

The Carmel Pine Cone

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August 28-September 3, 2020

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Residents pick up pieces from two fires as third one tries to escape



PHOTOS/(CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT) KODIAK GREENWOOD, MICHAEL TROUTMAN, COURTESY SPCA

■ Carmel, River fires contained, but more than 100 buildings destroyed

By MARY SCHLEY

THE WILDFIRES that raged out of control last week, sparking in hot, dry, windy conditions and driving tens of thousands of people from their homes and destroying at least 103 buildings, significantly calmed this week, as the weather cooperated and hundreds of firefighters worked to confine them.

On Thursday, Cal Fire lifted the last of the evacuation orders in the Carmel Fire in upper Carmel Valley, and the River Fire, which destroyed a long swath of land above the Salinas Valley.

By the morning of Aug. 27, the Carmel Fire had grown to 6,757 acres, an increase of just 62 acres from the day before. Damage assessment put the number of houses destroyed at 50, with another six damaged, and another 23 “minor structures” destroyed, with one damaged. The fire is contained, and the cause is unknown.

The River Fire, meanwhile, grew by 308 acres between Wednesday and Thursday mornings to 48,732 acres, with 13 homes burned to the ground and 11 damaged, and 17 other buildings destroyed and two damaged. The River Fire, which was started by lightning early Aug. 16, is almost completely contained, according to Cal Fire Operations Chief Mike Wink.

Lots of liquid

At what officials said was Cal Fire’s final live briefing on the two fires Wednesday night, incident commander Nick Truax said firefighting efforts at both blazes included 730,000 gallons of water and 339,000 gallons of retardant dropped from aircraft.

After tens of thousands of people evacuated from Carmel Valley Village and other areas over the weekend with fairly little chaos, and many more were put on notice, all mostly due to a predicted dry lightning storm and high winds, many returned home Monday after the anticipated weather never materialized and crews continued to get a handle on the blazes.

More evacuation orders were lifted throughout the

See **CONTAINED** page 14A

Giant U.S. Forest Service helicopters carry water to dump on the Dolan Fire Wednesday, while burned hulks of cars at Sky Ranch (upper right) show the aftermath of the raging Carmel Fire. A kitten managed to get out with only burned paws. He was found hiding in a van, was rescued and treated, and is almost ready to go back to his family.

Firefighters battle to control Big Sur blaze

By CHRIS COUNTS

TEN DAYS after a wildfire broke out near Esalen Institute in Big Sur and a suspected arsonist was arrested for starting it, the fire had spread to nearly 22,000 acres — and while some parts were well under control, by Wednesday afternoon, the fire was getting dangerously close to more than 30 households on Partington Ridge.

Resident Magnus Toren watched from his home on Partington Ridge as the fire moved north toward McWay Ridge, where firefighters were building a line to keep it out of Partington Canyon. The two ridges are separated by steep topography and dense vegetation.

Toren described the fire as “ominous and aggressive,” and looked on helplessly as a finger of it crept over the ridge into Partington Canyon at about 2 p.m.

“Our hearts dropped,” Toren told The Pine Cone. “Now it’s coming down the watershed.”

Help on the way

Yet moments later, Toren said a massive air attack descended on the advancing fire. He watched a DC-10 lay retardant, quickly followed by water drops from helicopters that used nearby McWay Cove — Big Sur’s second most famous photo op — to refill their buckets.

The plane and helicopters made their drops with “surgical precision,” and ended the immediate threat.

“In two hours they had it licked,” reported Toren, who said most of his neighbors had evacuated.

The forest service, meanwhile, offered its assessment of the ongoing threat.

“The deep marine layer lifted around noon and fuels

See **GROWING** page 18A

Burned paws, but two cats are otherwise OK

By KELLY NIX

A CAT and a kitten that got scared and ran away as their owners fled their Carmel Valley home during the fire were rescued by the SPCA for Monterey County this week after a firefighter spotted them inside a vehicle on the property. The pets, one of which has burns to all four paws, are almost ready to be reunited with their owners.

On Tuesday, the firefighter saw the cats at a property on Via Cielo near Cachagua Road and contacted the SPCA, who already had staff in the area performing animal welfare checks. The agency rescued the cats from inside a van

See **CATS** page 19A

COASTAL COMMISSION ASKED TO REJECT DESAL PLANT

By KELLY NIX

THE STAFF of the California Coastal Commission has recommended for the second time that commissioners deny California American Water a permit to build a desal plant, which Cal Am maintains is needed to provide the Monterey Peninsula with a drought-free water supply.

The staff’s recommendation comes in advance of the coastal commission’s Sept. 17 meeting about whether to approve a permit to build the desal plant near Marina. The report calls the desal proposal “extraordinarily controversial,” and notes that it has “spawned” at least 10 lawsuits over its more than eight-year history.

In addition, the plant raises concerns about coastal

resources and habitat, and involves the most “significant environmental justice concerns the commission has considered” — although the agency only adopted a policy on environmental justice one year ago.

While acknowledging that Cal Am faces a December 2021 deadline to find a new water source for its customers, the staff said commissioners should consider whether the Pure Water Monterey Project, a wastewater reclamation project, could be expanded to provide a “feasible and environmentally preferable alternative to the Cal Am project, and whether this alternative can provide sufficient water to this region for current and future uses while allowing Cal

See **DESAL** page 17A

A chance to walk again



PHOTO/COURTESY NATIVIDAD MEDICAL CENTER

Physical therapist Sudha Shorian and patient Michael Rawlings work with a new medical device that can help disabled and paralyzed patients walk. See page 8A.



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Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Determined to have a Doberman

SHE'D NEVER had a dog. Ever. But she hiked a lot in the remote reaches of the Southern California foothills and decided she'd feel more comfortable accompanied by a companion. A protective breed. She considered the German shepherd, pit bull, cane corso and chow, but the more she read about Doberman pinschers, the more obsessed she became with having one.

"I love the look of a Doberman," she said. "With their sleek, short hair and lean musculature, they're so beautiful, majestic, athletic, proud."

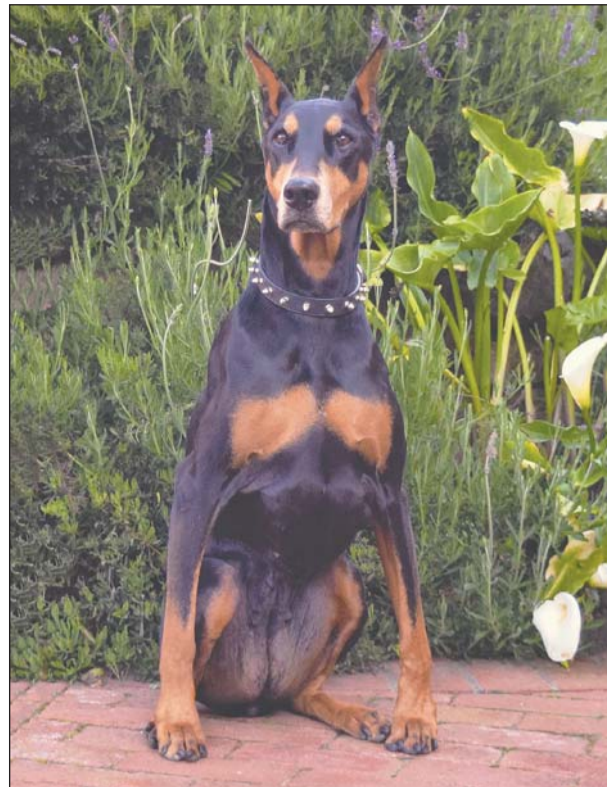
She spent a year researching Dobermans, reading everything she could find, and visiting breeders to become acquainted with the breed. Then she contacted a renowned breeder in Alamo – which she thought was in Texas.

The first question the San Francisco Bay area breeder asked was if she'd ever had a Doberman.

"I've never had a dog. Of any kind," she said.

"A Doberman pinscher is not a starter pet." The breeder turned her down.

Ultimately, a mutual friend talked the breeder



into taking a chance and letting the neophyte dog owner have a Doberman puppy. She named her Freya.

From the moment they met and today – nine years later – Freya and her person have been inseparable.

"Freya is the love of my life," her person said. "I love that girl with every ounce of my being. She provides me with unconditional love, and gives me a purpose, someone to devote my heart and soul to."

Freya also loves her person, particularly when she takes her to the beach. Once they depart their Hacienda Carmel home, Freya starts howling as soon as she figures out where they're going.

"Once we get to the beach, I open the back of the car and make her sit," her person said. "As soon as I say, 'Okay,' she jumps out and runs and runs her heart out. It's magic."

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CUSD labor contract sets strict rules for teaching during pandemic

By MARY SCHLEY

AN AGREEMENT between the Carmel Unified School District and its teachers that was approved by the board of education earlier this month extensively outlines protocols to be used while offering remote or in-room teaching during the coronavirus epidemic, and states it will be in place until the end of June 2021 or “the pandemic is over,” whichever comes first. It covers everything from where hand sanitizer should be located, to how much pay teachers get when they work from home, even if everyone else has returned to the classroom.

District officials must base all decisions about schooling on the California Department of Education’s “Stronger Together” guidelines for schools and use coronavirus protocols issued by the CDC, the state department of health, Monterey County health and the office of education. Generally, when there’s conflict between the different health agencies regarding what to do, the district is supposed to use the strictest interpretation.

The rules

When people are on any of the campuses, the district must ensure they are all at least 6 feet apart at all times and have “unidirectional markings” to follow. The district must require face coverings and provide them to all students and staff.

Every room must contain soap at every sink and sanitizer at every access point, and all the surfaces must be cleaned daily. Ventilation is a must as well.

Everyone who walks onto any campus must be screened for Covid-19 symptoms, and if anyone gets infected, the district has to notify the county health department and “all employees who may have come in contact with the infected individual,” and tell

the association everywhere the sick person had been “during the suspected incubation/active infection period.”

The agreement also stipulates that anyone who is at high risk or lives with someone who is cannot be forced to provide in-classroom instruction — once it’s allowed — and will not suffer any wage loss while working from home.

Employees who encounter unsafe conditions must report them in writing to a supervisor, who has to respond in writing within 24 hours. “Under no circumstances shall unit members be required to expose themselves to conditions deemed unsafe by local and state health authorities,” the contract says.

Pay promised

Only an academic plan that follows all of those rules and regulations would be acceptable to the teachers, whether learning happens at a distance or on campus, and “teachers will not be required to teach in person and simultaneously online.”

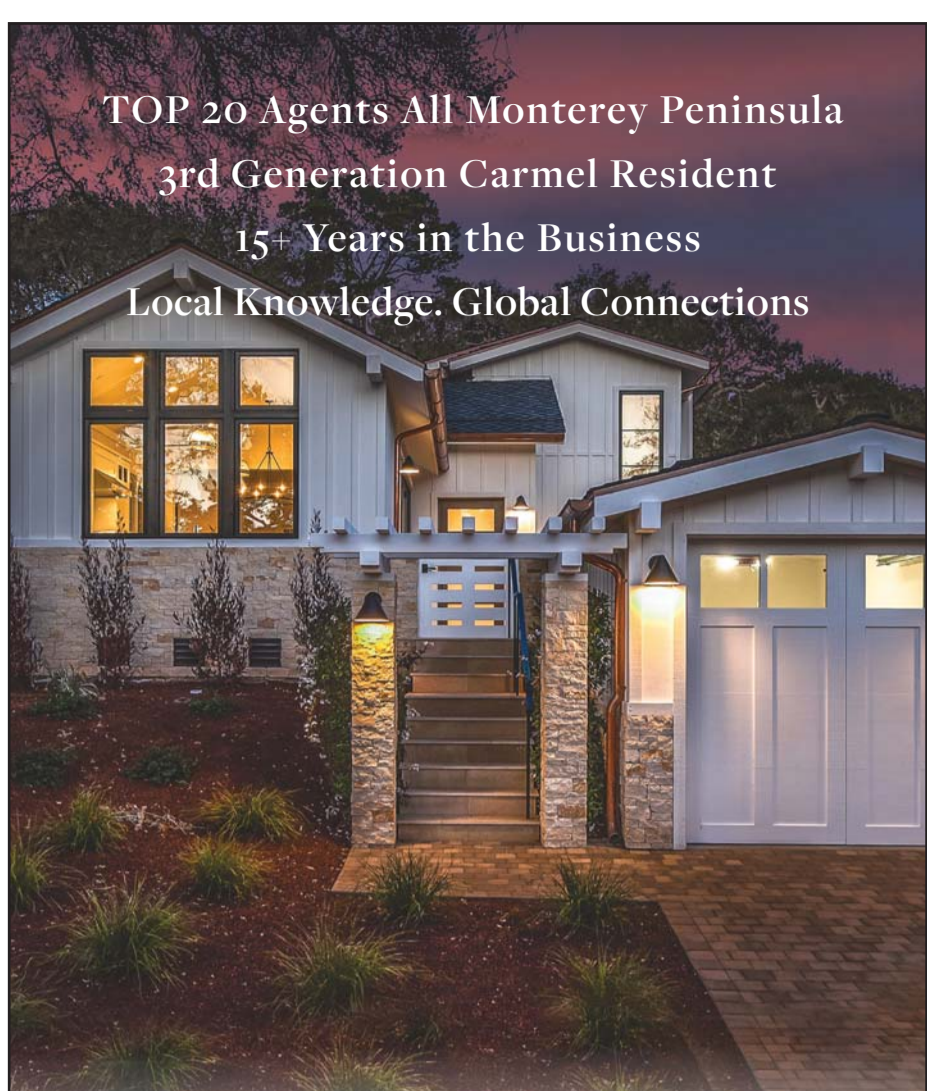
While district officials will have the power to decide how instruction is delivered once the state’s order that everyone do distance learning is lifted, they will still have to consult with the teachers’ union first, “and negotiate any aspects of the instructional model which impact health and safety, work hours or compensation.”

