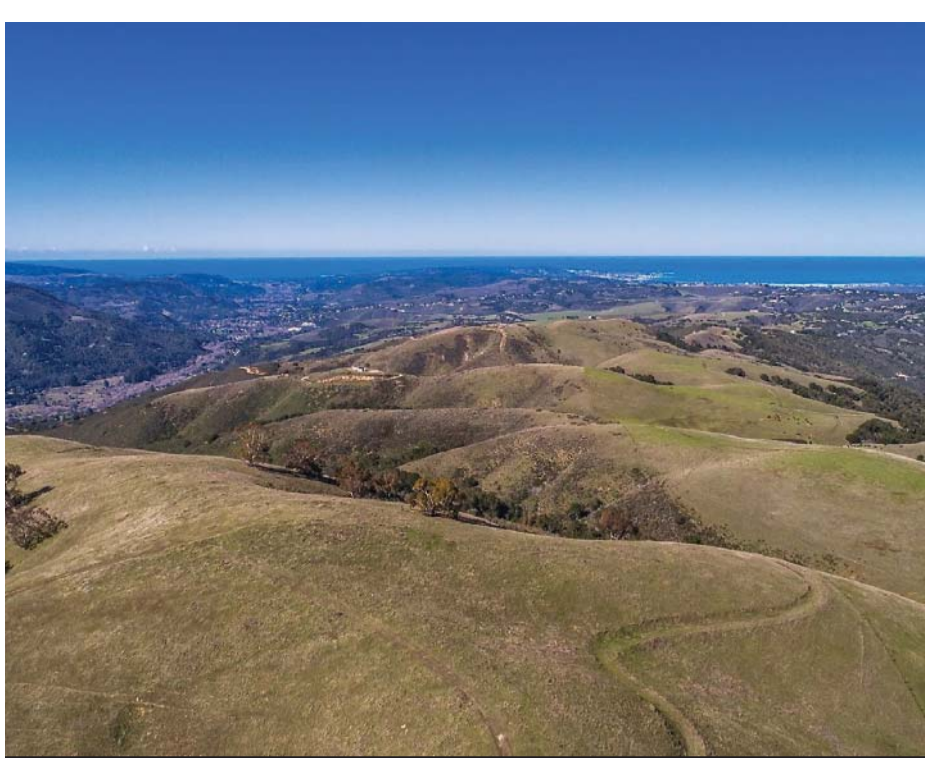
They’ll further consider hiring Monterey to run the ambulances, too.

A committee of council members Bobby Richards and Carrie Theis and four members of the public has been evaluating the options and will deliver the recommendations.

Finally, also on Monday, due to a logistical error this week, the council will hold

a special meeting to consider another rate increase from trash hauler GreenWaste. The council was supposed to hold a special meeting Dec. 2 to vote on the changes, but the posted agenda didn’t include information on how the public could participate, so city attorney Brian Pierik said it should be delayed and re-posted.

GreenWaste, which has received several increases in recent years — including a 42 percent hike in July 2020 and a 2 percent jump that took effect last summer — is asking for another 3.76 percent rise to help cover the costs of a new state-mandated program requiring residents and businesses to compost food scraps. The new rates would kick in next month.



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Theresa Eleanor (Formisano) Newman
1935 ❖ 2021

Theresa Eleanor (Formisano) Newman, 86, passed away peacefully on November 25, 2021, at her home in Pebble Beach. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

She was born at home on April 17, 1935, to Mildred and Ralph Formisano in Hasbrouke Heights, New Jersey and raised in Moonachie. She grew up a farmer's daughter and never forgot her roots. She blossomed and carried herself with style, etiquette, and grace. She was a true class act.

Theresa was the oldest of five – three brothers and a sister. She was christened at St. Anthony's church in Moonachie. She went to grade school in a one-room school house. Her family moved from Moonachie to Buena after the Port Authority bought their land to build Teterboro airport. Theresa opted to stay with her aunt to finish high school, graduating from Wood Ridge High School 1953.



Theresa always had an affinity for fashion. She was a great seamstress, and when she was young, she would often make her own clothes. She was voted best-dressed girl in high school. Theresa spent time modeling in NYC after high school before moving back to her family home in New Jersey.

In 1956, Theresa met the love of her life. She was working at All State Insurance when she met Peter at the local post office. Something magical happened when they caught each other's eye. He asked her to marry him on their first date. She said no, but Peter would continue to ask on every date thereafter until she finally relented. They were married on October 11, 1958. Their bond was unbreakable. Peter was happiest whenever they were together.

Peter and Theresa bought a home in Woodbury, New Jersey, and moved in after their honeymoon.

They had three children – Jeffrey, Kenneth and Jennifer, and raised them in Summit New Jersey. Theresa held down the fort while Peter commuted to work in Manhattan and traveled the world on business. She too enjoyed travel and developed a love for European beauty and food.

Leaving their beloved New York behind, Peter and Theresa moved to California in 1984 and settled in their forever home in Pebble Beach. In her new life in California, she continued her love of cooking – having taken lessons from the great Julia Child and the famous New York Times food critic and cookbook author, Craig Claiborne. Claiborne had visited her family farm, and in his next cookbook, featured a photo of her father on the farm referring to him as the Fennel King of New Jersey. She also became a passionate gardener with a focus on her roses. Her rose garden was magnificent.

Theresa embraced her new community. She volunteered as an art docent at the museum in Monterey. She developed a warm, affectionate relationship with the nuns at the monastery in Carmel and regularly brought baked goods and other items of need. She often brought her daughter and her granddaughters with her. She supported Peter in his political passions hosting countless politicians and supporters in their home. She was the warmest of hosts.

Theresa was incredibly devoted to her family. They were everything to her. She had a huge heart, and her family was at the center of it. She would often smile as she talked about her children and grandchildren. Theresa is survived by her three children, Jeffrey (Noelle), Kenneth (Candace) and Jennifer (Stephen); seven grandchildren, Tucker, Caroline, Robert, Alyssa, Alex, Jack and Emily, two brothers, John and Ralph, and her sister, Carol. She was preceded in death by her brother, James, and her beloved husband, Peter.

Theresa and the family appreciated the assistance of her caregiver, Litia Mafi. Her gift for comfort and care was unsurpassed.

A private service will be held at a later date in New Jersey.

CHS students bring Oscar Wilde comedy classic into the 1980s

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

SETTING OSCAR Wilde's comedy, "The Importance of Being Earnest," in the 1980s, a student production opens Thursday in the Black Box Theatre at Carmel High School and continues over the next three days.

"We took all the original dialogue and updated it to the 1980s, with cultural references," Carmel High drama teacher Gracie Balistreri told The Pine Cone. "It translated amazingly well — it's really funny."

The cast includes 19 student-actors, who will be split into two casts so more of them will get a chance to be on stage.

Wilde's most popular, and arguably, his best work, "The Importance of Being Earnest" is as relevant as ever, Balistreri suggested.

"The humor has stood the test of time," she said. "It's perfect for the 20th century."

The comedy will be presented Dec. 9-10 at 7 p.m., and Dec. 11-12 at noon and 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for general

admission and \$5 for students, and will be available at the door. Masks must be worn inside the theater, and tickets will be available at the door. The high school is located at 3600 Ocean Ave.



Starting Thursday, Carmel High students present a four-day run of "The Importance of Being Earnest."



SAMUEL DAVID TEEL III
1943 — 2021

On Monday, Nov. 22, 2021, Samuel David Teel III passed away at his home in Pacific Grove, California. Sam was born in Long Beach, California, in 1943 and was raised in Tucson, Arizona, before returning to California in 1960.

He is survived by his sister, Debbie Farwell; five of his six children, David Teel, Patricia Russo, Jane Teel-Kohlbrener, Laura Dunn, Michelle Teel-Geden and Jennifer Escamilla; 11 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He was loved dearly by us all.

Sam was driven by his moral compass and never compromised who he was or what he believed in even in the face of difficulties or hardship. He never shied away from hard work, believed deeply in promoting independence and thoughtful discourse. He was an active member of his community and dedicated his time to The Rotary Club Carmel-by-the-Sea and the Monterey County Hospitality Association (MCHA), as well as other community-focused works.

Sam first joined the Rotary Club in 1974 and became a local member in 1985. He served as club president 1999-2000. Sam was MCHA Board chair in 1996 and 2014. He was a very valuable and involved member for over 25 years. He worked diligently over the years to advocate for sustainable water supply on the Monterey Peninsula and was a key MCHA representative with Transportation Agency for Monterey County.

He was passionate about the outdoors and was an avid sportsman, diver, fisherman, triathlete, and doted over his flock of hens. Sam was generous with his time and humble in his approach to helping others in need.

Per Sam's wishes, a private celebration of life will be held at a later date for the family and close friends.



RICHARD LEE MURTLAND, M.D.
1925 – 2021

Richard "Dick" Murtland, dedicated doctor and surgeon, loving husband and father, died November 4, 2021, at his home in Carmel. He was 96 years old. He will be remembered for his passion for medicine, for his quick wit and love of a good joke, and for his kindness to friends and love of his family.

Born January 21, 1925, in Butler, Pennsylvania to Waldo and Grayce Murtland, Dick was raised during the depression. He and his two older brothers were taught to work hard on the family "farm" and to excel in their studies. He graduated high school in 1943, completed college in 1946 and graduated in 1950 from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia.

While at Jefferson, Dick met his first wife, Ada Jane Bailey. They were married on June 30, 1951, (leaving him one day to get to his residency training in Cleveland) and welcomed their first child, Candace, the following June.

Uncle Sam called in July 1953, and Dick proudly served in the medical corps of the United States Air Force during the Korean War. After two years of service, he completed his medical training at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, specializing in Thoracic and Vascular surgery.

Life was good in Chapel Hill, where Dick and Jane added Kent and Cynthia to their family. But in 1959, they took a gamble – to join a colleague way out in Monterey, California.

Dr. Murtland was a member of the Monterey medical community for 60 years. During the early years, his practice covered the entire central coast, meaning he performed surgery in hospitals from Santa Cruz to Paso Robles. The family "Sunday drives" were really trips to check on Dad's patients in other towns. When his then partner decided to relocate, Dick recruited Dr. Hisashi Kajikuri to join him. They enjoyed many years of practice together. Dick embraced the changes and advances in medicine, and in 2015, he was honored as the County Medical Society's Physician of the Year.

His family thrived on the Monterey Peninsula. Dick and Jane's home was the gathering site for holidays, parties, engagements, and the venue for both daughters' weddings. Sadly, his beloved wife of 37 years, died in 1988 after a short battle with brain cancer. After her death, his love of medicine kept him grounded.

In February of 1995, Dick and Linda were married in Carmel Valley. The next 26 years were filled with family – including 14 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Once Dick semi-retired to become an assistant surgeon, he and Linda began traveling around the world, making new friends and forging new adventures.

