

The Carmel Pine Cone

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March 1-7, 2024

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City will repair long-closed beach stairways

By MARY SCHLEY

CARMEL BEACH stairways wrecked by winter storm surges and high surf could soon be repaired, acting assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson said this week.

"We're going to create a hit list of stairways we can fix ourselves or with a contractor, and issue our own permit," he explained, which the California Coastal Commission has agreed to let the city do.

His confidence in the process — including being able to issue a permit and start work the next day — followed

a conversation last Thursday afternoon involving him, public works director Bob Harary, other city staff and the coastal commission's local district supervisor, Katie Butler.

Above mean high tide line

"We had a really fruitful conversation, and she agrees with our interpretation that we can issue ourselves an emergency permit for projects above the mean high tide line," Swanson said, noting that one of the commission's

See STAIRS page 15A



PHOTOS/(LEFT) STEVE ABRAMS, (RIGHT) MARY SCHLEY

Winter waves and storms (left) battered several wooden staircases connecting Scenic Road and the beach, rendering them useless (right), but city officials believe they'll be able to fix them soon.

Cal Am moves to toss takeover lawsuit

By KELLY NIX

CALIFORNIA AMERICAN Water this week fired back at the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District's legal efforts to forcibly take over its local water system, but the head of the district said he believes Cal Am's claims "don't have much merit or purpose."

On Monday, Cal Am filed a motion in Monterey County Superior Court arguing that the water district's eminent domain lawsuit filed last December fails to meet fundamental legal requirements necessary to proceed with a utility acquisition and should be tossed out of court.

Lacking authority?

While the water district contends it could operate the system more efficiently and at a lower cost than Cal Am does, the company argued in the 14-page legal filing that the district doesn't have the authority to become a water system owner.

"The district's plan cannot legally proceed, however, because the district is not authorized to operate Cal Am's water system," according to the brief filed by the utility, which serves about 100,000 people. "The district is a special district created by the state Legislature, possessing only those specific powers conferred upon it by the Legislature."

See CAL AM page 10A

Public tours of police station set for March 29

Registration, background check needed

By MARY SCHLEY

CITY OFFICIALS on Friday said tours of the Carmel police station and follow-up visits to Salinas P.D. will take place March 29 for those who want to get a closer look at the problems in the decades-old Junipero Street station and then explore a modern, high-tech facility. The exercise aims to help constituents better understand Carmel P.D.'s needs and the station's shortcomings as the city council decides how to proceed with replacing it.

The tours will take place in small waves from 9:30 a.m. to noon in Carmel and from 1:30 p.m. onward in Salinas.

"The goal is for the public to gain an understanding of operational issues that need to be addressed through the police building project" that's underway under the leadership of a city ad hoc committee comprising Mayor Dave

See TOUR page 12A

HANSEL & GRETEL CAN HAVE 250-SQUARE-FOOT GARAGE

By MARY SCHLEY

THE OWNERS of the famous Hansel & Gretel cottages designed and built by Hugh Comstock on Torres Street can add a 250-square-foot detached garage, the Carmel Historic Resources Board decided Monday afternoon.

The swift decision struck a marked contrast with the board's actions regarding a detached garage at another nearby Comstock cottage that required multiple hearings and arguments over its proposed 250-square-foot size before it was ultimately approved for 235 square feet.

Doll House

Unlike Breck and Carole Lutz's ordeal up the street on Santa Fe, Michael and Roberta Voris' experience Feb. 26 was smooth sailing, with consultant Meg Clovis concluding their proposed garage in the front setback of their 6,000-square-foot lot would comply with the Secretary

of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and principal planner Marnie Waffle recommending approval.

Waffle explained that the Hansel cottage, also known as The Doll House, was constructed 100 years ago by Comstock as a showroom for the Otsy Totsy rag dolls made by his wife, Mayotta Browne, while Gretel, built a year later, served as her office. They were added to the city's inventory of historic buildings worthy of mandatory preservation in 2003.

Built in Comstock's signature Storybook style, the

See GARAGE page 24A

Driver not found for a day after 400-foot plunge

By CHRIS COUNTS

A LOCAL man who is lucky to be alive was rescued Tuesday morning — some 35 hours after the vehicle he was driving plunged about 400 feet off Hurricane Point in Big Sur Sunday evening, according to Big Sur Fire Chief Matt Harris.

Harris said that the man, whose name was not released, was driving north on his way home from work when he somehow lost control. According to KSBW, he told rescuers he swerved to avoid deer. It was later confirmed he is a Pacific Grove resident who works at Post Ranch Inn, and he left the resort shortly after 11 p.m. "He never made it home and was reported as missing," Harris explained.

'Moderate injuries'

On Tuesday, Harris said the missing man's friends and family used a drone to search for him. About a half-mile south of Hurricane Point, they found what they believed was his car over the edge of a cliff. While the man and his car were soon located nearby, the drone had found another wreck.

About 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, in response to a 911 call

from the family operating the drone, the CHP's Coastal Division Air Operations Unit was asked by Pacific Grove

See DRIVER page 13A



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Dozens of tourists walk by the Hansel & Gretel cottages every day. The historic property will soon get a new garage.



PHOTO/CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

Video from a helicopter offers a birdseye view of the rescue of a motorist who drove off Hurricane Point and lived to tell about it.

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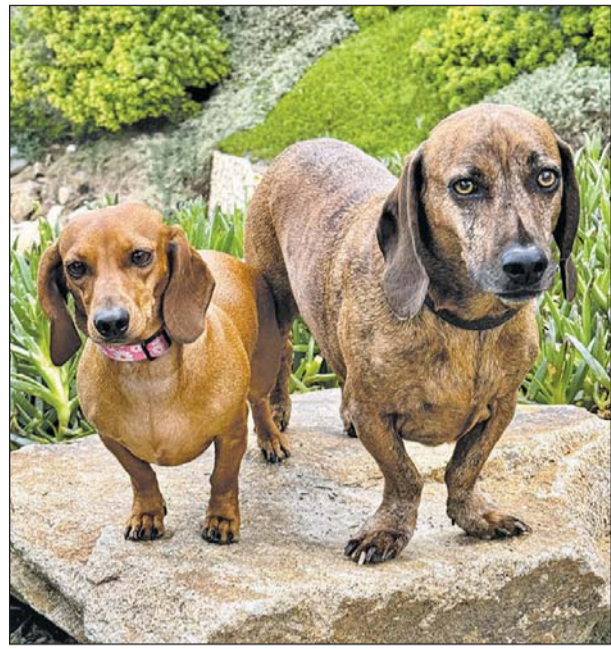
By Lisa Crawford Watson

A little frank and hazy

At 36 pounds, Frank, who is mostly a miniature dachshund, with maybe some beagle mixed in, is built for buoyancy. An avid athlete, his people call him the Shaquille O'Neal of dachshunds. But maybe it should be Michael Phelps.

"His favorite place is the beach," his person said. "When we arrive, he'll chase a stick or a ball into the water and then stay there, swimming. We have to drag him out when it's time to leave. He also dives into my mom's pool and swims laps till he's out of breath."

Frank's folks had an older dachshund, Buddha, so they adopted Frank at 6 months from a Sacramento rescue organization to introduce a little energy into the elder dachsie's day. After Buddha died at 18, they adopted Hazy, nearly 3, from South County Animal



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Rescue. "We saw Hazy, a purebred dachshund, on the animal rescue website and immediately called," her person said. "It was love at first sight, so we decided to adopt her."

Unlike Frank, Hazy will only wade a few steps into the water and stop, with the waves lapping around her legs.

"She sees Frank dive in, and we can tell she wants to join him," her person said, "but she isn't quite sure of herself. Or the water. Dachshunds, with their short little legs, typically aren't swimmers."

Whenever Hazy's people put her into the pool with them, she paddles around, secure in their presence. But they doubt she'd dive in on her own.

Frank and Hazy do spend time together in their Carmel Valley home, under the covers in their couple's bed. "Dachsies like to burrow," their person said. "Hazy and Frank like to cuddle up on the couch and then slip under the sheets for the night."

Rescues have a curious blend of behaviors, she says, but there's always a grateful energy.

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Panetta says bill would strengthen USA's dedication to NATO

By KELLY NIX

DEMOCRATIC REP. Jimmy Panetta last week introduced legislation that he said would bolster the United States' commitment to defending European allies against global threats.

Panetta's NATO Support Act of 2024 would prohibit the appropriation or use of money to withdraw the United States from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. While Panetta's bill is essentially a reintroduction of the 2019 NATO Support Act, it includes updates to reflect recent events, including the inclusion of Finland in NATO and the alliance's backing of Ukraine.

Panetta told The Pine Cone that he reintroduced the legislation to ensure that Congress is using its constitutional authority to reaffirm and strengthen NATO "during this critical period for the alliance, no matter who the president is," and because the 2019 provision had expired.

"For nearly 75 years, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has become the most successful alliance in human history as it provides security in Europe and stability in the world," the congressman said. "However, the success of NATO, as made very clear during the last two years, is due to the leadership of the United States of America."

'Continues to lead'

While former President and current presidential candidate Donald Trump has been extremely critical of NATO, his objections have mainly been to the inadequate defense spending by some member countries. In early February, Trump said he would "encourage" Russia "to do whatever the hell they want" to NATO countries that don't meet their funding obligations — but

he has not threatened to pull out of NATO.

While he didn't mention Trump by name, Panetta said his legislation ensures that, "despite what a U.S. President says or does about the alliance, it's the U.S. Congress, with its constitutional power of the purse, that has the ultimate authority to uphold our commitment to NATO, our allies, and the international world order."

The Democratic representative from Carmel Valley went on to say that the U.S. "continues to lead NATO and be the lynchpin for the mutual defense commitment under Article 5 of the Treaty."

NATO's Article 5 mandates mutual defense of NATO members, and that an attack on one member is an attack on the other allied countries.

Panetta's NATO Support Act of 2024:

- Prohibits the authorization of funds to be appropriated, obligated or expended for the withdrawal of the U.S. from NATO.

- Expresses Congress' belief that NATO is a pillar of the security of the United States and is one of the most successful military alliances in history

- Supports collaboration with NATO allies to enforce Ukraine's territorial integrity against unprovoked aggression from the Russian Federation

- Welcomes the addition of Finland as the 31st member of NATO and supports the swift accession of Sweden.

- Expresses Congress' belief that the President of the United States should not withdraw from NATO.

- Supports NATO Members on meeting the 2014 Wales Defense Investment Pledge, which states that NATO allies should aim to spend at least 20 percent of their annual defense budget on major equipment, including research and development.

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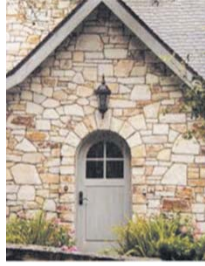


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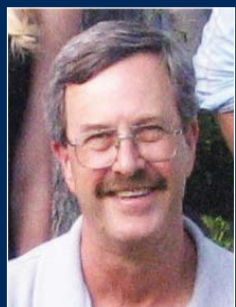
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Police & Sheriff's Log

Nobody misses a leaf blower

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.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Carmel Valley: Law enforcement responded to a transient issue on Carmel Valley Road.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Information report at Ocean and Junipero. An employee from a local business came into the police department to inquire about a restraining order. A non-threatening letter was left on the employee's vehicle from an employee who was terminated. The employee fears that the terminated employee may harass her or continue to leave unwanted notes on her vehicle. The note said something similar to asking the employee to help him talk to the owner so he can try to get his job back. Officer provided information on restraining orders and requested any unwanted contact be reported to CPD. The terminated employee was contacted, and nothing has been reported to police since.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury accident

with a pedestrian on San Antonio.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Traffic stop at Ocean and Forest at 0309 hours. The 28-year-old driver was arrested for DUI.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Non-injury collision reported at Del Mar. Only one party (the Chrysler owner) was contacted at the scene. The owner of a Tesla later reported the owner of a Chrysler struck the driver's side mirror and scratched it. The Chrysler owner denied being in an accident.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: One vehicle parked touching another vehicle at Ocean and Lincoln. No visible damage.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Units responded to a dispute at Scenic and 13th over the leash law for dogs.

Pacific Grove: A driver's license found at Eardley and Sloat was turned in to the police department.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Burglary of a vehicle on Scenic. No suspect info.

See **POLICE LOG** page 9RE
in the Real Estate Section



The gavel falls

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

Feb. 14 — Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine Pacioni, along with the California Attorney General and nine other California district attorneys, announced a settlement with Quest Diagnostics Inc., resolving allegations that the diagnostic laboratory company unlawfully disposed of hazardous waste, medical waste, and protected health information at its facilities statewide. As part of the settlement, Quest Diagnostics will be required to pay \$4,999,500 in penalties, costs, and supplemental environmental projects and make significant changes to its operations and practices at its California facilities.

Pacioni stated, "This settlement will help ensure that patients' personally identifiable and private health information is protected and will protect worker safety and human health by ensuring that hazardous and medical wastes are properly managed and disposed of."

The settlement is the result of over 30 inspections conducted by the district attorneys' offices at Quest Diagnostics laboratories and patient service centers statewide, including in Monterey County. During those inspections, the district attorneys' offices reviewed the contents of Quest Diagnostics'

compactors and dumpsters and found hundreds of containers of chemicals, as well as bleach, reagents, batteries, and electronic waste; unredacted medical information; medical waste such as used specimen containers for blood and urine, and hazardous waste such as used batteries, solvents, and flammable liquids. The unlawful disposals are alleged to violate the Hazardous Waste Control Law, Medical Waste Management Act, Unfair Competition Law, and civil laws prohibiting the unauthorized disclosure of personal health information.

After being notified of the investigations, Quest Diagnostics implemented numerous changes to bring its facilities into compliance with California law, including hiring an independent environmental auditor to review the disposal of waste at its facilities and modifying its operating and training procedures to improve its handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste, medical waste, and personal health information at all four laboratories and over 600 patient service centers in California.

The settlement was filed in San Joa-

See **GAVEL** page 19A



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MAN JAILED FOR TWO ARSON FIRES

By MARY SCHLEY

THE ILLINOIS man arrested on Valentine's Day for starting two trash fires in downtown Monterey, one of which damaged a building, remained in Monterey County Jail this week after pleading not guilty to drug and arson offenses last month.

The fires kept Monterey emergency workers busy the night of Feb. 13. The first, set in a metal trash can at Trader Joe's on Munras Avenue, was lit shortly after 10:30 p.m. but was quickly extinguished by store employees without incident, according to Monterey Police Lt. Gabe Kaster. The fire only damaged the garbage can.

But around 10 minutes later, a passerby told Monterey Police officers a dumpster was on fire in the area of Tauffer Lane and Cortes Street, Kaster said.

Monterey Fire Department responded shortly after 11 p.m. and "found a fully involved dumpster that spread to the structure," according to interim Monterey Fire Chief Andrew Miller. The blaze drew 16 firefighters from MFD and Cal Fire who doused the dumpster and the flames that had spread to the exterior of the building,

keeping them from expanding further. The commercial structure sustained minor damage, he said.

No one was injured in either fire, and Kaster said the police department's investigation revealed Williams started both of them. He did not say how officers arrived at that conclusion, but the following morning at around 11:20 a.m., they arrested the Illinois man for felony arson and misdemeanor drug offenses, including possession of paraphernalia and possession of methamphetamine.



Rodney Williams

\$65K bail

Williams was booked into Monterey County Jail, where he remained this week, with bail set at \$65,000. His arraignments were held Feb. 15 and 17. He's next set to appear in court March 26 for the setting of the preliminary

examination, when the prosecutor and police will lay out the case against Williams and the judge will decide whether there's enough evidence to proceed.

In the meantime, police are asking that anyone who has information about either fire or any others to contact Sgt. Greg Galin at (831) 646-3872 or galin@monterey.org. To remain anonymous, call (831) 646-3840.



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School board recall fails — for now

By MARY SCHLEY

A CAMPAIGN to recall four Carmel Unified School District board members got off to a rocky start when three of the four petitions lacked enough signatures and all four failed to include the correct legal verbiage, according to Monterey County Registrar of Voters Gina Martinez.

The recall, headed by 95-year-old Del Mesa Carmel resident Joseph Chira, aims to force out board president Jason Remyse and members Karl Pallastrini, Seaberry Nachbar and Sara Hinds, according to the notices of intent to circulate a recall petition served on those four during a school board meeting Feb. 14. The fifth member, Anne-Marie Rosen, was not named and has often been the sole dissenter on board votes.

Not enough signatures and language that wasn't in the law

The allegations

The notices state the grounds for recalling Remyse — who was appointed last spring to replace Tess Arthur after she abruptly resigned — are that his “history reveals significant mishandling of taxpayer funds, irresponsible budgeting, neglect of student and staff welfare, Brown Act disregard, and indifference toward constituents.” His detractors also say he “failed in his fundamental duty as a board member to align the district with community values and priorities.”

They accuse him of paying off “a sexual harassment perpetrator,” spending money to develop a superintendent profile while planning to simply hire Sharon Ofek for the job, and voting in favor of paying former superintendent Ted Knight \$700,000 to resign and drop his legal complaints against the district, “despite an internal investigation finding no wrongdoing.”

“In conclusion, Mr. Remyse has failed

to fulfill his duties as a CUSD Board of Education trustee,” the notice says.

The petition Pallastrini received contains similar language and accusations, with the additional statement, “During the tumultuous Covid-19 pandemic, Pallastrini voted to dismiss superintendent Barb Dill-Varga, despite her contract renewal, resulting in CUSD paying out Dill-Varga’s contracted salary.” That wording also appears on the petition to recall Hinds.

The notice Nachbar received mentions that she and the rest of the board are being sued for violating the Brown Act and the Government Code for their approval of Knight’s payoff.

“If found guilty, she could be fined, imprisoned and never able to serve on a board in California,” it says.

Signers of the petition to recall Remyse include Fran Dillard — an outspoken opponent of the CHS stadium lights project alongside husband John Dillard — Shirley Ward, Joseph and Estelle Chira, Judith Levin, Dorothy Becker, Nancy Chira-Garcia, Gary Garcia, Toby Rowland-Jones, downtown Carmel art gallery owner Richard Kreitman, Tracey and John Adams, Alexis Delehanty, Hilary and Peter Brewer, David and Mary Rice, Heather Petersen, Arlene Neves, Daniel Beals, Joanne Silvagni, Chris Allen, Kathryn Kandler, Sandra Horne, Evelyn Dincer, Aleksandra Fruzyna, Joe Hertlein, Susan Miller, Michael Collins, and James and Louise Suchan.

While most of the signers had their names on all four petitions, John Dillard and Belle Ellen James didn’t sign the one Remyse received but put their names on the other three. The Suchans did not sign Pallastrini’s, and Dincer only signed Remyse’s.

See **RECALL** page 16A



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TOO MANY PLACES SERVING WINE?