Teachers working from home have to assure they have adequate technology, can maintain the confidentiality of all student information, are working in a professional environment free from distractions, and will provide their schedules and online access to their supervisors. If they can’t do that, they’ll have to teach from the school.


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See **TEACHERS** page 27A

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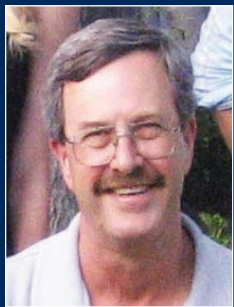
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Police, Fire & Sheriff's Log

Stop arguing and just put on a mask

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.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Contact made with a driver of a pickup for not having their dogs properly secured in the bed of a truck on Lincoln north of Sixth.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Top of vehicle hit a building overhang downtown.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Two males at Dolores and Fifth engaged in a verbal exchange of unpleasantries after discussion regarding the wearing of face coverings while in public spaces. Both parties were contacted and counseled regarding social distancing, face coverings, constitutional rights, social responsibility, public spaces and acceptable and preferred behavior when dealing with others.

Pacific Grove: Unknown person left a package at a care facility on Lighthouse Avenue which contained suspected methamphetamine.

Pacific Grove: Past-tense sexual assault on Monarch.

Carmel Valley: Commercial burglary on Pradera Road.

Carmel area: Resident reported suspicious circumstances on Dolores Street.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Traffic stop at Torres and Fifth at 2239 hours for vehicle code

violations resulted in the driver being arrested for possession of narcotics for sale, meth, psychedelic mushrooms, and drug paraphernalia. The 27-year-old male taxi driver from Salinas was lodged at county jail and the vehicle was stored.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of dog bite to the dog owner's friend on Lincoln south of Fifth.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of a vandalism to a vehicle at Santa Lucia Avenue and Lincoln. Vehicle was scratched and keyed. Possible suspect. No charges filed. Will be handled civilly.

Pacific Grove: A cell phone was turned in that was found near 18th Street. Owner information is not known, so the item will be held for safekeeping.

Pacific Grove: Theft of an unlocked bicycle on David. No suspect information.

Pacific Grove: Vandalism on private property on Hillside.

Pacific Grove: Vandalism of a fire extinguisher enclosure at a building on David.

Pebble Beach: Elder abuse reported at a residence on Bristol Lane.

Big Sur: A driver on Coast Ridge Road was approached by four armed suspects and tire-deflating devices had been placed in the roadway.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Lost purse on Scenic.

See **POLICE LOG** page 6RE in the Real Estate Section



The gavel falls

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

July 16 — Ulises Rodriguez Santillan, 26, a resident of Salinas, has been sentenced to prison for driving with a blood alcohol level higher than .08 percent.

On May 10 at 7:42 p.m., Santillan was stopped by officers of the Salinas Police Department after he ran a stop sign at Klamath Drive and Arcadia Street. Santillan was so impaired by the amount of alcohol he had consumed that he drove up onto the sidewalk when he pulled over and had trouble rolling down the window so that the officers could speak to him. When Santillan did manage to roll down the window, an officer immediately noticed the strong smell of alcohol and took note of Santillan's bloodshot eyes. Santillan was unable to perform even one field sobriety test correctly. When Santillan took an evidentiary breath test, it revealed that he had a blood alcohol level of .18 percent, which is more than double the legal limit.

In California, anyone who drives a vehicle with a blood alcohol level in excess of .08 percent is presumed to be impaired, regardless of how well that person drives at that time.

Santillan's conduct was punishable by state prison due to him having had a prior felony conviction for driving under the influence of alcohol in 2019, the Honorable Mark E. Hood sentenced Santillan to serve 2 years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

July 20 — The district attorney's cannabis enforcement unit has filed charges against two individuals, Cristo Sanchez Suarez and Alejandro Barbosa Mejia, who were found to be cultivating cannabis on public lands in southern Monterey County. While he was being apprehended, one suspect threw chemicals in the face of a California Department of Fish and Wildlife Warden.

The case arose out of an investigation by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, which observed an active cultivation site with over 6,500 cannabis plants growing. The public lands had been illegally cleared, illegal water diversion was occurring, and chemicals were being used to grow the plants and protect them from mold and pests.

In the legal cannabis industry, the use of these products is often prohibited and testing ensures the product sold to consumers is safe. The grow site was littered with trash and chemicals. A nearby creek flowed to the ocean.

When Warden Buckler ordered one suspect to raise his hands, the suspect turned and threw a cup of chemicals he had been adding to the cannabis plants in the face of Buckler. The suspect then started to flee. Buckler released his canine who quickly detained the suspect by biting him. As Buckler began pursuit of other suspects, he started to feel ill. He began vomiting and was airlifted to a nearby hospital, treated, and later released.

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Man denies making racist slurs, threats

Says he wanted to visit relatives' graves

By KELLY NIX

THE AVILA Beach man arrested at gunpoint by Pacific Grove police earlier this month for allegedly making racist remarks and throwing things at motorists painted a much different picture of what happened that day in an interview with The Pine Cone this week.

John Charles Ensor, 48, was arrested on Lighthouse Avenue about noon Aug. 12 in front of dozens of onlookers and passers-by. Police said Ensor made threats, yelled racial slurs and threw an aluminum baseball bat at a vehicle and a beer can at another.

'Would never say it'

In an interview Monday, Ensor — who was booked into Monterey County Jail but is out on bail — denied making racist comments. "I would never say the N word," according to Ensor, who said he attended Fresno State and has an MBA from Cal State Bakersfield. "I have never been considered racist."

Pacific Grove police would not disclose what slurs Ensor used, only that he directed them toward Black and Asian people. Ensor also threatened people with a shovel, police said.

But Ensor offered a different version of the events that led to his arrest.

He said he left his home in Avila beach with the intention of going to San Francisco to visit friends and look for work. On his way, he said he stopped in Salinas to inquire about Alex Durazo, a U.S. Army special forces veteran who was murdered in 2017 in Salinas.

"I drove through the neighborhood say-

ing, "Hey, anybody know who killed my friend?" according to Ensor. (A Salinas man was sentenced in 2019 to 21 years in prison for killing Durazo.)

Ensor said he then drove to Pacific Grove to put flowers on his relatives' gravesites in El Carmelo Cemetery. Before he could get the flowers, though, Ensor claimed he noticed he was being followed by the some people he apparently upset in Salinas.

"They followed me around so much that they blocked me on a two-lane road," according to Ensor. "I grabbed the baseball bat outside and tossed it at them."

Ensor said he evaded the people and then parked on Lighthouse Avenue "out of fear for my life."

That's when police, responding to several 911 calls, caught up with Ensor and arrested him with guns drawn. Police said Ensor was under the influence of drugs or alcohol when they took him into custody, something he also denies.

"I had a bottle of vodka my mother wanted me to try to take back to Costco, and that was in there," he said.

Ensor, who said he's a caregiver for his 80-year-old father, was booked into Monterey County Jail on suspicion of DUI, open container, hate crimes, exhibiting a deadly weapon and other charges.

Didn't tell cops

In response to Ensor's version of events, Pacific Grove police spokeswoman Jocelyn Francis told The Pine Cone Wednesday night that "it does not appear Mr. Ensor provided those claims to police. The victims are all Monterey Peninsula residents, including residents from Pacific Grove."

The results of Ensor's drug and alcohol tests have not come back yet, and as of Thursday, prosecutors had not yet criminally charged him.

Companies must pay \$700,000

THE MONTEREY County District Attorney's Office this week announced that dietary supplement marketers and their owners will pay \$700,000 to settle a consumer protection lawsuit for making misleading claims about their products.

The complaint alleged the marketers, Mile High Madison Group and Nordic Clinical, made claims that their products would cure and help aging problems, repair cells, grow hair and reduce pain but didn't have proof, the DA's office said.

The lawsuit, filed in Orange County Superior Court, was brought by the California Food, Drug and Medical Device Task Force, which consists of 10 California district attorney's offices, including Monterey County.

The companies will pay \$690,000 in civil penalties and costs, while Nordic Clinical will also pay \$10,000 to a consumer protection fund. A judge ordered the companies to stop marketing their products without proper scientific substantiation.

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Mayoral, council candidates explain why voters should choose them

By MARY SCHLEY

■ Mayor Dave Potter

Potter, who served on the planning commission and city council in Monterey before becoming a Monterey County supervisor, and who sat on the powerful California Coastal Commission for a dozen years, said the city's 2,500-plus voters should favor him for his experience and his desire to keep working for the benefit of the community.

"Experience counts," he said. "Now is not a time to learn how to govern."

Potter, who lives just around the corner from city hall with wife Janine Chicourrat, said his top priority is figuring out "how to get this community through these tough times" — a challenge that's further inspiring his run for reelection.

"How are we going to keep the community economically alive while still preserving resources?" he asked.

Potter also noted that reaching people is a bit more difficult during the time of Covid, when all meetings are held electronically and don't garner anywhere near the typical level of public participation, so he's been making an extra effort to get out and talk to people and hear their concerns.

"People are very appreciative of our outreach," he said, and because he's low-key about his office, many of those conversations are quite candid.

■ Judy Refuerzo, mayoral challenger

Refuerzo, who is hoping to unseat Potter, has never run for political office here but has served on the community activities commission for seven years and frequently speaks at public meetings. She said people should vote for her because she "will devote myself full-time to the city's residents."

"I care deeply for our little village in the forest by the sea and have been involved in the city since moving here," she said, including serving as secretary of the Carmel Residents Association board. "I show up at city council meetings; I challenge the city government when they don't follow protocols."

Refuerzo, who teaches yoga, said she has "no business obligations or conflicts of interest that would prevent me from fully serving the residents, showing up at city events and having an open-door policy to

the community and city staff."

Her top priority is protecting the residents by supporting public safety, especially in light of the pandemic, she said, noting the recent burglary of Carmel Drug and the violent attack on a woman at her vacation home just off Scenic in early May.

"Public safety covers a lot of issues: Covid and the city's enforcement, or lack thereof, of county rules," she said, as well as emergency response times, notification to residents, and the responsiveness of city departments when it comes to removing trees that elevate the risk of wildfire. She also focused on safety on the streets, with so many parking areas being used for dining, and sidewalk maintenance.

■ Councilman Bobby Richards

Richards grew up in Pacific Grove and has called Carmel home for years, worked with prominent property owner and hotelier Denny LeVett, and is now running the restaurant at Monterey Airport with restaurateur Rich Pepe. He was elected to the council in 2016 after serving on the community activities commission. Since Potter was elected two years ago, Richards has been vice mayor.

Like Potter, he pointed to his experience as a strong argument for his reelection.

"I bring to the table a proven track record of being fair, understanding, pragmatic and fiscally responsible," he said. "My values have always guided my decisions, and my ethics have been fully displayed."

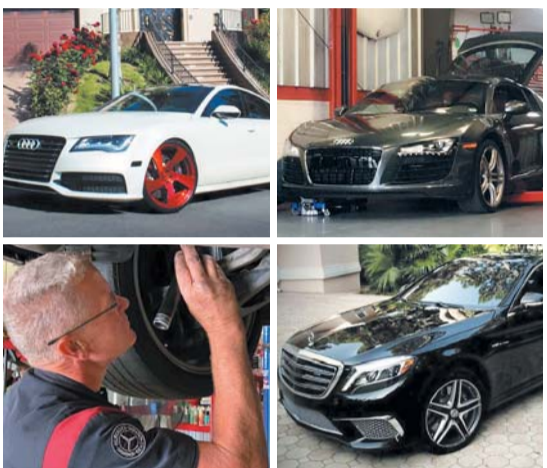
He said the city faces difficult times, and the community doesn't "need any more surprises or challenges."

Richards' top priority is the city's fiscal health, given the precipitous drop in tax revenues resulting from the coronavirus shutdown, but he focused much of his dis-

See CANDIDATES page 16A



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COUNTY OF MONTEREY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Taking the first steps with a robotic exoskeleton at Natividad

By ELAINE HESSER

NEW MEDICAL devices seem to come out so frequently that it's hard to keep up with them. Still, every now and then there's a real standout.

One of the latest advancements is a mechanical exoskeleton that allows people with spinal cord injuries and survivors of strokes to stand up and walk on their own, and Natividad Medical Center in Salinas recently purchased one. It even works for people whose legs are paralyzed.

Several companies produce exoskeletons; the one at Natividad has the brand name Indego, and was made by the Parker Hannifin Corporation, headquartered in Ohio. It's designed for people who can't move their legs or walk properly because of a stroke, spinal cord injury or other condition.

'So much hope'

The FDA-approved exoskeleton looks like a set of full-length braces, extending from the waist to the ankle. It's strapped to the patient's torso and legs and controlled by a smartphone app. Using hydraulics, it mechanically propels the wearer into a standing position, from which they can

then begin walking with the device's assistance.

Sudha Shorian, a physical therapist at Natividad, was one of three medical professionals trained to use the exoskeleton with patients in July. After using it with just four patients, she is already enthusiastic about the results. "It's amazing. It gives so much hope," she said.

The device used at Natividad is adjustable for patients between 5 feet and 5-feet-11 inches tall, weighing as much as 250 pounds. In addition to helping patients, Shorian estimated it eliminates as much as 80 percent of the physical burden of lifting and providing support for the therapists who work with them.

People who have had strokes often lose what Shorian called their "orientation to midline," the sense that allows most folks to know they're sitting or standing up straight, rather than leaning to one side. Losing it makes it difficult for people to balance as they relearn how to stand and walk.

The exoskeleton is used as patients go through therapy and can get them walking sooner than they would without it. Shorian said the device has programming that can detect when someone loses their balance and help them to fall more safely. It also logs a patient's progress over time.