Dick, "Papa," was loved and will forever be in the hearts of his family. He is survived by his wife, Linda; his children, Candace Grant (Gary), Kent Murtland (Kathy), Cynthia Hebert (Jim), Rhonda Loader (Paris) and Michelle Balestreri (John); along with the grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the
Community Hospital Montage
Health Foundation.

A family ceremony is planned.

Warren Kaufman

Warren Kaufman, 79, known for his big smile, boisterous laugh, large heart and keen sense of kindness towards family, friends, community and his vast network, died Nov. 13, in Yuba City, Calif., of Lewy body dementia.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday, Dec. 18, at 11 a.m., at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Carmel Valley. Reception to follow service.

As a general contractor, community leader, Rotarian and long-time resident of Carmel Valley and Monterey County, he left a powerful, positive impression on the people in his life and the communities and causes he served, locally and abroad.

Born Feb. 27, 1942, Warren grew up on the family farm near Zion, Illinois, tending to turkeys, cows and exploring the Midwest countryside. His love of speed, animals and independence kicked off when he was a young boy with Gypsy, an energetic horse he rode and showed in parades.

The foundation for Warren's calling as a builder and craftsman, was formed while admiring downtown Chicago's architecture and was cemented while working at a construction company in the city.

He graduated from Culver Military Academy and attended the University of Chicago, but his penchant for learning continued through workshops and experiential endeavors. His love of music, particularly the blues, started through conversations with a classmate and musician. Warren bought his first motorcycle while at college, igniting another lifelong passion.

In 1962, Warren moved to Berkeley, opening a new chapter of his life with his then-wife, Linda, and newborn son, Bill. He became a journeyman carpenter and embraced the '60s lifestyle.

Warren's love of speed accelerated when he discovered the Bay Area motorcycle scene, working on bikes, modifying them for speed and racing them with friends.

A move to Carmel Valley in 1969 to build homes with Stone Post & Flower, proved to be an important decision: it became the place he called "home" for more than five decades.

In 1971 and 1973, Chris and Lisa were born.

Warren was a thoughtful, prolific gift giver and the family was involved in the entire process from designing, creating and delivering handmade gifts. Many people still have the decorative, wooden Christmas trees and grapevine wreaths.

Road trips and vacations to new and familiar places were a regular part of family life. The Kaufman home was a go-to place for all friends, who knew they were welcome anytime. People often arrived around suppertime.

Warren founded Natural Development in 1973 and a brown 1950 Chevy panel van, emblazoned with the business name, was a fixture in the village. The name was later changed to Renovations and numerous homes were built and remodeled under Warren's tutelage until the business closed in 2012. Renovations was designated one of Remodeling Magazine's top 50 remodeling companies. Warren was the founder of the local chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry, and he held many NARI certifications.

A consummate adventurer, Warren loved the outdoors, backpacking, mountaineering, and running, participating in races of various distances including the Big Sur Marathon.

Community-minded endeavors were an important aspect of Warren's life, including helping in many ways at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, leading a prayer group, feeding farmworkers, helping with repairs at Dampierre Park and coaching baseball and soccer.

In the 2000s, Warren began participating in triathlons of various distances, both individually and in team events, with the local triathlon club.

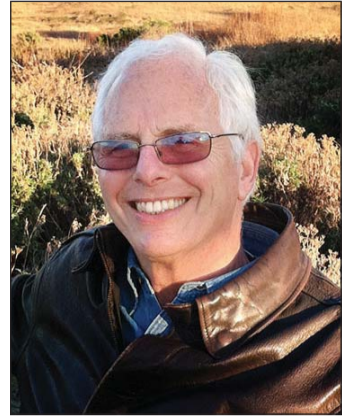
Warren joined the Rotary Club of Carmel Valley, which opened a new chapter in his life of service. He was the club president for 2006-2007. He became the assistant district governor for District 5230 for 2011-2012. Warren co-founded the Safe Blood Africa Project, which established dozens of blood banks in Nigeria, and spoke at Rotary International Day at The United Nations.

Rotary is where Warren met Jamison and their shared passion for serving the community, locally and worldwide, was among the driving forces that brought and kept them together until Warren's passing.

In the time leading up to Warren's death, he was surrounded by family and friends who sat with him, listened to his stories and shared positive thoughts, three things that Warren did so freely with so many people over the course of his life.

Warren is survived by his wife, Jamison Kaufman; his former wife, Linda Kaufman; sons, Bill and Chris Kaufman; daughter, Lisa (Kaufman) Marsh; son-in-law Jon Marsh; grandchildren Billy, Lili, Beau and Everleigh; sister Rose Kaufman; brother-in-law John Littleton; and numerous other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his father, William Kaufman, and his mother, Wilma Kaufman.



Cheryl Colleen McMurphy Joseph

October 1, 1950 – November 16, 2021

Carmel Valley

Cheryl grew up in the little town of Richford, Vermont, on the border of Quebec, Canada. Her greatest ambition in life, as she expressed in her high school yearbook, was doing what others said couldn't be done. This she did. Her goal was to be an English teacher. This she accomplished while teaching in Vermont, King City, and Seaside and Marina, in middle and high schools. Upon receiving an award from the California Association of Teachers of English she explained why she taught:



"I teach because I have an innate need to teach; I can't do normal work as other people do; I love being in a room all day teaching; I can partake of real life only by changing it; I love the smell of paper, pen, and ink; I believe in literature, in the art of the novel, more than I believe in anything else. It is a habit, a passion. I have a childish belief in the immortality of libraries, and I hope, as Borges did, that heaven is a kind of library. I teach to be happy."

Cheryl was also happiest in Nature where she thrived, most especially under a sunset and full moonrise by the ocean. The natural world brought out her sense of wonder and inner beauty. Her light shone at the ocean, on a mountaintop, and in every forest where she set foot. Her motto, which she learned in the 1970s at the National Outdoor Leadership School, was to "leave no trace"; however, she left a brushstroke of light, a pathway leading to a good life for all of us to follow.

Not only in nature, but in life, Cheryl's humility, grace, quiet strength and determination guided her in leading those who knew and loved her on

how to live well. Whether or not you were a student of Cheryl's, you learned from her because that is who she was, and with her love we learned we were far more capable than we ever knew. She offered us — her students, friends, and family — the tools, impetus, confidence and belief needed for a fulfilling life.

The bell has rung now; class is over. The best classes are the hardest to leave, and hers was the best, most wonderful class. The world is a better place because she lived and taught in it.

Cheryl's first priority and love was for her family. She is survived by her husband, Buzz; her daughter, Heather Kramer; her son, Zachary Joseph (Ayala); her beloved grandchildren, Zaia Kramer, Sami and Nora Joseph; her brothers, Michael (Maureen) and Barry (Christy) McMurphy; her sister, Kerri Plante; her loving nieces and nephews, as well as her extended family, and a legion of wonderful friends who will hold her closely in their hearts.

If you wish to give a donation you might think about making one to an organization that is consistent with Cheryl's legacy.

A celebration of life will be held in the spring.

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Editorial

How to make Carmel even more famous

THIS WEEK we report about the sudden controversy over the number of benches on the Scenic Road pathway (see page 3A). Even though the planning commission already approved up to 16 additional benches along the magnificent half-mile walking path, a new activist group has arisen to block what it calls “bench clutter” that would turn the world-famous pathway into something more like an overcrowded cemetery than a place to enjoy the view.

While most people might regard this as a minor tempest — one the small-town democratic process was designed to bring to a quick and amicable settlement — we say why not stir the pot a little? After all, Carmel has a way of dragging out even the smallest controversies for years, and we think there can actually be something charming about a place that immiserates itself so regularly and willingly over matters the outside world would see as being of minuscule importance.

City hall and the chamber of commerce are always searching for ways to attract more upscale visitors to town and wondering how to pay for the ad blitz they expect it will take to get them here, but we think the Ban the Benches movement provides a not-to-be-missed opportunity to spread the fame of this fair city far and wide without spending a dime!

The same thing happened 17 years ago when the city council decided to ban new art galleries in town. Within a day, Pine Cone reporters had been interviewed by Time Magazine, the San Francisco Chronicle and the Los Angeles Times about the city’s surplus of paintings and sculpture. CBS News even did a report, and a producer for “World News Tonight” on ABC phoned our newsroom one morning to say she’d be coming to town to investigate the gallery glut.

Those hard-edged big-city journalists lived in a world where it was unimaginable that the number of galleries would be a subject for a ban. But their attentions weren’t hostile or condescending. They were fascinated.

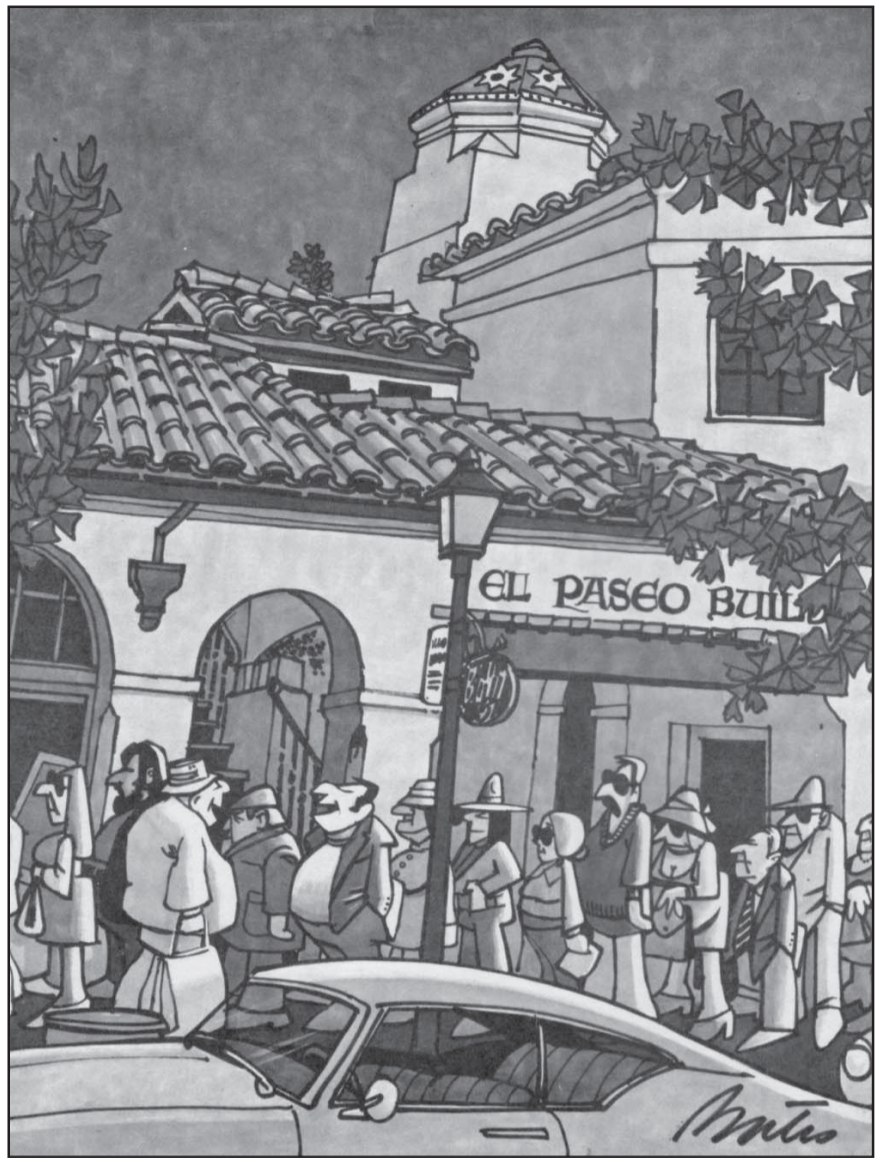
The same thing happened when the city considered banning ice cream cones, then became an epic saga when Clint Eastwood was elected mayor. And the city also got plenty of attention when a homeowner was told he couldn’t cut down a tree that was lifting the foundation of his garage. “Move the garage,” he was told.