By CHRIS COUNTS

A BUSINESS in The Barnyard shopping center that describes itself as a “wine school and wine salon” received approval Feb. 27 from the Monterey County Board of Supervisors to sell alcohol, even though the county health department says the immediate area is “over-saturated” with businesses already selling it.

According to county official Vicente Lara, “there is a public health need to assess new alcohol outlet permit applications in relation to the density of alcohol outlets in Monterey County.”

Lara suggested that “the number of licenses allowed” in the “census tract” where The Barnyard is located is five, but 17 already exist. He suggested the granting of another license “creates an excessive density” of alcohol-serving businesses.

The more drinking establishments are clustered together, the health department says, the more people tend to drink. Lara also suggested that people with greater incomes are more likely to drink too much.

“High alcohol outlet density, defined as a high concentration of retail alcohol outlets in a small area, is known to be an

environmental risk factor for excessive drinking,” he wrote. “As income goes up, so does the number of individuals who are excessive drinkers.”

Something different

In contrast with the county health department’s comments, the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office offered no opposition to the application for the license to sell alcohol.

Located directly across from the Sur restaurant on the second level of The Barnyard, Ladysomm Wine School and Wine Salon hosts wine receptions, seminars and pop-up dinners, and offers training for sommeliers. Even though there are more than a dozen businesses nearby that sell wine, none are quite like Ladysomm.

“We’re helping people travel the world through their wine glass,” co-owner Roxanne Langer explained. “We’re trying to give people — including those in the hospitality industry — a better understanding about wine.”

The business will celebrate its grand opening March 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. If you’d like to attend, RSVP to tamara@ladysomm.com.

Monterey Peninsula Chamber awards

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

OUTGOING 5TH District Monterey County Supervisor Mary Adams and other community leaders will be honored during the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce’s annual awards dinner at the Hyatt Regency Monterey March 23.

The chamber’s Business of the Year will also be revealed at the event, which will begin with cocktails and a silent auction at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and the awards presentations at 7.

Mike Marotta Jr. of Marotta Properties will receive the Citizen of the Year Award,

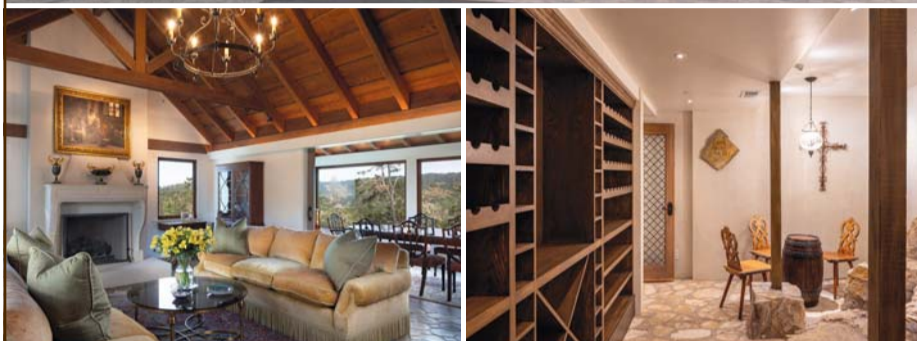
and Adams is being named the Ruth Vreeland Public Official of the Year.

Clarissa Rowe from Monterey County Bank will be given the Robert C. Littlefield Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Community Impact Award will be presented to Ron Johnson from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County.

The black-tie-optional event is open to all and costs \$175 per person. Register online at montereychamber.com or call (831) 648-5350.

The Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel & Spa is located at 1 Old Golf Course Road in Monterey.

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CAL AM

From page 1A

Cal Am references a 2-year-old decision by the seven-member Local Agency Formation Commission of Monterey County to reject an application by the water district to become a retail water provider so it could take over and operate Cal Am's Monterey system.

"Settled case and statutory law makes clear that the district must be authorized by the county's Local Agency Formation Commission before it can expand to provide a new or different service," Cal Am's motion states. "But the district has not been so authorized."

Cal Am argues that the district also lacks authorization from the California Legislature to become the Monterey Peninsula's water service provider.

'Prematurely initiated'

In early 2022, LAFCO voted 5-2 to reject the district's application. That led the water district in April of that year to file a lawsuit against LAFCO and Cal Am, alleging, among other things, that the decision violated key provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and state law. A Monterey County judge last December ordered the agency to give the district the authority to become a water provider. But instead of taking that step, LAFCO appealed the trial court's decision — which makes the eminent domain effort premature, Cal Am contends.

"Despite its failure to obtain LAFCO's authorization to provide retail potable water service, the district is forging ahead and has prematurely initiated this action to take Cal Am's water system even without the approval required by law," Cal Am's motion said.

Furthermore, Cal Am says the water district's takeover lawsuit "fails for another independent reason, as well," because the public agency's eminent domain power is limited to property within the district's

boundaries and it's seeking property that is in other parts of the Peninsula.

The water district's lawsuit said it wants to acquire "all of Cal Am's intangible and personal property interests" outside its boundaries. Cal Am said that would include things such as the company's trucks and other equipment.

"Because the district alleges" that the property it seeks to acquire "by eminent domain include Cal Am's intangible and personal property assets located outside the district's boundaries — not within the district — the district lacks the power to acquire such property by eminent domain," according to the Cal Am document, filed for the company attorney David T. Moran.

'Nothing surprising'

Cal Am's senior director of external affairs, Evan Jacobs, said the company "remains committed to serving the Monterey Peninsula community with safe, reliable water service, and we will continue to do so."

"The condemnation suit is going to waste millions of dollars in legal fees negatively impacting our residents, and we believe the district has neither the legal standing nor technical expertise to provide retail water service on the Monterey Peninsula," Jacobs said.

Water district general manager Dave Stoldt said there's "nothing surprising" in Cal Am's motion to have his agency's lawsuit dismissed.

"I do not expect much of it to stick," Stoldt told The Pine Cone, adding that Cal Am's claims "don't have much merit or purpose. It is just another part of the company's tactics to keep the voters from realizing their goal."

The water district's lawsuit followed voters' passage of Measure J in 2018, which called for acquisition if it was "feasible," as the district maintains it is. While the water district contends that it did not need LAFCO's approval of its effort to acquire and operate Cal Am, the agency is demanding that LAFCO pay \$587,000 due to its loss in court.



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Mills Act, Car Week, housing on agenda

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL City Council is set to vote on two Mills Act contracts — one for the famous Frank Lloyd Wright House at the south end of the beach and the other for a Mid-Century Modern Henry Hill home on Lopez Street — next Tuesday.

As she has during every other discussion of the proposed contracts, which offer significant tax breaks for owners who commit to rehabilitating and preserving their historic buildings, principal planner Marnie Waffle is recommending approval.

Also on March 5, community activities director Ashlee Wright will provide an update on this year's Car Week, including three already approved permits for returning events and a handful of others in the discussion stage.

Money questions

The council will hear a midyear report on the current budget and vote on proposed increases in funding for services and supplies, council contributions to local agencies, the city clerk's office, IT, public works and "non-departmental expenses," which includes liability insurance, property taxes and health coverage for retirees. A presentation on capital improvements planned for the coming fiscal year, along with a long-range plan, will follow.

The city's efforts to comply with a state mandate to accommodate 349 new homes by 2033 continue with ongoing revisions to its housing element. The state's housing and community development department has been reviewing it and requesting revisions. The newest draft will be released March 1 at homecarmelbythesea.com for a seven-day public review before being submitted to the state, which will complete its review by March 24.

During a special meeting Monday, March 4, before going into closed session, the city council will consider its consent calendar of routine items that can be adopted as a group unless a member of the council or the public requests discussion and a vote on an individual item.

Among them is a \$450,000 contract with EMC Planning Group for the second phase of planning and engineering projects at Carmel Beach to adapt to climate change. Some object to putting such an expensive contract on the

See COUNCIL page 18A

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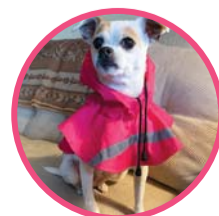


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TOUR

From page 1A

Potter and councilman Jeff Baron, the announcement noted.

Potter and Baron, along with project manager Fred Meurer and an architectural firm specializing in police station projects, participated in several meetings during the past year and reviewed a comprehensive analysis by the architectural firm, Indigo, which identified myriad failings in the aging station and concluded there's no way to salvage it.

Even a total remodel would result in an inadequate facility because policework has changed so significantly over the past decades and the force has outgrown the 7,500-square-foot building, according to Meurer's presentation.

Indigo's review revealed that the

building's electrical, HVAC, plumbing and other infrastructure should be overhauled immediately. It also noted the station lacks modern security and that officers have nowhere safe to take arrestees out of their cars, since the back parking lot is tiny and open.

Victims are interviewed in the lobby, while officers dealing with toxic evidence, including highly fatal fentanyl and other biohazards, have nowhere to safe to do so. No rooms are soundproof, the locker room lacks ventilation, and the building is not ADA accessible.

Indigo reported a new station needs to be at least 15,900 square feet on two-thirds of an acre, and ideally 18,500 square feet on a 1-acre property.

The consultant estimated the cost of a new or remodeled and expanded station at \$19 million to \$22.2 million, and that bringing the former station buildings up to code and repurposing them would cost

another \$11 million.

After Potter and Baron explained their committee and the others identified the city-owned Vista Lobos property a block away as the best potential site for a new station, residents and others objected and urged the council to engage in more discussion with the public before making any decisions.

Several residents also doubted the consultants' conclusions and cost estimates, and asked that no more money be spent exploring options until constituents have had more time to weigh in and opine.

Backing off

Following a couple of workshops on the topic, acting assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson said Friday the council will not make any decisions until more information has been shared about the situation and the challenges at Carmel P.D. — an effort that will be facilitated by the March 29 tours.

Those interested in participating must answer a short questionnaire by March 15 at 5 p.m. so Carmel P.D. can conduct background checks.

In addition to providing basic contact and biographical information, participants must consent to a records check and acknowledge that "photos, videos and audio recordings will not be allowed to be taken on the tour, and that failure to comply with this requirement will result in

removal from the tour."

Swanson said in the city's Friday video that the check is standard procedure for anyone who wants access to secure areas inside buildings dedicated to law enforcement, and he also noted that while Salinas P.D. is a good example of a modern police station, having been completed in January 2020, it's "a much bigger facility than we would ever need here."

The Salinas Police Services Headquarters cost \$56 million and replaced a deteriorating 62-year-old station.

Its complex contains more than 69,000 square feet on a 6.5-acre site and "has been built to the highest life safety building standards for wind and seismic events and includes state-of-the-art evidence storage areas, forensic laboratories, canine and bicycle officer support and a 10-station firing range," as well as 250 secure and 20 public parking spaces, according to the Seattle company, Public Facilities Group, that managed the project.

"But it's an opportunity to compare a facility built decades ago vs. a contemporary building," Swanson noted.

"There are elements of the Salinas Police Station that we're not asking for — that we do not need in our village," city administrator Chip Rerig confirmed.

To sign up for the tours of the police stations and consent to the background check, go to ci.carmel.ca.us/post/police-building-project.

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DRIVER

From page 1A

Police dispatch requesting help in searching for the man. Twenty minutes later, a CHP airplane arrived on scene and “located a vehicle approximately 400 feet over the side near the beach.” “A solo male was standing next to the vehicle frantically waving a makeshift flag,” the CHP reported.

Next, a CHP helicopter was called in, and it arrived from Paso Robles about 40 minutes later.

Harris, meanwhile, said Big Sur Fire arrived at Hurricane Point around 9:30 a.m., and within 30 minutes, one of its members was lowered to the scene of the crash and began assessing the man’s injuries. The site was about 50 feet above the surf.

According to the CHP, the man miraculously only suffered “moderate injuries.” He was hoisted up by the helicopter and flown to Natividad Medical Center in Salinas, where he was treated.

‘Everything went just perfect’

Harris said the rescue operation was efficient and successful.

“The rescuers acted quickly,” the fire chief reported. “Everything went just perfect.” “It was as good an outcome as you could have,” given the circumstances, he added.

Later, the man who drove off Hurricane Point and lived to talk about it told his rescuers what happened.

Apparently, he clipped a guard rail before going off the edge.

“He swerved to miss the deer in the roadway, causing him to veer off the roadway and roll several hundred feet down the cliff’s edge,” a CHP spokesperson said. “The driver reported that he was ejected through the sunroof as his car rolled down the hillside.”

On social media, many commented on reports of the rescue, including some who attributed the man’s survival to divine intervention, and others who suggested he should have simply run over the deer.

Besides Big Sur Fire and the CHP, the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office, California State Parks, the Urban Search and Rescue Team and American Medical Response participated in the rescue.

The rescued man’s identity has not been released, and neither have any details about the second car found during the rescue.



PHOTO/CHP

A man lost control of his vehicle Sunday along Highway 1 just south of Hurricane Point in Big Sur and went over the edge of a cliff, but survived.

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Group demands P.G. make district election decision by March 1

By KELLY NIX

A LATINO civil rights group is again pressing the City of Pacific Grove to eliminate at-large elections for the city council, claiming district elections would be fairer to minorities.

In an Aug. 25, 2022, letter to Pacific Grove, the League of United Latin American Citizens warned P.G. of a lawsuit if it didn't change from an at-large voting system to district elections. At-large elections allow voters of an entire city to elect members of the city council. A district-based election in Pacific Grove would divide the city into geographic areas, and voters in each of the seven districts would pick a council member.

While P.G.'s city charter calls for at-large elections for the mayor and city council, the Hispanic advocacy group, also known as LULAC, points to the 2001 California Voting Rights Act, a law enacted on the premise that minorities were being denied representation at the municipal level because of at-large elections.

"We therefore respectfully demand that the City of Pacific Grove change its at-large voting system to a district-based voting system that affords all voters and protected groups the equal opportunity to choose elected officials," according to the 2022 LULAC letter signed by group director Andrew Sandoval.

Pacific Grove, which has a population of nearly 15,000 people, is about 77.9 percent White, 11.3 percent Hispanic or Latino, 8.5 percent Asian, 0.8 percent Black, 0.4 percent

American Indian and Native Alaskan, and 8.6 percent are two or more races, according to the U.S. Census.

Pressing the council

On Feb. 3, Sandoval again emailed the city council, referencing a 2023 California Supreme Court ruling in which justices reversed a 2021 appellate decision that upheld Santa Monica's at-large voting system under the state's Voting Rights Act. The plaintiffs, the Pico Neighborhood Association, alleged that the Southern California city's at-large voting system diluted the voting power of Latinos.

"With the decision at the Supreme Court issued, will your city move forward with a council vote?" Sandoval said in the message, which he provided to The Pine Cone Tuesday. "Will Pacific Grove be moving towards district elections willingly now?"

Sandoval, a Salinas city councilman, asked that P.G. respond to LULAC's letter by March 1. He noted that in agreements the organization made with other Monterey County cities to switch to district elections, the group allowed for "ample public participation."

"I hope this moves forward promptly and Pacific Grove avoids unnecessary legal fees," Sandoval said.

No other Monterey County city that LULAC demanded move to district elections had been sued by the organization, he said.

Court costs

The group has cautioned that every public agency that has been sued over the at-large issue has lost in court, and in 2022 it said that plaintiffs' fees ranged from \$385,000 to \$4.5 million. If Pacific Grove lost such a legal challenge, LULAC said that the court has the authority to impose district-based elections and determine the boundaries.

After LULAC's 2022 demand, the P.G. City Council voted to spend \$50,000 on an attorney for a two-year review of the city's options. It's not clear if the review was completed and, if so, what the recommendations were.

LULAC has not cited any examples of racial

discrimination in Pacific Grove and no community groups have advocated for that the switch to district elections.

In March 2022 — after Pacific Grove Unified School District switched to district elections — the only Hispanic trustee of the school board was unseated by a White woman.

Whose bright idea was it to leave the lights on?

By KELLY NIX

TURNING OFF the lights inside is one of the easiest things you can do to save on your energy bill, yet most of the interior lights at the Pacific Grove Public Library are on 24/7 — leading some to ask why.

Councilman Luke Coletti first brought up the lights at a city climate action committee meeting in May 2023.

"The lights down at the library are left on all night," Coletti told his colleagues on the commission last year. "I think an energy audit is something we could do right away."

But nearly a year later, the interior lights remain on in most of the building, a point brought up by former P.G.



PHOTO/KELLY NIX

Taken this week, this photo shows that lights at the P.G. library are left on long after the facility is closed for business.

city councilman Dan Miller at the Feb. 21 P.G. City Council meeting.

"You can go by there at 2 o'clock in the morning and they're on," Miller told council members. "I don't know if this is like a loss prevention thing, where they are afraid someone is going to break in and steal books or something. But whatever the reason is, I guarantee you the electrical bill for the library is probably twice what it really needs to be."

Timers

City public works director Daniel Gho didn't immediately have the cost of the library's monthly electrical bill, but newly appointed library director Charlene Williams told The Pine Cone that the library is working with the light manufacturer regarding timers for the LED lights.

"I just started this role last month, so I am currently working to get caught up to speed on all aspects of the library," Williams told The Pine Cone.

LED lights use significantly less energy than traditional incandescent lightbulbs and last as much as 25 times longer, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

The energy audit Coletti suggested for the city has not yet been done.

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from Dr. Steven MacDonald, D.C.

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STAIRS

From page 1A

primary missions is to ensure public access to the coast.

Such permits are intended to address immediate concerns in the least impactful way, such as fixing broken railings and replacing treads on some of the stairways leading to the sand, while larger projects with more complex engineering require more permits and review by the coastal commission and other agencies. Swanson said he, Harary and the others were planning to walk the beach and Scenic pathway Thursday to compile a list of the stairways that can be repaired quickly and easily.

'Not a luxury'

The news came a week after Carmel Cares founder and resident Dale Byrne chastened the city for not acting more quickly to ensure residents and visitors can get to the beach. A critical step, he said, is digging up the schematics for the wooden stairs installed in 1997.

"After months of investigation, we are still waiting for the city to find the plans for the wooden stairways on the beach," he told the forest and beach commission Feb. 8. (Swanson told The Pine Cone that some of the plans have since been located and will be used if needed.)

"It's becoming more critical given the damage that is occurring to those stairways this winter, with parts of them sitting on the beach, now," Byrne continued. "Failure to act quickly will result in a significant reduction in access to Carmel Beach."

He also accused officials of adopting an "attitude that providing access to beach stairways is a luxury."

"It's not," he said. "The city owns Carmel Beach and are stewards of that beach, and it is our job to properly maintain it."

According to the Carmel Municipal Code, as the planning director, Swanson can issue the emergency permit,

since reconstruction won't take place "on any tidelands, submerged lands or on public trust lands."

In addition to stating what the emergency is and how the damage will be repaired, the permit application has to include the probable consequences of failing to take action, and public comments should be accepted and reviewed, if there's time, according to the code.

Public notices must be posted, and repairs must be "consistent with the requirements of the certified local

coastal program" and completed within 30 days.