For those with spinal cord damage or other permanently debilitating conditions, an exoskeleton allows them to get around without a wheelchair, although Shorian noted that they would still need a walker or other support.

Other benefits

Having the device can help in other ways, too. Typically, a person who has permanently lost the ability to walk or stand has help to exercise their legs regularly. That keeps blood circulating and prevents muscles from contracting, forcing limbs to curl up. Shorian said that process often leads to complications including painful sores and infections. If, however, the patient can get up and walk regularly, some of those problems can be avoided.

Shorian said that patients understand the device at Natividad is only for use during rehabilitation. If they want to purchase one, the Indego costs \$125,000 and is usually not covered by insurance. However, as Shorian noted, the device can make a big difference in someone's quality of life — particularly for, say, a 20-year-old who might otherwise be facing life in a wheelchair.

It can be custom-fitted for one user — reducing the need for adjustments — and, at less than 30 pounds, is relatively lightweight. It's battery powered and needs to be charged daily.

For now, it's recommended that users stick to paved surfaces, and while Shorian said they can go up and down small curbs, they should not try to navigate stairs.

While it's not turning anyone into a bionic sprinter, for some people, walking from the house to the car is super-power enough.

Michael Rawlings (in white) prepares to try out the Indego exoskeleton at Natividad Medical Center, aided by physical therapists and others. Thanks to the Indego, Rawlings was able to walk for the first time in a month after his most recent back surgery.



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C.V. airport: Adams seeks county effort to buy it, other supes disagree

By CHRIS COUNTS

LOCALS HAVE long lobbied for the public acquisition of the former Carmel Valley Airport so it could be used as a park and a staging area for emergencies. But when Fifth District Monterey County Supervisor Mary Adams suggested exploring the idea of using the taxpayers' money to buy at least one of three parcels at the airport, she received strong opposition from two of her colleagues on the board of supervisors.

Adams introduced the topic at the Aug. 18 meeting by noting that many county residents were being threatened by fire as she spoke. The River Fire had broken out two days earlier, and the Carmel Fire erupted that afternoon. "The discussion couldn't be happening at a more apt time," said Adams, whose district includes Carmel Valley.

Speaking out in favor of the airport acquisition was former supervisor Karin Strasser Kauffman, who once represented the valley. She suggested that any money spent on the land would be "dwarfed" by the loss of life that could occur without such a staging area for emergencies. She urged the supervisors to "immediately set a hearing date." "This is a crucial matter," she added. "Time is wasting."

Without site, 'we're in trouble'

Also backing the idea was Pris Walton, the president of the Carmel Valley Association. Walton said the former airport plays a key role in the countywide fight against wildfires. "If we don't have a place to land helicopters, we're in serious trouble," she warned.

But Supervisor John Phillips said he has "serious concerns" about such an acquisition and questioned what its true purpose would be. He also noted that Carmel Valley has other parks that could serve the same

function. He wondered aloud if it "would it be used strictly for fire, or to limit growth?"

Alejo backed Phillip, and suggested a vote "to see if the board wants to proceed with this" before asking county staff to analyze the possible purchase. "This is an expensive project where we have so many constraints," he said.

Sale of two lots spurs effort

The discussion was prompted not only by the ongoing wildfire crisis in the county, but by the recent news of the impending sale of two of the airport's three properties. Previously, a local group — Carmel Valley Save Our Open Space — had sought to acquire the entire airport, but now the effort is focused on the remaining piece, the easternmost of the three. It's listed for \$950,000.

After the hearing, Adams told The Pine Cone she was "very frustrated" by the lack of support the proposal received from some fellow supervisors and said she will bring up the topic again. She also insisted she's not asking for a blank check — instead, she wants to explore a public-private partnership.

"I lived in Carmel Valley for 25 years before moving into town," Adams said. "I saw the airport property continually being used for staging during emergencies. To not have it as a safety valve doesn't make any sense. All that was lost by some of the comments my colleagues made."

The Delfino family has been trying to sell the land for more than a decade. They once proposed building 29 single-family homes and 10 multi-family units on it.

Built by Byington Ford — who envisioned a neighborhood where residents flew small planes to work — the airport opened on Dec. 7, 1941. The Delfinos bought it in 1953, and the airport was closed in 2002.



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Bakery shooter pleads not guilty, but prosecutors say she planned crime

By KELLY NIX

THE WOMAN who Pacific Grove police say shot a bakery employee in the parking lot of the business last week has pleaded not guilty to criminal charges.

Jennifer Razo, 39, was in the parking lot of Patisserie Bechler on Forest Avenue the early morning of Aug. 18 when she shot the bakery worker with the intent of killing her, police and prosecutors said.

"Jennifer Nicole Razo did unlawfully, and with malice aforethought, attempt to murder Lucia Marrufo-Pulido, a human being," according to the criminal complaint filed by Monterey County Deputy District Attorney Cristina

Johnson.

The victim received a gunshot wound to the face, but a person with knowledge of the crime told The Pine Cone last week that the bullet grazed her face and that the woman was not seriously injured. Razo fired her handgun twice and shot the victim because she believed her estranged husband was dating her, the source said.

Attempted murder

Razo was charged with felony attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon, as well as several enhancements, including great bodily injury.

Razo entered pleas of not guilty on Aug. 19. She waived

her right to appear in court in person and entered her plea via video, according to the minute order for the hearing, which was held in Monterey County Superior Court Judge Julie Culver's courtroom. A Monterey County deputy public defender was assigned to represent Razo, who is being held in county jail on more than \$2 million bail.

Council to discuss revenue woes, Labor Day beach closure

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CITY council next Tuesday will consider options for refinancing the Sunset Center bonds that are due Nov. 1 and is set to get an update on the dismal budget, including hotel tax receipts that are down by roughly \$1 million for the quarter from this time a year ago.

Also on the agenda at the Sept. 1 meeting, which is scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m. and can be watched on the city's website, is discussion of city administrator Chip Rerig's plans to close the beach over the Sept. 4-7 Labor Day weekend, as several other cities on the Peninsula and in Santa Cruz are doing. The council will decide not only whether the beach should be closed, but to what extent. Many of the other beaches will be closed except for water recreation, with people allowed to cross the sand to swim and surf.


Council members are also set to ratify Rerig's order giving police and the code compliance officers the ability to write administrative citations to people who violate beach rules. Fines begin at \$100 and rise with repeat offenses.

The owners of a two-story condo building on Dolores Street are fighting the city's refusal to issue a short-term rental permit for the property back when such rentals were legal (now, they are grandfathered in). According to city officials, conditions of approval on the project that were agreed to by the building's previous owner expressly prohibit short-term rentals, but the new owner disagrees.

A move to reduce spending by refusing to pay overtime for employees working on the ambulance has apparently been sidelined in favor of general discussion about the city's ambulance service, and the council is set to hear a presentation on the subject at Tuesday's meeting.


Finally, the quarterly budget report is unlikely to lift any spirits, given the abysmal tax receipts for March through June this year, compared to last. A presentation on the numbers and the current fiscal situation should give the council a good picture of just how much the local economy has suffered due to the coronavirus pandemic — and continues to suffer.

For a complete agenda, as well as information on how to participate in an online meeting, visit ci.carmel.ca.us.



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Big Sur blaze destroys condor release site and nests, fundraiser underway

By CHRIS COUNTS

BECAUSE THE Dolan Fire struck in the heart of Big Sur's condor country, the blaze is taking a cruel toll on the local population of North America's largest and rarest bird.

"We have eight nesting pairs of condors," executive director Kelly Sorenson of the nonprofit Ventana Wildlife Society told The Pine Cone Thursday. "Four nests have been burned by the Dolan Fire."

But as heartbreaking as the news seems, there's cause for hope, Sorenson said.

"We have evidence of condor chicks surviving wildfires in the past," he explained. "We've had 41 condor nests in the last 20 years, and six of those were burned over by wildfire, and 5 of the 6 chicks survived — there's no way their fate will be known until it's safe to go in there."

Chilling video

Started by arson, the fire broke out Aug. 18 and spread quickly in hot weather. Within two days, it had reached sites at higher elevations where remote cameras live-streamed images of condors feeding or raising a chick in a nest.

"The nest cam, where baby condor Iniko is being raised by wild parents Redwood Queen and Kingpin, was lost on the evening of Aug. 20," the nonprofit Ventana Wildlife Society, which has spearheaded the local condor recovery effort, reported last week. "The release area was burned over at around 3:45 a.m. Aug. 21. Our release pen was engulfed in flames just before the feed cut out."

The nest cam offers a terrifying view of the approaching fire, and also captures what might be the last footage of Iniko, who is 5 months old and can't fly. As heartbreaking as it is to see, the VWS noted that chicks have survived wildfires in the past.

"We are hopeful, but it would not be surprising if we lost some condors to this fire and it nearly crushes my spirit to accept that possible reality," executive director Kelly

Sorenson said. "While holding back the tears, I contemplated long and hard, yesterday, whether to share these videos. As hard as they are to watch, we cannot run from reality, but instead we must confront it."

Sorenson said the local condor population totals 90 birds, and as of Thursday, the whereabouts of 10, includ-

ing Kingpin, were unknown.

"It doesn't mean they're dead," Sorenson said. "We haven't had access, but we're going to do an aerial survey tomorrow, and hopefully, we'll find those missing birds."

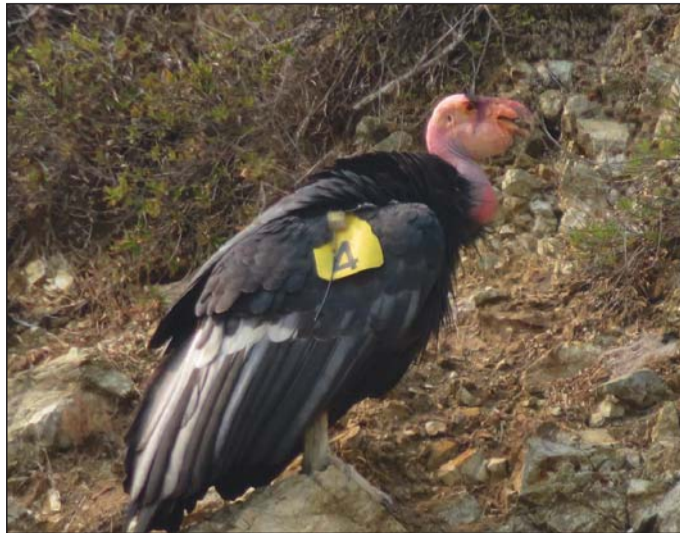
Trip to the beach

One of the local condors, Amigo, turned up unexpectedly Saturday at one of the camps in Big Sur for firefighters. Like many in the local flock, Amigo is a survivor — one of his wings was badly injured 10 years ago, likely from being hit by a car. But after a lengthy rehabilitation, he was released in Big Sur.

Two days later, Amigo was photographed by researchers returning from the beach, where he dined on a carcass. Sorenson said the image, which shows the bird with a protruding belly, is evidence that condors can find food on their own, which he said runs contrary to the belief that condors are dependent on humans for food.

Besides burning four nests, the fire destroyed the VWA's release facility, which is located high in the Big Sur backcountry at an undisclosed site. The nonprofit is hoping to rebuild as soon as possible, and it launched a crowdfunding campaign this week. For more details, visit ventanaws.org.

"We've already crossed the halfway mark toward our goal of \$500,000," Sorenson reported. "That really lifts our spirits."



PHOTO/GREGG JENNINGS

A local condor named "Amigo" made a surprise appearance last week at a firefighters camp in Big Sur.



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Wastewater officials say leftover food should be converted to energy

By KELLY NIX

THE PUBLIC agency that operates the Pure Water Monterey treatment plant, which met a key milestone last weekend in supplying the Monterey Peninsula with a new water source, is also moving ahead with a plan to use the wastewater facility to process landfill-bound food waste so it can be converted to electricity.

Regarding the water supply aspect, sewer district Monterey One Water Tuesday said this week that it has pumped 1,000 acre-feet (about 326 million gallons) of purified wastewater into the Seaside Groundwater Basin as part of a build-up of reserves for Pure Water Monterey.

The reclaimed water is being stored in the aquifer and will slowly make its way to a Cal Am well one-half mile away.

“It has been a long journey but one where collaboration and innovation have made a difference in devel-

oping a sustainable water solution,” Paul Sciuto, general manager for Monterey One Water said in a statement.

In the meantime, the agency is also preparing to put the water processing plant to another use.

Last month it requested that the Environmental Protection Agency fund a

See **ENERGY** next page

PHOTO/MONTEREY ONE WATER

This overhead view shows digestors at the Pure Water Monterey treatment plant in Marina, which may be used to process food waste in addition to wastewater.

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ENERGY

From previous page

\$239,359 study that would evaluate the feasibility of converting the Marina facility's anaerobic digesters — currently designed to process wastewater solids — to also accept and break down discarded food.

The process would involve diverting organic waste, like food scraps, from the Marina landfill to Pure Water Monterey's digesters, where they would break down the waste and generate biogas which would be converted to electricity, heat and fuel. The idea is to create a renewable energy source, cut down on greenhouse gas emissions, reduce electricity costs and divert organic waste from landfills.

"We are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be selected to move forward with this study," Monterey One Water spokesman Mike McCullough told The Pine Cone Tuesday.

Lots of support

The project has garnered support from municipal, county and regional officials, including District 29 Assemblyman Mark Stone, who noted state legislation mandating a 75 percent decrease of organic waste into landfills.

"The Monterey Bay region, with its major industries being tourism and agriculture, generates a large amount of organic waste," Stone wrote in a letter to the EPA, urging it to fund the study. "A case in point is the Salinas Valley, a leading producer of the nation's leaf lettuce and bagged salad."

