

Class of 2023

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

They zoomed through high school, and now they're moving on

By ELAINE HESSER

AS YOUNG people across the Peninsula slip on their gowns and create a run on bobby pins to keep those caps in place, friends and family will gather in anticipation of the big moment — high school graduation, the unofficial beginning of adulthood.

It's all very heady stuff, and some graduates have more stuff in their heads than others. These scholars are ready to chase their dreams and, with a little luck, make the world a better place.

Here are the academic stars of the Class of 2023.

Carmel High School

Carmel High has been part of a national trend of recognizing exceptional academic performance by setting a high bar (using a somewhat complicated system of standards that include grades and required classes/credits) and declaring that anyone who reaches it is worthy of being called a valedictorian.

This year, 29 students achieved that goal. They are: **James Ahn, Heather Albiol, Greta Beesley, Julia Blakely, Cassidy**



(Top, left to right) Sierra Wouden-Crosno, Gerald Marnel, Hannah Shu, Jack Norman, Lillian Paul, (bottom, left to right) Tarn Reilly, Siri Panetta, Clare Cook, Ryleigh Teague and Will Coen.

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CONGRATULATIONS

To the Class of 2023, we wish you success wherever your journeys may take you. Stevenson will always be one of your homes in the world, and we can't wait to welcome you back.

ONCE A PIRATE, ALWAYS A PIRATE!

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Carmel High School Foundation 2023 Scholarship Recipients

VISION AWARDS

Zaiden Bode	Valentina McGuire Torres	Cassidy Bullas
Sophia Cho	Sarah Ponce Curiel	Ashley Reyes Solano
Stella Foster	Gerry Marnell	Dayanara Rivera
	Elvira Guerrero	

STAR AWARDS

Emma Brown	Jack Norman	Hannah Shu
Nathan Chen	Riley Palshaw	Andrew Wang
Sophia Cho	Teagan Puryear	Grace Wang
Maggie Johnston	Ella Rasmussen	

RON STONEY EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS PROGRAM AWARDS

Jose Gonzales	Timmy Marnell	Julia Stenvick
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TYLER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Shayla Dutta	Daisyre Duenas Paz
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CLASS OF 2023

A bumpy ride for local athletes

By DENNIS TAYLOR

THOSE GOODBYE hugs on Graduation Day might last a tad longer for the Class of '23, whose journey toward adulthood included a pandemic that took away much of the social interaction that is such a critical part of high school.

Most will remember that time-dragging experience in 2020 and 2021 for its mandatory facemasks, elbow bumps instead of handshakes, closed campuses that forced remote learning and a suspension of athletics, with little or no socializing.

'Introspection and reflection'

"The main thing I have taken away from the Covid year is the importance of a social life at school, outside of an academic setting," said Santa Catalina's **Uso Atuegbu**, a varsity volleyball player, dancer and scholar (3.99 GPA) who will major in neuroscience this fall at the University of Southern California.

"But for me, it was also a year of personal introspection and reflection," she said. "I took a lot of time for myself that year, and I think that helped mold me into a better person once life started going back to normal."

Atuegbu's favorite memories include a halftime dance performance during a

Santa Cruz Warriors professional basketball game and dancing in multiple school variety shows, including Catalina's 2022 spring musical, "The Addams Family."

Quincy Key left her robust social life in Albuquerque as a ninth grader, moving with her family from New Mexico to Monterey after her dad, Doug Key, was named headmaster at York School, where the academic rigor initially challenged her and the pandemic interfered with sports.

"I've been a swimmer all my life, since I was 4 or 5, but I quit during my freshman year, feeling burned out on the sport, and I didn't swim as a sophomore because of Covid," said Key, who, as a senior, became the Pacific Coast Athletic League champion in the 50- and 100-yard freestyles, placing eighth in the Central Coast Section in the 100-yard as a senior. She'll swim in the fall as a scholarship athlete at San Jose State.

'I'll remember the teachers'

Despite the pandemic, Key made the best of her time. She played on York's boys water polo team, tested herself in varsity volleyball and was the highest-scoring

SPORTS cont. page 38A



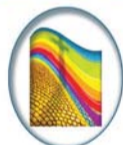
Uso Atuegbu

Quincy Key

Ava Marshall

Gabe Colborn

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2023

College Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations!

Our prayers and best wishes go with you!

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 Yulissa Camerillo Vargas Renewal • Fresno State	 Anna Chassion Renewal • UCLA	 James Devine Monterey HS • Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	 Luke Franklin Renewal • Grace Pasadena	 Elisabeth Gage Renewal • Belmont Univ.	 Yareli Ibarra Soledad HS • Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
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 Brandon McGuire Trinity Christian HS • Oklahoma State Univ.	 Cameron McGuire Trinity Christian HS • McPherson Univ.	 Christopher Miller Renewal • Boise State Univ.	 Eliot Myers Carmel HS • UC San Diego	 Victoria Panganiban Renewal • Hartnell	 Dominic Panganiban Renewal • San Diego State Univ.
 Josae Perez Rancho San Juan HS • Hartnell	 Roberto Perez Renewal • CSUMB	 Cary Phillips Renewal • University of Utah	 Ellory Rayne Renewal • UC Davis	 Amado Reese Trinity Christian HS • Grand Canyon Univ.	 Haley Sanders Notre Dame HS • Coe College
 Amaris Santiago Renewal • Hartnell	 Dakota Smith Seaside HS • Grand Canyon Univ.	 Ariana Smith Renewal • Univ. of Alabama	 Sophie Southard Carmel HS • Westmore College	 Justin Wang Monterey HS • UC Davis	 Oliver Whittaker Renewal • UCLA

CLASS OF 2023

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Bullas, Nathan Chen, Sophia Cho, Clare Cook, Anooj Desai, Fenris Hadi, Beatrice Marina Hobson, Jack Lyon, Gerald Marnell, Noah Mayer, Sage Melton, Jack Norman, Riley Palshaw, Siri Panetta, Lillian Paul, Ella Rasmussen, Zack Seifert, Owen Shirrell, Hannah Shu, Ryleigh Teague, Lillian Trokel, Grace Wang, Andrew Wang, Calla Woodruff-Lyons and Sierra Wouden-Crosno.