If the fixes aren't temporary, the city will have to submit a regular permit application within 30 days of the effective date of the emergency permit, which will expire in seven days if work hasn't begun by then.

Swanson will also have to provide a written report to the city council "describing the nature of the emergency and the work involved" and send copies of it and the permit to the coastal commission's executive director.

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RECALL

From page 6A

“Not all are registered voters of the district, and a number of proponents did not include a complete residential address or signature as required,” Martinez said, resulting in three of the four petitions lacking enough signers to proceed.

\$16 to \$24 per voter

“In addition, there is a legally required paragraph, the text of which must match the text provided in law, that shall be included on the notice of intention,” Martinez said. “The text included on each of the CUSD notices filed with Monterey County Elections did not match the text provided in law.”

Martinez said their documents included wording related to an election for a successor, but the law says a petition to recall a local officer “shall not include a request for a successor to be elected or appointed.”

It also states that if the subject of the recall effort is a member of a school board, the petition must include the estimated cost of conducting the special election, as determined by the county elections official and the school district.

“The cost estimate we provide to proponents is \$7 to \$10 per registered voter for a consolidated election and \$16 to \$24 per registered voter for a stand-alone election,” Martinez said, adding that the district contains 17,131 voters and that the estimates are based on historical averages for all jurisdictions, regardless of size.

“They talk about money, and they say that we’re not doing the right things for kids,” RemyNSE told The Pine Cone

Wednesday, yet a recall election held before November could cost taxpayers between \$274,096 and \$411,144.

“That’s the students’ money to educate them and move them on in life, and this would negatively impact students because of a small group of people who don’t like what we’re doing,” he said.

RemyNSE said he plans to run as an appointed incumbent in the November election, and in the meantime, he’ll focus not on any sort of recall effort, but on returning the focus of conversation to students and their well-being.

“We want to give the superintendent what she needs to succeed,” he added. “She comes from arguably the best district in the state,” the Palo Alto Unified School District.

“She’s a good fit here,” RemyNSE added.

He also noted that, with four kids in CUSD schools, he’s invested in the district’s success and that of its students.

“I want to give back,” he said. “I feel like I’m a level head and I can see both sides without preconceived ideas.”

‘Benefit the community’

RemyNSE also wanted to acknowledge the work of his colleagues on the board.

“We have five people who are willing to volunteer their time,” he said, with no nefarious intentions. “All we want to do is benefit students and benefit the community. I think everybody here is well intentioned and trying to do things right.”

Dincer said the proponents of the recall plan to serve new, correct notices on the four board members and to ensure the documents filed with Monterey County Elections comply with the law.

“I don’t have an exact date, but it’s already in motion,” she said.

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Actor narrates short film about boat that carried Steinbeck, Ricketts

By CHRIS COUNTS

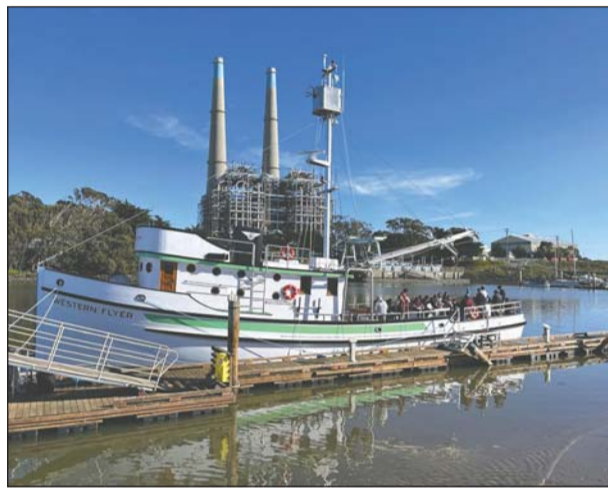
BEST KNOWN for his award-winning role as a bureaucracy-hating bureaucrat in the hit television series, “Parks and Recreation,” actor Nick Offerman narrates a new short film that chronicles the history of the Western Flyer, which some consider to be the world’s most famous fishing boat. Offerman, it turns out, is a master woodworker who builds boats in his spare time — just like his character, Ron Swanson, did in “Parks and Recreation.”

In early November, the Western Flyer — which carried writer John Steinbeck and marine biologist Ed “Doc” Ricketts on their historic voyage to the Sea of Cortez in 1940 — made its long-awaited return to Monterey, where it was greeted by hundreds of jubilant residents.

The Flyer floats again

The nine-minute film follows the boat’s journey over eight decades — from its heyday as a research vessel in the mid-20th century, to its less than dignified role as a sinking channel marker in the early 2010s, to the sparkling renovation that preceded its homecoming journey to Monterey five months ago. The makeover cost \$6 million and took eight years to complete.

Built in Tacoma in 1937, the Western Flyer was



PHOTO/WESTERN FLYER FOUNDATION

Considered by some to be the world’s most famous fishing boat, the Western Flyer made its long-awaited return to Monterey in November.

launched the same year. In 1940, Ricketts and Steinbeck chartered the 77-foot-long purse seiner for a six-week trip to the Gulf of California. The journey to collect samples of marine life led to two books by Steinbeck: “Sea of Cortez” came out in 1941, while “The Log from the Sea of Cortez” was published in 1951.

The film was released Feb. 27 — on what would have been Steinbeck’s 122nd birthday.

The executive director of the Western Flyer Foundation, which played a key role in making the boat seaworthy again, Sherry Flumerfelt said she was “thrilled” by Offerman’s offer to narrate the film and share the boat’s story

with a wider audience. Besides the acclaim he’s received for “Parks and Recreation,” he won an Emmy Award in January for his work in the film, “The Last of Us.”

“Not only is Nick a hilarious and much-loved celebrity, but he also happens to be an incredible writer, a

woodworker, and even a boat builder,” Flumerfelt said. “He’s the perfect fit for this project, and we had so much fun making this film with him.”

To watch the movie, which is free, visit westernflyer.org/nick-offerman-film.

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KENNETH E. VAN HAGEN

Ken passed away peacefully at home on January 11, 2024, with his loving wife, Barbara, by his side.

Born June 2, 1932, in Oakland, California to Hazel and Earl Van Hagen, the family moved to Marengo, Illinois when Ken was a child. The handsome Ken was very popular in high school and excelled in sports and scholastics. After graduation, the Van Hagens moved back to California to be closer to family. Ken attended San Jose State where he met and married June Dampier. They had two children, Steve (wife Sam) and Vickie (Shawn) O'Hara.

Hired as a pharmaceutical salesman, the family moved to Pacific Grove. His favorite account was Bowers Pharmacy in Carmel Valley, now the Sunny Bakery Café. Falling in love with the Valley, the family bought a home on Ford Road and opened the Carmel Valley General Store in the Airway Shopping Center in 1964, one of the first businesses in Carmel Valley.

After he and June separated, he sold the store and became a real estate agent with Porter Marquard Realty.

Ken was a founding member of the Carmel Valley Village Improvement Committee, chairman of the 1966 Carmel Valley Community Fund Drive; earning him the Chamber of Commerce Good Egg Award in 1967. His volunteering continued for 50 more years. He was a Carmel Valley Fire Department volunteer from 1967 to 1995, rising to Fire Captain; a Carmel Valley Community Center board member; Carmel Valley Kiwanis member and board member for nine years; and Carmel Valley Little League coach and treasurer for five years. He was awarded a Good and Golden 50 Year Award for his volunteerism in 2017.

Ken and Barbara Belleci married in 1975. They enjoyed 49 wonderful years together traveling the world. Their adventures included many months each year in their Kona, Hawaii condo, Caribbean Island hopping, and many years traveling the country in their motorhome, including three months in Alaska.

Ken leaves behind his wife, Barbara; his two children, Steve and Vickie; his five stepchildren he considered his own, Katherine, Anthony, Christine, Rosalie and Matthew; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Ken was preceded in death by his sister, Janet Littlefield.

As granddaughter Kristy wrote, "there are no words to express the joy this man brought to everyone he knew. You were well loved "Kenny Benny, best papa ever."

A Celebration of Life will take place noon to 4 p.m. on June 2, 2024, which would have been Ken's 92nd birthday, at the Carmel Valley Community Center.



COUNCIL

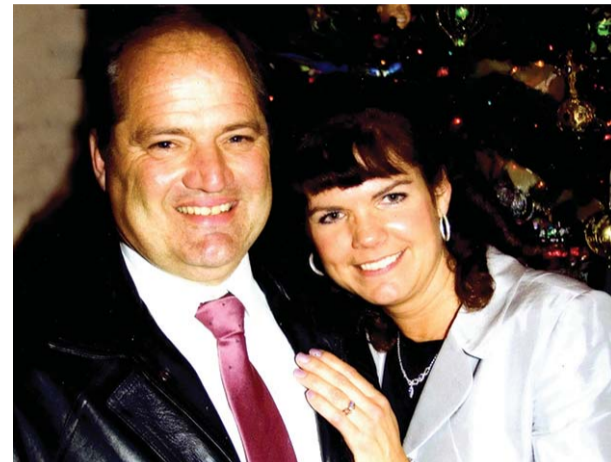
From page 11A

consent calendar and are encouraging people to request that it be pulled for discussion. It's being paid for with a taxpayer-funded grant.

The Carmel Art Festival wants to set up in Devendorf Park for its annual event and a couple is asking to take it over for a wedding in October. Both events will include alcohol, which is why the council has to approve them.

Closed session will include Parker Logan's lawsuit regarding a city tree that fell on his truck last year, the Carmel Heritage Society and the chamber's proposal to jointly rent the First Murphy House, and lease terms with the Carmel Area Wastewater District for its use of Rio Park near Mission Ranch.

Find the agendas and other details at ci.carmel.ca.us.



MARK DEAN HOLMAN

Mark Dean Holman died on September 22nd, 2023, at 65 years old. He was the only son of Dean and Rosemary Holman and grew up in the fields of Soledad, eventually settling in Monterey where he backpacked many of the trails and scuba dived in the kelp forest with friends and family. Mark followed his father's footsteps into construction and became a general contractor and head of Mark Holman and Associates Construction Company. His beautiful buildings throughout Monterey County remain a testament to his skill, vision and dedication to his craft.

He married the love of his life, Roxane, and became a father to two daughters: Chelsea and Danielle. Mark was a man who lived life to the fullest and was not afraid to love both people and nature. He will be deeply missed by those lucky enough to have known him.

PETER TORNEY COAKLEY

March 1935-January 2024

Peter Torney Coakley, a resident of Carmel Valley, passed away peacefully on January 29, 2024, with his beloved wife, Diane, by his side. Peter was born on March 22, 1935, to Thomas and Katharine Coakley of San Francisco and spent most of his youth in the Bay Area.



After attending the University of California, Berkeley, where he majored in business administration, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving as a psych. med. technician at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital, Denver, Colorado from 1955 to 1957, leaving with honorable discharge. Peter went on to receive "outstanding student award" from City College of San Francisco, graduating in hotel and restaurant management. He studied at Ecole Hotelier (Swiss Hotel School) in Lausanne, Switzerland where he learned French and took a Cuisine Course, followed by an apprenticeship at Beau-Rivage Palace Hotel, also in Lausanne. That was the beginning of his hotel career. Peter worked in and managed several hotels, including the Fairmont and Hilton hotels in San Francisco and the Stanley Hotel in Estes Park, Colorado.

All this experience led him to Carmel Valley where he bought the Carmel Valley Lodge in 1975 and ran it successfully for 39 years, making it a sought-after destination for families and conferences until retirement in 2014.

Peter was an icon and pillar in the community and did so much for the village he loved. He will be remembered for his work for the CVVIC (Carmel Valley Village Improvement Committee), working on lighting, pavement and his tireless effort to put the power lines underground. His generosity

and kindness were endless, offering rooms to village residents during the 1995 floods. Peter received the well-deserved "Good Egg" award in 1980 and the double yolk award 25 years later, in 2005. He was also part of the Monterey County Hospitality Association. So many benefited from his public service.

In his free time Peter enjoyed traveling, skiing, playing poker with his buddies, playing piano, volunteering some time at CHOMP, running in the village with his dog, Lucky, and spending time with his family.

Peter was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle. He was loved and respected by all and will be dearly missed.

Peter was preceded in death by his parents, Judge Thomas and Katharine Coakley, and sons Michael and Bob Coakley.

He is survived by his loving wife, Diane; daughter, Katharine Coakley Baker (Glen); grandsons, Aaron Baker and Cody Coakley; step-children, Simon Bachir (Kami) and Sonia Bachir; and siblings, Jeanette Stewart, Molly Hoyle (Buck) and Joe Coakley (Kathy).

A memorial service will be begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 20th, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Carmel Valley, where he was a faithful member.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Central Coast VNA & Hospice, 5 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Monterey, CA 93940

MAY GOD REST HIS WONDERFUL SOUL.



JAMES W. DALLAS

March 16, 1941 to February 12, 2024

"Jim" passed away on Monday, February 12, 2024, in Prunedale, CA. Jim was born in Narbeth, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Jim first came to the Monterey Peninsula where he was self-employed as a marine photographer specializing in underwater kelp beds and otters' habitats. He also worked 32 years as a diagnostic radiologist and later, as a security guard for 1st Alarm. He was also enlisted in the Naval Reserve and honorably discharged in 1972.

After retirement, Jim was very active in his community. He was most recently a police volunteer with the Carmel by-the-Sea Police Department, where for nine years he assisted with traffic control, beach security and welcoming visitors to Carmel. He also volunteered at the Monterey Bay Aquarium

Jim is survived by his cousin, Alan Day, of Carlsbad, CA and Alan's three children.

A celebration of life is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 28, 2024, in front of the Carmel Police Department. Please RSVP to Rachele, 831-905-5450.

Donations towards Jim's burial expenses can be sent in the care of Carmel Police Officer's Association (made out to CPOA), P.O. Box 52, Carmel, CA 93921 or dropped off at the station.

GAVEL

From page 4A

quin County and resolves the allegations above and requires Quest Diagnostics to pay \$3,999,500 in civil penalties, \$700,000 in costs, and \$300,000 for a project to support environmental training and enforcement in California. The settlement also imposes injunctive terms, including requirements that Quest Diagnostics maintain an environmental compliance program, including hiring a third-party waste auditor, and report annually on its progress.



SANDRA REAM

1950-2024

Sandy was born in Yakima, WA on May 30, 1950. Sandy grew up in Yakima but loved living in Monterey. She made many friends while working as a server at The Cove on the wharf. Sandy returned to her hometown, Yakima, several years later. She passed away on February 3rd, 2024, at The Cottage In The Meadow after losing her battle with lymphoma, surrounded by her family.

Sandy is survived by her siblings, Jim Ream (Deborah), Patricia Abhold (Kris) and Kenneth Ream (Guyila), several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Sandra is predeceased by her parents. She had many friends and will be missed by many.



ANGELO SOUSA SOARES

Angelo Sousa Soares of Carmel went peacefully to Heaven on February 7, 2024, surrounded by his family at the age of 88.

Angelo was born in the Azores, Portugal, to parents Antonio and Maria Soares. It was there where Angelo grew into his talent for music. Not only was Angelo accomplished in playing the guitar and mandolin, but he also played in the local and military marching band and dance troupes. After moving to the Monterey Peninsula in 1960, he continued his passion for music by traveling around Northern California playing for many Portuguese Folklore dance troupes until 1969.

Angelo was deeply passionate about gardening, fishing, wine making, and all animals — especially his beloved dog, Millie. During his time on the Monterey Peninsula, Angelo served as president of the APDES of Castroville from 1971-74 and 1981-82, president of the FDES Portuguese Organization of Monterey from 1988-89 and 1992-93, and president of Our Lady of Fatima Society of Pacific Grove from 1989-90.

Angelo is survived by his wife, Mary Angela; his daughter, Ana Soares (Michael) Lykken; grandchildren, Ross Lykken and Fallon Lykken; brother, Antonio Soares, and sister Fatima Silveria; godchildren and nieces and nephews.

Angelo was preceded in death by his parents, Antonio and Maria Soares; his son, Albert Soares; sister, Helena Frutuoso; and his brothers, João Soares, Milton Soares and Manuel Soares.

Man uses gun to commit suicide on P.G. shore

By KELLY NIX

A PACIFIC Grove man whose body was discovered by a passerby on the rocks near Lovers Point fatally shot himself, the Monterey County Coroner's Office said.

The coroner's office said that the man was Howard Brian Malloy, 66. His body was found near Lovers Point, an area in the city that gets a lot of foot traffic from locals and tourists. Pacific Grove Police said a passerby spotted the man's body and notified authorities.

Cynthia Louise Bottero

Oct. 31, 1962-Feb. 12, 2024

Cynthia was born on Halloween 61 years ago to Frank and Nancy Bottero (now Klapatch) at CHOMP. She passed at home in Carmel Woods after a two-year battle with ovarian cancer.

Cynthia resided on the Monterey Peninsula and Carmel Valley for most of her life. She graduated from Carmel High School, attended Monterey Peninsula College and graduated from the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Cynthia was employed in the local hospitality industry for several years.

She was preceded in death by her longtime companion, Johnny Mirani. She is survived by her father, of Carmel Woods; and her mother, of Grants Pass, Oregon; a half-brother and several relatives.

"For life and death are one,
even as the river and the sea are one."

—Khalil Gibran



Donna Jeanne Rico

Donna Jeanne Rico passed away peacefully on December 17 at the age of 93. She was born in 1930, in Madison, Wisconsin to Margaret and Perry Combes. Donna and her parents relocated to Pullman, Washington, where she grew up with her younger sister, Joanne, and brother, John. She graduated from her beloved alma mater, Washington State College (later to become Washington State University) and was a proud member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. In keeping with Donna's adventurous ways, she and a good friend got on a Greyhound Bus the day after graduating from college, with \$33 in her wallet and a suitcase of clothes, and headed to the big city of San Francisco to embrace a new and exciting life. There she found quickly a job with the Big E as an assistant buyer.

In less than a year, Donna was introduced to the love of her life, Ron Rico. Ron, ever the romantic, knew instantly that Donna was "the one," but Donna, showing her sensible side, needed him to court her before falling deeply in love. Their contrasting personalities created an equilibrium as a couple. They were soon married and started their family in the San Mateo area.

In 1962, Ron and Donna moved to the Monterey Peninsula where Ron grew up. They settled in Carmel with their two young daughters, Sabrina and Michelle. Donna embraced her new community with abundant energy, good humor and a thirst for learning new things. She was active in Carmel Bay School and PTA, Girl Scouts (as a leader), local environmental causes (OLAF, which successfully preserved open space along Highway 1). She was also a long-time active member of St Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae, PEO, Sierra Club, Quoto Club, and a resident and board member of Hacienda Carmel.

After her daughters started middle school, Donna returned to work at Santa Catalina as an assistant registrar. She loved working with the Sisters and her colleagues at Catalina. Later, Donna worked for a tax company for several years before she found her love of real estate. Over the course of her 25-year career in real estate she formed lifelong friendships, which was acknowledged by many clients who called on her more than once. She was known as "the reliable one," which her brokerage put on her business card.