Accordingly, rather than try to come up with \$250,000 every year for out-of-town advertising, we’d like to encourage everybody to start tweeting about the Great Carmel Bench Brawl. And while we’re at it, how about getting creative with even more ideas that will seem really wacky to the outside world, but which make perfect sense here:

- Establish checkpoints at the entrances to town to make sure anyone wearing high heels has a permit.
- High school football games to be played in the dark.
- Require every home to have at least one raccoon.
- Minimum check for eating in any restaurant: \$1,000.
- Declare all new buildings historic as soon as they’re finished.
- Make families prepare an EIR before sending their children to school.
- Keep Flanders Mansion; sell the planning commission.

They can’t all be done at once, but carefully apportioned over the next few years, these steps would surely draw ever-increasing crowds. Soon, the problem wouldn’t be how to raise revenue for retrofitting the Scout House, but whether to cover it with gold leaf.

BEST of BATES



“Jaws?”

“No, Tuck Box.”

Letters to the Editor

The Pine Cone only accepts letters to the editor by email. Please submit your letters to mail@carmelpinecone.com. 350 words max.

‘The future of neighborhoods’

Dear Editor,

When the city council considers Verizon’s appeal of the planning commission’s unanimous denial of their permit to construct a cell tower on Carmelo Street next to La Playa hotel, in the middle of an all-residential neighborhood, it is important to note that the council’s decision will have far-reaching consequences about the future of how Carmel’s residential neighborhoods will look.

According to legal precedent, if Verizon is allowed to build this tower, it will open the door and allow Verizon and other carriers to build more cell towers in other Carmel area neighborhoods, as municipalities cannot discriminate among carriers. So once the city allows one carrier to do so, the city in effect allows all of them to do so. This will undoubtedly result in a proliferation of cell towers in other Carmel neighborhoods.

Furthermore, if this cell tower is approved, Verizon will have full control to modify this pole and its associated equipment once it is in place. Verizon will have a right to amend the pole and enhance the

equipment, including an increase in the overall height by 10 percent, without any further review from the planning commission or the city.

That’s why the Dec. 7 city council vote is so consequential. Carmel stands at a crossroads. This decision is one in which the citizens of Carmel will remember as to how council members voted. It will be their legacy.

The beauty, character and unique quality of Carmel’s residential neighborhoods are at stake.

The citizens of Carmel urge the council members on Dec. 7 to deny Verizon’s appeal and to let the planning commission’s unanimous denial of Verizon’s permit for this cell tower to stand.

Jan Reimers, Carmel

Caring for the homeless

Dear Editor,

We need to do better for the homeless residents in downtown Carmel. My office is on Ocean Avenue above the bicycle shop and I am shocked that there is an 80-plus-year-old woman living in our building with no hot water, no shower and doing her dishes at night and bathing herself in the shared bathroom sink where other women go. Not only is this deeply saddening, her condition is getting worse. She no longer recognizes us. If there was one way to transmit a virus to someone or receive one during a worldwide pandemic, this is the recipe.

Then there’s the fellow with the white van parked in front of his office in the

See LETTERS page 28A

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The Carmel Pine Cone

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The Carmel Pine Cone was established in 1915 and is a legal newspaper for Carmel-by-the-Sea, Monterey County and the State of California, established by Superior Court Decree No. 35759, July 3, 1952

Reader queries lead to British correspondence, Japanese boxing

IN MY Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 columns told how Pebble Beach resident Col. Warren J. Clear discovered an ancient bottle with contents indicating it was left on our shore by Francis Drake in 1579, claiming the land for England 23 years before Vizcaino claimed it for Spain.

The contents of the bottle included two 16th-century coins and a rolled-up lead

slightest. I shall have other examinations made. In the end, the bottle and contents will be left in my will to the City of Monterey.

At the least, it will be an object of vast conjecture and quickened imagination. But for the moment, let's make no claims for it, or throw it into the arena of controversy for the 'savants' to haggle over. It will always be of intense interest to you and me, and no one can find fault with that. I purposely did not forward the bottle or coins to England. I wanted the scroll to stand on its own. Nor did I send

anything to influence the museum's decision. Forget the bottle and the scroll. You and I know the facts of its extraction, and the others who may have heard of it several years ago no longer have it in their mind. A hundred years from now, they will look at it in the local museum and speculate on its historical significance, if any.

As for now, neither you nor I have tried to make a dime on the items in any way. If the uninformed later come to the conclusion that Drake never saw Monterey Bay, that is their privilege. Even you and I can have our doubts.

*Yours truly,
Warren*

Remsen Bird had been president of Occidental College and retired to Carmel in 1946. He was also one of the founders, in 1955, of what is today's Middlebury Institute of International Studies. Allen Griffin was the longtime publisher of the Monterey Herald (which he sold in 1970), and was (1926-1930) co-publisher of The Carmel Pine Cone with Perry Newberry.

Two other readers led me to do a deeper dive into an incident from Clear's life that I had omitted from earlier columns. The incident from the mid-1920s was written up by John E. Tynan who, like Clear, was assigned to the U.S.' embassy in Japan at the time. Tynan's story appeared in the January 1943 issue of Readers Digest. He told of an exhibition match between Clear as a boxer and the hulking Japanese jujitsu champion. Clear came back from a devastating throw to knock out his opponent.

See **HISTORY** page 47A

History Beat

By NEAL HOTELLING

scroll that was carefully extracted and unfurled in 1949 by local antique dealer Myron Oliver.

The columns drew a multitude of interesting reader responses. There were definitely doubters. Nearly everyone wished the bottle still existed and that Clear had loaned it to a museum from the beginning rather than trying to keep it at his home before reporting it stolen in 1965.

I thought it might be helpful to share a portion of a note Clear wrote to Oliver after the British Museum told him the scroll could not be authentic as it would have been impossible to unroll the lead.

Dear Myron,

Rem Bird called me just before I flew to San Francisco and said you were 'distressed' over the British Museum's findings about the lead scroll. Why be distressed? A bottle was examined, a rolled-up lead plate extracted with three of us looking on, and that was that.

If any attempt had been made by anyone to sell the bottle and its contents, or to foist it on the public for gain, there might be grounds for embarrassment. On the contrary, two offers of \$5,000 and \$7,500 made by two national magazines were rejected, including an offer by Allen Griffin to buy the bottle and contents.

The 'findings' of the British Museum justify my insistence, from the start, that no claims for validity be made until a thorough exam by competent authorities be made. Of course, the museum's opinion that the lead plate 'had never been rolled up' was amusing to you and me.

But there is no embarrassment in the



RKO's 1943 film "Behind the Rising Sun" had Robert Ryan (left) recreate an incident from the life of Warren J. Clear, an Army captain in Japan during the early 1920s.

Don't miss "Scenic Views" by Jerry Gervase — every week in the Real Estate Section.

THERE'S SOMETHING ILLUMINATING ABOUT HER APPROACH TO PAINTING

THE MONTEREY Peninsula sparkles like no other place she's ever seen, said Marie Massey, who has made a profession out of noticing such things.

Massey teaches plein air artistry along 17 Mile Drive to painters of all abilities, but said her own education never ends. How could it, when the instructor is Mother Nature?

to capture it, and it's very exciting."

For Massey, who has painted in Italy and France, Central and South America and U.S. artist meccas such as New Mexico and Colorado, there's no place like home.

"There's a luminescence to the light on the Peninsula. It sparkles, and I'm sure it's because of the moisture in the air," she said. "Whenever I come back here from somewhere else, I'm overwhelmed by the sparkling air, the glittery colors. There's just more vibrancy."

Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

"Every time I'm out there, I learn something new about how the ocean moves, or how the light falls or how the clouds look," said Massey, who founded Central Coast Plein Air Painters seven years ago and is celebrating her third year as an instructor of outdoor painting in one of the most beautiful venues in the world.

"Plein-air painting is addictive, and it's intense, because you typically only have about three hours to paint before the light has shifted," she said. "It's a great challenge

Massey's paintings are showcased at 620 On The Avenue in Pacific Grove, the San Francisco Women Artists Gallery, Art of Santa Cruz in Capitola, and Independence Gallery in Loveland, Colo., and they've been exhibited by the California Art League, American Women Artists, and the National Association of Women Artists.

Big awards

Her list of awards is lengthy and growing. Earlier this year, she won a first-place award at the Los Gatos Art Association Members Show and awards of excellence at plein air festivals at the Steamboat Art Museum in Colorado and the Frank Bette Center for the Arts in Alameda.

"It's always very validating to sell your work or get juried into a big show and win an award, or be juried into a gallery by your peers," said Massey, who was an art instructor for the City of Monterey until 2020, when city offices were closed by the pandemic. "But it's also been so rewarding for me to teach, and to see other artists develop the tools to create a nice painting and find their voices."

Massey traces her own artistic beginnings to age 4, when her grandmother taught her how to draw and paint a rose.

"She was an amateur painter, she loved the impressionists and she had a beautiful garden," she said. "She'd put the rose on the table, then have me sketch it and cover the sketch with



PHOTO/RON JONES

Marie Massey, founder of Central Coast Plein Air Painters, is a prolific artist who teaches plein air painting at scenic locations along 17 Mile Drive.

See **ARTIST** page 44A

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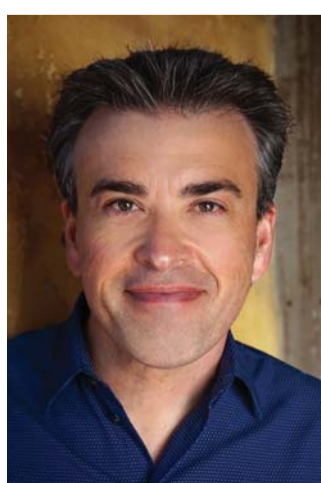


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LETTERS

From page 26A

same building with the suite that looks out into Ocean Avenue. He works all day at his cleaning business and then retires to a 100-square-foot office with no hot water or shower either.

Why do these people have to live in these conditions? Each human being has individual circumstances that cause them to be homeless, but Carmel needs to be aware for the safety of its citizens and for the growing homeless. Whether they suffer from mental illness or cannot make enough money to support themselves, they need our help. We as a community cannot turn our backs on this. I for one am willing to help but am still searching for the answers.