The Pine Cone spoke to five of them, starting with its own student-correspondent, **Riley Palshaw**.

Palshaw has been a co-editor of the student newspaper, The Sandpiper. "I grew up in that classroom, waiting for Dad at the end of the day," she recalled, referring to Sandpiper advisor Mike Palshaw. In the past year, she's also written articles for The Pine Cone on topics as diverse as stadium lights and what to get your teenager for Christmas.



Riley Palshaw

She has already explored several aspects of news media with internships and projects during the school year and a two-week stint at the School of the New York Times last summer. Unsurprisingly, she's going to journalism school at the University of Missouri, which has the oldest such undergraduate program in the country.

Palshaw played field hockey, basketball, softball and lacrosse, and took two years of sports medicine classes. She's volunteered to teach kids at River School and Tularcitos Elementary about coral reefs as part of the CHS Coral Club, as well.

Beatrice Hobson, who goes by **Mari-**

na, loved the music department at CHS, calling it "a really welcoming community." Hobson plays the bassoon, saxophone and clarinet, and has participated in the school's concert band, jazz band and pit band. College means a wintertime arrival at Middlebury College in Vermont next February, after a gap semester.

During that time, Hobson will participate in an eight-week Juneau Ice Field Research Program in Alaska and spend several months studying Spanish while traveling through South America. (To read more about that planned adventure, see page 36A.) At Middlebury, a major in environmental science is in the works.

Hobson was on the swim team and participated in track and field, and her hobbies include running ultramarathons, going as far as 100 kilometers (62 miles) in 14 to 16 hours without a break. "There was some walking mixed in," Hobson said. "It's just a fun thing to do."

Here's something telling about **Hannah Shu**, the school orchestra's concertmaster: When she wanted to invest in a new violin, she found the process complicated, so she invented an app to analyze data using soundwaves and other information to help people pick the best violin for their needs.

These days, she's stepping out of the classical comfort zone and learning to improvise with some friends who play jazz. She'll be going to Stanford in the fall to study physics and engineering.

Shu has competed in science and engineering fairs and had an internship at the Naval Postgraduate School. She's also president of the physics club and the school's TEDx club, which arranges local TED talks.

Lillian Paul arrived here with her family from Pittsburgh, Pa., the summer before her freshman year. She made a lot of friends by participating in swimming and volleyball. Her two art classes — she said

ACHIEVERS cont. page 39A

CARMEL HIGH CLASS OF 2023



Kennedy Cade

Congratulations! We are so proud of all you've accomplished at Carmel High. Your future is bright and beautiful.

Love you so much,
Mom, Dad, and Hudson

Tennessee Bound. GO VOLS!

Congratulations Graduates!

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CLASS OF 2023

Taking some time out of the classroom

By RILEY PALSHAW

IN HOPES of getting a break from the school routine — and a taste of adventure instead — Carmel High School 2023 graduate Marina Hobson will be participating in a glacier research and ski mountaineering program in Juneau, Alaska, and traveling to South America to study Spanish and environmental science before entering Middlebury College in Vermont next January.

Hobson's journey will begin June 10 with the Juneau Icefield Research Program, an eight-week field research course run by the University of Maine that combines glacier mountaineering skills with investigation and experimentation. Students spend six weeks on Juneau's icefield learning about glacier science before coming up with their own research projects and presenting them to peers at the end of the course. In Juneau and in Atlin, British Columbia, there will be additional educational opportunities and lessons, as participants can receive college credit for their work.

"I have really no background in glacier science so I'm pretty much a beginner in this," said Hobson, "but I look forward to learning more about this and it's really interesting to me."

Machu Picchu

Arriving back in Carmel the first week of August, the adventurous graduate will only be home about a month before taking flight again mid-September. This time, Hobson will head to the jungles of South America with the Where There Be Dragons gap year program, a three-month excursion focused on Spanish immersion and environmental science in Bolivia and Peru.

Participants not only learn about local spiritual traditions, social justice and leadership techniques, but also engage in

rigorous treks through the Andes Mountains, Amazon basin and other large rainforests. Through camping at Machu Picchu, exploring issues in land use among the Amazonian tropics and partaking in a homestay in Bolivia, Hobson hopes this 81-day trip will provide opportunities to build bilingual skills and gain knowledge in environmental conservation and sustainability.

"I really want to study more Spanish in college, so this will definitely give me a head start on that," Hobson said.

Taking multiple courses at CHS in science, technology, engineering or mathematics led Hobson to a clear choice about how to spend time after graduation. "I've always been really focused on STEM in high school and I'm planning on doing that in college, so both programs have an environmental science focus that ties in with my intended major."

After completing the gap semester, Hobson plans on studying environmental science at Middlebury with a focus in writing and intends to head down the scientific research pathway. The more immediate focus is on the journey ahead and all of the learning that will come with it.

"There's so many new things coming up in the next few months," said Hobson. "It's kind of terrifying, but I'm so ready to have a break from the routine of school."



Marina Hobson



Robert Nikolas Hubbard So much to celebrate!