Donna touched people with her practical sound judgment, hard work, reliability, and compassion for family, friends and clients. Described as wise, kind, loving and confident, with a smile loved by Ron and that warmed the hearts of others, Donna had a way of bringing calm to even difficult situations. She treasured her family and dear friends, and had an adventurous spirit that carried through her life whether camping in Big Sur, back packing in Los Padres and the Sierra, river rafting, traveling the world, including bush camping in Africa.

Donna was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was preceded by her dear Ron, her loving husband of over 60 years, who passed in 2017. Donna is survived by her two daughters, Sabrina Wadsworth, Michelle (Scott) Rico Wilsdon and grandchildren Brittney (Stephen) Borlik, Sarah Wadsworth, Landon Beamer, James (Maggie) Wadsworth, Milo Wilsdon (Mileen), Alec Barrett-Wilsdon, and Nate Barrett-Wilsdon. She is also survived by her treasured great-grandsons, Forrest and Sawyer. Donna is survived by brother, John Combes (Joan) and is preceded by her sister, Joanne (Jerry) and sister-in-law, Barbara Wishart (George). She is also survived by nieces, Marsha (Dave) Olender, Nancy Bray; and nephews Robert (Deborah) Wishart, Barry (Barbara) Combes, Brian (Emiko) Combes and Tom (Mary) Arnold.

A memorial service will begin at 2 p.m. April 13 at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church (Carmel Valley). The family would especially like to thank Hospice of the Central Coast and also caregiver Cecelia from Central Coast Senior Services along with the other fine caregivers that helped Donna over the years. Cecelia's kindness, intuitive nature and professionalism ensured that Donna's last years were filled with exemplary care and allowed Donna to live in her beloved home for as long as was possible.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial gifts be made in honor of Donna Rico to St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, either to support the General Fund or to support the Haiti Outreach Ministry: St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 28005 Robinson Canyon Road, Carmel, CA 93923.



CHS, STEVENSON, FIND GLORY ON THE BASKETBALL COURT, SOCCER PITCH

LONG ODDS? They're for chumps, not champs.

Until Saturday, no Monterey Peninsula team, boys or girls, had ever won a Central Coast Section soccer crown in the 54-year history of the postseason playoffs in that sport. That's not a glass ceiling — it's Plexiglas — and the Stevenson Pirates kicked it into a million little pieces.

Going into the fourth quarter of Saturday's CCS boys basketball finals, the Carmel Padres were longshots to overcome a daunting deficit against a multi-talented, highly disciplined opponent that also had thrashed them earlier in the year. Take the bet.

The past was not prologue

After a nerve-jangling, scoreless first half, a change of strategy helped Stevenson conquer The King's Academy 2-0 to win the CCS Division 5 title at San Jose's Del Mar High in the first meeting between those two schools.

During the 21 seasons that Stevenson has had a program, only two other teams (the 2002-03 and 2012 Pirates) had even qualified for the postseason, and the 2012 bunch was the only one to escape the opening round.

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

"This couldn't have happened to a more amazing group of kids," said head coach Toby Elmore, a Stevenson alum. "We won the CCS championship. We were selected for our league's Sportsmanship Award. And we got the CCS All-Academic Team Award.

"That's so reflective of who we are as a team and as a program," Elmore said. "We play the game right, we play the game well, we're student-athletes, and we're good sportsmen, through and through. All season long, we've emphasized how those qualities are going to define us, and it feels really great to add that performative element to the other pieces."

Carmel brought home its third CCS Division IV



PHOTO/(LEFT) COURTESY CARMEL ATHLETICS, (ABOVE) KERRY BELSER

A 17-3 fourth quarter lifted Carmel (left) to a victory over Menlo on Saturday and its third CCS Division 4 championship since 2018. A 3-point bucket by Hudson Rutherford, 11 (above) changed the tide in that dramatic victory for Padres.

basketball trophy since 2018, after staging an epic 17-3 rally against Menlo School during the final eight minutes, battling from nine points down to a 57-52 victory.

"When we were sitting there between the third and fourth quarters, I was pretty calm, and basically said, 'There is no nine-point shot in basketball, so you're going to have to stack a few good possessions together,'" coach Kurt Grahl said. "We needed to get a stop, execute at the other end of the floor, get another stop, and do that again. We had to grind our way back into it."

Junior guard Simeon Brown then did something leaders do: He asked Grahl to assign him to Menlo's offensive star, Tyler Cohen, who had riddled the Padres with 17 points through the first three quarters.

"He's always been an emotional, almost spiritual leader for us at times like that," Grahl said. "Simeon's we're-gonna-get-this-done charisma really ignites the rest of our guys."

Brown served notice in the early moments of the fourth quarter when Carmel's zone-trap defense apparently left Cohen wide open after an inbounds pass.

He flew through the air

"Simeon flew through the air, blocked the kid's shot, ran down the ball to keep it inbounds, and led our fastbreak the other way. That definitely sparked us," Grahl said.

"He's a great shooter, he was open, and I knew he was

going to pull up and shoot it," Brown said. "I just happened to time it perfectly, ended up blocking his shot, saved it before it went out-of-bounds, and took it the other way. I did what I had to do."

Cohen, rattled and frustrated by Brown's intense coverage, failed to score a point in the fourth quarter.

Another pivotal moment for Carmel was a gutsy long-range bomb by junior wing Hudson Rutherford, who ignored close coverage by a Menlo defender to drain the 3-point shot that gave the Padres a 2-point lead with 3:54 left.

"We work on it all the time in practice," Rutherford said of the play, which was called by his coach. "I just tried to go out there and do my job — tried not to think too much — and it turned out to be a huge momentum shift for us."

'We're gonna win this thing'

"When Hudson hit that shot, that was the moment, in my mind, when our guys thought, 'We're not just clawing ourselves back into the game — we're gonna win this thing,'" Grahl said of Rutherford's fourth and final 3-pointer of the game.

It was, in fact, the backbreaker for the Knights, who had beaten an undefeated Carmel team 72-61 at Menlo in

See **SPORTS** next page



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SPORTS

From previous page

December — a night when they outscored Carmel 26-10 down the stretch to erase the Padres' 5-point fourth-quarter lead.

In the CCS finale, Rutherford led Carmel with 17 points and grabbed seven rebounds, 6-foot-6 center Jackson Lloyd added 13 points and nine rebounds, and Brown scored 12 — including a 6-for-6 night at the foul line — with seven assists.

The victory gave Carmel a 25-3 overall record going into NorCals.

'A commanding presence'

Stevenson's electrifying victory over The King's Academy in the soccer finals was the work of a Pirates defense that was literally impenetrable in three CCS playoff games. Goalkeeper Luke Brandler was credited with eight saves Saturday in his third consecutive postseason shutout and 16th of the season, on the heels of a 1-0 conquest of Milpitas in the semifinals and a 4-0 opening-round white-wash of Gunderson.

"Luke is such a commanding presence in the box that he makes a huge difference," Elmore said of the Cypress Division's 2024 Defensive Most Valuable Player. "His only really brilliant stop of the day didn't really matter,

80 minutes, and Jonas really turned it on in the second half and had an excellent game."

The 0-0 deadlock ended in the game's 55th minute, when Charles Elmore's struck a free kick into the wall of players in front of the goal. The ball pinged out to the left side of the goal and was passed from Wilmot back to Elmore, then to Santiago Esquino-Espejo. Esquino-Espejo fed it inside to Spencer Stornetta, who drilled it into the bottom-left side of the goal.

"The energy changed at that point. We felt the momentum tip in our favor, but the boys understood that a 1-0 lead wasn't enough," Elmore said. "We had to get at least one more, so we kept pressing."

Stevenson's second goal came 15 minutes later, when Alessandro Spada crashed inside the 18-foot marker and smoked his shot past the King's Academy goalie on the bottom-right side of the goal.

The victory gave the Pirates a 15-3-5 overall record and the No. 1 seed among eight teams in Northern California's Division 5 championship bracket. Carmel received the No. 5 seed in Division 3, a 16-team tournament.

NorCal updates

On Tuesday, at their home venues, both teams won again.

Pirates prevail in overtime: Stevenson rallied from a



PHOTO/COURTESY STEVENSON ATHLETICS

Spectacular defense and a pair of second-half goals fueled Stevenson's 2-0 victory over The King's Academy and secured the school's first CCS crown.

1-0 halftime deficit against Sierra Delta League champion Esparto, tying the game on Henry Blaxter's unassisted goal with just 18 minutes left in regulation time. Pirates goalkeeper Brandler and defenders Wilmot and Da Silva were instrumental in fending off the Spartans (16-8-1) to send the contest into overtime.

The Pirates ended the struggle five minutes into the overtime period when Stornetta's assist set up Nico Arias

See **MORE SPORTS** page 27A



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

The shutdown defensive play of junior guard Simeon Brown, left, sparked Carmel's 17-3 fourth-quarter burial of Menlo in Saturday's CCS finals.

because the officials ended up calling off-sides on the play."

Brandler also got significant protection from his wall of defenders — center-backs Jonas Avernieck Bolen and Zack DaSilva, and outside defenders Gabriel Hao and Harrison Wilmot.

"Gabriel and Harrison had to mark the two most talented players on the field — very fast, very technical, very dangerous — and they completely shut those guys down," Elmore said. "Zack DaSilva was solid for the full



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Kitties of the Week

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Editorial

How they do it

ONE OF the weird things about being in the news business for more than 40 years is that when you're discussing journalism with somebody, they still don't think you know any more than they do about how the process of getting a story into print or on television works. Everybody consumes journalism, and that means they all think they're experts in it, so don't go telling someone how even their favorite website can lie or engage in propaganda, or that one they don't like can do some pretty good work.

But the truth is, even at the most "reputable" outlets, much of what is presented to the American public as "news" is sensationalism intended to draw their eye so they can be sold to advertisers, or political manipulation for the purpose of making people believe something that isn't true or disbelieve something that is.

Case in point was the story we discussed in last week's editorial about a hit piece on Patrice Pastor printed by the San Francisco Chronicle. We doubt that the reporter who wrote the story and the editors who approved it had a political grudge against Pastor. They just saw an opportunity to get clicks by exaggerating the importance of one person's anonymous and insubstantial complaints about Pastor's numerous real estate projects in Carmel. And that's why a mediocre, thinly sourced story got a headline describing Pastor as a "terrifying" person who is trying to "crush everybody," when he's actually a nice person who has done nothing but excellent work with his projects in Carmel to date. Technique No. 1: Take one or two tiny things in a story and exaggerate the heck out of them until you have something that will sell.

Just a bit more is required to explain how Technique No. 2 works. The ridiculous Pastor story spread around the world because in today's news business, once a supposedly reputable outlet publishes a story, everybody else feels at liberty to re-publish it without making the slightest effort to verify it. Which is to say that the Chronicle's mistake turned into everybody's mistake without anybody batting an eyelash.

Meanwhile, a recent story in the Wall Street Journal was Exhibit A for tricking the public into believing something that isn't true.

On Feb. 9, reporters Tala Ansari and Jim Carlton told about the terrible crime wave that's turned Oakland's Hegenberger Road into a place so dangerous numerous businesses, including Starbucks, Denny's and In-N-Out, have been forced to close.

According to the story, "workers in stores on and around Hegenberger Road say car break-ins are routine, even in broad daylight. People in the neighborhood say rental cars, likely from the nearby airport, are often hit, which may be why thieves target the area."

It also quoted an official from In-N-Out who said, "Despite taking repeated steps to create safer conditions, our customers and associates are regularly victimized by car break-ins, property damage, theft and armed robberies," and reported that "Denny's said it decided to close after considering the safety of its workers and customers."

Pretty bad stuff, right? And what could be the cause of this horrible outbreak of lawlessness?

At the very top, the story says, "The crime wave that has gripped the city since the pandemic has hit this area near Oakland International Airport hard," and then adds, "violent crime rates nationally are trending downward after a pandemic spike." Get it? The crime wave was caused by the pandemic. The story doesn't make this rather preposterous claim directly, all it does is associate the crime wave with the pandemic by putting the words close together. Technique No. 3: Place unrelated facts next to each so the reader will think one caused the other.

Farther down in the Journal's Oakland crime story, it mentions other possible causes. "The Oakland branch of the NAACP, as well as the Oakland police union, have said the police department, which has been without a chief for a year, is understaffed, contributing to the rise in crime," the story says. "Locals have also blamed a lack of prosecutions."

But by then it's too late. The reader has already been told — more succinctly, and with much more urgency — that all those muggings, car break-ins and armed robberies are part of a pandemic crime wave.

BEST of BATES



"Honeymoon's over."

Letters to the Editor

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

'Terrified'

Dear Editor,

Not always do I see eye to eye with The Pine Cone's editorials, but I agree wholeheartedly with the one in last week's Pine Cone. As it notes, many news sources have picked up and printed the SFGate article regarding how the residents of Carmel are supposedly "terrified" that Patrice Pastor is buying up the town.

I can understand there could be concern when one person/entity buys so many properties in our village, especially when unknown or misunderstood, but let me enumerate the facts:

- As pointed out, his projects have been covered in the Pine Cone, so there has been complete transparency. As a matter of fact, he held an open public meeting before the "pit" design was submitted for approval.

- The rise in property taxes (and then ostensibly rents) happens every time a property is sold, but Pastor is not responsible for that process. That is a legitimate problem everywhere, but are we to ban all future sales of properties?

- A few other families in Carmel own much real estate as well — so is this

xenophobia or envy we're seeing?

- Every existing property he has purchased has been beautifully refurbished where necessary and impeccably maintained.

He respects Carmel's traditional character and has proved that over and over. We know that he has done a beautiful job of restoring L'Auberge and Carmel Resort Inn, for example.

- Mr. Pastor has been most kind in our community with no fanfare or even recognition for his good works. Many know nothing of those acts, and I respect his desire for privacy.

As one third-generation business owner in Carmel asked me, and I suspect is the perpetrator of the sensational headlines, am I being paid by Esperanza Carmel, his company here? No, I am not, but I have met with Pastor several times and discussed designs for the "pit" that would enhance the traditional character of our village ... and he is a nice guy. He "gets" Carmel, and sadly I can't say that for a few of our outspoken city leaders and residents.

Karyl Hall, Carmel resident
Co-Chair, Carmel Preservation Association

Not all intentions are bad

Dear Editor,

I've been reflecting on a couple of continuing issues in town — street addresses and Patrice Pastor's actions in Carmel — and what they appear to have in common. Fear. Specifically, fear of change. Fear isn't necessarily a bad thing, but fear

See **LETTERS** page 40A

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Monday afternoons simply haven't been the same since 1913

From time to time, The Pine Cone encounters a group that has taken on a Great Life of its own.

THE YEAR 1913 ushered in an era of innovation, yielding products that continue to influence our daily lives, like the world's first crossword puzzle, the Stanley vacuum bottle, stainless steel, and Henry Ford's moving assembly line.

On March 3, 1913, a reported 5,000 women marched up Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., demanding the right to vote. Less dramatically, in Carmel-by-the-Sea, Mrs. Henry A. Fisk gathered a few female friends to form a women's club with the "express purpose of providing intellectual stimulus to its members."

The unstated goal was to get women out of the kitchen and into society.

Ord's commanding general, Harry D. Chamberlin, recruited the women for volunteer service.

Nearly 111 years since its inception, the Monday Afternoon Club persists. Its members, some of whose mothers were members before them, gather on the fourth Monday of every month — except July and August, when they tend to travel — to discuss the intricacies of a chosen topic. Their purpose extends beyond the founding mission of "continued mutual growth among members in literature, art, social culture, and vital questions of the day," to focus on friendship, community and fun.

'Just a housewife'

Carlie Short joined the Club in 1975 because she was asked.

"I'd been a housewife after putting my husband through college," she said. "The opportunity to have something just for me, much like the ladies who started the club, was appealing. I, too, wanted to explore who I was as a

woman instead of a housewife and mother. In those days, you were 'just' a housewife. Meeting and talking about interesting things with intelligent women appealed to me. It still does."

Sarah McCloud Berling, who grew up in Carmel, had heard about the Monday Afternoon Club for years and was well aware of a number of members who had

See LIVES page 25A

Great Lives

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

To make clear her seriousness of purpose, Mrs. Fisk chose for her first topic, "A Study of Hiawatha," the legendary Iroquois leader, although perhaps Sacagawea would have been more appropriate. The Monday Afternoon Club got underway — women had to be home in time to prepare the evening meal, after all.

News of the women's club reached a local paper, the Monterey American, which stated, "The Monday Afternoon Club is organized for very serious work, and while it in no way aims to be exclusive, the membership is limited to 20 members."

Shared stories

Roll calls confirmed meeting attendance and when a woman heard her name, she was to recite a quotation relevant to the topic to be discussed during the meeting. A review of carefully kept minutes reveals that the concerns of the day were prominent. The result is an historic chronicle of lives unfolding here in the context of world events. Discussions included, "Who's Who in California," "This year's fiction," "The history and romance of Monterey," "Peninsula artists and poets," "Civics and government," "Influential women," and "Dickens."

During World War II, members lightened the mood by sharing stories of their marriage proposals. Then they disbanded in favor of making surgical bandages for the Red Cross. A year later, Fort



PHOTO/(TOP) KELLY LLOYD, (ABOVE) COURTESY MONDAY AFTERNOON CLUB

Carlie Short and Julie Work Beck (top) review the Monday Afternoon Club's archives. (Above) Members of the club circa 1914 — its second year in existence — enjoy the beautiful Peninsula climate.

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

CREATIVITY SURVIVES AND THRIVES, EVEN IF NOBODY IS WATCHING

IF HE were the last person on Earth, Greg Mettler believes he'd spend his days building things, changing things, creating things that are different from anything else.

"I think I'd do something creative, even if there was no audience to see it. It's a part of my life. It's who I am. I don't think it'll ever end," he said. "If I don't do creative things for a period of time, I'll start to feel down, like I don't have meaning. And when I start on a project, that feeling sort of disappears."

Mettler, who works in a spacious Sand City studio, can accurately be labeled a visionary artist, mixing his media between fine-art photography, sculpture, and handyman construction to make artwork that, for the most part, he never expects to sell.

contrasted the famous charm and opulence of the Monterey Peninsula with the lives of the laborers who make it all possible.

He meshed his clips and images together for a theater-type video experience, modeled after a well known San Francisco attraction called Camera Obscura.

Voyeuristic

"In the olden days, you could pay about \$2 to walk into Camera Obscura, where a rotating lens at the top of a building showed Golden Gate Park, Ocean Beach, The Richmond district, and other famous scenery — a 360-degree experience that they projected through a lens, down onto a dish on the floor," Mettler said. "It was voyeuristic and interesting, and a lot like photography: Looking through a lens can change the way we see the world around us."