Anonymous

Hooray for school supe

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the Pine Cone's Nov. 26 article, "Supe: Should schools just be for college-bound?" I was overjoyed to hear the sentiments of the new CUSD superintendent, Ted Knight, that not all student's definition of success is necessarily college-bound. There have been many of us in the community for multiple years supporting the idea of trade programs and career technical education. As a 2009 alumnus of Carmel High, I can attest to the hyper-focus on a 4-year college path, and as the article mentions, that is not all bad ... in fact, it should be celebrated. However, as a district we must ensure the definition of success is inclusive of multiple paths.

I want to thank Knight for his comments, and I look forward to seeing the progress. And a big thanks, as always, to The Pine Cone for its coverage of CUSD.

Jake Odello, Carmel Valley

'Regulate commercial interests'

Dear Editor,

To set the record straight on short term rentals in Carmel Valley:

In contrast to the untrue claim made by the recently created Monterey Vacation Rental Alliance, we Carmel Valley residents want to allow some vacation rentals, particularly those run by residents in their own home. However, we also want the county to regulate the larger commercial interests and limit them per existing regulations in a pilot program now.

Ellen Korstanje, Carmel Valley

A tale of two neighbors

Dear Editor,

Lest misperceptions flourish, I am writing this brief missive on behalf of limitations and enforcement regarding the short-term rental market in CV.

One of my neighbors lives in his home and has extra space. He rents it regularly to visitors. They are quiet, well behaved, and usually nowhere nearby while they are out visiting this beautiful area.

My other neighbor is a resident of the San Francisco Bay area. He also rents his property, in fact, his entire property. His guests have zero supervision, no responsibility, and no regard for the permanent residents in the area. The result is often manifested in noise and piles of trash on pickup day.

It is the desire of local residents,

members of the Carmel Valley Association, and others, to assure that the county will move forward with its pilot enforcement program to hold owners to account for obeying the law. Obviously, this will have no impact on residents following the local regulations.

What could be more reasonable?

Ernie Long, Carmel Valley

Let supervisors do their job

Dear Editor,

There is an organization called the Monterey County Vacation Rental association running ads in the local newspapers. It's spending money to fight Mary Adams' proposed District 5 Pilot Program. The group is also instilling the fear that closing the illegal short-term rentals will cause residents to lose their homes and leave the area. It seems that the only reason these illegal short-term rental proprietors would lose their homes is due to poor financial planning and their choice to run an illegal business. Why start an illegal business as a way to fund your necessary expenses?

We can understand the frustration over the length of time it has taken to pass an acceptable vacation rental ordinance, but I do think the implementation of Mary Adams pilot program is a logical first step. In order to have a viable ordinance, you first need a viable enforcement infrastructure. What this association wants is no restrictions and no enforcement. If we made a living off of illegal rental units, that is what we would want as well.

We support Carmel Valley Association's input in the development of an effective vacation rental ordinance. We need a program consistent with the county's master plan. The master plan has a cap on the number of hotel, motel and bed and breakfast units that can be built in our area. This cap should include short-term rentals and the master plan's limits should be honored. The vacation rental association wants to count vacation rentals separately.

We also support the Carmel Valley Association's requirement that vacation rentals be owner-occupied properties. This approach would avoid out-of-county buyers' purchases of single and multi-family residences for the sole use of transient rental.

Let's let the supervisors do their job and not be pushed to perform by an organization whose motivation is primarily profit.

Scot and Donna Lawson Leisy, Carmel Valley

20 people in one house

Dear Editor,

Short term vacation rentals in Monterey County, and particularly Carmel Valley, have gotten out of hand. The civil grand jury found that there are hundreds of them, only a handful of which are permitted and follow the rules.

Commercial interests are purchasing Carmel Valley homes in residential neighborhoods specifically for use as STRs. A well financed group, going by the name of the Monterey Vacation Rental Alliance, is representing these commercial enterprises and putting their commercial interests above the interests of individual homeowners who wish to preserve Carmel Valley's residential neighborhoods and rural nature. Also, they misrepresent the real situation to promote unchecked rental opportunities.

There's a place for owner/residents to provide STRs in their private homes, and most homeowners are not opposed to that. But the commercialized groups who are buying homes specifically as STRs need to be held to existing regulations and must not be allowed to turn residential neighborhoods into commercial zones.

A home in my neighborhood was recently purchased specifically as a STR. The owners live in another town, not a part of our close community, and have no investment in it except monetary. Since their purchase, there has been a steady stream of cars and people, noise, dogs, etc., every Friday night. On one weekend there were eight vehicles and over 20 persons in the house (I know because I knocked on the door and asked them to hold down the noise.) It's a nightmare. It can happen to any neighborhood, anywhere. I encourage the county to move forward with its pilot enforcement program to hold owners accountable for obeying the law. It's only reasonable.

Dawn Poston, Carmel Valley

Continues next page



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From previous page

'Rented out to make money'

Dear Editor,
When we moved from Saratoga to Carmel Valley 19 years ago, we had looked around a lot to find a nice residential area that would be our "forever home." Scenic, quiet, peaceful and neighborly. With the excellent help of a local realtor, we found the perfect home for us. However, 19 years later, two residences close to us (very fine homes, mind you) are no longer occupied by residents. They are rented out for a week or two, or even for a few days, to make money.

Sometimes the renters invite large crowds (as for a wedding reception or a birthday celebration), with no consideration for noise levels or hours for quiet or taking up a lot of parking spaces on our narrow roads that nearby residents need.

Carmel Valley residents understand that there is a need for short-term rentals, but we feel that their numbers should be limited and subject to county rules governing short-term rentals, not controlled by commercial enterprises out to make a profit.

Please urge our lawmakers to act to protect our neighborhood property value and quality of lifestyle.

Judi Zaches, Carmel Valley

'Nobody left'

Dear Editor,
For nearly two years I have passed along a warning I learned from listening to leading U.S. epidemiologists: "We must follow reliable and tested pandemic protocols for stamping out the disease before it spreads exponentially. If we delay using all scientifically learned protocols, each day which the disease is allowed to exist it will be mutating. Each day it mutates, the possibility exists for a mutation to occur which is much worse than the original virus, and may even be resistant to future vaccines."

So, the Vax-a-phobes, and the control freaks, and the passive aggression-types, who began self-weaponizing and using

the virus as their personal tool to threaten people and get attention, and disrupt the common good, got into the act, suppression of the virus was/is delayed, and sure enough, along came the Delta mutation variant causing a monumental setback in disease suppression and needlessly erasing 100's of thousands of lives. Now we've learned about another virulent strain that has mutated and is widely spreading, and may turn out to be resistant to our vaccines. The stock market tanked. Hope tanked.

Until everyone is on board with pandemic protocols, no one will be safe. That is the message that every media outlet should be communicating, if we are ever to succeed in ridding the planet of Covid-19, before it mutates into an uncontrollable humanity-wide wipe-out ... in which case there will be nobody left to read The Pine Cone.

The latest message I am hearing from virologists and epidemiology scientists is: "If you don't get vaccinated, eventually this virus (or a more lethal mutation) is going to find you."

Please get fully on board and do your part.

Jason Wachs, Carmel Valley

End the filibuster

Dear Editor,
The Freedom to Vote Act sets national standards for us to safely and freely cast our ballots, ensure every vote is counted, and elect people who will deliver for us. Our Senators need to deliver the Freedom to Vote Act to the American people, and to do that, they need to fix the Jim Crow filibuster which is blocking progress of this overwhelmingly popular and urgently needed legislation.

The freedom to vote is under attack by extremist state lawmakers across the country who want to put up deliberate barriers to make it harder to vote — especially for people of color.

These lawmakers are using the filibuster to stop the beginning of debate from happening on the Freedom to Vote Act.

Without the chance to debate, important issues such as this are stalled for partisan politics. The filibuster is a loophole, historically used to block civil rights legislation. The original Senate rules did not include the filibuster rule.

If we reform Senate rules and fix the filibuster, we have a real chance at protecting the freedom to vote and getting big money out of politics: immigration reform,

raising the minimum wage, action on climate change, and police accountability and racial justice.

Senators Diane Feinstein and Alex Padilla must do everything they can to pass the Freedom to Vote Act, including fixing the filibuster, to realize the promise of democracy for all.

Zoë Edington, Monterey she/her/hers

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FIRES

From page 17A

In firefighting, where every second counts, a minute can make a big difference. “During extremely dry, hot, and windy weather, being able to differentiate wildfire smoke from fog and other false indicators is invaluable,” the agency added.

PG&E is planning to increase the number of enhanced cameras to 600 by the end of 2022, “providing an ability to see in real-time more than 90 percent of the high fire-risk areas it serve.”

The power company is under enormous pressure to reduce the threat of wildfires caused by its equipment. Facing \$30 billion in potential liabilities for fires in recent years, it declared bankruptcy in 2019.

WOLF

From page 12A

“Young gray wolves can disperse very long distances from their natal area and OR93 is no exception,” California Fish and Wildlife noted. “Before his demise, he was documented traveling the farthest south in California since wolves returned to the state, which is historically wolf habitat.”

Unlawful to harm

The last documented wolf that far south was captured in San Bernardino County in 1922, the agency said.

Gray wolves are listed as endangered in California, and it is unlawful to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap or capture them.

TLC

From page 14A

trees, landscaping, planting beds and barbecue grills, and a 5 for its turf.

While the municipal ball field on 17 Mile Drive got high marks for its drinking fountain, parking lot, and trash and recycling bins, it got low marks for its snack bar and score booth, both of which are in poor condition, and the wooden and dilapidated cement seating.

The biggest expenses for upgrades are at George Washington Park. New bleachers at the park’s ball field are estimated to cost \$6,000, 12 new picnic tables would set taxpayers back \$24,000, and making the playground compatible for young children and ADA compliant is expected to cost \$25,000.

New picnic tables at Arnett Park are believed to cost around \$14,000, and to install decomposed granite there and at El Marie Dyke Park is expected to be \$5,000, according to Gho’s report.

“Most important is that the city continues to provide safe and secure park facilities that meet a variety of community needs,” Gho reported.

Monterey County Bank is Business of the Year

Winners named in 18 categories

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL Chamber of Commerce’s Awards of Excellence gala returned to Quail Lodge in Carmel Valley Wednesday after a Covid-induced hiatus moved the event to a virtual format last year. Business owners and employees — many of whom went all-out to dress like fanciful characters from British history — gathered to celebrate the best among them.