Agricultural giant Taylor Farms also lauded the idea. "Taylor Farms fully supports Monterey One Water's grant application to develop a process that converts vegetative waste from food processing facilities into electricity," company engineering manager David Lewis told The EPA.

The waste management district has diverted food scraps from commercial customers since 2008, and in 2013 started a pilot food waste digestion facility to demonstrate how the process could work on a smaller scale.

Carmel Area Wastewater District general manager

Barbara Buikema said the plant already receives 3,400 to 6,800 gallons of slurry food waste from Whole Foods in Santa Cruz and 10,200 to 17,000 gallons of food waste from the El Super market in Salinas per month. Buikema said the agency also wants to partner with a food service grinding company so it can convert more organic waste.

"The impact of processing food waste is a reduction in power usage," she said. "That would be a savings to our customers."

The State Water Resources Control Board released a report this week indicating that half of California's food waste headed for landfills could be processed by wastewater treatment plants and converted to power.

Many of the nearly 225 wastewater treatment plants in California, the state water board said, have the facilities and capacity to accommodate diverted food waste.

The report estimates the statewide capital investments required to use the co-digestion capacity range between \$900 million and \$1.4 billion. The net benefits to the state could be up to \$255 million each year.

Fire victims may get FEMA, SBA help

PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

IF YOU'VE been impacted by the River, Carmel or Dolan fires — and you have losses insurance won't cover — the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) may be able to help you.

"Grants may help eligible survivors with financial assistance that includes rent, home repair, home replacement and other disaster-related needs such as childcare, medical and dental expenses," the federal agency announced this week. For more details, call (800) 621-3362 or visit disasterassistance.gov.

Also, the U.S. Small Business Administration has established a loan outreach center to help homeowners and businesses. For more information, call (916) 735-1500.



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CONTAINED

From page 1A

week, with the final zones reopened Thursday afternoon. To help those returning, the county posted "commodity points of distribution" stocked with PPE, water and other necessities at various points near previously evacuated areas, while utility companies worked to restore gas, electricity and water.

Farm animals saved

While Cal Fire was in charge, the small but mighty Cachagua Volunteer Fire Department, a staple in the area since the late 1970s, rushed into the fray as soon as someone reported the fire that started next to Cachagua Road last Tuesday afternoon. And before the biggest fight was over, two volunteers had lost their own homes while working to protect the those of others.

Ramon Lopez Ruelas, a correctional officer at Salinas

Valley State Prison for the last 14 years, grew up in Seaside and bought a small ranch on Trampa Canyon in Cachagua with his wife and three kids a little over a year ago.

He started volunteering in January and was voted in as a firefighter by the group in May. On Aug. 18, he was at work when the fire started, and he called his wife and sister to get everyone and the animals out of their farm.

Fortunately, his wife, kids, 10 chickens and roosters, nine goats, two turtles, two horses, two dogs and one sheep all made it out in time. "One semi-friendly barn cat" also survived and was rescued, but two others died — one had to be put down, and the other hasn't been found.

The Carmel Fire was his first, and by the time he got there, he said, the blaze was already 500 acres. His job was to walk in front of the engine using a hose to spray water on flames by the road.

"There were already flames shooting up the cliffside, and it was so hot," he said. "There were flames on both sides, flames in the trees, it was really hard to breathe, and I couldn't see anything because of the smoke."

He said he started to feel overwhelmed and that his

efforts made no difference as the fire literally blew over them. "I thought for sure we were going to burn alive," he said.

But they didn't. He and other Cachagua volunteers were able to save several houses in Sky Ranch, ultimately, including a fellow volunteer firefighter's.

"We saved his house and one next to it," he said. "But at another, there was a tree next to it that caught fire, and it just fully engulfed it."

Continues next page



PHOTO/MICHAEL TROUTMAN, DMT IMAGING

Last week, the Carmel Fire raged near Carmel Valley Road. But favorable weather and fierce firefighting efforts have helped bring it under control. Now roads are open and people are going home.

The Rev. Dr. Donald S. Williamson, PhD, ABPP

Diplomate in the American Board of Professional Psychology

July 17, 1935 • July 21, 2020

On Tuesday, July 21st Donald died peacefully at his home. On July 17th he was surrounded by his wife, children and grandchildren in celebration of his 85th birthday. There was bagpipe music in his garden and Irish Trifle prepared by his granddaughters. He was ready for the next adventure where he will likely expand his beautiful mind and continue with his ever probing questions.

Born in Dungannon, Northern Ireland on July 17, 1935 Donald graduated from the Royal School Dungannon in 1953. After attending Queens University and Edgehill seminary, Donald was ordained an Irish Methodist Minister in Grosvenor Hall, Belfast and served as minister in the Glengormley Methodist Church.



In the summer of 1961, Donald came to the United States to enter a PhD program in Pastoral Psychology at Garrett Theological Seminary, Northwestern University. He served as Associate Minister at the Central Methodist Church in Skokie, Illinois.

After completing a post doctoral Clinical residency at the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Donald went on to Duke University where he was a Professor of Pastoral Psychology and Director of Pastoral Counseling at the Duke Divinity School.

In 1969 he moved to Houston to become Director and Dean of the Institute of Religion and Human

Development at the Texas Medical Center. In 1972 with three colleagues Donald co-founded the Houston Family Institute and established an AAMFT approved Training Program in Marriage and Family Therapy. During these years, Donald served as the national President for the AAMFT organization. In 1987, he joined the faculty at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. He was professor of clinical Family Medicine and Director of the Family Stress Clinic.

After moving to the Pacific Northwest as Senior Faculty at the Leadership Institute of Seattle, LIOS (1992-2008), Donald became increasingly interested in Integrity and Leadership and the importance of Truth-telling. His thinking, writings and conversations focused on the importance of integrity (wholeness) in the behavior of any leader. He emphasized the need for leaders to accept personal responsibility for both initiatives taken and resulting outcomes. Over the last two decades, Donald designed leadership courses used in Fortune 500 companies.

In 2012, Donald and his wife Stella Rabaut moved to Carmel, California. He experienced the beauty of the Big Sur coastline reminiscent of the Antrim Coast in Northern Ireland.

Donald was a leader in the practice of personal and relational family growth through the sharing of intimate family experience. He pioneered methods of inquiry that would bring healing to situations that invite chaos instead of understanding. He was dedicated to speaking truth tempered by compassion when truth sometimes stung. To his friends, Donald was a welcoming, loving and profoundly comforting being. With his sonorous voice and lilting Northern Irish accent, he challenged one to be alert and alive through his searching questions. It was clear that while he prized inquiry and curiosity above all, his humanity was deep and his good humor shining. His presence was unforgettable.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Stella and his children Stephen and Tracy (from his earlier marriage to Rosemary Lloyd), five grandchildren, Caitlin, Connor, Riley, Lucas and Dylan. He will be sorely missed by them as well as by the many colleagues and students whom he inspired through his long and distinguished career.

A virtual celebration of Donald's life will be held at a future date. Memorial donations may be made to Doctors without Borders or the Pt. Lobos Foundation.

Anna

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From previous page

Ruelas said he also heard propane tanks blowing and ammunition exploding — and said the sound of the fire itself was incredibly loud.

After being up at Sky Ranch for 48 hours, they finally descended, and he was able to reach his wife and tell her he was OK. Ruelas turned 35 on Sunday without the celebration he had anticipated.

A lifelong canyon resident

Fellow volunteer Jeff Klein, 23, grew up in Trampa Canyon and had a trailer on his father's property, all of which burned, too, while he was working up in Sky Ranch. A full-time electrician who works for Jesse Reimer — who is also the fire chief — Klein became a volunteer on his 18th birthday and later fought in the Tassajara and Soberanes fires, as well as some other more local blazes.

He was at a jobsite in the Carmel Highlands when the call came in, and he rushed back to get equipment and pick up other firefighters. He also called his girlfriend and told her to grab what was necessary in the trailer and get out. "We keep an emergency plan going because of where we live," he explained.

Up at Sky Ranch, Klein and his crew got "blown over" by huge flames twice, once when the fire ran up a chimney, caught the tree overhead and spread. "It's nothing like I'd ever seen before. The sky goes black, the air is gone, you can't hear anything because it's like a freight train going by — it's one of those things you never believe until you see it."

When he and the others finally made it back down, he got a call from his father that everything was gone.

"I told him, 'You get safe, and we'll figure out everything else later,'" he said.

Since then, Klein has kept working his shifts on the engine and "doing my best to stick around and help out the community and do my best to support everyone."

"I've been able to get some bed rest twice, now," he said. "My family and everybody I love is OK."

Thursday was the first day Cachagua Fire wasn't assigned to the Carmel Fire, he said, so the volunteers have been cleaning up and taking care of their engines and equipment.

"As of now, it should just go back to business as usual," he said. "And if I had to do it all again, I would get right back in that fire engine and risk it all again to protect my community."

Dee Davis and her wife, Alyssa McGowan, also volun-

teer, and Davis was at work at Bernardus Lodge when the call came in. Not even knowing where it was, she drove through the fire on Cachagua Road on her way to the station.

After trying to douse the flames along the road, she, McGowan and their engineer also headed up into Sky Ranch, joining Ruelas, Klein and others in their efforts to save people's homes.

"We had 100-foot flames going over the house and touching down behind the house," she recalled. "We stayed and we fought, and we were scared. It's a moment that no matter how many times someone tells you how it sounds and what it feels like, you're not going to be ready for it."

Davis said it was "a big win" for Cachagua Fire and its volunteers to save a handful of homes, especially under such terrifying circumstances.

"Ramon and Jeff were fighting with us, and less than eight hours later, their houses burned down overnight," she said. "Our company saved a total of five houses, and those poor guys lost their houses."

All of them, though, have been heartened by the generosity of their community. Gofundme campaigns have been established for Ruelas (search for "Lopez-Ruelas

Family"), Klein ("Klein Household Destroyed in Carmel Fire"), the Cachagua Volunteer Fire Department, the owners of Kathy's Little Kitchen who also lost their house in the Carmel Fire (search under "Kathy's Little Kitchen"), and many others.

Opportunities to help

Numerous other aid efforts are underway, as well, offering plenty of opportunities for people who want to help.

The Monterey Firefighters union is collecting funds through gofundme ("Monterey Firefighter's Wildfire Victim Relief Fund") and donations at the stations to help the victims of the Carmel and River fires. "The funds raised will go to assisting displaced families throughout our county," they explained. Gift cards for major department stores like Target are also needed, since they're easy to distribute to victims, and can be dropped off at any Monterey Fire station.

The Community Foundation for Monterey County, cmfco.org, has also established a Monterey County Fire Relief Fund and has two other specific funds, the Community Fund for Carmel Valley and the Big Sur Disaster Relief Fund, to benefit victims in those specific areas.

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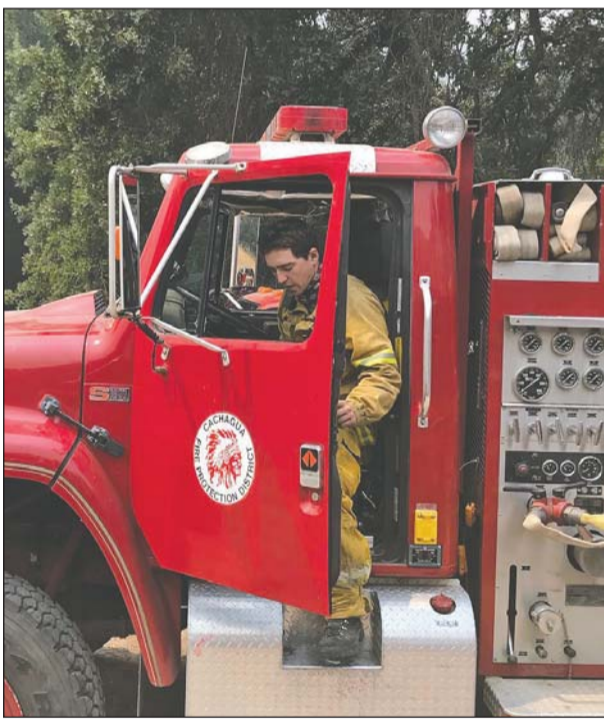
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He's only 23, but Jeff Klein (top) has fought several wildfires as a Cachagua volunteer. Last week, his house burned down while he was protecting homes at Sky Ranch. The same happened to Ramon Lopes Ruelas, a new volunteer, here taking a moment after 48 hours on the job to call his wife to say he's OK.

CANDIDATES

From page 6A

discussion on outdoor dining. Permits for restaurants serving people outside on the sidewalk and in parking spaces are set to expire at the end of the year, and he said he cares deeply about what happens next.

“I cannot think of anything that has the potential to change the character of our town more than this,” he said. “It is a complicated subject that will require participation from the restaurateurs, planning commission, water board, ABC, chamber of commerce, fire and safety, and most importantly, the residents.”

Richards speculated many restaurants would have gone out of business had they not been able to serve patrons outside. “This would be devastating not only to the industry

and employees, but also to our village,” he said.

But any move to make the parklets permanent will require much consideration, he said, including impacts on the village character, retail businesses and parking.

Mo Massoudi, council challenger

Massoudi, who runs a plant genomics company in Monterey and owned Café Carmel on Ocean Avenue for nearly a dozen years, has not run for office here before but served on the forest and beach commission. He touted his independent thinking and fairness as reasons voters should support him.

“People should vote for me because I am an independent voice and I will bring unbiased opinion to the council,” he said. “I strongly believe there should be a detachment and disconnect between the city council and their potential strong ties with businesses in town.”

The current council, he argued, is “out of balance,” because too many members have “strong business connections.”

“As noted in the 1929 city ordinance, the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea is to be primarily a residential city, and the businesses should come second to support the residents,” he said.