Mettler replicated the Camera Obscura experience, projecting his own

self-produced video onto a dish on the floor of a cylindrical enclosure — a substitute for the Camera Obscura building — that he made, then installed at the Monterey Museum of Art.

His show interposed scenes of people playing golf, or strolling the avenues in high heels, with images of workers sorting through garbage at the dump, picking strawberries from agricultural fields, and others.

"It all works together. I'm not opposed to wealth or spending money, but if we're going to have all these wonderful restaurants, we also need those people who pick the produce, prepare the food, wash the dishes, and deal with the trash," he said of his project, "Monterey Now," which had a three-month lifespan at the Monterey museum.

'Scopophilia'

A project Mettler created as a graduate student at San Jose State became a 2011 gallery exhibit in Lexington, Ky., featuring life-sized photographs on canvas of people he had recruited through a Craigslist ad that said, "Fine-art photographer looking for nude models, 18 and older, all genders and body types."

"I got a big response, male and female, and people answered for all different reasons: Some were into modeling, some were exhibitionists, and some enjoyed the idea of posing for somebody they'd never met before," he said of "Scopophilia."

He exhibited the enormous images on the floor of the gallery, slightly elevated on blocks, in a formation that encouraged viewers to walk around them.

Much of his art clearly was inspired by his upbringing in Lodi, where his parents, grandparents, uncles and cousins tilled the land.

See ARTIST page 25A

Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

Some can be described as gritty and raw. Some is statement art. The majority of his work isn't intended to hang in a gallery, or over your sofa.

"I had a show last year, put some work on a wall, sold maybe \$4,000-\$5,000 worth, and that was a lot for me," he said. "The gallery got a big chunk of that, which made me happy — I want them to make some money — and it also was nice to see my art going into people's houses."

"I try to get exhibitions, I like being in shows, but I really don't pursue selling art. I enjoy the idea of making an installation that creates an atmosphere at a show. You can't really sell an installation," explained Mettler, who makes the majority of his income teaching multiple photography classes at Cabrillo College and Monterey Peninsula College and through lectures and workshops.

Two sides of our paradise

In 2011, the Marina resident began a project involving video and photos that



PHOTO/GREG METTLER

Greg Mettler, a visionary artist, creates multimedia pieces like this one, called "16 Dollars," often incorporating his favorite medium, fine-art photography.



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GARAGE

From page 1A

cottages feature irregular floor plans, exterior walls of cement plaster mixed with pine needles over burlap, pitched roofs with undulating roof lines and hand-carved rafter tails, irregular fenestration and other “character-defining features,” Waffle said.

Hansel is 250 square feet, while Gretel is larger and underwent a couple of additions built by Comstock. In 2018, the Vorises received permission to remove a 1949 addition and construct 1,393 square feet of new living space, including a basement. A gravel parking pad was installed in the front-yard setback at that time.

‘Incredible neighbors’

Architect Brian Congleton — who also handled the Lutzes’ project — designed a 250-square-foot garage for the parking pad calling for carriage-style wood doors with windows, stone veneer to match the addition, and a gable roof with cedar shingles. Waffle noted it would only block one of Gretel’s 2018 additions, not any of the historic portions of either cottage.

Congleton told the commission the couple has owned Hansel & Gretel for three decades and that they’re very excited about their new garage.

“I think you could tell that they could talk for hours about Hansel & Gretel, as could I, and what I’m going to do rather than do that is say that we’re very proud of this project,” he said.

The neighbor to the south, Garth Bearman, said that if anyone were to be adversely affected by the project, it would be him and his wife, and they both fully support it. “They are incredible neighbors. They give an enormous amount to Carmel and for the goodwill of Carmel,” he said. “We get 50 to 60 people every day walking up to see Hansel & Gretel. This would be a wonderful addition, because I know they would do it in a superb manner because they really treasure the treasure

that they’re living in.”

Former HRB member Kathryn Gualtieri praised Clovis’ evaluation, and resident Cindy Lloyd said she was initially alarmed to hear a garage was proposed in front of the property but was pleased by the design’s sensitivity and detail.

‘Very nervous’

“Every time I see somebody wants to do something to a Comstock cottage, I get very nervous,” commented board member Karyl Hall. “But Brian has done a beautiful job, and the Vorises, with what they’ve already done, obviously have a knack in that regard.”

She did say she wanted the garage to be narrower, 11 feet instead of 12, and made to look more “fairytailish or storybookish.”

Other board members said they supported the project as proposed and that it would fit perfectly on the site, though Kathy Pomeroy agreed it should have a more Storybook-style appearance.

HRB member Erik Dyar observed that his concerns about the Lutzes’ garage blocking part of their Comstock cottage were not present in the Vorises’ application because their property is larger and could accommodate the garage “where it’s not directly in front of the historic resources.”

Conversely, when a garage is proposed to in any way obscure a historic building, “things need to be done to minimize and mitigate those impacts as much as possible, and that was certainly my argument when we reviewed the previous project.”

Chair Jordan Chroman said that with their decades of ownership and their thoughtfully designed additions six years ago, the Vorises are “a couple I don’t think we need to give a lot of guidance on how to meet the guidelines.”

After the board unanimously approved the project, Congleton offered to make some changes to better reflect the style of the cottages, including a more steeply pitched roof and changing a window. After some discussion, the board unanimously agreed. The planning commission will consider the application next.

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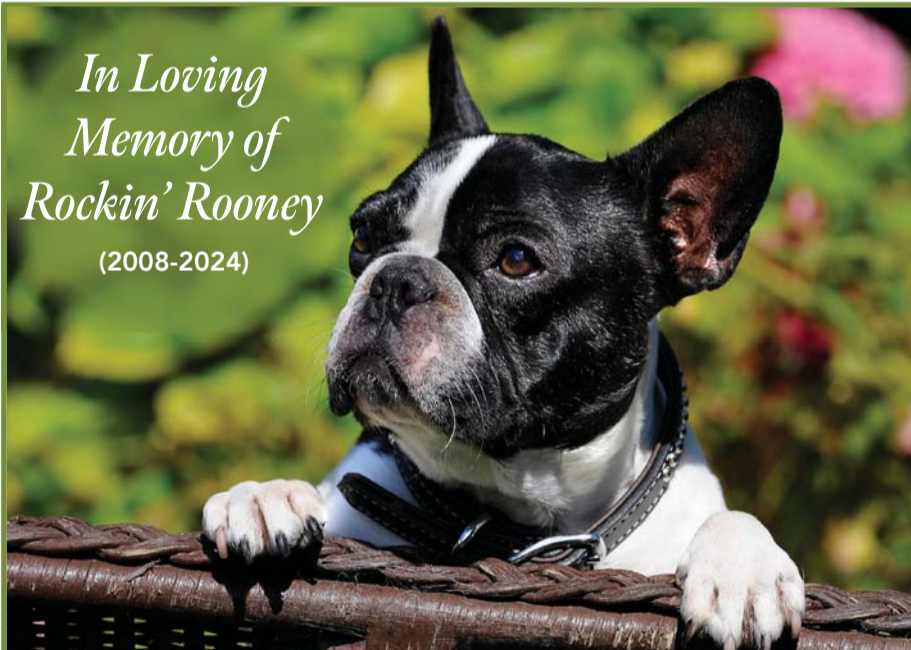
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It is with heavy hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of Rockin' Rooney, the forever OG and cherished first member of the “four pack,” on this year’s rare Leap Day at the venerable age of 16.

Rooney was not just a dog, and not just a pet. He was a survivor — a warrior who defied the odds early in life and went on to thrive in a home filled with love, laughter and loyalty. Adopted over 14 years ago through the combined efforts of Peace of Mind Dog Rescue and Animal Friends Rescue Project, Rooney found his forever home and became a beloved family member, a soulmate, and our best friend.

Rooney was known for his indomitable spirit, his comedic timing, and his unwavering devotion. He was a love bug whose antics provoked joy and laughter. Always ready for an adventure, he was truly a ride-or-die companion. Every night, without fail, he slept on his mom’s feet, providing comfort and warmth, a testament to his protective nature and deep bond with his family.

His passing on Feb. 29 symbolizes his extraordinary journey and the special place he held in our lives. Rooney will forever be cherished by those who knew him and loved him. He taught us about resilience, the power of love, and the joy of living each day to the fullest.

In honor of Rooney’s legacy, we encourage donations to Peace of Mind Dog Rescue and Animal Friends Rescue Project, the two incredible organizations that brought him into our lives. Let’s pay it forward and help other animals find their forever homes, just as Rooney did.

Rockin' Rooney, you were loved beyond words and will be missed beyond measure. Thank you for the paw prints you left on our hearts. Rest in peace, beloved friend. Your spirit lives on in our memories and the love we shared.

ARTIST

From page 23A

“I came from a family of farm laborers, grape growers — they all worked hard. My parents did farmwork all day long. I didn’t, but I was a part of it — I worked weekends with my cousins on my grandfather’s farm as a teenager — and a lot of that is part of me,” said Mettler, whose portfolio features black-and-white photos of well-used farm tools, strong hands cupping dark soil, and an old rope from his family’s barn.

Happy memories or noose?

“A lot of people look at that photo and see a noose,” he said. “It’s actually the rope that hung over the hay, and we’d all swing on it as children. For me, that picture brings back wonderful memories — I shot that photo just before they tore down our old barn — but I can see how it might look ominous. And that’s OK, because it’s part of artmaking.”

The family always supported his artistic

dreams, said Mettler, who minored in fine art at Humboldt State University, where he majored in wildlife biology with a vague plan to become a game warden.

“My parents and family were always behind whatever I chose to do. I never felt any sort of judgment from my family about things like that,” he said. “My grandfather came to some of my exhibitions in San Francisco and then would tell everybody about my art. He was pretty proud, I think.”

Mettler’s teaching career, which began in 2005 at MPC and 2008 at Cabrillo, is a rewarding part of his life. A big part of the thrill, he said, is exposing his students, mostly digital photographers, to his analog world and the magic of the darkroom.

“Teaching is something that reminds me why I fell in love with photography in the first place,” he said. “When students see the images they created on film materialize in the developer, they’re often just blown away,” he said. “There’s nothing wrong with digital art, for sure — it’s a portion of what I do — but analog can be magical, and it’s exciting to see a young person’s reaction to that.”

The solace of a darkroom provides Mettler’s students with an experience he believes is very different from their 21st-century digital world.

A meditative exercise

“It’s almost like a meditative exercise. That media world goes away when you’re in the dark, working with your hands, making something and having a conversation with others in the same dark space,” he said.

“A lot of young people don’t do much of that anymore. So much of their interaction takes place on social media.

“I find that they blossom,” he said. “They want it, they enjoy it, because it’s the real thing.”

Images of Mettler’s work and additional information can be found at greg-mettler.com.

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

Panetta at chamber member luncheon

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

U.S. REP. Jimmy Panetta will join Mayor Dave Potter and city administrator Chip Rerig for the Carmel Chamber of Commerce’s annual membership luncheon at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach Friday, May 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Last year’s special guest was State Sen. John Laird.

The lunch traditionally honors membership milestones and introduces the year’s board of directors to business leaders and

the community. The event will also help members “gain insights into our 2024 goals and engage in valuable networking opportunities with fellow members, business professionals and community leaders,” according to the chamber. The highlight will be the State of the City discussion by Potter, Rerig and Panetta.

Registration prior to April 26 is \$100 for members and \$150 for the general public, with prices increasing by \$30 after that date. To participate, email carmelchamber.org.

LIVES

From page 23A

joined the club with goals to stimulate their minds and enjoy fellowship. Berling, sister of former Carmel Mayor Sue McCloud, and daughter of Gladys McCloud, who owned a namesake children’s clothing store in town, joined 100 years after the group’s inception.

“I found the club an attractive group,” Berling said. “Yet now, as times have changed so significantly — leaving us stimulated by so much that wasn’t available 30 or 40 year ago — we’ve shifted to more of an interest in socializing and enjoying one another’s company. And still, we learn.”

Julie Work Beck admits club members

had been encouraging her to join for years before she finally came on board in 1999.

“I was having my own life, and wasn’t interested in repeating history,” she said. “But then I reached a different stage of life and began to look at it differently. Eventually, you come to that point in your life, appreciating the bounty of what everybody who’s gone before has created for us. I now can see and accept the rich heritage of this area, which I couldn’t when I was younger.”

While the Monday Afternoon Club is no longer vital to giving women an intellectual outlet, they continue to meet because they can, because they love the camaraderie, because they are anchored in a very special, shared history in this community by the sea. They, who now have their own histories, have come to appreciate their place in this legendary women’s club.

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Church leaders: Polls don't tell the whole story

By ELAINE HESSER

IN ISSUES of The Pine Cone from the 1940s and 50s, you can read of many vibrant local churches that were also social gathering places and service organizations. Seventy years later, Carmel Presbyterian (founded 1882), the (Methodist) Church of the Wayfarer (1904), All Saints' Episcopal (1910) and the Carmel Mission (1770) are still here.

But with church membership plummeting in the United States over the last 70 years, and with all houses of worship forced to close during the worst months of Covid, you might be wondering how long churches, including local ones, will last.

The Pine Cone talked about the future of Christianity locally with representatives from six groups — the four churches already mentioned plus Shoreline, a large nondenominational congregation near Monterey Regional Airport, and the Jehovah's Witnesses, a highly visible and relatively fast-growing group that makes up the third-largest Christian community in Monterey County after the Catholic Church and nondenominational churches. Discussions were rich and wide-ranging.

In-person attendance at individual churches is still "a little off," after the Covid shutdowns, most leaders said. Congregational giving was variously characterized as strong, at or near pre-Covid levels, or "a little down, but OK."

'Still building'

David Ford, a deacon with the Diocese of Monterey, and David Cohen from the public information office of the Jehovah's Witnesses in Southern California, took broader views of attendance, since both work with multiple congregations. Ford said that although some parishes had lost members, others were growing and attracting young families.

Cohen noted that many people relocated during the pandemic, causing changes in individual congregations, but said overall, numbers are growing. "We're still building new Kingdom Halls (churches)," and each one can house three to five separate congregations.

Kevin Harney, pastor of Shoreline Church, with 1,000 members and 3,000 regular attendees on Sundays, said if you include online viewers, attendance is the same as or better than it was pre-Covid. He said giving is strong, but you have to put it in perspective.

"People see all the cars" on Sunday and think the church

is wealthy, he observed, but "Organic Discipleship," a book he wrote with his wife, Sherry Harney, says that in the last quarter of 2020, "our food pantry served 10,156 people." That requires a lot of refrigerators — and a lot of electricity. It's one contributing factor in the congregation's annual \$100,000-plus PG&E bill for its sizeable building and sanctuary. Shoreline also has a mortgage, something the other churches don't have to deal with.

Tourist impact

Rev. Amber Sturgess, rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church, said its "community didn't diminish," and that the move to online services "gave people more options." Some congregants still stay home because of health concerns, but most have returned to in-person services. And at the Wayfarer, Rev. Karla Lundin said numbers were "close to pre-Covid" at about 55 to 60 weekly attendees, adding that, as in many local churches, there's significant fluctuation when tourists and part-time residents come to services.

Carmel Presbyterian is searching for a new senior pastor and an assistant pastor. Peter Barnes, the interim pastor, has been there for about a year — but he's been a minister for more than 40 years. He said the church has around 300 members "on the books," 250 attending Sunday services, and around 120 weekly views online. And, he said, "Giving is going tremendously well."

In addition to pastors (except for Jehovah's Witnesses, who are volunteer-led), most churches' payrolls include office workers, musicians and maintenance workers, although unpaid volunteers may perform some of those functions.

All the groups' buildings are used throughout the week and not only by their members. This can bring opportunities for more income, but it also increases overhead for utilities and maintenance. Many congregations take turns



Rev. Amber Sturgess

See **CHURCH** next page

CALENDAR

March 4 – "Let's Talk" – Award winning screenwriter, producer and children's book author, Julie "Jules" Howe will have an interactive exploration into the world of creativity and the arts. 2 p.m. Carmel Woman's Club, San Carlos and Ninth, Carmel. Open to the public, \$10 guests/members free.

March 6 – Fireside Chat at the Library – A Community Night with the Library Program. The Cost of Silence in a World of Noise: Navigating the Complexities of Self-censorship. 6:30 p.m. at Carmel's Harrison Memorial Library. Join Patrick Belanger, Ph.D., CSUMB in a Fireside Chat at the Library on stepping out of echo chambers to engage in public dialogue about matters of shared importance. Online and in person. Register required. Limited seating, at www.carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org. Hosted by the Carmel Public Library Foundation. Questions? afallon@carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org or (831) 624-2811

March 14 – Solving Homelessness: A Community Conversation – free and open to all, 2 p.m. at Sunset Center, Carmel. Presented by Community Human Services and Gathering for Women in honor of the third anniversary of the Casa de Noche Buena homeless shelter. RSVPs requested via rsvp@chservices.org or bit.ly/solvingchs

March 15 – Montage Health is celebrating its 90th anniversary at the Monterey Convention Center. The annual meeting and luncheon will feature nationally acclaimed author and speaker **Dr. Eric Topol**. Topol is a leading expert and authority on Artificial Intelligence and the future of medicine. Tickets for the annual meeting luncheon are \$50 per guest and can be purchased at Montagehealth.org/annualmeeting.

March 16 – O'Baum & O'Blume's St. Patrick's Day Feast! Dine in or take out noon to 8 p.m. Order "The Works" (the BEST corned beef w/all the fixings), plus appetizers, add'l entrées, soup, salad, house-baked soda bread, desserts, beer and wine. Baum & Blume and The Carriage House, 4 El Caminito, Carmel Valley. Reservations (831) 659-0400.

April 23 – Authors Douglas Brinkley and Dave Eggers share their insights on what it means to be human in the "Accelerated Age of Everything!" This Carmel Public Library fundraising event begins 8 p.m. at the Sunset Center Theater, Carmel. VIP admission (\$175) with reception, wines and book sales and signings begins 6:30 p.m. General admission is \$45-\$75 and begins 7 p.m. For details, email info@carmelpubliclibraryfoundation.org or call (831) 624-2811.

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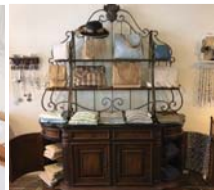


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CHURCH

From previous page

offering space for I-HELP, a local homeless ministry, as well as 12-step recovery groups, various meetings, and evening classes on faith-related topics. The Church of the Wayfarer hosts five resident artists and tai chi and yoga classes. Weddings, funerals, concerts and other events sometimes bring additional donations or fees.

Coping with Covid

During the pandemic, Harney said Shoreline had already been streaming services, so moving online was relatively easy. As the group returned to in-person worship, he said they “tried everything”

find their comfort zones.

Carmel Pres also went online with few difficulties, but as soon as restrictions were lifted, “we gathered outdoors on the patio with limited attendance and pre-registration” to enable social distancing, Barnes said. “The churches that flourished were the ones that found ways to meet together as soon as possible.” He added, “In the midst of crisis, Christianity is a wonderful answer.”