The winners announced Dec. 1 were:

- Accommodations (small) — Tickle Pink Inn
- Accommodations (large) — Carmel Valley Ranch
- Art — Bennet Sculpture Carmel
- Beverage — Carmel Valley Coffee Roasting Co.
- Food/Market/Specialty (small) — Dutch Door

Donuts

- Food/Market/Specialty (large) — Bruno’s Market & Deli

- Health & Wellness — Synchronicity Holistic
- Financial/Legal — Synergy One Lending (Team Hawker)

- Music/Performance — Forest Theater Guild/Films in the Forest

- Nonprofits — Carmel Youth Center
- Professional Services (small) — Lemos 76
- Professional Services (large) — Monterey County Weekly

- Real Estate/Property Management (small) — Carmel Realty Co. (Susan Clark)
- Real Estate/Property Management (large) — David Lyng Real Estate

- Retail (small) — Pilgrim’s Way Bookstore & Secret Garden

- Retail (large) — The Barnyard shopping center
- Tourism (small) — Monterey Touring Vehicles
- Tourism (large) — Concours on the Avenue

The Business of the Year selected by chamber members was Monterey County Bank, which put a lot of time, effort and labor into securing millions of dollars in federal Covid relief for its clients through various programs offered by the Small Business Administration, including the Pay-check Protection Program.

Also at the gala, chamber officials announced the Ambassador of the Year — architect Thomas Hood — Board Member of the Year Jessica Schmidt, and Community Champion Ashley Bennet-Stoddard, whose family gallery on Dolores Street features sculpture, paintings, jewelry and other artworks.

Clearly surprised, as she accepted her award, Bennet-Stoddard commented, “I’m just hanging out making stuff that nobody needs.”



PHOTO/MICHAEL TROUTMAN, DMT IMAGING

Clarissa Rowe (left) of Monterey County Bank accepts Business of the Year from chamber of commerce CEO Jenny MacMurdo.



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BENCH

From page 3A

The flurry of letters was instigated by Carmel Cares volunteer Shirley Moon, a longtime resident who has spearheaded the cleanup and beautification efforts along the Scenic pathway during the past two years.

“This major permanent alteration to the Scenic pathway should have had input from the public, professional landscape designers, Carmel Cares and the forest and beach commission,” she wrote in a Nov. 29 letter to planning director Brandon Swanson.

Moon said story poles and mock-ups should have been placed along Scenic so the public would have an idea of where the future benches would be, and she complained that no one had shown a “demonstrated need” for more places to sit.

Even though the planning commission — not the forest and beach commission — is charged with approving furniture in the public right of way, Moon said the latter should have been asked since it oversees the beach.

Four might be OK

After Swanson and Moon met and took a walk along Scenic following his receiving her first letter, she followed up in a Nov. 30 email allowing that four new benches — one at Eighth, two south of Santa Lucia, and a fourth in an area that could be made wheelchair accessible — might be justified, but the rest are not.

In response to the outcry, Swanson said he plans to bring the topic up at next week’s forest and beach commission meeting and will discuss it with planning commissioners next month. The planning commission is not obligated to reconsider its decision but could do so if desired.

RETIRE

From page 10A

so they could provide advanced life support when arriving at crashes and other emergencies before the ambulance does. The agency now has nearly three dozen paramedics on the payroll and can provide ALS-level service at all seven of its stations as a result.

In 2009, Urquides oversaw the consolidation with Carmel Valley Fire Protection District, a process that took two years and resulted in the larger and renamed Monterey County Regional Fire District. He also pushed for the successful ballot measure that helped secure funding for ambulance services in Carmel Valley, which continues to benefit as a result.

While the merger with CVFPD resulted in saving money and having more equipment and fewer top-level managers, the downside was the loss of a strong volunteer contingent, according to Urquides.

But the decline of volunteer firefighters isn’t a local issue, it’s a national one, and it’s unlikely to change. “It saddens me to see, because we all started as volunteers,” he said of those who entered the career alongside him. “The strength of Carmel Valley was its volunteers.”

State mandates and required certifications have basically made volunteer firefighters obsolete in many areas.

“You can’t expect a volunteer to be at the station every night trying to keep up with all the mandates,” Urquides said, and they can’t be financially compensated for their time, because that would violate labor laws.

Urquides said he’s not sure what he’ll do next, but it could involve working for PG&E — which has taken on more employees with firefighting experience in

recent years, including former Monterey Fire Division Stew Roth, who retired a few years ago.

Urquides will be eligible for state retirement amounting to 90 percent of his base salary, which in 2020 was \$176,847, annually for the rest of his life. (Last year, he earned \$234,709 in overtime, as well as other benefits, but those do not figure into retirement pay.)

Deputy Fire Chief David J. Sargenti has been appointed interim chief.

Priolo also stepping down

Another longtime Monterey County Regional Fire employee, Dorothy Priolo, also announced she’ll be retiring Dec. 30. She is the department’s deputy fire marshal and is often the face of the agency.

Like Urquides, Priolo was hired by the district in 1990, but as a fire prevention assistant, not a firefighter. Her father and grandfather were both volunteer firefighters in Upstate New York, though, and she followed in their footsteps when embarking on her own career.

Priolo worked alongside the fire marshal while pursuing her fire prevention education and gaining firsthand experience, and was appointed to her current post in 2000. Since 2004, she has also been the district’s public information officer, working with local, state and national media.

During her tenure, Priolo has served as a board member of the Fire Prevention Officers Committee of the Monterey County Fire Chiefs Association, working with other fire agencies and the Monterey County Housing and Community Development Agency to develop and implement uniform fire safety standards. In recognition of her service, she was selected by the Monterey County Fire Chiefs Association as the Fire Support Person of the Year in 1995 and 2006.

In 2020, her base salary was \$81,064.

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The Carmel Pine Cone

Section 2

Padre wrestlers grapple with rebuilding a strong varsity squad

TWO WINTERS ago, the Carmel Padres exited the wrestling season riding a tidal wave of momentum, having placed 12th as a team at the Central Coast Section Championship meet and anticipating similar success during the 2020-21 school year.

was a junior, moved to Texas, leaving Fitzpatrick and Meheen as the only letter-winners in the wrestling room when the Padres reconvened this winter.

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

The coronavirus epidemic pinned that plan, leaving a talented core that included Jackson Dutel, Hunter Brophy, Justus Rees, Dylan Fitzpatrick and D.J. Meheen — all CCS qualifiers — stranded on the sidelines.

Brophy and Rees graduated with the Class of 2021, missing their senior season of wrestling, and Dutel, who

11 sophomores, 1 frosh

Those two senior co-captains will be counted upon for leadership by Coach Russ Shugars, who has a freshman, 11 sophomores, and a junior — all first-time varsity wrestlers at the high school level.

“We’re going to be very green this season. It’s rebuilding time,” Shugars said. “It was nice to have some experienced wrestlers in the room to help out with the younger ones, but this year we’ve had to step back a little bit to teach fundamentals and technique.”

Fitzpatrick qualified for CCS as a 113-pounder as a sophomore, but is likely to wrestle at 132 pounds two years later. Meheen went to CCS at 152 pounds two years ago, and hopes to return at the same weight this year.

Possibly the most promising wrestler at Carmel High is the only female on the roster, Hana Knoblich, a sophomore who placed second at the 2020 Oregon State Middle School Girls Championships.

“Hana is a tough, tough girl, with about six years of wrestling experience. She’s also a judo kid,” Shugars said. “I took her to the Pacific Coast Athletic League girls jamboree earlier this month, where she went 3-0, all pins. If we have a top-level CCS wrestler this year, it’ll probably be her.”

Knoblich wrestled at 124 pounds as an eighth grader, but is one of multiple Carmel wrestlers weighing around 150 on this year’s team.

“We’re running into the same thing we’ve



Sophomore Hana Knoblich (light blue shirt), a newcomer to Carmel High, was a second-place medalist in middle school at Oregon’s girls state tournament two years ago.

encountered in the past — we have to figure out how to spread these kids out and fill some weight classes,” said the coach.

The only junior, Gabe Colborn, who weighs between 150 and 160, already has impressed Shugars with his toughness.

Sophomore Jason Baker wrestled two years at Carmel Middle School and showed athleticism on Carmel’s junior varsity football team in the fall. He’s likely to compete at 135 or 140.

Some of the logjam at the weight divisions around 150 should work itself out before Christmas as the athletes work themselves into better condition.

Priority is conditioning

“November for us is about getting in shape. We do a lot more cardio before the holidays than we do in January

Continues next page



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

Dylan Fitzpatrick went to the CCS tournament in 2020 as a 113-pound sophomore, but is likely to wrestle at 132 for the Padres this season.

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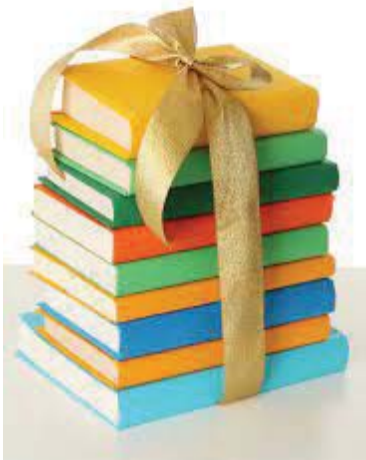
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Obituaries: Anne Papineau (831) 274-8654 • anne@carmelpinecone.com

From previous page

and February," Shugars said. "In wrestling, you need the cardio of a distance runner, the strength of a gymnast, and the toughness of a football player. It's a tough sport."

The good news, said the coach, is the level of enthusiasm he sees at practice and the work ethic he's witnessed so far.

"Working hard is fun for this bunch — that's just how they are, and those are the kind of kids who make good wrestlers," he said. "Most are multi-sport athletes at Carmel High, which is something we encourage."

The underclassmen will see a level playing field in Carmel's first tournament of the season, Harbor High's freshman/sophomore meet, scheduled Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m.

A busy December calendar also includes a triple-dual meet at 5 p.m. Wednesday at Monterey High, featuring Carmel, Gonzales, and the host Toreadores.

The Padres will travel to Hollister on Dec. 11 for the Felman Duals at San Benito High, follow that up Dec. 17-18 with a dual-meet tournament at Palma, then wrap up their pre-holiday activity on Dec. 21-22 at the Pat Lovell Classic in Aptos. On Dec. 22, Knoblich is likely to compete instead at Alisal's all-girls Trojan Wrath tournament in Salinas.

Carmel will compete again this season in the PCAL's Mission Division, which also includes Watsonville, Monte Vista Christian, North Salinas, North Monterey County, Everett Alvarez, Soledad, and Christopher.

The Padres' only home event of the year, scheduled Jan. 26, will be a triple-dual that will include Everett Alvarez, Christopher, and Soledad.

■ All-PCAL football

Mission Division

First team defense — Amir Brown, linebacker (Carmel). Second team defense — Franz Weigel, lineman, Kevin Zarazua, linebacker, Sawyer Hamilton, defensive back, Wesley Rees, defensive back (Carmel). First team offense — None. Second team offense — Jack Cassidy, wide receiver (Carmel). Sportsmanship — Tristan Staehle (Carmel).