Massoudi allowed that small businesses are critical for the city’s economic livelihood but said residents should come first.

Considering the state of the economy, the pandemic and the recent fires, Massoudi said the list of top priorities is growing, but he wanted to focus on public safety and the removal of dead plants and trees that could fuel a wildfire here — though last week, he argued at the forest and beach commission against cutting down a large stand of famously combustible eucalyptus trees. “It is extremely unfortunate to see what has happened to our fellow Californians due to ravaging wildfires,” he said. “Climate change is a fact and at this point is undeniable.”

Massoudi said he’d also like security cameras installed in the business district. “With people dining on the street and having visitors from around the world, I think people are now vulnerable more than ever to potential acts of terrorism,” he said. “We want to make sure we eliminate another Boston Marathon and other acts that may put our residents and visitors in harm’s way.”

Graeme Robertson, council challenger

Robertson, who moved to Carmel with his family from Scotland when he was 8, has also never run for office and has not served on another city board or commission, but has long been involved in the community. He has served on the boards of the Carmel Public Library Foundation, the youth center, the MEarth habitat project, the chamber of commerce (board chairman), Carmel-by-the-Sea Rotary (past president), Carmel High School Foundation and Church in the Forest (board chairman).

“In the five-and-a-half decades that my family has lived in Carmel-by-the-Sea, I have developed a deep appreciation for what makes our village special by working to maintain its unique character and beauty, and to ensure that its economy flourishes,” he said. “I have the collaborative, consistent and respectful leadership skills that are critical for serving our people on the city council.”

Robertson said he’s known “as someone who listens to and studies all points of view, and acts only after giving issues my undivided attention.”

His top priority is “to protect the character of Carmel-by-the-Sea and plan for the future during the post-Covid reopening of our beloved village.”

“There are thousands of people that have helped create the character of Carmel-by-the-Sea over the last 104 years. Their vision, foresight and hard work enable residents and visitors to enjoy a quality of life and experience that is unparalleled,” he said. “Protecting that in both the short term and long term, in the uncertain world we currently live in, will require a balanced, collaborative and thoughtful approach. Including all the stakeholders in these discussions will be essential.”

Karen Ferlito, council challenger

Ferlito, who has lived in Carmel since the late 1980s and was on the forest and beach commission for several terms totaling 16 years, said voters should choose her “because I have the leadership skills gained from serving our city for more than 30 years.” A board member of the Friends of Carmel Forest and the Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve, Ferlito is a regular at public meetings and said that experience helps her “know the financial challenges facing our city at this unprecedented time.”

She has also worked in retail at the Carmel Bay Co. for a dozen years, and has served on the boards of organizations outside the city, so she understands “how important it is for Carmel to coordinate with the other cities on the Monterey Peninsula.”

The biggest challenge facing the community, and therefore the top priority, will be “emerging from this pandemic successfully.”

“I support working together as a city council and including representatives from our entire community to initiate a necessary and vital new planning process that will work to address the challenges we face and to explore new opportunities for our village in order to not only survive, but to thrive,” she said. “We have incredibly talented and creative residents and business leaders in our community, and by tapping into this expertise, we will create a more resilient economy and a vibrant and more sustainable city that will be better prepared to meet future challenges, as well.”

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— Christ Jesus

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DESAL

From page 1A

Am to end its overdraft of the Carmel River.”

Cal Am proposed the desal plant to comply with an order from another state agency, the Water Resources Control Board, which said it had to stop pumping most of its water for Peninsula customers from the Carmel River, where steelhead trout and red-legged frogs live.

Not over yet

The coastal commission itself first insisted on and then blessed Cal Am's plan to use beach wells to draw source water for the desal plant from beneath the ocean floor. And yet another state agency, the California Public Utilities Commission, approved the desal plant in September 2018.

“The Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project is the only project that can solve the issues on the Carmel River, protect the Seaside Basin and provide for long-term water needs, including affordable housing,” Cal Am spokeswoman Catherine Stedman told The Pine Cone Wednesday. “Its development is supported by the findings of the California Public Utilities Commission and the State Water Resources Control Board.”

Stedman said alternatives “are merely

band-aids” that don't provide a long-term water solution for the Monterey Peninsula.

“A future without desal is, in essence, kicking the can down the road and increasing costs for customers in the long run.”

The staff recommendation doesn't spell doom for the project, Stedman said, because “there have been many instances in which the commission has voted in support of projects when the staff has recommended denial.”

Last year, three coastal commissioners took the rare step of challenging the City of Marina's denial of a permit for the desal plant, arguing the “major public works” project should be “objectively considered” by the commission, after the Marina planning commission denied Cal Am permit for the plant.

The state water board has required Cal Am to start drilling one of its water production wells and complete other work by September, which the utility can't do without the permit from the coastal commission. Cal Am completed a pipeline and a pump station for the project in 2019.

'Habitat restoration'

The coastal commission's influential staff first recommended denial in October 2019 ahead of a meeting the next month, arguing more studies were necessary before it could conclude that groundwater supplies would not be depleted — even though the state's Public Utilities Commis-

sion had already certified the environmental document for the project.

The staff report backs the City of Marina's contention that the deal operation would result in environmental impacts to the city's coastal zone and “increase the overall cumulative environmental burdens in the area.”

Interestingly, the report also mentions

possible recreational use of the Cemex sand mine property where Cal Am wants to install its wells.

“If not for the wells, this area would be available for public access, habitat restoration, and passive public recreational use after the Cemex plant's closure,” according to the coastal commission's 154-page staff report.

WIDOW'S HOME BEING DEMOLISHED

Last November, Celestia sold her home in Woodside that she and her husband had occupied since 1987. While looking at cottages for sale in Carmel, a real estate agent working for Tim Allen suggested that she take a look at a lovely cottage for rent on Scenic. Celestia rented this charming cottage and moved to Carmel in January.

All through the year, Celestia has enjoyed sitting in her big bay window overlooking crashing waves, and watching happy dogs, tourists and neighbors. She loves Carmel and has volunteered for community projects whenever possible. Realizing that she might need to find another rental within walking distance to the Carmel Foundation, Celestia talked to rental agencies and scoured the Internet, only to discover that there are no rentals available. Celestia even tried to purchase a pretty cottage, but her efforts only brought her an ugly bidding war and tears.

Celestia is the ideal tenant that every homeowner dreams of when wanting to rent out their home. Her beautiful cottage is being torn down and she must be out of her home before the witch flies on October 31.

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GROWING

From page 1A

rapidly dried out, allowing the fire to push significantly onto McWay Ridge, slopping over the ridge approximately 150-200 acres," the United States Forest Service reported Thursday. "Crews are working to stay ahead of the fire and are optimistic that the contingency lines will be successful."

Surrounded by firefighters, angels

While those on Partington Ridge nervously eyed the approaching fire, residents who live south of the fire at the New Camaldolese Hermitage and at Lucia are breathing sighs of relief. Like the former, they, too, were subject to evacuation orders.

"On the southern perimeter, crews made good progress in securing direct and indirect lines," fire officials reported Thursday.

The prior of the hermitage, Father Cyprian, gave a shout-out to firefighters — and a higher power.

"We still feel safe," the prior said. "I've been telling people that we are surrounded by firefighters — and angels."

Also escaping serious damage were research and residential buildings at Landels-Hill Big Creek Natural Reserve, a biological field station for Santa Cruz. The fight to save the facility had to rely on ground crews and staff because smoky skies prevented aerial attacks.

"The whole reserve was pretty much on fire," UC Santa Cruz Natural Reserves official Gage Dayton reported Aug. 21. "All UC structures are still standing."

The fire is expected to keep moving east into the Ventana Wilderness, where it will likely burn in dense brush and steep terrain for some time.

At least four homes have burned so far. One of them was a historic cabin along Big Creek known as Haida House. Once owned by Pebble Beach founder S.F.B. Morse, it was moved to his family's property at Big Creek in 1973 and destroyed by fire sometime last week.

One of its owners, Charley Osborne, told The Pine Cone that former Congressman Sam Farr saved some family heirlooms that were in the house.

"Without my asking, he braved the fire and went into the Big Creek canyon and pulled out precious memorabilia, spoke to the fire boss and let me know all this," Osborne reported. "I want to thank him publicly for his kindness and consideration. He is an excellent example of a good



PHOTO/MATT OSBORNE

Once owned by Pebble Beach founder S.F.B. Morse and moved to its present site in 1973, the Haida House was destroyed by fire late last week.


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BIG SUR

From previous page

neighbor.”

Homes were also lost along Dolan Ridge Road near Esalen.



PHOTO/KODIAK GREENWOOD

An air tanker drops a load of retardant on the northern edge of the Dolan Fire, which was threatening homes on Partington Ridge in Big Sur Wednesday and Thursday.

Andrew Madsen of the forest service urged visitors to stay away from Big Sur. To deter people from interfering with firefighting efforts, the forest service issued a closure order Wednesday for the Dolan Fire area, with a penalty of \$5,000 and/or six months in jail.

“All campgrounds are closed,” Madsen said. “Folks need to stay out of the area until this fire gets suppressed. You will quickly be turned around by law enforcement.”

Highway 1 remains closed between Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park and Ragged Point — a distance of 39 miles.

Nearly 1,000 firefighters have been on scene, including 46 fire engines, 11 hand crews, seven bulldozers, seven water tenders and four helicopters.

Fire chief urges calm

Big Sur Fire Chief Matt Harris urged residents to stay calm and vigilant.

“We must remain patient with one another and the process, and plan as best as possible for imminent evacuations to both the north and the south of the fire,” Harris said. “We must remain tight as a community as we have done so many times before.”

Of the more than 300 wildfires that started in California last week, the fire is

one of the few that wasn’t started by a widespread lightning storm. The man arrested in connection with starting the fire, Ivan Geronimo Gomez, 30, of Fresno, was booked into county jail. His bail was set at \$2 million.

CATS

From page 1A

that had burned and brought them to the nonprofit’s shelter.

A black kitten, Bubs, had burns to all four paws, but SPCA veterinarians treated the feline with pain medication, antibiotics and other care, including “love” from staff, and is expected to make a full recovery, SPCA spokeswoman Beth Brookhouser said. Bubs’ partner, Mango, a black and white cat, was uninjured but was covered in black soot from the fire.

“The owners had very little time to evacuate,” Brookhouser told The Pine Cone Thursday. “They were trying to put their cats into carriers, but the cats became scared and ran, and they were loose on the property.”

The SPCA Wednesday issued a press release saying they were trying to find the felines’ owner, and within 40 minutes, had found her.

Owner Clare Nicholson — who lost her home in the fire — was very thankful for the SPCA saving the animals, Brookhouser said.

A gofundme page has been set up for Nicholson and her three daughters.

With three fires in Monterey County, the SPCA has been busy lately. Its staff has rescued, evacuated and sheltered more than 800 animals.

On Aug. 23, the SPCA received an evacuation warning for its facility off of Highway 68, and had to rush to get all the animals to another location. The warning has since been lifted and it’s starting to bring the animals back to its facility.

To donate to the Nicholsons: <https://bit.ly/3jj8hw4>.

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This Week

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Symphony's 'Balcony Sessions' debut Friday, bring live music back to downtown

WITH THE stage at Sunset Center off-limits during the Covid crisis, the Monterey Symphony has found another venue in an unlikely yet obvious place — hovering safely above the streets of downtown.

This Friday, the symphony's "The Balcony Sessions" debut. A series of solo performances will use a balcony that's attached to the symphony's new second-floor office as a stage, and the concerts will showcase the symphony's most talented instrumentalists.

Principal bass trombonist **Will Baker** kicks off the series Aug. 28. One of the most sought-after young trombonists in classical music today, Baker will play the late trombonist/composer's Raymond Premru's *Prelude and Dance*, along with compositions by three contemporary composers. "Mr. Baker will perform from a balcony, following all social distancing protocols," symphony executive director **Nicola Reilly** told The Pine Cone.

Reilly said the concerts will single out some of the most important individual parts that make up the symphony. They will also provide a place to play for musicians who have seen the symphony's 2020-21 season cancelled.

"The idea of the solo performer is a pretty spot-on im-

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

age of the time we're living in," Reilly added. "And, we so seldom have an opportunity to showcase our individual players, since we focus on the big orchestra. We really had to adapt and try and bring some music to our community. It's great to use our office space, and we're so grateful to the city of Carmel for getting involved and excited about this project."

The symphony also plans to offer solo music shows at Golden Bough Theatre, Winfield Gallery and Monterey My Museum.

The music starts at 4 p.m. and is free. The balcony is located in Hampton Court at Junipero and Seventh. The concert will also be livestreamed. The series continues through at least June 2021. For more details, visit montereyorchestra.org.

St. Paddy's Day in August?

While it's a little out-of-season, mandolinist **Dave Holodiloff** will celebrate St. Patrick's Day Sunday with an Irish music-themed house concert at a distancing-friendly site somewhere in Carmel Valley. Holodiloff will be joined by pianist **Michael Martinez** and fiddler and banjoist **Elijah McCullar**.

"This year's annual St. Patrick's Day Irish music concert in March was canceled on very short notice, I feel so lucky to be able to bring it to you all, just a little late," Holodiloff said.

Showtime is 3 p.m. For more details, visit daveholodiloff.com/houseconcert.

See MUSIC page 22A

Award-winning painter unveils new seascapes

A WOMAN who is being honored this year as one of Monterey County's Art Champions shares her latest creations at Venture Gallery in Monterey.

Sherree Anderson will be the featured artist this coming month at Venture Gallery (260 Alvarado St.). She unveils a collection of "Peninsula Seascapes" Sept. 1.

Anderson was named a 2020 Art Champion in the category of Professional Artist by the Arts Council of Monterey County.