Oregon State Bound - Mechanical Engineering Golden State Merit Seal, High Honors, STEM, Robotics Driver, Community Service, Biker, CCS Water Polo, Backpacker, Car Enthusiast

We are so proud of you! Mom, Dad and Thalia



Congratulations Chartwell High School Class of 2023

With over 100 college acceptances and nearly \$1.5 million in scholarship offers, the Class of 2023 has proven to be one of the most dynamic and creative classes in the history of Chartwell High School.

We look forward to seeing your passions - environmental design, engineering, horse training, automotive science, communications, cosmetology, medicine, education, and more - flourish as you advance into the next chapter of your extraordinary journeys.

Because not all great minds think alike.



Gabe Aquino



Emily Arrellano



Emma Behl



Tilly Garcia



Analeia Glover



Tyler Juve



Zoë Kaiser



Aisha Kobayashi



Karma Maras



Emmett Marks



Not pictured: Eli Morton

CLASS OF 2023

Bouncing back from 'no'

By MIA SCHLENKER

AS MEMBERS of the Class of 2023 embarked on the college application process, local college counselors reported seeing record-breaking lows in acceptance rates from schools, forcing many high-achieving students to seek alternative paths and reevaluate their expectations.

"It's sort of like a reality check," remarked Catalina senior Piper Anderson, who didn't get into her first choice. "You kind of come back and realize you aren't going to get into every school you apply to." Despite that challenge, many students persevered in the face of adversity.

With support from families, teachers, mentors and peers, some students who were rejected by their top choice of school gained a new perspective, demonstrating resilience and adaptability.

Many concluded that they'll find the qualities in the school they thought was "the one" at other colleges — and that they might even find more supportive environments. As Stevenson School senior Lydia Yu explained, "Something that really helped me with my rejection process was thinking about it from both sides, like

you and the school just don't match well together, like in a relationship — both people have to be compatible."

While this mindset is helpful, the reality of rejection left students grappling with uncertainty and disappointment. It sometimes felt as if their hard work and achievements had gone unrecognized.

Anderson admitted, "It was challenging to redirect myself after kind of getting my heart set on a certain school. I found myself shifting from school to school and becoming really uncertain of the future. For a while, I questioned if college was even a valid option for me or if I should begin to look in other directions."

It turned out college was the right path — Anderson is excited to start classes at Chapman University in Southern California this fall.

New connections

Carmel High school senior Greg Prehn recounted a similar story: "I was shocked at first and naturally felt disappointed. I

ADAPTING *cont. page 40A*



MONTEREY PENINSULA College



From our graduates to yours, congratulations on your High School Achievements.

We can't wait to welcome you to our campus in the Fall!

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Piper Anderson



Greg Prehn



Lydia Yu

Congratulations and best wishes for a bright future to our graduating seniors!



Marina Hobson,
Carmel HS
Middlebury College,
Environmental Sciences & Writing



Robert Gomez,
Carmel HS
UCLA, Global Studies Jazz



Jazmin Morenzi,
Stevenson
Williams College, Astro-Physics



Andrea Chavez,
Seaside HS
UC Berkeley



Chris Fenstermaker,
Pacific Grove HS
Wartburg College



Elena Oh,
Santa Catalina
Dartmouth College



Oscar Yanez,
Seaside HS
UC Davis, English or Philosophy



Phoebe Jiang,
Monte Vista Christian School
UC San Diego



Joe Smockn,
York School
University of Washington
Biochemistry & Meteorology



Taylan Dincer,
Carmel HS
UC Berkeley,
Music & Cognitive Sciences



Sophia Cho,
Carmel HS
Rice University



Benjamin Appel,
Monterey HS
Monterey Peninsula College



Katie Mazerik,
Homeschool
Oregon State University-Cascades



Kai Hu,
Stevenson
UC San Diego, Neurobiology



Owen Shirrell,
Carmel HS
Oberlin College, Creative Writing



Joseph Park,
Trinity Christian HS
UC Davis



Sophie Baker,
Monterey HS



Aiden Appel,
Monterey HS
Monterey Peninsula College

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CHS CO-VALEDICTORIAN AND IRON WOMAN



SIRI PANETTA CONGRATULATIONS!

We are so proud of you and we love you,
Mom, Dad and Gia

Harvard Bound. Go Crimson!

CLASS OF 2023

SPORTS from page 34A

player in the Pacific Coast Athletic League in basketball on a team that won the Arroyo Division crown last winter. Her extracurriculars included Model UN and volunteering weekly at a local food bank.

"I'm going to miss the relationships I developed with friends and teammates, and also participating in athletics, of course," she said. "But when I think of my time at York, I think I'll remember the teachers most of all, and all of the ways they helped me with my academics. Getting accustomed to the rigorous academic expectations at York was the hardest thing for me, especially during those first two years. My teachers were extremely supportive and helped me through that time."

Gabe Colborn amassed a 4.25 GPA at Carmel High, earning a scholarship to the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York, where he'll study engineering with a goal of working for SpaceX.

Colborn captained the Padres wrestling team, ran cross country and played lacrosse, but the fact that he is a hearing-impaired student presented its own challenges and frustrations.

"Oh, where to begin?" he said. "Loud-speaker updates ... fire alarms ... assemblies ... frequent lack of closed captions ... video calls?"

And during the pandemic, Colborn, a lip reader, was surrounded by people who were wearing masks.

ATHLETES cont. page 40A



CONGRATULATIONS ASHLYNN VALDEZ

Your family is very proud of all that you accomplished.

You have grown into a confident & beautiful young lady!