Ford asserted that although the diocese took services online, “Church is the gathering of God’s people. It’s really not ‘watching TV.’” And, “We receive Christ’s presence in the assembly — ‘wherever two or three are gathered,’” he said, quoting scripture. Carmel Mission returned to in-person Masses as soon as it could, as did St. Angela’s in Pacific Grove. Ford described the pandemic as a frightening time when the church needed to take “light and God’s presence to the world.”

Community

For Episcopalians, Sturges explained although worship went virtual, ordained clergy must bless bread and wine for communion, so the elements were consecrated then distributed door-to-door to their members. At the same time, she said, “We were losing things we needed to let go of.” For instance, when the congregation returned to the pews and downsized from two services on Sunday — one traditional and one more contemporary — to one, “the community made a decision: We need to be together, and that’s more important than having two different kinds of services,” she said.

That emphasis on community was echoed by Cohen, who said that Witnesses have always behaved “like a family,” and in addition to using their computers, members kept in touch through old-fashioned

phone calls and letters.

As they looked to the future, all the leaders said they’ve personally observed what polls show — that Christianity and the Bible are no longer common reference points in American society, and some noted that secular society also influenced Christianity — for better or worse. Although they viewed the causes and effects of these trends differently, all saw them as challenges and opportunities.

The importance of community was a

common thread among the leaders. The notion of either planned or spontaneous revival came up, too. Everyone at some point harkened back to the first-century church, whether they were referring to being a minority within the culture, the potential for movement toward smaller congregations, or a focus on acts of mercy and shining a light in dark times.

Next week: The future of churches in a changing culture



PHOTO/PINE CONE FILE

Houses of worship like the Carmel Mission are longstanding institutions, but national polls show declines in church membership.

in terms of masking, social distancing, singing, etc., and used their large outdoor courtyard to experiment so people could

MORE SPORTS

From page 21A

for the winning goal and a 2-1 victory.

The victory put the Pirates into Thursday’s semifinal game against fourth-seeded Summerville (19-3-1), a 5-0 quarterfinal winner over Gridley.

Padres romp in quarterfinals: Carmel moved into the quarterfinal round of the basketball playoffs, overpowering Venture Academy 76-55 in front of a home crowd.

Simeon Brown led four double-digit scorers for the Padres with 20 points, with Warren Blut and Jackson Lloyd adding 15 each, Hudson Rutherford contributing 14, and J.T. Maxon tallying eight.

The visiting Mustangs finished the season with a 29-4 record. Carmel traveled on

Thursday to fourth-seeded Ygnacio Valley (25-8), which won its first-round game 56-50 over Pleasant Valley.

Thursday’s results were unavailable at press time. If the local teams prevailed, both will be in action on Saturday.

Possible Saturday games: Stevenson would play either No. 2 Washington or No. 3 Skyline for the CCS crown on the Pirates’ home field, a 5 p.m. game. Carmel would have a 7 p.m. semifinals game, either on the road against No. 1 Santa Cruz (25-6), or at home against No. 9 West Park (25-7).

The NorCal basketball finals are 7 p.m. Tuesday on the home court of the higher-seeded team. The state championship game will be played at 4 p.m. Thursday at Golden 1 Center in Sacramento.

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



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Celebration

OF THE ARTS

Spending the Summer of Love with a different sort of pot

By DENNIS TAYLOR

SOME OF the pottery made by the ceramicists who founded one of California’s iconic artist co-ops during the summer of 1967 may well outlive the human race. The oldest piece of pottery ever discovered is more than 18,000 years old, and some museum pieces date to the Roman Empire, and ancient Greece and Egypt.

The co-op — Peninsula Potters — also is doing well, preparing for its 57th birthday celebration in July.

The last of its original members, Barbara Rainer, has fond memories of the earliest days and the 12 women who decided that their makeshift art room in the basement of Sunset Center wasn’t big enough to hold their aspirations.

“I think Elise Chezem might have been the one who came up with the idea that we needed to find a new space,” recalled Rainer, a 92-year-old Carmel Meadows resident. “We didn’t have much of a showroom at Sunset Center, and to find our own place, where we had our throwing wheels and storage for our glazes and supplies and a room where we could show our work ... it was wonderful.”

So Peninsula Potters was christened at its original location — 221 Hoffman St., near Lighthouse Avenue in New Monterey — by

Rainer, Chezem, Hope Williams, Ruth DuPratt, Georgine Jones, Alice Souza, Jean Tracy, Eileen Ramer, Shirley Gere, Joanna Austin, Patti Mucke, and Betty Tammen, appropriately during the Summer of Love.

‘Energy to burn’

It was a room filled with friendship and mutual inspiration, respect and admiration. They shared knowledge and helped each other grow.

“We were a very close group. We’d spend time with each other away from the studio. Joanna Austin, who was from England, lived in a darling little house in Carmel, and we’d all go there for potluck dinners. She also threw the most wonderful Christmas parties, and we all were invited to join in the festivities. We’d always have birthday parties together.”

Chezem, who was 82 when she passed in July 2013, was “like our Energizer Bunny,” said current member Peggy Alonas, who joined in 1977 — in time to know most of the members.

“She was a real character — always just zooming around the room with energy to burn — and she was pretty adorable,” said Alonas, who taught ceramics for 15 years at Monterey Peninsula College. “And Elise started a clay program through Monterey Parks and Recreation that’s still going at the Hilltop Center. She also drove to Soledad to teach after-school art programs.”

Hope Williams, who was 99 when she died in 2017, was the granddaughter of California impressionist Frank Duveneck, and her parents, Frank and Josephine Duveneck, were social activists who opened the West Coast’s first interracial summer camp at their ranch in Los Altos Hills.

“She was very active, with lots of good ideas,” Rainer recalled. “She wasn’t as interested in throwing clay on



PHOTO/PENINSULA POTTERS

Several of the original Peninsula Potters members pose for the camera during a demonstration, circa the late 1960s.

the wheel as some of the rest of us,” she said. “She was more of a sculptor who hand-built a lot of things — little figurines.”

Tech side

Ruth DuPratt (1921-2016) was an Oregon State graduate with an adventurous nature. She got a pilot’s license so she could support her husband, Monterey dentist Ira DuPratt.

“Ruth was such a sweetheart. I remember doing a little

POTTERS cont. on page 30A



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CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

Art you can carry in your pocket — but not on an airplane

By ELAINE HESSER

CARMEL CUTLERY has been open at Dolores and Sixth since 1984, offering beautiful and practical knives to customers who visit from around the world. The shop's third owner, Sanford Owen, took over in 2009. He also produces Monterey Bay Knives, a private label he sells in the shop and online with designer and custom knife maker Ray Laconico.

Owen said he hadn't thought of himself as an artist before creating the designer knives and still seems unsure whether that term applies to him.

"I have artist friends," he said, listing sculptor Stephen Whyte and painters Joaquin Turner and

Delia Bradford, and adding, "I'm not on the same level as them." However, if you look at Owen's work, there's little doubt he's creating art.

Sitting idle

It began when he wanted to engrave Monterey Bay Knives' products with a logo. The laser equipment required was "quite the investment," he recalled, and "it was just lying dormant between projects." One day, "just for fun," he tried engraving a design on a knife handle and liked the result so much, he bought a batch of about 100 knives to experiment with.

His work is largely inspired by science fiction and fantasy — knights, angels, skulls, mermaids — evoking adult gothic versions of fairy tales. It also has a bit of a tattoo aesthetic — "badass," as his website describes one of his

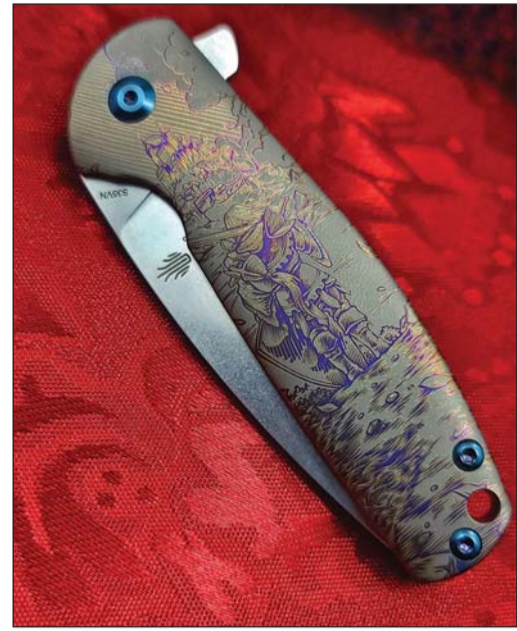
creations. Owen especially admires the work of the late Frank Frazetta, sometimes referred to as "the godfather of fantasy art," who created fine-art paintings along with movie posters, comic books and album covers for musicians including Roy Orbison and Molly Hatchet.

The process is straightforward but painstaking. Owen starts out — as he put it — "doodling" his ideas on an electronic tablet. He uses a computer to finalize and etch the design with the laser, essentially "teaching" the beam where to focus as it engraves the knife handles. The combination of his creativity and computer precision produces intricate artwork with rich detail. "I couldn't do what I do without the computer," he said.

In demand

He continues to be intrigued by lasers. Conceived by Albert Einstein and first patented around 1960, they're ubiquitous and are constantly being improved. Owen's high-powered fiber laser — so called because it uses a fiber optic cable — uses only 60 watts of energy, like older light bulbs, but creates a beam that Owen said will etch just about any material it's applied to.

Owen said that he does the engravings "mostly for fun." His original batch of 100 knives is down to about 40, and his designs are very much in demand. "People fight over them," he said, with as much modesty as he could



Sanford Owen uses a computer and a laser to create intricately etched knife handles for Monterey Bay Knives.

muster. "If I put something on social media, it's gone in five to 30 minutes." Monterey Bay Knives are all intended to be functional, and the less fancy ones sell well, too. A watch-pocket knife Owen designed — about the right size to fit in a gentleman's vest — recently sold out 200 units in a half-hour.

"It's been nice," he commented. "If I didn't get the reception I've gotten, I wouldn't do this."

POTTERS *cont. from page 29A*

bit of gardening for her," Alonas reminisced.

Jean Tracy, one of the co-op's best potters, shaped clay on the wheel and transformed it into snails. "I still have one," Rainer said.

"She was a wonderful production potter, but at some point — maybe after her divorce — she had to leave to go back to work," Alonas remembered. "Unless you were really focused and worked at it six or seven days a week, you didn't make a lot of money with ceramics. A lot of us had to find other ways to support ourselves and just didn't

have time to make art anymore."

Shirley Gere (1929-2020) lived for 50 years in Carmel Valley. She taught fifth graders at Del Rey Woods Elementary in the 1950s while her husband, Ray, taught at Carmel

FIRED *cont. on page 33A*

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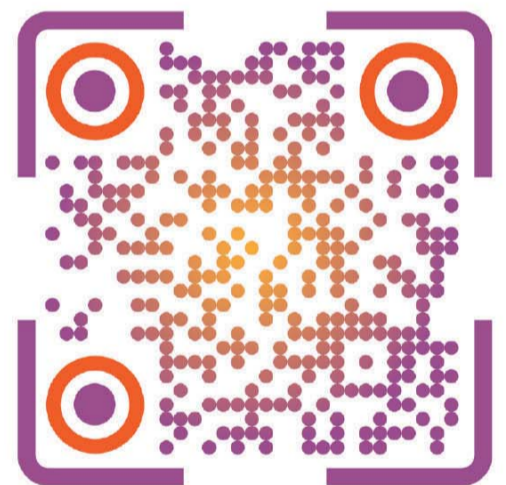
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CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

The fearlessness and creativity of young artists

By LISA CRAWFORD WATSON

A CARMEL artist, exhibiting his abstract paintings, was approached by a guest who said, “My kindergartener could have painted that.” To which he replied, “I believe you.” After all, some of the most creative, colorful, compelling works of art have been created by children. And some parents have framed and hung them among their fine art collections.

Giving children the opportunity to learn about life through the arts, through exposure to what others have created and through the opportunity to express themselves in movement, music, and making

visual art is central to their development as they begin to understand who they are and will become.

“Especially for young children, who are in such a sensory stage of development, exposure to art through different mediums — whether it’s clay, watercolors, charcoal, mixed media — allows them to have a hands-on experience,” said Lauren Leonoff, school director and classroom teacher at Carmel Valley’s St. Dunstan’s Montessori School, focused on kids ages 2 through 6.

“The beautiful thing about children at

that age is that they are fearless when it comes to art,” she said. “They will combine colors we wouldn’t dare, and some of the most beautiful paintings come from children.”

Whether working at the easel, moving to melodies with scarves or participating in a music appreciation session with different instruments, she said children get a foundation for creative expression that can carry them into other areas of learning.

“It’s amazing to witness how children express themselves — allowing creative experiences adults might not have — as they let go of inhibition, enabling them to explore,” said Leonoff.



Broad benefits

In 2022, the academic journal *Frontiers in Psychology* reviewed several studies linking aesthetic experiences with improvements in productive learning and psychological well-being. It reported, “Giving learners the time, space, and materials for creative expression can lower stress, improve memory and make students feel more socially connected. This includes improved writing achievement, reduced disciplinary infractions, higher levels of social tolerance and improved college aspiration.”

“My philosophy about the value of incorporating the arts in education is fo-

KIDS *cont. on page 34A*



From top: Teachers like dance instructor Jahna Biddle and retired visual art teacher Sally Russell have touched the lives of many schoolchildren, including those of Stevenson’s Junior Dance Team.

ARTISTS PROFILES

Will Bullas
SINCE

CARMEL ART ASSOCIATION - 1980
NATIONAL WATERCOLOR SOCIETY - 1980
AMERICAN WATERCOLOR SOCIETY - 1992
CARMEL VALLEY ART ASSOCIATION - 2011
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CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

FIRED cont. from page 30A

High.

“Shirley was a very good friend of mine. She had a studio at home and made a lot of her things there,” recalled Rainer of Gere, a member of Peninsula Potters for 25 years.

Patti Mucke (1929-1998), who served as treasurer, was an avid student of the tech side of ceramics, “always studying, always reading and passing that information on to the rest of us,” Alonas said.

“I was 27 when I joined, and a lot of those early members were quite a bit older, but I never felt that age difference — everybody was so welcoming and helpful,” she said.

Moving on

Alonas’ arrival in 1977 nearly coincided with Peninsula Potters’ move to its space at 2078 Sunset Drive, where it is open daily from noon to 4 p.m. The location holds two large gas kilns built five decades ago.

“Hooking those things up must have been an amazing feat,” Alonas said. “And our members also built our showroom,” plus additional storage areas.

Rainer said she felt a twinge of sadness late last year when she moved her belongings out of the P.G. space.

“It was only a couple of months ago that I became an emeritus member of Peninsula Potters, and it was a little

bit emotional to take all my stuff out of there after so many years, but I just got old,” she said. “I can’t drive a car anymore to get to the shop, so I had to give up making pottery, which was very important to me.”

But Rainer speaks with pride of the co-op she helped create and its impact on the ceramics community.

“I think it’s been very important,” she said. “It’s been

wonderful for this area, and it’s pretty amazing to me that so many of us were together there for such a long time.”

Alonas and Johanna Keefe are co-owners of Peninsula Potters, which has 13 members. The roster is at capacity, but local ceramicists are welcome to apply for membership, Keefe said. Additional information can be found at peninsulapottersca.com.



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CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

KIDS *cont. from page 32A*

cused on building self-esteem through the process of making art,” said artist Sally Russell, who recently retired from Robert Louis Stevenson School in Carmel after teaching visual art for 12 years to pre-K through eighth-grade students.

“Everybody has different teaching styles and philosophies,” she said. There’s no right or wrong way, as long as it builds confidence and enables students to explore their expression.”

When teaching art history, Russell allowed students to create different projects, fostering opportunities to engage them as she drew a thread connecting their creations to her lesson.

“This made art history interesting, tangible, fun,” she said. “It gave students a place to anchor their interests as they learned. We were also able to explore mathematical and spatial concepts and

mental processing skills, using art as a tool to open them up to what’s possible without comparing themselves to each other. There are so many life lessons to be found in art.”

Russell said she always enjoyed seeing excited students enter her classroom, ready to “let their hair down,” take a breather from academic intensity and have fun while learning.

“You have to give kids free time to explore, to think outside the box, to make something out of their imagination,” she said. “They can apply this to so many other dynamics in their lives ahead. Brains think and process information differently. Through art, we see kids’ strengths and different intelligences emerge.”

Power of dance

When Jahna Biddle started dancing professionally at 16, her mentors felt it was important to learn not just the art of dance, but also the staging, lighting, music, his-

tory and cultural significance of what she was doing.

“Dance has given me the power to explore not just the arts, but who I am as a human being, how I show up in life, and how I give back to my community,” she said.

For 14 years, Biddle has served as the director of dance for elementary, middle and high school students at Stevenson. She also runs the after-school dance teams for grades four, five, and nine through 12.

“In addition to the benefits of movement, of exercise, dance helps define who we are culturally and as creators. It fosters mental health, allowing us to explore our feelings and express them.”

In addition to teaching dance, Biddle, who is passionate about the importance of the arts in education, helps her students identify how it relates to and benefits their daily life.

“Kids are ‘dancing’ all the time,” she said. “When reading a book, they are ex-

periencing rhythms in the words. When learning to write cursive, they have a fluid rhythm in their hands. When they’re walking, running or lifting into a jump shot to sink a basket, they are dancing. We were meant to move.”

Biddle’s own child, who danced from pre-K through eighth grade, is now into football and basketball. His mother recognizes how quickly he memorizes plays and how nimble he is in his footwork as he shifts his weight and moves with agility on the court or the field. She credits dance. He’s also running track and continuing to dance, having found both valuable to his progress as an athlete.

“It is so important among all of us as educators, whether we teach math or English or the sciences or dance,” said Biddle, “that we recognize how important the arts are and that we don’t forget the importance of our collaboration in helping our kids become the best humans they can be.”