Art Roundup

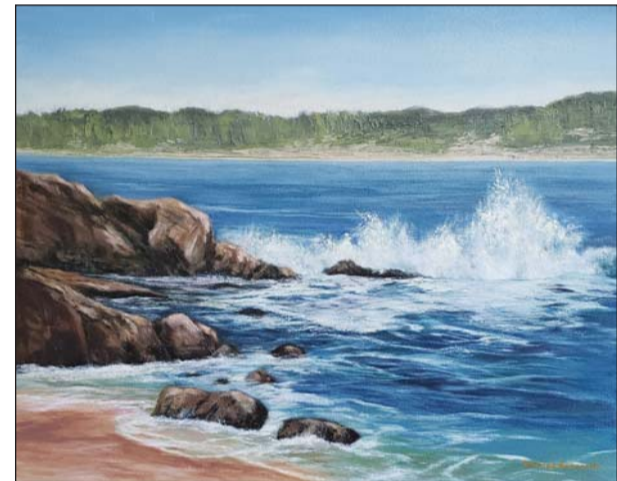
By CHRIS COUNTS

The honor comes a decade after the one-time educator decided to focus on her art.

"Ten years ago I had a dream of taking my passion and getting back into painting the way I always wanted to do it," she said.

Besides being director of Venture Gallery, Anderson is president of the Central Coast Art Association. She said the latter has played a key role in her development as an artist.

See ART page 22A



Named one of Monterey County Art Champions for 2020, painter Sherree Anderson is the featured artist this coming month at Venture Gallery in Monterey.



The principal bass trombonist for the Monterey Symphony, Will Baker kicks off a new coronavirus-safe music series Aug. 28.

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FOOD & WINE

L'Escargot's outdoor dining, Le Soufflé next, and new Folktale experiences

SOMETIMES, BEING off the beaten track is a good thing. For those who get squeamish at the idea of eating at a sidewalk table on a busy downtown street while pedestrians and/or traffic constantly pass by, a few restaurants offer intimate off-street options.

The latest to join the outdoor dining scene is L'Escargot on Mission south of Fourth. Owned by chef Kerry Loutas for more than two decades, the longtime Carmel French restaurant specializes in traditional dishes and a few other favorites, and Loutas has transformed the small parking area in front into an al fresco dining area.

The outdoor tables are nicely set and spaced, and the service is attentive, offering as close to an in-room culinary experience as possible.

Umbrellas shield diners from sunlight during the day and heaters warm them in the evening.

And for the first time ever, Loutas is offering lunch as well as dinner. The restaurant is open Wednesday through Sunday.

The menus and wine list change regularly but include some L'Escargot staples, like caramelized onion and goat cheese tart, duck and pork pate, frog legs, sweetbreads in puff pastry with wild mushrooms in madeira cream, French onion soup gratinée, steak frites and, of course, escargot in

the shell with garlic butter.

For lunch, consider Loutas' favorite: a Dungeness crab and shrimp salad sandwich on sourdough baguette with fresh-cut shoestring fries, though it's hard to go wrong with the mussels with spicy sausage in garlic saffron broth or the fresh local sand dabs pan fried with a light crumb crust and served with homemade tartar sauce. (Everything but the sandwich is also available at dinner.)

Wines are available by the glass and bottle, and while the list isn't long, it's varied enough to feature something for everyone.

For reservations or more information, go to escargot-carmel.com or call (831) 620-1942.

Le Soufflé's outdoor debut

Since Friar Tuck's closed in January, the corner spot at Dolores and Fifth has been transformed into a teeny French spot, Le Soufflé.

And while owners Lisa and Tyler Foreman and executive chef and co-owner Ivan Samchenko intended to wait out the coronavirus shutdown and open when they could provide indoor dining, with the ban dragging on, they changed their minds.

A construction crew was busy this week building a dining platform in a single cor-

ner parking spot on Fifth in front of their restaurant next to the post office, and they began taking reservations for dinner seatings at 4, 6 and 8 p.m.

Dinner will be offered in two or three courses for \$60 or \$75, respectively, with first-course choices of citrus cured salmon and watercress salad, braised fish and mache salad, frisée salad with pear and hazelnuts, or bouillabaisse, and entrée selections of several different soufflés — Alsatian-style mushroom, fruits de mer, or potato, leek and Gruyère — or rack of lamb with braised eggplant and tomatoes.

Dessert courses will be Roquefort soufflé, chocolate soufflé, Grand Marnier soufflé, or a trio of chilled soufflés of basil, strawberry and lemon. Vegan options are also available.

Dinner service is set to begin Sept. 3 and will be offered Thursday through Sunday evenings. Visit lesoufflecarmel.com for more information and to reserve.

Downtown Dining hiring

The new owners of Rio Grill, Tarpy's and Montrio say business is so good that they're hiring. "Our patio expansions have been a huge hit and our restaurants are full of energy and excitement," Ken and Mona Donkersloot said in an announcement. "So much so that we are now hiring for all positions at all three restaurants to better cater to our guests."

All health and safety protocols are followed at each restaurant, of course, and they encouraged anyone interested in working for them to submit a resume to

jenn@dtining.com for consideration.

Food and wine in the vines

Folktale Winery is offering reservation-only food-and-wine tasting experiences among the vines at its spacious mid-valley property. The Picnic in the Vines Experience and a "luxurious, eight

Soup to Nuts

By MARY SCHLEY

wine tasting and food pairing experience" are now available for private booking at the 15-acre winery.

"Folktale is one of the few places in Monterey to still enjoy live music every day, soak up the sun, and enjoy some of the best wine and food in the area," PR man Daniel Scheffler said.

During Picnic in the Vines, guests gather at picnic tables on a lawn surrounded by grapevines to feast on roasted chicken sandwiches, oven-roasted eggplant wraps and fresh salads, and purchase Folktale wines to match.

And the Food & Wine Tasting Experience in the greenhouse is "a 90-minute-long educational and sensory delight," that starts with sparkling brut and truffled popcorn. Guests explore eight more 1.5-ounce tastes of Folktale wines, each paired with snacks and treats crafted by Chef Todd Fisher and his culinary team. Sparkling rosé, for instance, is paired with spicy watermelon salad, while smoked

Continues next page



In the midst of the Carmel and River fires, local firefighters recently got a hot meal delivered by chef Brandon Miller, who this month launched The Chef's Stash with restaurateur Gabe Georis. Their business focuses on weekly boxes of produce, eggs, dairy and gourmet goods, but Miller was happy to be cooking for first responders this week.

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Aug. 28 – Aspire Health Plan Presents: Pain Management, a Virtual Community Connections Class, 10 to 11 a.m. Is low back pain keeping you from doing the things you love? Learn about treatment options to restore your back health and hear Dr. Lisa Kroopf demystify this chronic condition. This event is free and open to the public. We ask you to register so we can know how many people to expect. RSVP to (877) 663-7651, or www.aspirehealthplan.org/connections2020.

Sept. 8 – Friends of the Library to start accepting book donations again. After pausing operations since March due to

the COVID-19 pandemic, the **Friends of the Harrison Memorial Library (FHML)** will resume accepting donations of books, DVDs and CDs on Tuesdays between 10 a.m. and noon. Collection of the donations will take place in the lower level parking lot at the Sunset Center on San Carlos Avenue in Carmel. Safe practice protocols will be in place, as follows: Donors are asked to stay in their cars in the parking lot, pop open the trunks of their cars, and volunteers will come out to collect the donated materials; Donors should pack their donations in disposable containers and not bring more than 10 bags or boxes at a time; Volunteers collecting the materials will wear face masks and maintain social distancing. Donations are encouraged and welcome. The donated materials will be sold at the annual book sale fundraiser in summer 2021 to benefit the library. For additional information contact Anne Rurka at (831) 625-3418.

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FOOD & WINE

From previous page

duck breast is served alongside Le Mistral grenache.

Scheffler said Folktale's crew is ready to "welcome guests looking for a place to safely drink, dine and escape in the midst of a pandemic without forgoing any of the quality."

Picnic in the Vines is available Friday, Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4:30 p.m. and costs \$45 per guest and \$35 for members, while the Wine & Food Tasting Experience is available at noon and 2 p.m. Thursday through Monday for \$75 per guest and \$55 for members. To reserve, go to folktalewinery.com.

■ Zeph's closing

After two decades, Vince Ciolino is closing his Zeph's One Stop store on South Main in Salinas, so he's having a sale that runs through Sept. 15.

"These are difficult times, and now seems like the right

time for me to move on to new ventures," he announced. "I want to thank all of my loyal customers for supporting me through the years."

To celebrate — and to get rid of the large store's vast inventory of wine, beer and gifts — he's offering discounts of up to 20 percent off alcohol and 50 percent off décor and gifts. Zeph's is located at 1366 South Main St. in Salinas. Call (831) 757-3947 for more information.

■ MEarth shares

The organic garden at the MEarth habitat next to Carmel Middle School is producing abundantly, according to the team running the nonprofit, so there's plenty of fresh produce to share. "This week, we harvested more than 230 pounds of fresh lettuce, kale, chard, beets, summer squash and green beans from our gardens, which we washed, boxed up, and delivered to our new partner, All In Monterey," MEarth executive director Ben Eichorn and his crew said.

All In Monterey is a recently formed group of community members focused on providing necessities and food relief to more than 2,000 county residents through 16 local agencies, and MEarth's produce donation went to the organization's Grocery Mart, where people in need can drive up and peruse a wide selection of donated food to take what they need — for free.

"This group of compassionate community members is making sure our garden's produce reaches families who are most in need," they said. "We are grateful for the abundance of support from community volunteers who have helped us reach this huge milestone with our first big harvest."

To contribute to the garden's development and produce donations, visit mearthcarmel.org/donate.

■ Feeding fire crews

The guys behind the new Chef's Stash food boxes, restaurateur Gabe Georis and chef Brandon Miller, focused on feeding firefighters this week, delivering food to a half-dozen local stations with the help of donations from anonymous community members and La Balena owners Anna and Emanuele Bartolini. "We were able to bring our first responders a great meal, thanks to the community coming together," they said.

In Carmel Valley, chef Michael Jones has been out feeding crews in the field and others in need practically since the fires began, and Jonathan Roberts of PigWizard and Yann and Anne at Parker-Lusseau have stepped up, as well, making and donating food to the people who need it most.

Examples of chefs, bakers, purveyors and others working hard at cost to themselves in order to take care of others, whether the volunteer firefighters of Cachagua and Big Sur, evacuees and those who have lost their homes, or others in need, are abundant, which speaks volumes about the talented and generous people who call the Monterey Peninsula home.

MUSIC

From page 18A

■ Clear skies = live music

Live music was canceled by smoky skies last weekend at Trailside Cafe in Carmel Valley Village, where its outdoor Beer Garden makes distancing easy. But it's tentatively set to resume Saturday, with singer-songwriter **Kiki Wow** scheduled to play. The next evening, Wow joins **The Ruby Slippers** on stage at the same site. The music starts at 6 p.m. The cafe is located at 3 Del Fino Place.

ART

From page 18A

"It opened up all kinds of avenues and opportunities for me as an artist, as well as being a part of the larger art community," she added.

The gallery is located at 260 Alvarado Ave.

■ YAC's fundraiser goes online

The nonprofit Youth Arts Collective celebrates its 20th birthday Saturday at 4 p.m. with a livestreamed version of its annual Live Art gathering.

"YAC had many plans to celebrate its 20 years of mentoring for our community's young artists, but due to the coronavirus, had to cancel all major fundraisers," co-founder Meg Biddle announced. "So we decided our first online event should be the return of the most fun, inclusive, active fundraiser we have, while perhaps also offering something uplifting to watch."

Joining student-artists will be an assortment of professional artists, including Will Bullas, Denese Sanders, Paul Richmond and Andrew Jackson.

Along with showcasing the artists at work — and providing a virtual stage for some of the Monterey Peninsula's finest musicians — the event will include a fundraising auction.

For more details, visit yacstudios.org.



When it opens for outdoor dining starting Sept. 3, Le Soufflé restaurant at Dolores and Fifth will offer two- and three-course prix fixe dinners, with plenty of soufflés to choose from, as well as rack of lamb.



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FROM THE bleak shadows of a pandemic-poisoned planet where democracy is in peril, paradise is in flames, and stir-crazy children are creating disturbing refrigerator art, we offer two brilliant beacons of hope.

Aquatics stars Patrick Powers and Luca Bozzo learned

II playoffs. Both earned all-league and All-Central Coast Section honors.

And that was the easy part.

Stevenson is a bit like Hogwarts, except students need more than a magic wand to excel in the classroom. Powers has a four-year cumulative grade-point average of 3.6 (on a 4.0 scale) and achieved a 3.85 during the winter semester of his junior year. (The pandemic truncated the spring semester). Bozzo got straight A's last winter, and his cumulative average is 3.75.

Their academic excellence is every bit as attractive to college recruiters as their water polo skills, which explains why Powers' short list currently includes Princeton, Brown, Loyola Marymount, UCLA, and UC Irvine, and Bozzo is looking at Cal Poly Pomona, UC Irvine, and Fordham, a private university in the Bronx, N.Y., that rejects 54 percent of its applicants.

Team culture

"I think earning Academic All-America is a very strong indicator to a college coach of the type of student-athlete you're going to be bringing onto your team culture and into your institution," said Stevenson water polo coach Frank

Reynolds. "If you have a recruit who has demonstrated incredible capabilities and capacities inside the classroom, that student-athlete probably is unlikely to become a liability on your team. Those kinds of players are going to be assets and they're going to be looked upon as leaders."

Not working? Not cool.

Stevenson students attend up to four classes daily, typically 70 minutes long, with lots of time between to devote to class projects, papers, study, homework, or, presumably, screwing around, which, frankly, just isn't part of the culture there.