Good luck attending University of Colorado Boulder

Mom, Dad, Kayla, Emily, Victoria, Grandparents Papa & Susu, and Domingo Sr., Clara & John

CARMEL HIGH CLASS OF 2023

Carmel Reads The Pine Cone

CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATES

James Ahn *◎
Heather Albiol *◎◎
Skyler Balbo◎
Brayden Barnes
Luke Barstad
Greta Beesley *◎◎
Nicola Benak ◎
Gisele Bernahl ◎
Reygan Bethea ◎
Aneel Bhatia◎
Mohamad Bitar
Ayden Blackwell
Julia Blakely *◎◎
Cinthya Blanco Resendiz
Zaiden Bode
Sophia Bone ◎◎
Benoit Boudreau ◎◎
Ryan Brennen ◎
Trevor Brinton
Emma Brown ◎◎
Brody Bruszer
Cassidy Bullas *◎◎
Elizabeth Bunch ◎
Sonja Buran◎
Dylan Byrd
Carlos Cabrera Resendiz
Thomas Cahill
Vincent Camacho ◎◎
Ava Camargo
Adam Carley ◎
Rocky Carr
Sophia Carvalho ◎
Elliot Cash
Delaney Castagna ◎
Kyoungyun Chang ◎
Nathan Chen *◎◎
Sarah Chevalier ◎
Sophia Cho *◎
Emme Chu◎
Gabriel Colborn ◎◎
Ayami Cole ◎
Clare Cook *◎
Brielle Coombs ◎
Theresa Cosentino ◎◎

Dylan Craig ◎
Imani Cunningham
Anooj Desai *◎
Avi Desai ◎
Drew Desmond ◎
Katherine Diaz Osornio
Taylan Dincer
John Dinkel II ◎
Angela Doherty ◎◎
Alexander Donkersloot ◎
Sophia Douglas
Nikos Douros ◎◎
Colin Dowse ◎
Elijah Epstein
Javier Esparza Ponce
Teodoro Espinola Ramirez ◎◎
Hudson Fallon
Tomas Farias
Jules Forrest
Caleb Fosso ◎◎
Stella Foster ◎◎
Teresa Frahm
Hannah Cate Fridrich ◎◎
Zane Fuqua
Madeline Gallagher
Grace Gargotta
Ayden Garneri ◎
Asher Garren ◎
Melina Garren ◎
Tyler Giannini ◎
Audrey Gill
Audrey Glaser ◎
Isabella Godsey
Robert Gomez ◎◎
Hannah Graessley ◎
Elvira Guerrero ◎◎
Jon Gunsel ◎◎
Fennis Hadi *◎
Julia Hadland ◎
Roslyn Hamilton ◎
William Hand ◎◎
Melia Handley ◎
Nathan Hardel
Emma Heiser ◎

Jacob Heiser ◎
Alexis Henderson ◎◎
Ryan Hendrick ◎
Marin Herro
Anna Hight ◎
Beatrice Hobson *◎
McCartney Hong ◎
Sage Hughett
Zakaria Ibessaine
Tyler Imamura ◎◎
Ethan Jackson
Skylar Jackson ◎◎
Rowan Jedinak ◎◎
Lucy Johnson
Margaret Johnston ◎◎
Brady Kasper ◎◎
Hannah Kastner
Scottie Keaton
Peyton Kelly ◎◎
Sasha Khan ◎◎
Sawyer Kridech ◎
Anna Kroeker
Cole Kroeker
Samantha Kurz ◎◎
Rory Lambert ◎
Astin Lathrop ◎
Estella Leavy ◎
Robert Lee
Jacob Lehman ◎◎
Sage Lewand ◎
Adeliza Lopez
Nuvia Lopez-Arvizu
Jack Lyon *◎◎
Piper Mahoney ◎
Gianna Mangiapane ◎
Gerald Marnell *◎◎
Omeed Maroufkhani
Mauricio Martinez-Zepeda ◎
Marie Mathews ◎
Rose Mathews ◎◎
Simona Matiyevsky ◎
Noah Mayer *◎
Riley McArdle ◎
Scarlett McColl ◎

Valentina McGuire Torres ◎◎
Sage Melton *◎◎
Brody Mendez
Liliana Menkal ◎
Christopher Michel ◎◎
Cole Montgomery
James Moreau ◎◎
Avery Morgan ◎
Eliot Myers ◎◎
Flint Nachbar ◎
Cyrus Newell
Logan Noble
Jack Norman *◎
Riley Nunez
Oluwafunmilayo Oladokun ◎◎
Elias Osorio ◎◎
Isabella Pacini Pinto
Riley Palshaw *◎◎
Siri Panetta *◎◎
Alexandra Paquelier
Abigail Paschal
Jestene Passolt
Lillian Paul *◎
Althea Payne ◎◎
Holden Pereles
Isabelle Perez - Nevarez
Sonia Perez Paz
Landon Pflieger
John Phillips Sullivan
Sarah Ponce Curiel ◎
Sonoma Pool
Gregory Prehn ◎
Cole Dahlia Prekoski ◎
Andrew Prescott
Emma Pugh
Teagan Puryear ◎◎
Angel Ramirez Lopez
Ella Rasmussen *◎◎
Montgomery Ratzliff
Luke Rauh ◎
Ashley Reyes Solano ◎
Dayanara Rivera ◎
Jackson Roby ◎
Cameron Rodgers