Santa Lucia Division

First team defense — Hank Schmittgens, lineman, Darnell Adler, linebacker (Stevenson). Second team defense

See SPORTS page 42A

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Matisyahu brings his Big Apple reggae Hanukkah party to Monterey

REGGAE, ROCK, rap and Orthodox Judaism all shape the music of singer **Matisyahu**, plays Saturday at the Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

Matisyahu burst on the music scene in 2005 when his

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

first single, “King Without a Crown,” became a Top 40 pop hit and topped the reggae charts. More hits followed



Along with two other musical acts, singer and guitarist Katherine Lavin plays Dec. 3 at the Monarch Pub in Pacific Grove for the monthly First Fridays celebration.

— over the next four years, the singles “One Day,” “Sunshine” and “Live Like a Warrior” all made it to No. 1 on the reggae charts, while four of his albums rose to the top of the reggae album charts. In 2006, his LP, “Youth,” received a Grammy Award nomination for Best Reggae Album.

For 16 years, the singer has celebrated Hanukkah with a series of “Festival of Lights” shows in New York City. This year, for the first time, he has expanded the series to include shows in Los Angeles and Monterey.

Next up is a Dec. 10 show by **Scarypool-party**, the stage name of singer **Alejandro Aranda**.

Showtime is 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 to \$99. The theater is located at 417 Alvarado St. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com

Welcome back Lindsay

Just five weeks after making her local debut at Folktale Winery in Carmel Valley, singer **Lindsay Ell** returns to the same site Dec. 7. Ell found commercial success in 2017 with her first country album, which topped the Canadian country charts and peaked at No. 4 on the U.S. country charts.

“Lindsay has shared the stage with some of the biggest acts in the world,” the winery announced. “We are also thrilled to welcome back **Wild and Blue** as the opener for this special evening — be sure to dress for the weather, bring blankets and get cozy in our Wine Garden with us for this special performance.”

Wild and Blue is a local Americana duo featuring singer and guitarist **Steve Bennett** and his daughter, singer **April Bennett**. The music starts at 6 p.m. Tickets start at \$55. Folktale Winery is located at 8940 Carmel Valley Road. Call (831) 293-7500.



A top-selling reggae singer who was once nominated for a Grammy Award, Matisyahu plays a special Hanukkah concert Saturday at Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

Last First Fridays in ‘21

Besides showcasing shops and galleries, Pacific Grove’s First Fridays celebration Dec. 3 also offers a stage for a trio of musical acts from 7 to 9 p.m.

At the Monarch Pub, **The Katherine Lavin Band** serves up a mix of pop and rock covers, along with original songs. Across the street at Phill’s Barber Shop, **Phill**, who plays guitar, leads a blues jam. And at Wild Fish restaurant down the street, **The Lighthouse Jazz Band** performs.

Live music Dec. 3-9

Bernardus Lodge & Spa in Carmel Valley — pianist **Tom Gastinaeu** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.) and pianist **Joe**

See MUSIC page 40A

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F O O D & W I N E

Restaurant week returns, Night Market on Fridays, and a short trip north

CULINARY WEEK will return to downtown next month after a one-year hiatus. The inaugural Carmel-by-the-Sea Culinary Week took place in January 2020, and while some similarly organized efforts in other cities and communities focus on discounts and giveaways, Amy Herzog, executive director of the tourism group that's organizing the effort, said the campaign intends to drive more business during a slow time of year.

"Some restaurant weeks are very discount-oriented, and that's not what this is intended to be," she said. "It's more about elevating the experience and everyone provid-

ing something that's not usually found on their menu."

Last year, 22 restaurants participated. Customers downloaded a free app that allowed them to check in to see special prix fixe menus, register and purchase tickets for events like tastings and demos, and take advantage of other offers and benefits, such as a free appetizer or dessert with purchase. A paper brochure and website also contained the pertinent information for those who didn't want to put another app on their phones.

Kickoff party

Herzog said the same format is planned for the next Culinary Week, but a new party proposed for Jan. 14, 2022, from 3 to 5 p.m. will get the eight-day campaign started. The kickoff would take place in the area of Mission and Sixth in the same footprint as the weekly farmers market and would feature wineries organized by the Monterey County Vintners & Growers Association, small bites provided by restaurants, and music performed by members of the Monterey Symphony. Because the event will have people enjoying alcoholic beverages on public property, organizers need the support of the community activities commission, which considered their request Nov. 9, and the city council, which has the final say.

Outgoing community activities director Ashlee Wright said at last month's meeting that Culinary Week focuses on locals, even though it will also be marketed to tourists. "It's great because it seeks to bring people to Carmel during a quiet time of the year," and shows visitors and residents alike "what our restaurants can do," she said.

Wright encouraged commissioners to support the proposed kickoff party, which Herzog said would be organized to not rely too heavily on restaurants that are already

overstressed due to lack of staff and other variables.

"It's a way to create excitement" and to give back, in a way, to the locals who have supported downtown restaurants throughout the pandemic, she said. "It's to create buzz and energy as we kick off the eight-day Carmel Culinary Week and provide something exciting, fun and community-building for our locals."

While one of Visit Carmel's goals is "to elevate Carmel-by-the-Sea as a culinary destination," she acknowledged restaurant owners' ongoing insistence that "the local client base is more important than visitors," since people who live in and around town are loyal, frequent customers who dine out all times of year.

Culinary Week will also help restaurants gain access to first-time diners, according to Herzog, and will present opportunities for media exposure. The marketing, organizing and other costs are being covered by the small tax paid

Continues next page

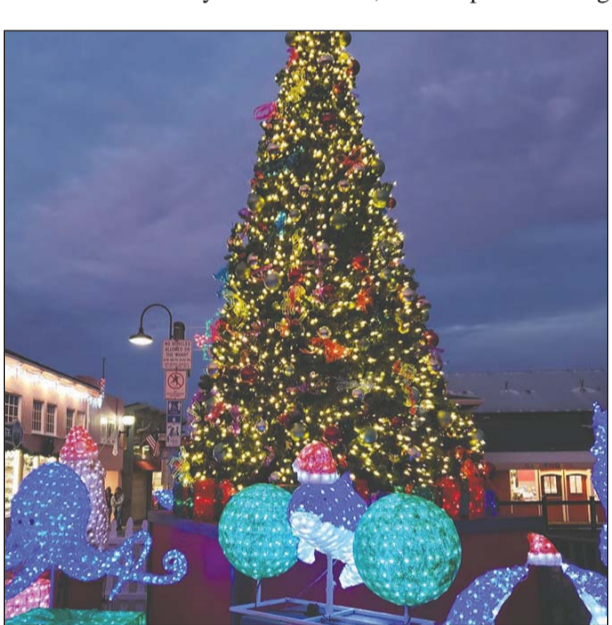
Soup to Nuts

By MARY SCHLEY

More than 1,700 people — about half of them local — downloaded the passport in 2020, according to Herzog. They also bought more than 300 tickets to various activities offered by the restaurants, such as pizza making

at Cantinetta Luca, a coffee workshop at Stationaery and mezcal tasting at Cultura.

ing something that's not usually found on their menu."



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From previous page

by restaurant customers that's collected by the city and given to Visit Carmel.

"Any restaurant that wants to be a part of it can be a part of it," she said, adding that 29 establishments have already stepped up.

The community activities commission embraced the idea of the kickoff party and unanimously voted to recommend the city council approve Herzog's request for permission to serve alcohol on public property.

■ Sand City night market

Starting Dec. 3 and continuing the first Friday of every month, the Sand City Art Park will host Night Market 831, which is being organized by Good Vibez Presents



The pizzas at David Kinch's Mentone restaurant in Aptos are wood-fired with tender, chewy crusts and various toppings, some classic, and some not so much.

and Cali Roots. Held in the city's West End District, the market "will feature an eclectic mix of local creators including Eclipse Creations, Wild Iris Art, Leah Mark Designs and Chris Powers and delicious dinner served up by Wings Uncommon, Central Coastan Pizza and Oli's Cheesesteaks."

"Sip on beer and wine provided by Post No Bills or yummy coffee drinks from Nitrocycle while strolling with a bouquet of churros from Mmm Churros! or treats from Mac City Macarons," organizers said.

In addition, the Arts Council of Monterey and Paint Not Perfection will offer interactive art experiences, and Jami Stewart Photography will host a winter wonderland photo booth. Matt Masih and the Messengers will provide some tunes.

Night Market 831 runs from 4 to 8 p.m. in the Sand City Art Park at 525 Ortiz Ave. It's free.

■ Be merry at Holman Ranch

The Holman Ranch tasting room in the former Will's Fargo restaurant in Carmel Valley Village is holding a holiday-inspired gathering Friday, Dec. 10, from 4 to 7 p.m. The open house will include pinot noir flights, mulled wine, hors d'oeuvres and sweet treats, as well as "festive crafting and relaxation."

Tickets, available at exploretock.com, are \$40 for the general public day-party and \$25 for wine club members, who should email meghan@

See **FOOD** next page

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FOOD & WINE

FOOD

From previous page

holmanranch.com for their discounted tickets. The tasting room is located at 18 W. Carmel Valley Road. See holmanranch.com for other information.

Our friends to the north

Anyone heading north to do a little off-Peninsula shopping or embark on a road trip might want to stop off at The Power Plant, a coffee shop and store opened by artists/designers Chuck Drake and Sally Russell during the pandemic. It's located across from the Moss Landing smokestacks at 7990 Highway 1 and is celebrating a year in business.

The duo says they "have created a breathtaking, artistic habitat of plants, conscientious food, curated gifts, awesome coffee and cool vibes," with espresso and coffee drinks made with locally roasted Acme beans, baked goods from Ad Astra, and other items ideal for picking up at a way station.

"The industrial space houses 25-foot ceilings with floor-to-ceiling glass, plants and more plants, a beautiful abstract floral mural painted by Russell, as well as recycled eco hangings created from black cod fishing traps," and it's full of plants, herbs and flowers, they said. The shop features a healthy selection of books, too.

An anniversary party will be held there Dec. 4 from 1

to 5 p.m., with a live jazz trio, wood-fired pizza, local vendors and artisans, and the opening of their new succulent garden and seasonal Christmas tree farm. Call (831) 318-0908 or visit thepowerplant.store for more information.

Mentone

A little farther up Highway 1 in Aptos, David Kinch (Manresa and Bywater in Los Gatos) is pleasing palates at his new Mentone restaurant with cuisine inspired by "the Riviera from Nice to a bit past Genoa."

Located in a new residential/commercial development off Soquel Drive, the space exhibits humor and kitsch similar to those found at Nola-inspired Bywater, including an eclectic collection of artwork and a tiled oven emblazoned with the Rolling Stones logo plus a slice of pizza.

Food is prepared with Kinch's typical precision and attention to detail, from the endive salad with slivered Brussels sprouts, apples, arugula, crisp prosciutto and finely grated pecorino, to the agnolotti — perfect pillows

of pasta with black truffle, mascarpone, brie, parmesan and crescenza, a fresh, creamy Italian cow's-milk cheese.

Mentone's pizzas — a half-dozen different options are on the menu — are impressive, too.

The Funghi, for instance, comes with chanterelle and cremini mushrooms, coppa, caciocavallo (a cheese from Southern Italy), red onion, oregano and a bit of balsamic, and the crust is chewy, tender and well balanced with the toppings.