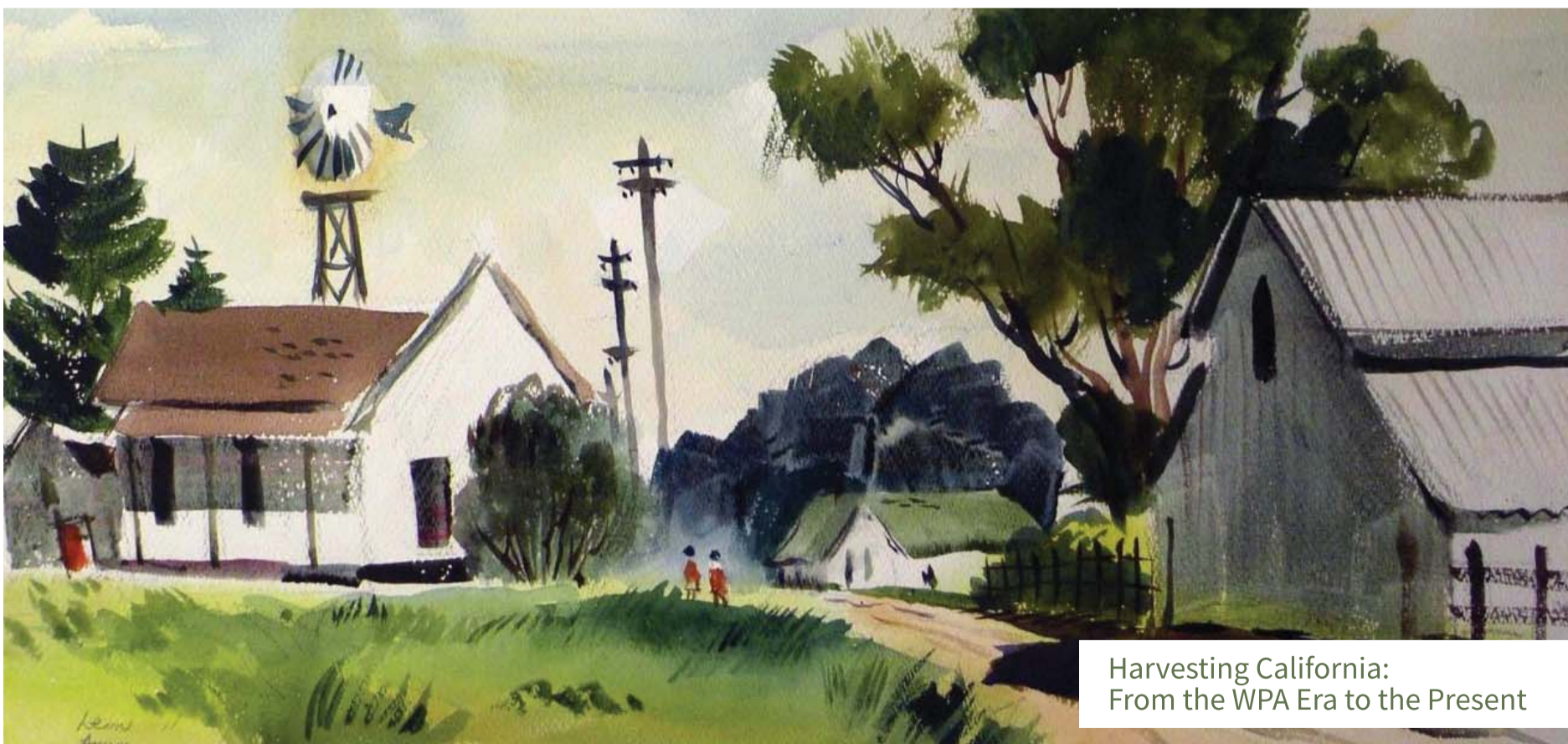


Young artists like Stevenson’s Madi Mims, upper school dance captain, the kids on the school dance team, and Elisa Wang Stevenson see benefits in the classroom and other activities, too.

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This Week

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Sunset welcomes Renaissance man, award-winning string quartet Sunday

A TRUE Renaissance man, pianist and composer **Sir Stephen Hough** shares the stage with an award-winning ensemble, **The Castalian String Quartet**, Sunday, 3 p.m., at Sunset Center.

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

Knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II in 2022, Hough has won a slew of honors, including seven Gramophone Awards and the Gramophone Gold Disc Award in 2008, which named his *Saint-Saens: The Complete Works for Piano and Orchestra* the best recording of the past 30



The award-winning Castalian String Quartet includes violinists Sini Simonen and Daniel Roberts, violist Ruth Gibson and cellist Steffan Morris.

years.

Besides his impact on classical music, Hough is an accomplished writer, poet and painter.

At Sunset Center, Hough and the string quartet will play one of his own compositions, *String Quartet No. 1 "Les Six rencontres."*

Taking its name from the Castalian Spring in the ancient city of Delphi, the quartet includes violinists **Sini Simonen** and **Daniel Roberts**, violist **Ruth Gibson** and cellist **Steffan Morris**.

They were awarded First Prize at the 2015 Lyon International Chamber Music Competition and named Young Artist of the Year at the 2019 Royal Philharmonic Society Awards.

Besides the piece by Hough, the program includes Haydn's String Quartet Op 20 No. 5, and Brahms' Quintet for Piano and Strings in F-Minor, Op. 34.

The concert is the fifth presented by Carmel Music Society in its 2023-24 season.

Tickets start at \$30. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. For more details, call (831) 625-9938 or visit carmelmusic.org.

■ Rising country singer returns

A singer and guitarist with deep roots in country and bluegrass — and a bright future ahead of her — **Sierra Ferrell** takes the stage March 7, 8 p.m., at the Golden State Theatre in Monterey.

Although Ferrell is far from a household name, she's won over music critics and a growing number of fans with her soulful voice and exquisite songwriting.

Ferrell, who played at the Rebels & Renegades Festival in Monterey in October, has a new album, "Trail of Flowers," coming out this month. For a sample of her talent and style, do an internet search for the song, "In Dreams." Tickets start at \$40.

Also at the Golden State Theatre, a cover band dedi-



Pianist and composer Sir Stephen Hough performs Sunday at Sunset Center. The concert is the fifth of the season for Carmel Music Society.

cated to playing the music of Pink Floyd, **Pete Floyd** plays Saturday, 8 p.m. Besides performing favorites like "I Wish You Were Here," "Money" and "Comfortably Numb," the Sonoma County-based band is led by two Petes — singers and guitarists **Pete Delaney** and **Pete Hale**. Tickets start at \$23.

Performing at Golden State this week, **Brian Culbertson** takes the stage Wednesday at 8 p.m. A multi-instrumentalist whose music spans the spectrum between smooth jazz and r&b, Culbertson is the founder of his own music festival, the Napa Valley Jazz Getaway. Tickets start at \$35.

The Golden State Theatre is at 417 Alvarado St. in Monterey. Call (831) 649-1070 or visit goldenstatetheatre.com

See MUSIC page 39A

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Valley Kitchen reopens, locals win awards and markets turn 21

AN IMPRESSIVE celebration is scheduled for March 22 and 23 for the reopening of the Valley Kitchen restaurant at Carmel Valley Ranch. From receptions to dinners, to honey tasting and more, the weekend is full of culinary experiences — and an opportunity to get a look at the newly remodeled eatery.

Things get started Friday with a 6 p.m. cocktail reception and meet-and-greet with three guest chefs (more on them in a minute) and the restaurant's new chef de cuisine, award-winning culinary veteran Ricardo Aguilar, followed by a 7 p.m. dinner prepared by "Top Chef Masters" finalist and James Beard award winner Jennifer Jasinski.

Suit up

Saturday's events include a family-friendly honey tasting at 10 a.m., where you and the kids can suit up in beekeeping attire and learn more about the little pollinators. Brian Redzikowski, an Iron Chef America competitor and the executive chef at Kettner Exchange in San Diego, is up next with a cooking demo and lunch at the Oak Demo Kitchen.

At 3 p.m., the ranch's organic garden will provide the setting for tastings and visits with some of the artisans who



Chef Jennifer Jasinski (left), a James Beard award winner and finalist in television's "Top Chef Masters," is helping Carmel Valley Ranch launch its remodeled Valley Kitchen restaurant. Guests at a weekend event later this month will be among the first to see the eatery's new look.

Monterey Marriott March 1. Inns-by-the-Sea general manager Mark Watson and Bill Perocchi of the Pebble Beach Co. "will be recognized for their ongoing service and commitment to the local hospitality industry."

'Unprecedented challenges'

Receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award, Perocchi, a partner and a co-chairman of the P.B. Co.'s board of directors, was the company's CEO for 22 years. "When Pebble Beach Company was sold to a group of investors led by Clint Eastwood, Dick Ferris, Arnold Palmer and Peter Ueberroth in July 1999, Perocchi led the due diligence efforts as well as the arranging of financing," according to the hospitality group. As CEO until he retired in 2021, he shepherded the company "through many great celebrations and some unprecedented challenges, while remaining heavily involved in community activities and charitable causes."

Watson, the 2023 Hospitality Professional of the Year, has been a leader in the industry for more than three decades and served on the MCHA board for multiple terms, including positions as chairman, treasurer and secretary, since 2011. In addition to overseeing Inns-by-the-

Sea's nine hotels, he is an owner in the company.

"Over the course of more than a decade, Watson has been a dedicated participant in numerous MCHA fundraising and organizational committees, a steadfast advocate for the industry in governmental affairs, and presently serves on the finance committee," organizers said, and in recognition of his volunteer contributions, he was named Hospitality Volunteer of the Year in 2013.

Watson was praised for his diligent efforts "to understand every issue completely from all sides, ensuring an outcome that best served the entire hospitality community," and for identifying aspects of the association that needed overhauls and upgrades, including its financial systems, website and brand identity. He has also served on the board of Visit Carmel, an organization he played a key role in creating.

Tickets for the gala can be purchased at mcha.net.

Everyone's Harvest is 21

Everyone's Harvest — the group responsible for the

See **HARVEST** next page

Soup to Nuts

work with the hotel, providing everything from beer and salt to wine and cheese. Dinner at 7 p.m. Saturday will be at Valley Kitchen with guest chef Lincoln Carson, partner in Coast Range Restaurant in Santa Ynez Valley. Events range from \$75 to \$250 per person.

It's an action-packed culinary weekend at Carmel Valley Ranch. For more information and to book, visit carmelvalleyranch.com.

MCHA to honor Watson, Perocchi

The Monterey County Hospitality Association will name its Hospitality Professional of the Year and bestow its Lifetime Achievement Award at its annual gala at the

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FOOD & WINE

HARVEST

From previous page

certified farmers markets at Central and Grand avenues in Pacific Grove on Mondays from 3 to 6 p.m., Seaside on Canyon Del Rey (across from the DMV) Thursdays from 3 to 7 p.m., Marina on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 215 Reservation Road, plus three Salinas locations — began in 2002 as a student project at California State University Monterey Bay and put on its first market a year later.

The group estimates that it serves more than 2,500 families each week with at least 25 small- and mid-scale farmers bringing fresh, local, seasonal food along with educational programs.

This week, the Marina market will feature a noon cooking demo by chef Rondi

Robison. She'll prepare her flavorful and vegan Buddha Bowl, an easy and nutritious meal you can create with ingredients from the market.

■ Brewery pub run

Fieldwork Brewing at 560 Munras Ave. in Monterey has teamed up with Fleet Feet Monterey, an athletic apparel and shoe shop on Alvarado Street, for a weekly out-and-back fun run. Things get started around 6 p.m. every Monday at Fieldwork Brewing, and, according to Mimi Bowen of Fleet Feet, "We have two routes — 3 miles to the Monterey Bay Aquarium and back and 5 miles is Lovers Point and back. We have all different paces, anywhere from a seven-minute mile to our run/walkers and people who bring their dogs and just

See PUB next page



Running shoes meet beer steins at Fieldwork Brewing in Monterey every Monday night, when folks meet up there for a pub run along the coast. Runners, walkers and drinkers of all speeds are welcome.

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FOOD & WINE

PUB

From previous page

go for a mile or 2 walk. Usually they're out for anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour." Runners are encouraged to recharge with a beer (or two) when they're finished.

There's no charge and you can sign up at fleetfeet.com/monterey under the Upcoming Events tab. Email mimi.bowen@fleetfeet.com with questions.

Worthwhile road trip

Although you don't even have to start the car to get a wonderful meal here, every now and then one of our intrepid food writers finds herself thinking outside the Carmel rectangle. This week, Sally Baho ventured to Marina and sent this missive:

Nestled in a neighborhood strip mall, you'll find dishes teeming with flavor at Aki Fresh Mex. The place is Blue Zone certified, meaning — among other things — it's required to feature plant-based menu items and offer smaller-portioned items. Whether you identify as vegan, vegetarian, carnivore or just hungry, chef-owner Isabel Escorcia's menu is chock-full of deliciousness. Take, for example,

the calabacitas appetizer — charred green zucchini with a house-made jalapeño-cilantro sauce, corn and queso fresco. It is simply delicious...and nutritious.

"I love vegetables," Escorcia said, "I'm not vegetarian, but it's easy for me to work with veggies." The Aki fresh tacos are served with your choice of grilled cactus, zucchini, or mushrooms. The dish comes with homemade salsa and is topped with cilantro, onion, cabbage and avocado.

Churros and ice cream

Meat-eaters should try the Aki Molcajete, a dish for two served on a hot stone with grilled chicken, pork, steak, chorizo, cactus, and onions, and topped with queso fresco and a special sauce. Or, try one of the many mole dishes using recipes Escorcia got from her mother and grandmother. Most entrees are served with house-made rice, beans and a side of handmade tortillas. There's beer, wine and a variety of nonalcoholic drinks like honey-lavender lemonade. For a sweet finish, churros with a generous scoop of vanilla ice cream are not to be missed. Aki Fresh Mex, at 265 Carmel Ave., is open Monday through Thursday from 5 to 8:30 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 5 to 9 p.m. Lunch is served Thursday through Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. To learn more, call (831)

747-1074 or visit aki-fresh-mex-restaurant.business.site.

Blue Zones

It seems like you can't open a menu these days — like Aki's — without seeing a Blue Zones reference. But what does it mean? Blue Zones are regions where people live longer than average — think high numbers of centenarians — while maintaining good health. They tend to minimize stress, move throughout the day, have a clear sense of purpose, and follow a mostly plant-based diet. The concept was chronicled by Dan Buettner in 2004 for a project with National Geographic and in his 2008 book, "Blue Zones: Lessons for Living Longer from the People Who've Lived the Longest," focused on five regions: Okinawa, Sardinia, Nicoya in Costa Rica, Ikaria, Greece, and Loma Linda, Calif. The concept has grown to include a certification program for organizations and restaurants, including several local eateries like Earthbound Farm Stand on Carmel Valley Road, Mezzaluna Pasteria in Pacific Grove and the Fountain Court at CHOMP.

For a deeper dive into the program, stay tuned for the May issue of The Pine Cone's Healthy Lifestyles section, which will include a feature on what becoming Blue



Chef Rondi Robison will conduct a cooking demo at Everyone's Harvest market in Marina on Sunday at noon. Everyone's Harvest, which turns 21 this year, holds six weekly farmers markets.

Zones-certified involves, what it promises diners, and how well it fulfills that promise. In the meantime, to read more and find the full list of local Blue Zone restaurants, visit montereycounty.bluezonesproject.com.

Roxanne Langer, Mary Schley, Sally Baho and Elaine Hesser contributed to this week's column.

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Celtic Music Series at St. Mary's

Once again, The Weeds and Stuart Mason will be delighting us with their saucy rhythms and sweet Irish riffs. Marissa Gilman will be joining us with her soaring dance steps. St. Mary's bistro will be in full swing with our famous "tatties with toppings."



Sunday, March 17th, concert starts at 3 p.m., but pre-concert music will start early, featuring The McMonarchs (St. Mary's fantastic teen band) and Banish Misfortune (you will recognize some familiar faces). **Doors open at 2:30 p.m.**, come early and get a good seat for all the action. Advance tickets are recommended, this will sell out.

BUY TICKETS AT WWW.CELTICSOCIETY.ORG.
\$30 in advance, \$35 at the door.

St. Mary's is located at 146 12th Street
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For more info, call or text 831-224-3819.

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F O O D & W I N E

MUSIC

From page 35A

Church hosts Ensemble Monterey

Led by concertmaster and conductor **David Dally**, Ensemble Monterey presents its third concert of the season Saturday, 7 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church in Monterey.

The music includes Richard Strauss' *Metamorphosen*, Gian Carlo Menotti's *Cantilena and Scherzo*, Peter Warlock's *Capriol Suite*, and Aaron Copland's *Clarinet Concerto*.

Accompanying the ensemble will be harpist **Jennifer Cass**, clarinetist **Bruce Foster** and **The Santa Cruz High School Concert Choir**.

Tickets are \$48 for general admission, \$43 for seniors, \$20 for students and \$10 for children. The church is located at 501 El Dorado St. For more details, visit ensemblemonterey.org.

Live music March 1-7

Albatross Ridge Winery and Kitchen in Monterey — singer and guitarist **Lindsay Beery** (Friday at 5 p.m.), guitarist **Peter Martin** (jazz, Saturday at 5 p.m.). 316 Alvarado St.

Bernardus Lodge & Spa in Carmel Valley — pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Casey Frazier** (Saturday at noon), pianist **Martan Mann** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (jazz and bluegrass, Sunday at noon). 415 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Big Sur River Inn — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Saturday at 12:30 p.m.). 46800 Highway 1.

Bon Ton LeRoy's Lighthouse Smokehouse in Monterey — mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (bluegrass and jazz, Wednesday at 7 p.m.). 794 Lighthouse Ave.

Bulldog Sports Pub in Monterey — **Tribe in the Sky** presents a weekly Community Jam (Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.). 611 Lighthouse Ave.

Cibo restaurant in Monterey — **The Dave Holodiloff Duo** (bluegrass and jazz, Sunday at 7 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and singer and pianist **Bill Spencer** (jazz, Tuesday at 7 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz and swing, Wednesday at 7 p.m.). 301 Alvarado St.

Cuz's Sportsman's Club in Seaside — **Spit & Mud** ("rockin' outlaw country," Friday at 8 p.m.) and **Scarlet** (rock, Saturday at 8:30 p.m.). 594 Broadway, (831) 394-2666.

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 6:30 p.m.), **The Andrea Carter Trio** (jazz and blues, Sunday at 11 a.m.), guitarist **Richard Devinck** (classical, Sunday at 6 p.m.), singer **Lee Durley** and pianist **Joe Indence** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). Lincoln and Seventh, Carmel.

Estéban Restaurant in Monterey — guitarist **Catherine Broz** (Spanish music, Friday and Saturday at 5:30 p.m.). 700 Munras Ave.

Fernwood Resort in Big Sur — **Windows** ("country psych," Saturday at 10 p.m.). 47200 Highway 1.

Folktales Winery in Carmel Valley — **Two Rivers** with singer **Richard Bryant** and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (pop and rock, Saturday at 2 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Sunday at 2 p.m.). 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

Gallery Mar — mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** (bluegrass and jazz at 5 p.m.). Dolores between Ocean and Seventh, Carmel.

Gusto Pasta and Pizza in Seaside — singer **Richard Bryant** and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (pop and rock, Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.). 1901 Fremont Blvd.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer and pianist **Dino Vera** (jazz, blues and r&b, Saturday and Sunday at 8 p.m. and Thursday at 7 p.m.). 120 Highlands Drive.

Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel — singer and pianist **John Harris** (jazz, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer **Miranda Perl** and guitarist **Adam Astrup** (jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 1 Old Golf Course Road.

The Inn at Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach — **The Andy Weis Band** (jazz, Friday, Saturday and Thursday at 7 p.m.). 2700 17 Mile Drive.