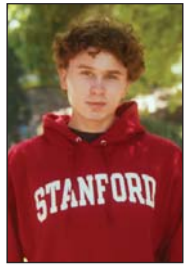
Tatum Rossi
Kennedy Rutherford ◎◎
Elise Rydeheard
Luis Salas
Slade Scarlett ◎
Sarah Schmidt ◎
Mya Schnader
Matthew Schroeder
Zack Seifert *◎◎
Kathryn Shin ◎◎
Abigail Shipnuck ◎
Owen Shirrell *◎
Hannah Shu *◎
JD Solano ◎◎
Sophia Southard ◎
Devon Speakman ◎
Riley Speidel ◎
Zane Stiebel
Toby Strawser ◎
Aidan Sweeney
Aiden Tarantino
Ryleigh Teague *◎◎
Tyler Tharp ◎
Lillian Trokel *◎◎
Ashlynn Valdez ◎
Ava Valdez ◎
Phoebe Varjian
Andrew Wang *◎
Grace Wang *◎◎
Eva West ◎
Tobey Wicks
Tyler Wiederanders ◎
Kalina Willford
Athena Wilson
Chance Wilson
Alana Witt Miller
Zander Wolf
Calla Woodruff Lyons *
Sierra Wouden-Crosno *◎◎
Maya Yamada ◎◎
Jorge Zarate ◎
Kevin Zarazua ◎◎

Valedictorian * State Seal of Bi-literacy ◎
Golden State Seal Merit Diploma ◎

C L A S S O F 2 0 2 3

ACHIEVERS from page 35A

she wished she'd taken more — introduced her to “a very nice community” within Carmel High.



Zack Seifert

Art indirectly influenced her decision to go to UC Berkeley. Although she's interested in majoring in something STEM-related, during a campus tour, she saw the school's art studio and said, “I could totally see myself taking classes there to relieve stress.” More to the point, one of the researchers with whom she worked on an internship at the Naval Postgraduate School is a Cal alum and recommended the school.

This summer, after a trip to Florida, where she plans to spend time relaxing on the beach, she'll be a lifeguard at the Stillwell Children's Pool at Lover's Point in P.G.

You might have read about **Zack Seifert** in The Pine Cone last summer, when he was building and marketing a circuit board for computer hobbyists. He's headed to Stanford — his mom's an alum — where he thinks he might major in electric engineering. During the summer, the former robotics team and film club member plans to travel to Europe, help tend the family's llama, goats and chickens, and spend some time at the Naval Postgraduate School, where he's already had an internship.

He's hoping to meet his “future cofounders” and get a tech startup going. “I love to build things, solve problems and create new technology,” he said.

Stevenson School

Stevenson School had a tie for valedictorian between **Craig Yujuico Chiu** and **Alexander Gianola Cook**, who've known each other since they were first graders at All Saints' Day School.

Said Cook, “Craig was always a step ahead of me, but I know he's just happy for me.” Chiu agreed that the two were much more supportive than competitive. Cook noted that Yale has been his “dream school” since first grade, because he figured Chiu



Alexander Cook

STUDIES cont. page 41A

Congratulations to The Pine Cone's high school correspondent,

Riley Palshaw!

Your editors




Mega Schnader

You are an angel, put on this planet to change it. So take your risks now, say yes to every opportunity and keep dreaming. The road to success is in your perseverance.

We love you!
Momma, Poppa and Bubba

CARMEL HIGH CLASS OF 2023



Congratulations to the Class of 2023!

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CONGRATULATIONS JASIAN!

The road to success is long but it is right ahead of you.

We love you, Your family



C L A S S O F 2 0 2 3

ADAPTING from page 37A

coped with this by doing more research on the schools I had already gotten into, to make them feel more appealing.”

Prehn’s approach serves as a prime example of the lesson that many students learned from being rejected — the college admissions process is not a linear journey. Students who did not get into their top choices often found a new scope of opportunities and changed their trajectories for the better. For instance, Prehn said his new destination, Indiana University, “has

unique connections for business that some of my other top schools did not offer with their programs. Over time I have begun to like my decision more and more.”

Similarly, Yu described she came to embrace the curriculum offerings at Johns Hopkins, which she will be attending in the fall, saying that because of its well-known medical programs, she might “lean into more biology.”

For these seniors — and many others — painful rejection became creative redirection as they embraced the possibilities their new choices offer.

ATHLETES from page 38A

“I stopped considering myself hard of hearing and started identifying as deaf early in my junior year as a result of my progressive hearing loss,” he said. “I also learned not to speak unless it was absolutely necessary so I could save myself the embarrassment in case I misheard something.”

Camaraderie and silent cheers

Athletics provided solace in Colborn’s silent world. He savored the solitary miles

of cross country (“a chill sport,” he said), team play on the lacrosse field and the physical and camaraderie he felt from his true passion, wrestling, where he formed a deep connection with his teammates.

“I’ll remember the tournaments — a long drive to another school with a bunch of other guys, eight hours of wrestling ... watching wrestling ... thinking about wrestling ... then riding all the way back home,” said Colborn, who underwent cochlear implant surgery in the spring to im-

TEAMS cont. page 43A



ROTARY CLUB OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

Carmel by the Sea Rotary has awarded 2023 Academic, STEM, Vocational, Music, Memorial, and Individual Sponsored Scholarships to the following CHS Students:

Julia Blakely, Cassidy Bullas, Taylan Dincer, Stella Foster, Robert Gomez, Elvira Guerrero, Peyton Kelly, Sage Lewand, Gianna Magiapane, Jerry Marnell, Sage Melton, Jack Norman, Elias Osorio, Riley Palshaw, Siri Panetta, Sarah Ponce-Curiel, Teagan Puryear, Dayanara Rivera, Katie Shin, Hannan Shu, Ashley Solano, Ryleigh Teague, Sierra Wouden-Crosno

These students will be sharing \$72,000 in scholarship support.