(A tip: If ordering this lineup, don't let the server remove the agnolotti bowl and plates, so you can soak up the rest of the creamy pasta sauce with the pizza crust.)

Mentone has a full bar with a selection of signature cocktails of various persuasions, all carefully made and presented — and many containing ingredients that require Googling (or asking your server). They've got some clever names, too.

See **MORE FOOD** page 43A

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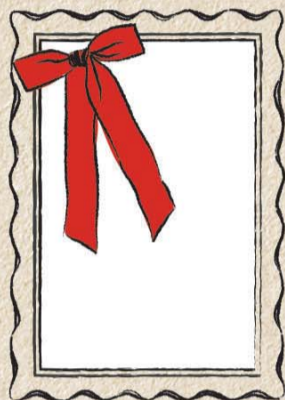
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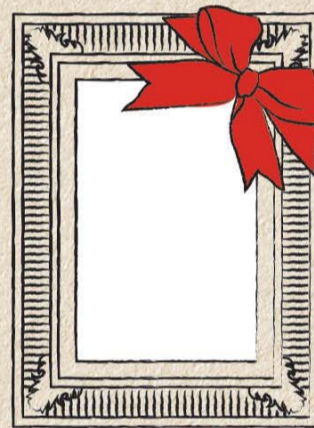
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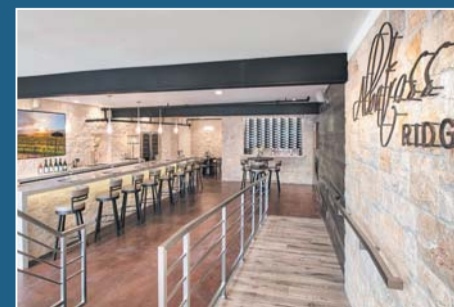
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MUSIC

From page 36A

Indence (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.). In the Lucia Restaurant & Bar at 415 W. Carmel Valley Road, (831) 658-3400.

Blue Fox Cellars in Carmel Valley — singer and keyboardist **Bronwyn Koryn** (pop and jazz, Saturday at 1 p.m.). 25 Pilot Road, (831) 298-7457.

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 — **The Dave Holodiloff Duo** (jazz and bluegrass, Sunday at 7 p.m.), singers **Lee Durley** and **Scotty Wright** (jazz and r&b, Tuesday at 7 p.m.) and **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz and swing, Wednesday at 7 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St., (831) 649-8151.

Folktales Winery in Carmel Valley — singer **Lindsay Ell** (country and pop, Tuesday at 5 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road, (831) 293-7500.

Gusto Pasta and Pizza in Seaside — singer **Jaqui Hope** and keyboardist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.). 1901 Fremont Blvd., (831) 899-5825.

Henry Miller Library in Big Sur — singer and guitarist **Laura Marling** (Sunday at 8 p.m.). On Highway 1 28 miles south of Carmel, (831) 667-2574.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Saturday and Thursday at 7 p.m.).



Country singer and guitarist Lindsay Ell returns Tuesday to Folktales Winery in Carmel Valley, where she played in October.

120 Highlands Drive, (831) 620-1234.

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

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

La Playa Hotel — **The David Morwood Band** (jazz, Sunday at 4 p.m.). Camino Real, (800) 582-8900.

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — singer **Haley Jane** (rock, Friday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **John Sherry** (rock, folk and blues, Saturday at 6 p.m.) and singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (blues and rock Sunday at 6 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive, (831) 624-3811.

Lucy's On Lighthouse in Pacific Grove — **The Transducers** (funk and rock, Sunday at 2 p.m.). 1120 Lighthouse Ave., (831) 920-2006.

Massa Tasting Room in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (folk, Sunday at 2:30 p.m.). 69 W. Carmel Valley Road, (831) 659-6221.

Midici Pizza in Monterey — singer **Scotty Wright** and keyboardist **Jon Dryden** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.) and singer **Miranda Perl** and keyboardist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Thursday at 5 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St., (831) 264-7013.

Mission Ranch — singer and pianist **Maddalaine Edstrom** (jazz and pop, Friday through Sunday at 5 p.m.) and pianist **Gennady Loktionov** (jazz, Monday through Thursday at 5 p.m.). 26270 Dolores St., (831) 625-9040.

Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa — saxophonist and keyboardist **Gary Meek** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (pop, rock and jazz, Saturday at

6 p.m.), guitarist **Javier Sanchez** (Latin, Sunday at 1 p.m.) and pianist **Martan Mann** (jazz, Sunday at 6 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row, (831) 646-1700.

Puma Road at Portola Plaza in Monterey — singer and guitarist **Linda Arceo** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Anthony Presti** (Saturday at 5 p.m.) and singer and guitarist **Tom Faia** with singer **Kate Miller** (Sunday at 2 p.m.). 281 Alvarado St., (831) 747-1911.

Rio Grill — singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Friday at 5 p.m.) singer and guitarist **Johan Sotelo** (Saturday at noon) and singer and guitarist **Scott Slaughter** (Sunday at noon). Crossroads shopping center, (831) 625-5436.

Sand City Art Park — **Matt Masih & The Messengers** (funk, reggae and soul, Friday at 5 p.m.). 525 Ortiz Ave.

Sly McFly's in Monterey — **The Money Band** (pop and rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **The Joint Chiefs** (funk, jazz and r&b, Saturday at 9 p.m.) **The Stingrays** (rock, Sunday at 8:30 p.m.), **The Long Distance Flyers** (rock, Monday at 9 p.m.), **Rhythm Tribe West** (Tuesday at 9 p.m.), 5 Star (rock and soul, Wednesday at 5 p.m.) and **V & The Flipside** (r&b, soul and funk, Thursday at 5 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row, (831) 649-8050.

The Salty Seal Pub — **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Saturday at 8 p.m.). 653 Cannery Row, (831) 920-2327. 700 Cannery Row, (831) 649-8050.

Tarpy's in Monterey — singer and guitarist **Kevin Pfeffer** (Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (Saturday at noon) and singer and guitarist **Johan Sotelo** (Sunday at noon). 2999 Highway 68, (831) 647-1444.

Trailside Cafe in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (folk, Friday at 6 p.m.) and **Deja Vu** (rock, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place, (831) 298-7453.

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Stocking stuffers galore: ‘The Art of Giving’ sprouts up at downtown gallery

AFTER THE Carmel Art Association decided to forgo its annual Miniatures exhibit this December, the display somehow ended up happening anyway, but with a different name.

“We decided not to do a formal Miniatures show this year,” gallery manager Sally Aberg told The Pine Cone. “But we wanted to have some choices in the gallery for

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

people who are looking for holiday gifts.”

Because people love to give away small paintings as gifts, Aberg encouraged the CAA’s artists to “work small.” In response, they buried her with submissions.

“Lo and behold, the response was over the top,” she reported. “We have several hundred small-sized artworks in all mediums and subjects — it’s just incredible.”

The holiday sale is titled “The Art of Giving.”

Starting at \$50, the small paintings were created by just about everyone on the gallery’s roster of artists. “Everyone from ‘A’ to ‘Y’ participated,” Aberg added. “That’s everyone from Benjamin Anderson to Vern Yadon.”

The show runs through early afternoon Dec. 31. The gallery is located on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth. carmelart.org

■ Unusual ‘photo’ wins top prize, \$\$

One of the more inventive images in the Center for Photographic Art’s annual International Juried Competition took 1st Place, earning the photographer, Liz Steketee, a cash prize of \$2,500. The awards were presented during an online reception Nov. 20.

“It’s a triptych,” explained executive director Ann Jastrab of the winning piece. “There are three sticks and each

has a photograph of a deceased relative wrapped around it, along with thread and varnish.”

According to Steketee, the image explores “photography as a sacred object.”

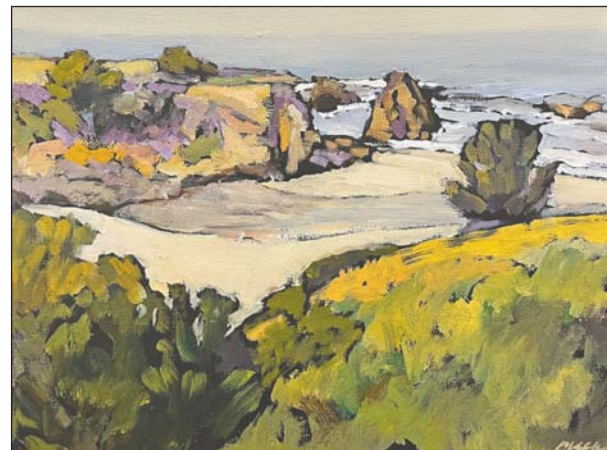
As she explains it, “the process of wrapping then sewing the fabric permanently around the object, acts as a meditation on memory, loss and the cycle of life.”

Other winners include Bootsy Holler, whose “Wanda — Radioactive” took 2nd Place, and Michelle Sank, whose “Kylie” took 3rd Place.

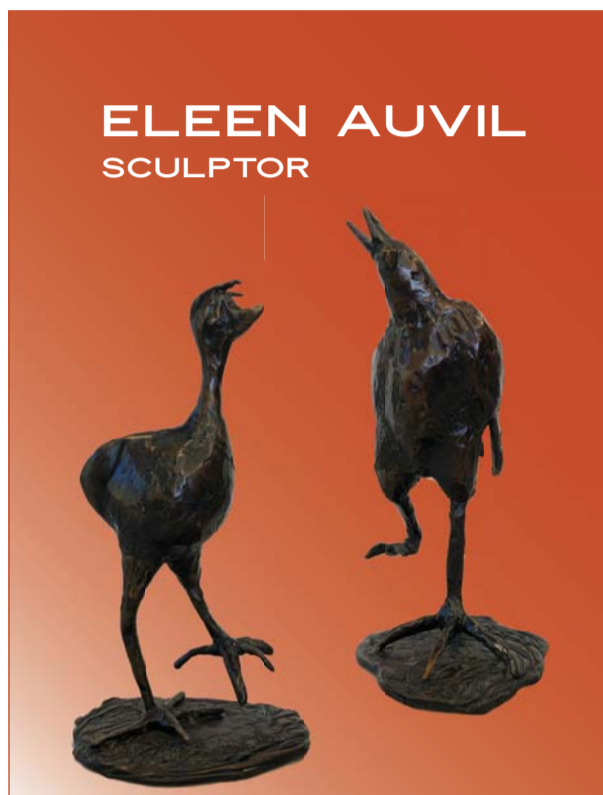
The center also intends to name a People’s Choice winner. “You can still come in and cast your vote,” Jastrab added.

The show, which is on display through Dec. 30, was assembled by jurors Debra Klomp Ching and Darren Chin, who own the Klompching Gallery in New York City. They received 2,200 entries and selected 45.

The gallery is located in Sunset Center at San Carlos and Ninth. photography.org.



Peggy’s Olsen’s miniature painting, “Seaside Overlook,” is just one of many pieces available this month at the CAA — just in time for the holidays.