Intercontinental Hotel in Monterey — guitarist **John Sherry** (rock and blues, Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m.), guitarist **Terrence Farrell** (Latin music, Sunday at 9 a.m.), singer and guitarist **Zack Freitas** (Monday at 6 p.m.). 750 Cannery Row.

Juice and Java in Pacific Grove — Open Mic (Friday at 7 p.m., sign up by 5:30 p.m.), mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** and violinist **Peter Mellinger** (bluegrass and jazz, Saturday at 6 p.m.), mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** and pianist **Michael Martinez** (bluegrass and jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.) 599 Lighthouse Ave.

Julia's Vegetarian Restaurant in Pacific Grove — singer and guitarist **Rags Rosenberg** (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kevin Smith** (Saturday at 6 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Thursday at 6 p.m.). 1180 Forest Ave.

La Playa Hotel — **The David Morwood Band** (jazz, Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m., Sunday at 4 p.m.), guitarist **Glenn Bell** (jazz, Thursday at 5 p.m.). Bud's Bar, Camino Real and Eighth, Carmel.

The Links Club — **Moondance** (pop and rock, Friday at 7 p.m.), **Vinyl Revival** (pop and rock, Saturday at 7 p.m.), Singer-Songwriter Showcase (Tuesday at 7 p.m.). Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — singer and guitarist **Andrea Carter** and guitarist **Darrin Michell** (jazz and blues, Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist **Casey Wickstrom** (rock and blues, Saturday at 6 p.m.). In the Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive.

Massa Tasting Room in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist **Rick Chelew** (Sunday at noon). 69 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Midici Pizza in Monterey — **Janice's Jazz Jam** with keyboardist **Gary Meek**, bassist **Steve Uccello** and drum-



Singer and guitarist Sierra Ferrell takes the stage Thursday, 8 p.m., at Golden State Theater in Monterey.

mer **Andy Weis** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.), **The Stu Reynolds Saxtet** with guitarist **Adam Astrup**, bassist **Zach Westfall** and drummer **Billy Jones** (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.). 467 Alvarado St.

Mission Ranch — singer and pianist **Maddaline Edstrom** (jazz, Friday through Sunday at 5 p.m.), pianist **Gennady Loktionov** (jazz, Monday through Thursday at 5 p.m.). 26270 Dolores St., Carmel.

The Monarch Pub in Pacific Grove — **The Katherine Lavin Band** (pop and rock, Friday at 7 p.m.). 617 Lighthouse Ave.

Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa — pianist **Steve Mann** (jazz, Friday at 5 p.m.), singer and pianist **Scott Brown** (jazz and pop, Saturday at 5 p.m.), singer and pianist **John Harris** (jazz, Sunday at 5 p.m.). 400 Cannery Row.

Night Market 831 — singer and guitarist **Flaco El Jandro** (rock, bolero, regional Mexicano, and cumbia, Friday at 5 p.m.). 525 Ortiz Ave.

Pacific Grove Art Center — singer and keyboardist **Glenn Leon-Guerrero** (old-school R&B, Friday at 7 p.m.). 568 Lighthouse Ave.

Pearl Hour in Monterey — **The Zach Westfall Group** (jazz, Sunday at 8 p.m.), **The Ben Herod Trio** (jazz, Wednesday at 8 p.m.). 214 Lighthouse Ave.

Phill's Barber Shop in Pacific Grove — **PG-13** (rock, Friday at 7 p.m.). 610 Lighthouse Ave.

Salty Seal Pub in Monterey — **The Transducers** (rock and funk, Friday at 8 p.m.), **The Chuck Brewer Band** (rock and blues, Saturday at 8 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Matt Masih** (Sunday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist **Kyle Kovalik** (Thursday at 7 p.m.). 653 Cannery Row.

The Sardine Factory in Monterey — singer and guitarist **David Conley** (pop and rock, Friday and Saturday, Tuesday through Thursday at 7:30 p.m.). 701 Wave St.

Sly McFly's in Monterey — **Retreauxspect** (rock, Friday at 9 p.m.), **The Bridget Marie Band** (r&b and funk, Saturday at 9 p.m.). 700 Cannery Row.

Trailside Cafe in Carmel Valley — banjo player **Banjer Dan** (bluegrass, Saturday at 6 p.m.). 3 Del Fino Place.

Wendi Kirby Music in Monterey — singer and guitarist **Doug Fearnside** ("dark Americana, folk, and a touch of alt-rock," Friday at 7 p.m.), pianist **Micheal Martinez** and flutist **Sherry Finzer** celebrate the release of a new album (new age and classical, Sunday at 4 p.m.). For tickets, visit wendikirbymusic.com.

Wild Fish restaurant in Pacific Grove — **The Lighthouse Jazz Quartet** (Friday and Thursday at 6 p.m.). 545 Lighthouse Ave.

To update these listings, email chris@carmelpinecone.com.

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LETTERS

From page 22A

unencumbered by evidence (as some Pine Cone editorials have pointed out) can lead to paranoia, where any change is bad, and worse, perceived as ill-intended.

In Pastor's case, perhaps he should be given positive marks for collaboration, tolerance and patience in navigating perhaps one of, if not the most, challenging permitting processes in the state, particularly when it seems his interests are to make Carmel a better place. Perhaps those interested in adding street addresses (and keeping the post office intact) should be given positive marks for trying to simplify many aspects of the lives of their fellow Carmelites.

Pat Hyek, Carmel

They'll be customers

Dear Editor,

If Patrice Pastor were to offer financing to rebuild Carmel's police station, which is desperately in need of repair,

undoubtedly there would be a reaction from longtime Carmelites that he is now taking control of local government.

In 2015, Pastor's company, Esperanza Carmel, began to buy property within the village. The reaction to the real estate purchases that subsequently occurred was confined to Monterey County. However, on Feb. 18, the San Francisco Chronicle's SFGate, a news website/news portal, published an article, "Latest billionaire acquisition in Carmel sets off alarm bells." The SFGate story resulted in stories on news websites in Canada, the United Kingdom, France, and elsewhere, about Pastor "making waves" in this little seaside village. In fact, the New York Post published an article regarding the matter two days after the SFGate release.

Don't forget that after the submission of three different designs by Esperanza Carmel, construction will begin in the near future of a mixed-use residential/commercial development across from the post office on a site that has become known as "the Pit." It is likely that Pastor's "Ulrika Plaza" project, with an accessible walk-through courtyard, will become a destination for visitors and others to a generally quiet part of the business district. It would not be surprising for our tourist friends to find many of the locals who claim to be "terrified" of this Monaco billionaire to be found shopping and visiting in the courtyard at Ulrika Plaza.

William Woska, Carmel

Simplify police station

Dear Editor,

The current proposals being discussed for the new police station are ridiculous. I humbly suggest we utilize the existing space and, if need be, utilize the youth center space next door. Offer the Scout House for the new youth center. The \$30 million proposal was the price of remodeling Sunset Center. No need to spend that much on our current police station. It's been as it is in its current state of decay for 30 years. Update the electrical. New HVAC. Repurpose the shooting range below for other uses. The money expended already toward this study would have resolved many issues at the station. We are not Los Angeles and we do not need a Parker Center.

Mark Bayne, Carmel

'Not representing us'

Dear Editor,

After attending several city council meetings, I have come to the realization that our city council, mayor and staff are not representing us. Their meetings are not transparent, and it appears they do not want public input.

A front-page article in last week's Pine Cone article made it seem that they are involving the community regarding our police station. Nothing could be further from

Continues next page

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Meena (831) 274-8646 meena@carmelpinecone.com
Jung (831) 274-8646 jung@carmelpinecone.com

The Carmel Pine Cone **March 8, 2024**

From previous page

the truth. At the Jan. 8 meeting, we found out that they had already spent \$129,000 for a consultant and \$300,000 for an architect without having one single community member on their ad hoc committee. What is being represented to the community regarding the police station as providing an open process is simply not true.

Carmel-by-the-Sea, we all need to wake up and pay attention. Please attend city council meetings and get involved. We can all make a difference in the absurd decisions these people are making without any input from our community.

Andi Carr, Carmel

Hospital salaries

Dear Editor,
CHOMP'S CEO Dr. Packer's reply to recent articles about outrageously high hospital prices in Monterey County fails to explain why, according to RAND, between 2018 and 2020 the hospital he directs charged commercial payers more than five times what Medicare charged, the amount that should be sufficient to operate a hospital. Even if you accept CHOMP's claim that they care for more patients under government care and that the rate the government pays is insufficient, it's still ridiculous to argue that CHOMP needed five times more from the hard-working people and businesses of Monterey County who pay commercial rates. In fact, the statewide average for hospital payments is 222 percent of Medicare, or roughly double the rate, not five times the rate that CHOMP charged.

The reality is that healthcare, and hospitals in particular, is an industry rife with inefficiency — most research pegs waste at about 25 percent. CHOMP also enjoys a near monopoly on the Peninsula, so it has no incentive to hold down costs — it knows that most patients have little choice but to seek care near where they live. As a result, CHOMP can charge what it wants to those of us covered by our jobs or buying individual plans.

Hector Azpilcueta,
Unite Here Local 19, Pacific Grove

'You can count on her'

Dear Editor,
I have worked with Kate Daniels ever since she ran Mary Adams' campaign for supervisor, and I can attest to the fact that she is always responsive to her constituents and has wide-ranging connections to all the key "pressure points" that a District 5 Supervisor needs to push to get action on unresolved issues.

She has worked tirelessly to resolve the problems with flooding from the Carmel River Lagoon as well as protecting the Scenic Road bluffs from further erosion and road undermining. The recent release of the Lagoon/Scenic Road EIR is in large part due to her (and John Laird's) masterful work with the county to expedite the EIR process and complete it on schedule.

I urge everyone in District 5 who wants a real "champion" for their interests and needs to vote for Kate now that the ballots are out for voting!

Lorin Letendre,
Carmel

Scenic wall a 'sham'

Dear Editor,
The proposed wall to protect Scenic Road and its million-dollar homes is a sham! Just ask any coastal engineer. The underlying substrate is mud, not granite. Ask to see the geotechnical report on this project.

Any qualified engineer knows the river dynamics. A northern breach combined with storm surge will undercut this wall and damage it. Also, sand above the wall is one thing, but if the county proposes to install underlying riprap, everyone knows that the riprap boulders will settle once they are exposed to the force of ocean waves, again compromising the integrity of the wall.

Fact is, with ocean level rise, storm surge and northern breaches for the Carmel River, this wall is a temporary fix to save private properties.

Many of these homeowners hate welfare, yet this project is and always will be welfare for the rich. Using state park lands to protect private homes is against the state con-

stitution as well.

State Parks, aka the taxpayers, was never compensated for the USFWS-mandated northern breach that resulted in the loss of 75 percent of the public parking lot. In fact, the biologist responsible for this breach back in 2008-ish refused to even apologize for making a massive error in judgement. They will tell you southern breaches kill juve-

nile steelhead, yet when asked to prove this claim they (USFWS, CDFW, Carmel River Steelhead Assn.) all will tell you it has never been documented that a southern breach resulted in a take of juvenile steelhead.

Taxpayers will pay for this colossal pariah of a project.

See **MORE LETTERS** page 43A

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Gallery Mar adds second downtown site, Sunset welcomes 'Woman'

OUTGROWING ITS old space on Dolores, Gallery Mar Carmel has opened up a second venue on the same street two blocks away — and this Friday at 5 p.m., the public is invited to a reception celebrating the move.

Located between Fifth and Sixth, the new gallery was the former longtime home of Gallerie Amsterdam, which closed last year after its owner, Tony Vanderploeg, passed away.

The co-founder of Gallery Mar, Thomas Cushman, told The Pine Cone that the time had come for his gallery to expand.

Lots of windows, light

"For the last few years, we have been feeling a little cramped at our current location," Cushman explained. "We wanted to showcase more excellent work from our current painters and sculptors, as well as bring in several additional high-level artists. We just needed more wall space — so we went out and got some."

The new spot is just what Cushman was looking for.

"The gallery has a lot of windows and natural light," he explained. "Moreover, it has excellent street presence, many large walls and a wide-open, contemporary feel."

Gallery Mar Carmel North — the new gallery's name — is open and represents an assortment of local, regional and international artists, including painters Beau Frank of Pacific Grove, Jylian Gustlin of Morgan Hill and America Martin of Los

Angeles.

For more about the two galleries, visit gallerymarcarmel.com.

The fine art of animals

Five shows, including "Creature Comforts" by painter Leslie Ann Spowart, open Friday at 7 p.m. with a public reception at the Pacific Grove Art Center.

In a colorful, abstracted style, Spowart explores the animal kingdom.

"I have always loved animals, so it would make sense that these wonderful creatures provided me with a sense of comfort and assurance, especially beginning in 2019," she explained. "During that time, life, animation and color began to express itself in my work. The world went on and there was a sense of hope and renewal for me. These pieces are reflective of that sensibility."

Art Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

Also new at the art center is a group exhibit by painter Tazio Childress, sculptor Marilyn Kuksht and painter/sculptor Ralph Joachim ("Styles and Perspectives"), a group display by students from the Big Sur Charter School ("Naturally We Love Art"), and solo shows by Barbara Lee Furbush ("Perspectives: Reflections on/of Self") and mixed-media artist Katie Simpson



Located on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth, Gallery Mar Carmel North celebrates its opening Friday with a public reception Friday at 5 p.m.

("Thicket Hearted Spring").

The exhibits will be on display through April 25. The art center is located at 568 Lighthouse Ave.

Also, the monthly First Fridays celebration in Pacific Grove is set for March 1. More than a dozen downtown shops and galleries are staying open until 9 p.m., including Artisana Gallery, which always has something special planned for First Fridays and is located just a short stroll from the art center.

Capturing 'resilience and strength'

Sunset Center's Marjorie Evans Gallery hosts an opening reception March 6 at 5 p.m. for painter René Romero Schuler's

new show, "Woman."

The exhibit, which continues through April 28, coincides with International Women's Day and Women's History Month.

"Schuler's artistic oeuvre stands as a powerful testament to the indomitable spirit of women throughout history," according to Sunset Center. "Through her evocative and emotionally charged creations, Schuler not only captures the resilience and strength inherent in the female experience, but also serves as a visual chronicler of the often-untold stories of women."

Located at San Carlos and Ninth, the gallery is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and when Sunset Center is hosting performances.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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File No. 20240303
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
1. APLUS MARINA QUALITY WATER MANAGEMENT COMPANY
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215 Reservation Rd. Ste 0, Marina, CA 93933.
County of Principal Place of Business: MONTEREY.
Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: 1540 David Ave., Monterey, CA 93940
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
This business is conducted by a limited liability company.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on Feb. 1, 2008.
BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes public record upon filing pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Sections 6250-6277).
Date: Feb. 7, 2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 9, 2024.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in viola-

tion of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Feb. 23; March 1, 8, 15, 2024. (PC 241)

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File No. 20240351
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Registered Owner(s): MICHAEL RICKETTS, P.O. Box 812, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.
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Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 10, 1982.
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S/Michael Ricketts
Date signed: Feb. 15, 2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 16, 2024.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: Feb. 23; Mar. 1, 8, 23, 2024 (PC 242)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 20240368
Filing type: NEW FILING - with CHANGE(S) from the previous filing.
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Name of Corporation or LLC as shown in the Articles of Inc./Org./Reg.: VINCI DIGITAL MARKETING LLC, 8710 Carmel Valley Rd., Carmel Valley, CA 93923.
State of Inc./Org./Reg.: CA
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S/Gerald D. Vinci, CEO
Date: Feb. 15, 2024
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County on Feb. 9, 2024.
NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Publication Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 2024. (PC 306)

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MORE LETTERS

From page 41A

In the end Mother Nature will always win.

Stephen Bachman, Spreckels

Resist the registry

Dear Editor,

It is good to see that the mandatory rental registry in the city of Monterey is getting less than just a lukewarm response. With about 3 percent response so far, I would say that Monterey's citizens are following the wise words of Henry David Thoreau, who believed it was the duty of citizens to resist injustice with civil disobedience.

For instance, the half-dozen city hall meetings were filled with almost unanimous rejection of a rental registry, where 30 to 40 citizens protested government intrusion and more money grabbing. Just one or two citizens supported this crazy mandatory rental registry, which would impose annual fees and loads of paperwork. The worst part is that most of the Monterey City Council members failed to explain why we required more bureaucracy and information-gathering at \$500,000 to \$1 million annually.

Since government is more harmful than helpful, it behooves us to resist a system that denies individual liberty and self-ownership. Thoreau understood this threat and refused to back down from those who wanted to control every aspect of a person's life and property. He displayed his courage by refusing to pay a poll tax even

though it led to spending time in jail.

Lawrence Samuels, Carmel

Fixing bridge railings

Dear Editor,

Caltrans wants to reinforce all the Highway 1 bridge railings by demolishing the existing railing and rebuilding with a design that Monterey County does not favor due to the change from its historic appearance. But there is another method to reinforce the railings without a complete rebuild that will maintain the historic character. The method would drill vertically down through the railing supports into the bridge base, followed by inserting high-strength steel rods cemented using engineered epoxy. This would retain the historic appearance of the railing and increase its strength. As well, the construction time and traffic delays would be significantly reduced compared to a complete demolition and rebuild. Might also be less expensive!

Buck Jones, Carmel Valley

Don't call it a barn

Dear Editor,

When the school board voted to sell the historic Carmelo Athletic and Social Club to Monterey County, they called it "the Robinson Barn property," presumably due to the structure's location on Robinson Canyon Road at the Farm Center. The sales agreement was reported in last week's Pine Cone article titled, "CUSD to sell Robinson Canyon Barn to County for \$100,000."

The building was never a barn.

The diminutive structure, completed in 1895, was intended as a convenient gathering spot for residents of both the lower and upper portions of Carmel Valley.

For decades, the Carmelo Athletic and Social Club served as a place for town-hall-style meetings, holiday celebrations, birthday parties, theater productions, dances and grange-type meetings.

The original membership listed names of the Valley's early pioneer families: Martin, Snively, Meadows, McDonald, Wolter, Feliz, Stewart, Hitchcock and Berwick, among others.

Although the club's original intention was to offer a venue for dances and gym activities such as boxing matches, athletic activities were only observed during the early years, when the club sponsored a baseball team called the Wood Ticks, who played a Carmel team called the Sand Fleas. By about 1910, the athletic portion of club activities was dropped in favor of dances.

The property itself, originally owned by the Berwick family, was later sold to the club membership for a dollar.

Membership attendance began to dwindle during the 1950s, and in time, the space evolved into a series of businesses, including a saddlery shop, a plumbing business, a woodcarving shop and a sculpture studio.

During the club's heyday, the membership enjoyed a singular claim to fame: locals believed that the Carmelo Athletic and Social Club was one of the oldest clubs in Monterey County.

So please don't call it a barn.

Elizabeth Barratt, Historian
Carmel Valley Historical Society

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Continues on next page

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