Congratulations to **Stephanie Lee**, 4th and 5th grade teacher at Captain Cooper Elementary School in Big Sur recognized with the 2023 Harris A. Taylor Excellence in Teaching Award, given annually by the Carmel-by-the-Sea Rotary Club.

CONGRATULATIONS JULIA!

Carmel High School Class of 2023
Love Dad, Mom, Gracie & Finn



PACIFIC GROVE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATES

Ale Magar, Nawodit
Alesmail, Hiba
Alkhalaf, Yousif
Avila, Rey
Bagwell, Maya
Barragan, Matthew
Barragan, Samantha
Birkett, Jacob
Boiko, Valeriia
Boyd, Brenner
Bronfeld, Lauren
Bullas, Ryan
Cabrera, Maria
Clark, Julian
Coe, Chloe
Coen, William
Cole, Janey
Coutts, Zane
Crannell, William
Cuellar, Christian
Dearmin, Tyler
Dhaliwal, Dilbar
Downing-Mcadams, Tanner
Eldridge, Weston
Erickson, Asuka
Erickson, Mackenzie
Everett, Soren

Faile, Caleb
Fenstermaker, Christopher
Font, Emma
Fontecchio, Isabella
Gabrik, Anastasia
Garry, Noah
Garzaniti, Gabriel
Gish, James
Gonzalez, Masao
Gregory, Faith
Grief, Toby
Hatfield, Victoria
Hatton, Kai
Hays, Mosely
Heaton, Ella
Hemmesch, Shaun
Hernandez-Vasquez, Ana
Holguin, Jovanni
Hubbard, Niko
Hunter, Gavin
Hutchison, Nevaeh
Isbell, Gabriela
Isik, Olivia
Jenner, Josephine
Jennings, Nathan
Kaatz, Gabrielle
Kavanaugh, Sadie

Kerney, Jillian
Khidar, Adam
Landry, Logan
Langham, Joseph
Lieberman, Kira
Lima, Isabelle
Liu, Gerald
Liyanage, Ashani
Llantero, Sebastian
Lovera, Aidan
Lukaszewski, Dillon
Lyons, Grace
Marshall, Ava
Martinez, Melanie
Masterson, Taya
Maximoff, Ivan
McLaren, Samuel
Mendez, Noah
Merrick, Tessamarie
Mikulas, Jason
Miller, Willem
Milrod, Jerry
Misawa-Salzman, Remi
Montgomery, Hazen
Moore, Christopher
Moore, Maria
Mulholland, Aiden

Mulholland, Ryan
Nardone, Ronan
Negre, Mary Chloe Philomena
Nguyen, Kevin
Noren, MacKenzie
O'Connor, Sophia
O'Reilly, Patrick
Pacheco, Aryll
Palacios, Jermie
Pennington, Milo
Pesenhofer, Owen
Phillips II, Lee
Platt, Charles
Powell, Dennis
Powley, Elliot
Radcliffe, Finnegan
Ramirez, Jayden
Razo, Leo
Relvas, Kameron
Reynolds, Ivana
Riddell, Jake
Roach, Melody
Rodas-Mendoza, Alexis
Romano, Matilde
Romero, Jose
Ryan, Declan
Salcido, Jacob

Scholin, Forrest
Schramm, Norah
Schroeder, Ian
Serpa, Enzo
Shahidi, Neemah
Soro, Janica Hannah
Stevens, Nathan
Tamiz, Isabella
Travaille, Tyler
Turner, Zayne
Ullwelling, Alexandra
Valdivia-Moncada, Andrea
VanBrabant, Luke
Walling, Athena
Wells, Oliver
Weyant, Jack
Wiederholt, Rebecca
Willis, Owen
Woehrle, Ava
Woods, Evan
Yanez, Isabella
Yngve, Alexander
Zeidberg, Morgan

C L A S S O F 2 0 2 3

STUDIES from page 39A

would get into Harvard, and to Cook's young mind, there was only room in Cambridge for one of them.

Chiu's going to Brown, and Cook's happy with his choice to go to Yale, where he has a four-year Navy ROTC scholarship. Said Cook, "Yale seems like a place where they want you to apply yourself to issues that matter." He wants to study international relations with a focus on East Asia, particularly China.

Cook had a paper on Taiwan and Japan published in the Harvard International Review, and during the pandemic he participated virtually in the Stanford China Scholars program, learning about contemporary and past issues with a focus on culture.

He participated in Model United Nations, chess club, lacrosse and football. This summer, he has to complete a 2 1/2-week Navy boot camp, then he's coming home to get a job until fall.

Chiu played lacrosse, along with soccer and running cross-country. He said he enjoyed being part of the Asian American Pacific Islander affiliation group at Stevenson. He hasn't quite made up his mind what about a major, though. He said, "I really enjoy Spanish and Latin American studies, but I'm keeping things open for now."

York School

Joseph Zhao of Monterey has been a student at York

since eighth grade. He said, "I've always liked math."

He'll attend Northwestern University in Illinois, where he'll spend some time with his brother, who will be a senior there this fall. Zhao said he was interested in majoring in computer science, something he's only gotten into in the last year or so, but which he finds intriguing.

Outside the classroom, Zhao has participated in robotics team competitions. He's been a volunteer for science camp at Monterey Bay Charter School, teaching kindergarteners and fourth and fifth graders, which he found rewarding.

He ran cross country and played golf for York.

Pacific Grove High School

William Coen summed up his high school career by saying, "Rhythm, music and math. That's what I'm best at." He took all the math he could at P.G. High, finished some online courses at community colleges and completed an internship at the Naval Postgraduate School.

The editor of the school newspaper, the Newsbreaker, Coen has taught elementary school students about creative writing and led math clubs for kids, too.