"The peers you're surrounded with here have aspirations to attend highly selective universities. That's the nature of the college-prep school," said athletic director Justin Clymo, a Stevenson alum himself. "Expectations here have always been high — this is a place where it's not cool to be the person who's not doing the work."

In addition to competing in two varsity sports apiece, Bozzo and Powers compete year-round on club teams in both water polo and swimming. From an academic per-

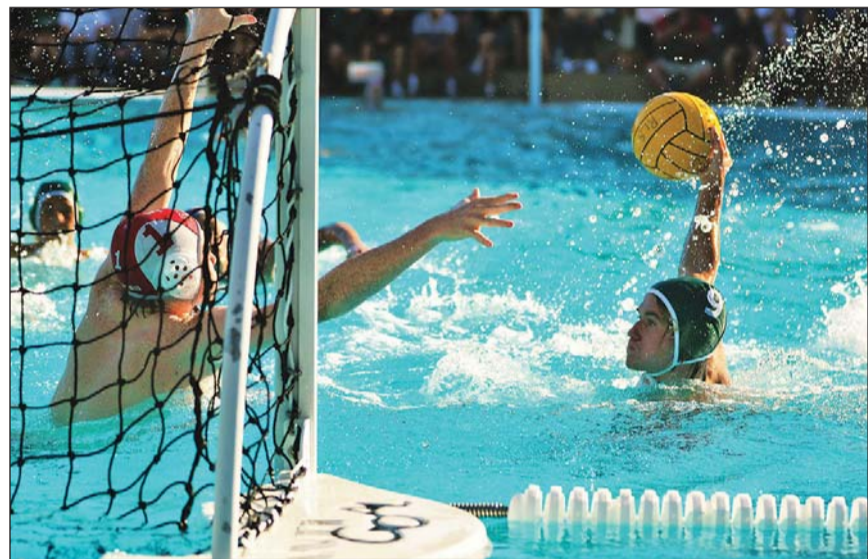
See SPORTS page 27A

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

last week that they have achieved Academic All-America status from USA Water Polo as seniors at Stevenson School, a private college-prep academy where they burn at least as many calories doing homework as they do in the swimming pool.

Powers holds three school swimming records at Stevenson and was the 2019 water polo Player of the Year in the Gabilan Division, the top tier of the Pacific Coast Athletic League. He and Bozzo combined to score 171 goals for a Pirates team that went 12-0 in league play, 23-3 overall, and reached the semifinal round of the CCS Division



PHOTOS/KERRY BELSER

Luca Bozzo (green helmet in left photo) hopes to play at a top NCAA water polo university next year, but said he'll put equal weight on academics when he chooses his school. Teammate Patrick Powers (right photo) was last season's Player of the Year in the Gabilan Division of the Pacific Coast Athletic League.

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Editorial

Coastal commission staff strikes again

IN ITS long history of take-no-prisoners zeal for resource protection over all other considerations, the California Coastal Commission has made a lot of decisions that were against the interests of the people the commission is supposed to serve, but one of the worst would be to refuse to approve a permit for our desal plant.

As we report on this week's front page, a "No" vote on desal is exactly the action the commission's staff is recommending it take during its Sept. 17 virtual meeting. Why? To protect the environment of course.

If you really want to safeguard the state's natural resources, the best way to do that would be to make all the people leave. San Francisco seems to be trying that right now, with its high taxes, absurdly complicated regulations and overly permissive policies toward crime and the homeless.

But many other parts of the state, such as the Monterey Peninsula, are not only highly desirable to live in, they're highly coveted as destinations for visitors. Even with the strict development controls we've had for the past 40 years, which have kept our population growth to a minimum, the Peninsula has become more and more crowded.

And where there are people, there must be all sorts of development to protect their health and safety, not to mention let them make a living, send their children to school, shop, get healthcare and even go on vacation. And what's one thing all those endeavors have in common? They all require water.

Until about 50 years ago, that always meant pumping water from natural rivers, lakes or aquifers, or building dams. In the case of the Monterey Peninsula, we did all of the above.

Unfortunately, all of those things have environmental consequences, and with the advent of the environmental movement in the 1970s, all of them became severely limited or banned — and when that happened, we were suddenly put in a fix, because when we were told we couldn't pump from the Carmel River or its aquifer, we were also told we couldn't build a dam. And we don't have any lakes.

So what were we to do? The state's answer was seemed profound at the time: Build desal. The ocean, after all, is a limitless source of water, and removing the minerals was just a matter of technology and the energy to power it. And if it was done right, the environmental impacts would be minimal — so were told, even by some of the leading voices of the Democratic Party.

"No water resources program is of greater long-range importance than our efforts to convert water from the world's greatest cheapest natural resources — our oceans — into water fit for our homes and industries," said President John Kennedy in 1961.

And as recently as five years ago, Gov. Jerry Brown issued an executive order to streamline the permit process for desalination plants in California.

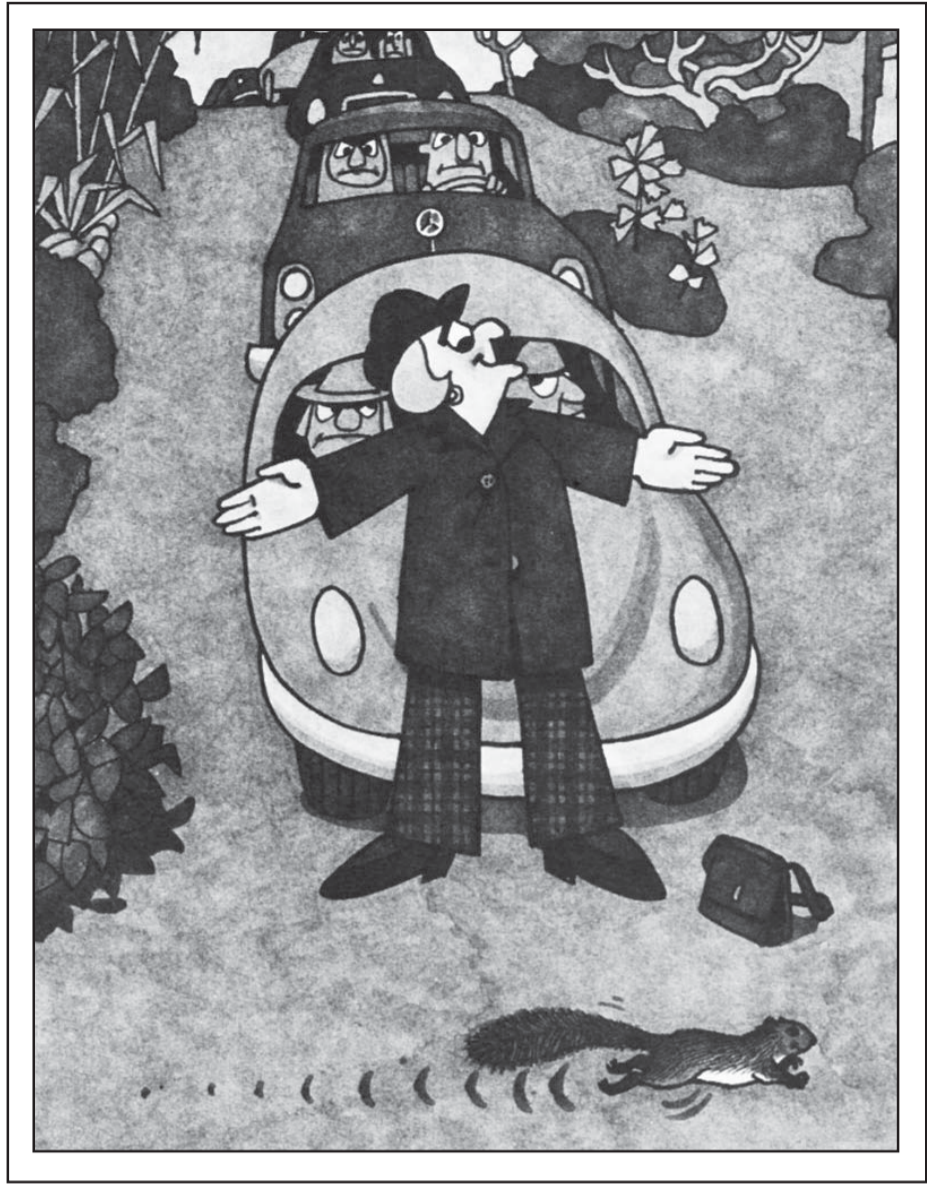
This community has been striving for more than 25 years to develop a new water supply, and for all that time, the politicians, including the coastal commission, gave us only one choice: desal.

But now, after decades of toil and expense, just when our desal plant is ready for permits, the coastal commission's staff says it should be rejected. Anybody know how to spell, "jerked around"?

We heartily endorse the water reclamation plant that's now producing potable water in Marina, and it's fine with us if it's expanded. But there is no way it will ever supply enough for this community's needs.

The coastal commission should reject its staff's recommendation and approve our desal plant forthwith.

BEST of BATES



Letters to the Editor

'Don't you wish?'

Dear Editor,

Congratulations and kudos to Pure Water Monterey. At 12:05 a.m. Sunday, their plant went past the 1,000-acre-foot production target, thereby setting aside the drought reserve needed before they could start producing water for Cal Am and the Peninsula. That's 326 million gallons of pure water we have in the aquifer that we didn't have before this plant was built.

I was the Monterey One Water board chair when we approved this \$126 million water recycling plant, and I could not be more proud of how it has turned out. Now that it is online and in full production, it can provide about one-third of the Monterey Peninsula's water needs. The general manager, Paul Sciuto, and his staff should be proud of what they have accomplished. Thanks, also, to their sister agency, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, which helped in so many ways to make this project happen — and buys the water to sell to Cal Am. Even Marina Coast Water District, which put in the pipeline that moves the water from the plant to Seaside (though Pure Water Monterey owns almost 80 percent of the capacity), deserves credit for its part.

Thanks also to the State of California, which gave the agency an \$80 million loan at low interest rates; as well as the state and federal governments which have provided about \$30 million in outright grants. This is a great example of what can be accomplished when people and agencies work

together! Don't you wish we could do that for the rest of the water we need so we can get off of the state's cease and desist order?

Rudy Fischer, Pacific Grove

Stop the increase

Dear Editor,

This November, voters will decide if we should increase commercial property taxes via Proposition 15. By increasing the commercial property taxes, we will pay higher prices on all consumer products and commodities. The cost of living on the Peninsula and throughout the state will rise proportionately.

This initiative was introduced by the government and will create another competitive disadvantage for employers by eliminating the long-standing protections approved by the voters with Proposition 13 that currently apply to commercial and industrial properties.

All segments of our small business sector have been hit hard by the pandemic, and some have closed forever. Restaurants, stores, markets, personal services and their supply chains are struggling to remain operational. Raising commercial property taxes to market rate will increase rents and kill our already vulnerable small businesses. Proposition 15 is a \$12.5 billion tax increase that businesses and consumers cannot afford. Please vote NO on Proposition 15 this November.

Moe Ammar, President

Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce

'Throw the book'

Dear Editor,

I read with horror the story of the Jardines' horses. I have been driving down that

See LETTERS page 26A

- Publisher Paul Miller (paul@carmelpinecone.com)
- Production/Sales Manager ... Jackie Miller (jackie@carmelpinecone.com)
- Office Manager..... Irma Garcia (274-8645)
- Reporters Mary Schley (274-8660), Chris Counts (274-8665)
- Kelly Nix (274-8664)
- Features Editor..... Elaine Hesser (274-8661)
- Advertising Sales..... Real Estate, Big Sur - Jung Yi (274-8646)
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- Circulation Manager Scott MacDonald (261-6110)
- For complete contact info: www.carmelpinecone.com/info.htm

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A town arms itself against the 'Red Menace' of 1934

MANY OF us know something about the 1934 Longshoremen's Strike in San Francisco, but few of us know that it led some of the people of Carmel to take up arms against their fellow citizens. I didn't, until I began researching the time writer Langston Hughes spent in the village. In

For Carmel's John Reed Club, the question of workers' right was something for intellectual discussion, and the group scheduled another meeting for July 15 to listen to a political analysis of the San Francisco strike. The club also advocated that Russia's successful industrial development since its revolution proved that communism was a superior economic system to capitalism — of course, with no mention of the slave labor, repression and confiscation of private property that made that development in the USSR possible, or of the secret police, the Cheka, that delivered harsh justice to anyone who dissented.

The people of California may not have been aware of the truth behind the Soviet Union's economic "miracle," but the violence in their state eroded their tolerance for communists — even in Carmel, where the controversies were hurting local business, not to mention plans for the Serra Fiesta scheduled for August.

Hughes' description of the July 15 meeting was probably accurate, but of course sympathetic to the labor unions' cause.

"When I got to the meeting about eight,

History Beat

By NEAL HOTELLING

light of today's violent protests and national controversies, I am reminded of George Santayana's well known line: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

The strike in San Francisco began on May 9, and as it dragged on, officials began blaming "communist agitators" for the failure of workers and employers to reach an agreement. Carmel's John Reed Club supported the strikers and arranged for longshoreman Lloyd Stroud of the Marine Workers Industrial Union of San Francisco to speak at a public forum on July 1. Stroud explained that the practice had been that hundreds of workers would show up each morning and a dock supervisor would decide who would work that day and for how much. The strikers wanted equal sharing of work, union control of the hiring halls, and more influence over hours and wages.

As he spoke, a rapt audience of nearly 200 listened, including "summer vacationists, clerks, old ladies, Negro maids and working men, little merchants, artists, and college graduates without jobs," Hughes reported. "They asked questions; we took up a good collection. There was a spirited discussion." Opinion in the town, it seems, was divided, but there was no hint of violence here.

A few days later, San Francisco erupted with "Bloody Thursday," with strikers attacking anyone who crossed the picket lines.