ELEEN AUVIL
SCULPTOR



View available works at the Carmel Art Association and online.

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(shown, left to right)
Goofing Off (bronze) 10.5 x 6 x 4.5 in
Dancing Crow (bronze) 9.5 x 5 x 5 in

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SPORTS

From page 34A

— Audon Forgas, linebacker, Thomas Lansbury, linebacker, Kai Kobrak, linebacker, Trent Toole, defensive back, Rider McCormick, defensive back (Stevenson). First team offense — Evan Johnson, wide receiver, Alex Ahuja, lineman (Stevenson). Second team offense — Kyle McTamaney, quarterback, Charles Du, running back; Alex Carroll, lineman (Stevenson). Sportsmanship — Matthew Tam (Stevenson).

Alumni watch

Fox sparks Marist — Santa Catalina product McKinley Fox (Class of '18) was the primary setter as a senior for the Marist College women's volleyball team

in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., leading the Red Foxes with 1,096 assists in 29 matches — all starts. She was third on the squad in service aces (25), helping Marist to a 17-13 overall record, 12-6 in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

At Santa Catalina, Fox was a two-time Most Valuable Player in the Mission Trail Athletic League, leading the Cougars to a 54-2 record, two CCS crowns, and two NorCal championship games as a junior and senior. She was Monterey County's Player of the Year as a junior, a three-time all-county selection and All-MTAL all four years.

Ruiz, Crabbe shine — Carmel High graduates Karoline Ruiz and Emma Crabbe lifted Santa Barbara City College to its first opening-round victory since 2016 in the SoCal Regional Playoffs on Tuesday, when the Vaqueros, ranked No. 5 in the nation, defeated 12th-ranked Golden West 26-24,

25-17, 25-18.

Crabbe, the setter, tied her season-best performance with six kills and had 34 assists and nine digs. Ruiz, a middle blocker, was credited with eight kills and four blocks. Both are freshmen at SBCC.

The Vaqueros, 23-5 overall, lost to Grossmont in Saturday's quarterfinal round.

Ruiz and Crabbe were teammates at Carmel High (Class of '20) and went to the CCS playoffs four years in a row. Both players were All-Gabilan Division and all-county as seniors.

Ortiz at Academy of Art — Steven-

son School alumnus Rolando Ortiz was a forward and midfielder as a redshirt freshman at Academy of Art University in San Francisco, where he appeared in 12 of the team's 14 games, playing 347 minutes.

Ortiz also appeared in five matches during the Covid-shortened 2020 season, after which he was granted an additional year of NCAA eligibility.

He was a 2020 graduate from Stevenson, where he was a four-year varsity starter, team captain, and leading scorer for the Pirates.

Ortiz is an animation and visual effects major at the Academy of Art.



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

D.J. Meheen (left), a CCS qualifier two years ago, returns to Carmel's lineup for his senior year at 152 pounds. Carmel coach Russ Shugars (right) will focus on teaching fundamentals and techniques to a team that has 12 sophomores and a freshman on the varsity roster.

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MORE FOOD

From page 39A

Mentone is open Wednesday through Sunday from 5 to 9 p.m. for dinner, with the bar staying open until 10 on Fridays and Saturdays. Reservations are recommended, but some tables and the bar are held for walk-ins. Go to mentonerestaurant.com.

Christmas on the Wharf

The 5th Annual Christmas on the Wharf begins Dec. 3 and runs every weekend through Dec. 19, with Santa visits, lots of decorations, choirs and singers, dancers, ice skating — and plenty of food.

Merchants along Fisherman's Wharf will be selling holiday cookies, hot cocoa, coffee, cider and other seasonal treats. Old Fisherman's Grotto will offer regular hot chocolate as well as cookies-and-cream and s'mores flavors — and will donate all the proceeds to The Salvation Army.

Carousel Candies, Candy World and the Wharf Chocolate Factory will, of course, be selling Christmas confections, and restaurants are expected to offer holiday specials, too.

For more information and the schedule of Christmas on the Wharf activities, go to montereywharf.com.

Brandon Miller Zoom demo

Chef Brandon Miller (formerly of Mundaka and Il Grillo, among other notable spots) will host Everyone's Harvest's final Zoom cooking demo of the year Dec. 7

from 4 to 5 p.m., when he'll focus on preparing side dishes with winter produce like squash, Brussels sprouts and root vegetables.

To join, go to zoom.us and enter meeting ID 871 4789 7365 and passcode 264018.

CALENDAR



Dec. 4 through 18 – Help celebrate Peninsula Potters Holiday Sale.

Open noon to 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. Everything is 20 percent off! 2078 Sunset Drive, Pacific Grove, in the Russell Service Center. Questions? Call (831) 372-8867

Dec. 4 – Artist Barbara Rogers will speak at a reception in honor of her exhibit, "Botanical Therapy," 5 p.m. at Conway of Asia Gallery and Gifts, Mission between Fifth and Sixth, Carmel-by-the-Sea. Show continues through Feb. 2, 2022. Details: www.conwayofasia.com

Dec. 5 – Sunday at Olivia & Daisy – A Book Boutique: Meet 10 local authors along with our namesakes, 2 miniature donkeys. 1 to 3 p.m. Refreshments, a free prize drawing and a percentage of sales benefits CASA. 13766 Center St. in Carmel Valley Village. (831) 620-9290

Dec. 6 – 2 p.m. It's a Jo Mora Celebration and Christmas Party at the Carmel Woman's Club when acclaimed author Peter Hiller presents a specially curated power point presentation and talk on the iconic artist's works. Attendees

will receive a souvenir replica of Mora's rarely seen Christmas card drawings, and a package of holiday wrapped cookies. The Carmel Woman's Club is at Ninth and San Carlos in Carmel. Members free; guests \$3. Reservations not necessary but masks required. (831) 624-2866 or (831) 594-6200.

Dec. 10 & 11 – Christmas in the Adobes – Celebrate the season 5 to 9 p.m. during this two-night self-guided walking tour event featuring entertainment and decor at over a dozen historic buildings in downtown Monterey. Tickets and info: www.MSHPA.org

Dec. 11 & 12 – Carmel Mission Basilica – I Cantori di Carmel kicks off its 40th year by presenting Mozart's jubilant Krönungsmesse (Coronation Mass) with chorus, soloists and orchestra. Works by Bach, Praetorius, Poulenc & Reger will round out the performance. 8 p.m. Dec. 11 and 12, 3080 Rio Road, Carmel. Tickets at icantori.org.

Through Dec. 24 – Baum & Blume's Holiday Boutique is open! The most inspired gifts and holiday décor displayed in a "woody" atmosphere! Handmade artisanal items, tree ornaments, clothing, accessories, children's books, gourmet items & more! Shop 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Sat. (831) 659-0400. Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley.

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ARTIST

From page 27A

with watercolors. It's a very pleasant memory for me and becoming an artist became a big dream for me."

After graduating from Alameda High School, Massey moved on to UC Berkeley, where she minored in fine art while earning a bachelor's degree in political economy.

"I was mortally terrified of becoming a starving artist and I thought studying political science and economics

might be a good background for pre-law," she said. "But I also worked about 35 hours a week to keep my bills paid while I was in college, and by the time I graduated I was so exhausted that I didn't want to go to law school — or, at least, not right away."

Her own company

Instead, she migrated to different jobs, primarily working as a marketing manager for small software companies in Silicon Valley for 12 years and ultimately starting her own business development company.

She met software engineer Todd Massey through work, married him in 1999, then moved with him to northern Colorado, where he could live closer to his 10-year-old son.

He started a successful company there, but she encountered a difficult job market.

"I couldn't find a job to save my life — I even tried volunteering at a few places, but nobody seemed to want me," she said. "I finally threw up my hands and said, 'Well, you know what? We can afford it, so I'm going to do what I've always wanted to do, which is art.'"

Her transition into a full-time artist was juggled with motherhood — their first son, Wyatt, was born in 2003, and their second, Maverick, came along in 2007 — but Massey sought instruction at the Colorado Academy of Art and the Loveland Academy of Art, and studied for more than eight years with plein air painter Barbara Marquardt, who changed her style and her career trajectory.

"Barbara was 80 by the time I met her — her heyday was in the 1960s — but she was a marvel," Massey said. "I used to paint very tight, detailed photorealism, and she taught me her own method — painting in layers — which is a very organic way of painting. I feel like she gave me my freedom as an artist."

Returning to California

When her sons became school age, Massey brought them back to the Monterey Peninsula, where in 2011, with Marquardt's blessing, she began teaching the paint-in-lay-

ers method she uses today, favoring the impressionist and expressionist styles.

"There are different techniques for how to paint a wave, a tree, or anything else — perspective, linear atmosphere, how to use color, how to design your canvas ... those are the craftsman's tools," said Massey, who uses traditional brushwork, but also palette knives — sometimes on the same painting.

"If I'm painting a beach, or a wave, I want it to be what I see and how I choose to interpret it, as opposed to realistic."

Meanwhile, she said, teaching others has helped her own growth as an artist.

"When you're teaching, you're always analyzing another artist's work, trying to help them get better," she said. "You also have to understand the concepts you're teaching and be able to communicate them. All of that has been tremendous, because I've become much better at analyzing my paintings and fixing them if they're broken."

Images of Massey's art and information about her classes and workshops can be found online at marie-massey.com. Visit 620 On The Avenue (620 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove) to see her paintings on display.

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

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The Carmel Pine Cone

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We're lucky to have such devoted readers ...

- **"We love our charming newspaper and the pleasure we get from reading it with our morning coffee every week, hopefully in a cozy cafe in Carmel. Please never stop the paper newspaper."**
- **"The Carmel Pine Cone is an informative, well written newspaper. Lots of hard work goes into this fine publication. Keep moving forward!"**
- **"Last year wasn't great for my family, but I have to let you know that when I turn on the computer on Friday morning or the weekend and see the Pine Cone, I smile."**
- **"Thank you for your weekly emails. Even though I've lived in France since 2008, I read the Carmel Pine Cone almost every week as I still have many friends and some family in the area."**
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- **"Tho' I live 300 miles away and visit the Peninsula only once a year (for the last 35 years), I enjoy your newspaper from the first to the last page every week online and I thank you for that."**
- **"Keep up the great reporting! I like reading the truth without the spin unlike other local papers."**
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- **"When in Tucson, I look forward to Friday mornings with great anticipation so I can download the week's edition of the Pine Cone and read it cover to cover. This helps me feel connected to this very special community. When in our beloved Carmel, each Friday morning I jump in our electric car with our golden retriever, Daisy, by my side and race down to Ocean and Mission to get the newest edition. Daisy insists on carrying it in her mouth the entire way home. We have so much to be proud of in Carmel and the Pine Cone sits near the top of the list."**
- **"Thanks for the opportunity to read this wonderful little paper. It is much appreciated."**
- **"We've been email subscribers to the Pine Cone for a year now, ever since we bought a house in Carmel (we still live in Minnesota but will be retiring in a few years— can't wait!) I really enjoy reading about our future home town."**
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