This fall, he'll be at Yale University, where he said he'll give the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Course (ROTC) a try. He's planning to major in applied mathematics, and if he takes the military path, he'd like to be a pilot or an engineer.

As this year's drum major, Coen, who plays trumpet



Joseph Zhao



C.C. Shaw



Elena Oh

and drums, leads the marching band during the graduation ceremony. He also ran cross country and enjoys biking, skiing and hiking. He loves sports and statistics, so of course, he's a baseball fan (San Francisco Giants).

Santa Catalina School

Santa Catalina doesn't have a valedictorian. Instead, the school recognizes all-around high achievers, like **C.C. Shaw**. "It was a huge honor to be chosen," she said modestly. "I'm surrounded by all these incredible people." A boarding student from Woodside in San Mateo County, Shaw's schedule is so full, The Pine Cone wondered aloud when she had time to sleep.

LEADERS cont. page 42A



Santa Catalina School

CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATES

Amparo Alcaraz Tonella
Nadia Joy Naiga Aligawesa
Yunese Amatya
Piper Anderson
Eva Janie Andrews
Chimdiuso Vania Chinelo Atuegbu
Alexis Anne Blond
Jacquiline Dakota Boe
Carys Chard
Yule Chen
Ruxin Dai

Reena Kaur Dail
Charlotte Grace Ehmann
Sofia Isabella Enea
Jasmine Lee Flanders
Chloe Marie Goforth
Anna Midori Gorman
Sara Kalend Harley
Anacecilia Hernandez Murillo
Gabriela Herrera
Hung Yi Hui
Kaila Joy Huynh

Charlotte Paige Juge
Juliette Monet Kosmont
Renee Larrauri Robinson Bours
Elliot Rose Leatherberry
Sydney Christine Lee
Tianshuo Liu
Harriet Pilar Meyer
Audrey Lee Morrison
Riley Lynn Neikirk
Savannah Marie Nicholas
Elena Oh

Romina Ortiz Munguia
Liliana Lucille Pedroni
Liliani Latu Penaloza
Tarn Yoshimi Reilly
Miriam Grace Riley
Maria Rivera Rubio
Maria Alejandra Rodarte Soto
Katherine Lee Romans
Sasha Elizabeth Rubiano
Selma Ninel Ruiz
Angelina Santa Cruz

Christiana Candida Shaw
Tianyue Shen
Margaret Jane Spencer
Jiatong Xie
Shuhan Yang
Riley Elizabeth Yates
Anna O'Neil Yeh
Siming Yuan
Maggie Zou



Congratulations to the Class of 2023!
Truly uncommon. Truly confident. Truly Catalina.



Santa Catalina School

C L A S S O F 2 0 2 3

LEADERS from page 40A

"I get asked that a lot," she said. She volunteers as an admissions ambassador, giving tours to prospective students, is the head of five clubs, led the school's a cappella singing group, and has acted in 10 theatrical productions since her freshman year. She loves math and science, and hopes to have a double major in computer science and drama at Barnard College in New York City.

Her classmate, P.G. native **Elena Oh**, will pursue a liberal arts and humanities education at Dartmouth. Despite the threat of New England winters, she said, "Dartmouth just felt right."

She's hasn't chosen a major, but wants to "stick with the social sciences," possibly with a pre-med or pre-nursing emphasis.

In addition to her classes, Oh worked on the yearbook, participated in Model United Nations and was one of the editors of the school newspaper, the Lamplighter. She also played the violin in the chamber orchestra.

She recalled the caring atmosphere she found in school and said that throughout the pandemic, everyone stayed in touch, talking and texting. "If you looked a little down during a Zoom class, someone would always check in afterward," she recalled.

Also from Pacific Grove, **Tarn Reilly** is graduating

from Santa Catalina after attending for 14 years, starting in pre-kindergarten. Her father teaches marine ecology there, and Reilly is passionate about the subject. She recently concluded a three-year research project on marine biology and has volunteered at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and with The Wahine Project, a nonprofit that helps youth connect with ocean sports like surfing.

Reilly will attend Brown University in Rhode Island, where she plans to major in mechanical engineering, focusing on conservation and renewable energy. She's also going to pursue her other passion — rugby — and said she's very grateful to her parents, who drove her to Pleasanton to play club rugby for nine years.



Sage Hughett

We are so proud of you Sage! Your future is so bright.
We can't wait to see all that your next adventure has in store.

Never stop dreaming big!

We Love You

CARMEL HIGH CLASS OF 2023

Congratulations Sadie Kavanagh

AND PGHS CLASS OF 2023!

Sadie - your determination and drive will be the key to your success!
We love you!
Mom, Dad and Joe

PACIFIC GROVE HIGH CLASS OF 2023

STEVENSON

CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATES

Jacob Bailey Peterson*

Student Body President

Leo Tian Xie

Student Body Vice President

Emily Amador
Siena Elizabeth Barsotti
Ronan Jack Bennett
Sofia Grace Bozzo*
David M. Bray
Sarah Elizabeth Brewster
Molly Jewel Bufkin
Yoko Ella Cabrera
Melody Qi Cai
Jacob Benjamin Carlyle*
Owen Robert Carr
Alexander James Carroll
Anouk Manon Catania
Yan Chu Chen
Craig Yujuico Chiu †
Jaeyoung Choi
Enzo Luc Cimoli
Katarina Akari Clifford
Sydney Alexis Clymo*
Charles Dean Conner
Claudia Kazuko Cool
Curtis Da Silva
Wyley Stanton Markus Dale
Alexandra Christine Dalhamer
Sloan Malika Damnavits
Margaret Filley Davis
William Owen Dayton
Jean-Luc Wolfe Dupreez
Brandon Durham

Bryce Durham
Sophia Marie Rodriguez Edington
Tristan Alexander Evans
James Fan
Luca Ji Fang
Daniela Cristina Fernandez
Sofia Clare Flores
Joyce LeYi Fong
Audon Vienne Forgas
Harrison Reagan Fung
Mia Christina Georgiou
Alexander Gianola Cook †
Jane Margaret Giza
Alexander Gregory Glasscock*
Eduardo Granados
Camille Suzanne Griffin
Justin Guo
Andrew Col Utter Heywood
Spencer Josef Hidas
Daniela Adriana Higgins
Frederick James Hoffmann
Chun-Kai Hu
Jia Feng Huang
Jia Hai Huang
Joyce Yiyang Jiang
Harmony Alexa Jones
Clara Judd-Donaldson
Beckett Judd-Wade
Quinn William Karm
Alexander Francis Khanna
Grace Elizabeth Kirch
Kai Kobrak
Valin Carlos Kobrinsky*
Thomas Howard Lansbury

Marvin Mang Fei Lau
Misha Monique Lauer
Ethan James Leamey
Jeongyeon Lee
Jung Ah Lim
Emilia Grace Long
Yuan Lu
Parker James Lynch
Lena Margarete Maderer
Rider Lee McCormick
August Jackson Meier
Michaela Kira Miller
Owen Jeffrey Mink
Addison John Mohr
Evelyn Charlotte Moore
Jazmin Valentina Morenzi*
Alexandra Kate Negri
Lane Audrey Neugebauer
Nguyen Le Phat Dat
Nam Binh Nguyen
Phan Anh Nguyen
Phu Viet Nguyen
Julia Frances Nichols
Genevieve Frost O'Donnell
Sophia Jane O'Neill O'Gorman
Angel Ochoa Zavala
John Carter Page
Jesika Rico Pajouh
Noah Nicolas Persall
Nathan Joseph Poggemeyer
John Noah Pope
Vikram S. Puar
Elise Marie Rago
Bianca Erato Rexine*

John Matthew Riley, Jr.
Kayla Dominique Russell
Sean Tyler Seggerty
Zicheng Shan
Jackson Robbins Silver
Yan Ce Sima
Yuhan Song
Edward Moley Stork
Stevie Thomsen
Trent William Toole
Ara Genevieve Traina
Julian Wei-Jer Tseng
Amber Voluntad
Christopher Walter
Brady Wang
Jiongtian Wang
Shiman Wang
Ryder James Weston
Malyk Anye Williams
Summer Grace Wolf
Beining Wu
Tong Wu
Hongrui Xiang
Nga Man Xiao
Samantha Xie
Abby Sadaya Yamashita
Jiashuo Yi
Hantong Yu
Xintong Yu
Aden Pak Hei Yung
Yuanhao Zhang
Jonathan Tao Zhou

* 12+ years at Stevenson School
† John Lyon Reid Award Recipients

C L A S S O F 2 0 2 3

TEAMS from page 41A

prove his hearing.

“And I’ll remember those ‘safety guidelines’ during Covid, when we had to do an elbow-tap instead of a handshake before a wrestling match. What was the point?” he wondered.

Community service

Ava Marshall, a 4.25 student headed to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo as an Environmental Protection and Management major, was a sports superstar at Pacific Grove High School. She earned all-league, all-county, and Most Valuable Player honors for the Breakers, was all-league in volleyball, and helped her teammates reach this year’s CCS Division 4 championship

game in softball.

Unsurprisingly, a lot of her favorite high school moments are from the athletic arena.

But many of her warmest memories came from her leadership work as a school officer, including her senior year as Associated Student Body vice-president, and her diverse community-service volunteerism.

“I was in National Honor Society, National Charity League (a mother-daughter philanthropic foundation), Pass the Word (feeding the homeless), SPCA, and the Alliance on Aging, all of which, I think, helped me grow as a person,” Marshall said.

“We all feel very fortunate to live in Pacific Grove, but we’re also in a kind of bubble and don’t always see the flaws in

our community,” she said. “Being involved in community service became a way for me to give back, and see things differently. It’s really powerful.”

For her senior project, Marshall helped create a mosaic mural for Carmel Valley’s

new “Tatum’s Treehouse,” a playground for children.

“For me, it feels really amazing to think that I’ll be able to come back here 30 or 40 years from now, see that mural, and know that I actually helped make it,” she said.

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Congratulations

to all the Graduates of 2023





ROTARY CLUB OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

CARMEL BY-THE-SEA ROTARY HAS AWARDED THE PRESTIGIOUS

Richard W. LaSalle Memorial Music Scholarship

In the amount of \$20,000 (\$5000 per year, renewable for four years) to Carmel High School graduate

Jack Norman

Jack will be attending Stanford as a Music and Public Policy Major.

Receiving Academic Music Scholarships
\$2500 (one time) will be Carmel High School Graduates

<p>Robert Gomez attending UCLA</p>	<p>Taylan Dincer attending MPC</p>
--	--


Keep Rocking!



THE BEST ATTORNEY
'22-'23
In Monterey County
Jeannette K. Witten
Monterey County Weekly


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ESTATE PLANNING ATTORNEY

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Congratulations Seniors!


Isabelle Perez
Carmel High School




Kevin Linarez
Monterey High School



Gabriel Hurtado
Marina High School




Christian Cortes
Seaside High School



We’re so happy to recognize each one of you for your accomplishments as you reach this milestone in your lives.

We wish you all the very best on your next adventure!

♥ Your Big Sur River Inn Family



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