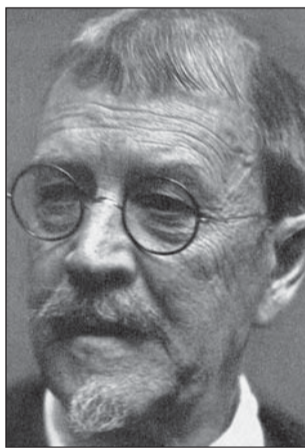
In response, mounted police charged and were repelled in a violent pushback. Two hundred were wounded, more than 50 hospitalized and two strikers were shot and killed. Violence changed the tone of discussions throughout California.

Harsh justice

Gov. Frank Merriam, just one month on the job, called in 1,500 National Guardsmen to quell further violence. Agitators called for a general strike and prepared for even larger conflicts. On July 14, union leaders representing 65,000 employees in San Francisco's other unions voted to join the strike.



Jo Mora



Lincoln Steffens

the street before the theater was blocked with cars, and the hall was crowded. A police car focused its headlights on the door, and the chief of police stood at the entrance," Hughes wrote.

"Inside, the American Legion had gotten together. Rows of them were in front, at the sides and around the meeting," he continued.

A stenographer took down everything that was said, he recounted, including Ella Winter's speech on 1776 and the right to strike, Dan James' talk on eyewitness views of the violence in San Francisco and "every word the chairman uttered."

Some of the citizens applauded the speeches and some were silent, Hughes said. "The vigilant Legionnaires sat grim and unsmiling: one's laundry man and one's druggist, real estate men and hotel keepers, and the young man who sold papers in front of the post office and prob-

See **STRIKE** page 37A

A propane tank is better if it's a zebra

ONE MAN'S trash is the same man's treasure, if that man is Carmel Valley's Rich Morriss, a self-described "junk artist" who finds his inspiration and art supplies in odd places — landfills and wrecking yards, thrift stores and antique shops, roadside ditches ...

Roadside is where he found the decomposing remains of a defective propane tank, probably discarded from an RV, speculated Morriss, who, like a proud cat with a dead rat, brought it home to his wife, Barbara, who rolled her eyes as he tossed it onto the "pile of potential" he's collected through the years.

at Cambria's annual 927 Art Show, which, until recent years, was a showcase for weird, "avant-garde" creations. Morriss was a multi-time winner over the years at the 927, as well as the Monterey County Fair, where he competes in the Assemblage category of the art show.

'Sgt. Schulte'

An award-winner one year was a "crude-looking, really junky" likeness of American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, its lips, nose, beard, torso, and limbs crafted from mostly from driftwood, screws, and paint. The sculpture, emblazoned with a Longfellow poem, guards the front door of Morriss' home, along with "The Greeter," whose long, blond, mop hair hangs from a cowboy hat, framing a mustachioed tree-stump head, adorned with sunglasses. A green bandana hangs from his neck, a sheriff's badge is pinned on his chest, and one leg is crossed casually over the other.

The third member of the front-porch crew is "The Weatherman," a lanky fellow with who wears an overturned pot as a hat on his driftwood head, dangles a lantern from his tree-branch arm, displays a thermometer on his chest (hence, his name), and grins at visitors with large, gnarly teeth.

Weird birds decorate his backyard, along with "garden creatures" — some four- or six-legged, others human. "Sgt. Schultz" bears a striking resemblance to the bumbling "Hogan's Heroes" character; "Spike" is named for an unruly hair-do of 3 1/2-inch nails.

His most fearsome is "Phryganidia Californica," a 9-foot-tall homage to the nasty oak worms that infected Carmel Valley and denuded Morriss' beloved oak trees a few years back.

"I've never really been motivated to sell my stuff, and I still have almost everything I've ever made, except things I've given away to friends and family," said Morriss, whose first-ever creation, at age 12, was a giant, burned-out lightbulb he found in a trash bin at his junior high and converted into a Mother's Day vase.

Psychology

He also has donated his pieces over the years to fundraising art shows to benefit Schools 3, a charity that has built more than 70 schools in Africa over the past 20 years.

Morriss grew up in Santa Ana, attended Redlands University, and earned psychology degrees as an undergraduate and graduate student at Long Beach

See **MORRISS** page 27A

Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

"I once did a talk, which I called 'Confessions of an Art Junkie,' and told the audience that marital discord is one of the side effects of what I do. I've collected a lot of junk I'll probably never use, and it tends to clutter everything up," he said. "But my motto is 'Better to have it and not need it, than to need it and not have it.'"

Rusty hinges

The propane tank gathered dust and rust, yielding little inspiration, until Morriss visited the Marina dump — a favorite haunt — where he found a broken nail gun, hooked to a broken compressor. A few stripes of paint converted the propane tank into the torso of a fat zebra. The nail gun became its head. He attached rusty door hinges, then converted wood and three-quarter-inch water pipes into the legs.

His chubby zebra won "Best in Show"



PHOTO/BARBARA MORRIS

Carmel Valley 'junk artist' Rich Morriss often scavenges for inspiration in strange places.

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

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LETTERS

From page 24A

road since 2007, and I always came with carrots, and those beautiful horses would always come to the fence, So incredibly trusty and happy to get the carrots or an apple. I introduced my autistic nephew to those beautiful animals. I am so sorry for their loss! I pray the awful person or persons who perpetrated this horrible crime will be found and prosecuted to the extent possible for animal cruelty, and whatever else they can be taken down for. Throw the book at these sick people!

Susan Wiseman, Carmel

Fire updates

Dear Editor,

I live in the Boise, Idaho, area and have been visiting the Peninsula for part of the summer. I was quite concerned about the fires in the area and the impact that they might have on my relatives living in this area. Stress levels were definitely higher than normal. However, your frequent updates provided a great deal of insight into the truth about the fires and expectations, so that imaginations did not need to run wild. Your thoughtful consideration and extremely hard work to provide frequent updates with incredible insight is so greatly appreciated by myself and my family.

Thank you thank you thank you for your very hard work and dedication to this effort. You did a great job and you are doing a great job and we greatly appreciate it.

Thank you so much for this important work and may God richly bless you for the blessing that you have been to me, my family, and all people in this community.

Brian Finley, Nampa, Idaho

Evacuee's story

Dear Editor,

I really want to thank you and The Pine Cone for the frequent, informative, and most welcome email updates. Those of us

who have been evacuated are most appreciative.

Along with our horses, we had to leave our home Saturday morning and went to the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds at Watsonville, where they had set up a complete evacuation complex, not only for horses, but for cats, chickens, goats, etc.

We took our two-horse living quarters trailer, so we had a place to stay. The fairgrounds provided RV-style hookups: electric, water, and sewer. Plus, they couldn't have been more helpful — volunteers came and fed the horses twice a day, and often someone brought good meals to those of us who had our rigs in the RV area (which included mostly evacuees from the fires near Santa Cruz.)

On Tuesday we were given the all-clear, so we loaded all the horses and took them back to the barn. It sure feels good to be home again. So, once again, I have to express just how appreciative we are to The Pine Cone. You guys are the best,

Steve Bloch, Carmel Valley

Something left out

Dear Editor,

Much of what you said in your editorial last week, "The fire reality," is certainly true. But you omitted any mention that the wildfire season is hugely aggravated by global warming, a scientific fact we ignore at our peril. Maybe the Europeans have a point about those, American and otherwise, who fail to do what they can to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

Mads Bjerre, Carmel

'Life depends on it'

Dear Editor

Shame on you for your Aug 21 editorial for grossly stereotyping "average intellectuals" in Europe by claiming they see us as "an irredeemably violent, racist, and ignorant nation of gun-owning, flag-waving, anti-science Bible thumpers." While I don't currently have family living across the pond, my friends there say that this viewpoint is reserved for most of Trump's

supporters. But they assure me it certainly does not apply to the vast majority of Americans who can't wait to vote the worst president in U.S. history out of office. With over 180,000 of our citizens dead and millions unemployed because of the pandemic, people around the world do lament how "bad America is" — i.e., how much worse off we are now compared to four years ago.

It doesn't have to be this way. I urge all citizens to register and vote as if your life and the future of American democracy depends on it because it does. On Nov. 3, people in other parts of the world will celebrate with us that the new president embodies a spirit of light and love in contrast to the darkness and hatred that has inhabited the White House the last four years.

Joseph A Braun, Carmel

'Hate crime'

Dear Editor,

My family and I have been residents of the Monterey Peninsula, off and on, since 1969. Therefore, I was greatly saddened to learn my 78-year-old sister had become a victim of a hate crime while living just blocks from the Pacific Grove police station. She was targeted for exercising her right to free speech by hanging a Trump-Pence flag outside her apartment. First someone stole the flag, and then signs were posted, graffiti supporting Black Lives Matter was scrawled on the sidewalk, and finally, a teenager knocked on her door and when she opened it he proceeded to assault her with an obscenity-filled rant about her support for Trump. My sister now fears for her safety and sleeps with a phone in her hand.

I graduated from U.C. Berkeley in 1970 and was proud to support free speech and to march against the war in Vietnam. I voted for George McGovern and Jerry Brown for president. I am therefore greatly depressed to find that the parents and teachers in a place I still consider my home no longer believe that everyone has the right to free speech. To realize that parents and teachers are schooling the children in their care to hate anyone who disagrees with the opinions of those same parents and teachers is appalling.

As a student of history, I know that America is all about opportunity and that means the ability to get a job and provide for a family. It is therefore sadly ironic that the president who is responsible for the lowest unemployment rate in history for Blacks, Hispanics and women is the object of hate.

I hope your readers are aware that the Black Lives Matter movement is supported

by spoiled whites who want to feel virtuous, young Blacks who want to feel like men by looting and stealing, and activists who seek radical political change, money and power. None of these groups offer anything that will actually help poor Blacks. Maybe that is why the whites feel so guilty.

B. Shepner, Kelsey

'Truly lucky'

Dear Editor,

I read entire this week's Pine Cone slowly and thoroughly. I look forward to this paper every Friday in my email inbox. Horrid events on mostly every page, every sentence this week.

The article about the Polish Arabians saddened me to the point where I had tears flowing. The fires saddened me and brought more tears. Same thing with the obituaries.

But what hit me the most was Jerry Gervase's testimony to what we all feel in our hearts, bodies and souls. The shutdowns and strict government and state rules have gone too far, too long and far beyond what any human being can endure. It must stop and this nation must open up and let us live.

I once lived in beautiful Carmel and now live in a city in a tiny box. How I long to just breathe the sea air and be able to feel my toes in the sand and the cool sea water on my feet.

You are all shut down, too, but can still view the sea and wiggle your toes in the sand. You don't feel lucky, but you all truly are.

Jeannie Wilhoit, Roseville

Missing parking spots

Dear Editor,

I was very disturbed to find some of the handicapped parking in front of the post office on Fifth Avenue is being converted into outdoor seating for a new restaurant which is located on the corner of Dolores and Fifth. That handicap parking is much needed for the handicapped to have easy access to the post office. Why would the outdoor seating not be in front of this restaurant on Dolores where it should be? I tried to check with city hall but it is closed so I called the police and was told the city has approved the removal and the handicapped could park in any place, which must mean blocking easy access to the post office for the handicapped is just not as important as outside dining, not to mention regular foot traffic to the post office will now be shared with sidewalk dining. Why in the world would the city approve this?

S. Stewart,
Carmel

These are my adorable parents, Jo and Mike McCarver.



They are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary Covid-style! They were both born and raised in Southeast Missouri, and met in St. Louis at the Executive Apartments pool near the airport. Story goes, that my mom asked my dad for quarters for the juke box and he said no! Quarters were a big deal to my dad back then. Long story short ... he recognized her SEMO accent and ... *they got married!* Then they moved to California in the '70s when Silicon Valley was becoming a thing. I think they actually drove out in a '71 orange Fiat convertible. They have lived in Carmel part-time for about 20 years and as of last year, are enjoying their lives as full-time residents, along with their their Yorkie named 'Sparkle.' I love them SO much and am SO lucky to have them as my parents! Happy anniversary, Mom and Dad. I love you! 50 years is a loooooong time.

Folks reading this, if you see these two walking Sparkle on Scenic, wish them a happy 50th anniversary!

Love, Joanna

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MORRISS

From page 25A

State.

In 1968, he was hired to teach special education classes to children in Fort Ord — a job that kept him from being drafted and sent to Vietnam — and Morriss later became a school psychologist, mostly for elementary schools in the Monterey, Carmel and Salinas school districts.

“I loved being a school psychologist —

it was perfect for me,” he said. “I’d interview kids, evaluate them, write a report, figure out a plan, usually with the parents, to get their behavior under control. I learned by doing.”

Morriss, now 77, served as president of the School Psychologist Association in Monterey County during the final two years of his 35-year career and authored multiple books and booklets on childhood disorders, autism, attention-deficit disorders, and behavior disorders. He retired in 2000.

He met Barbara during his college days.

SPORTS

From page 23A

spective, that often means working deep into the night to finish homework after practices.

“I’d say I typically study 2-4 hours a night, sometimes less, sometimes more,” said Bozzo, who often returns from club-team practices in San Jose at 10:30 p.m. “If I’m tired, I consciously force myself to pick up the pencil, open my notebook and computer, and get busy. After about 15 minutes, my mind usually focuses, and then I just keep pushing until the assignment is done.”

Both students said a hard workout in the pool tends to be mentally rejuvenating. Powers said he works through mental exhaustion by reminding himself that many of the NCAA’s top water polo teams are at academically rigorous universities, where slackers aren’t welcome.

“I keep that in mind, and it motivates me to finish whatever I start,” he said. “There’s no secret recipe. You just have to grind it out, make sure you stay on top of everything.”

Bozzo’s mom, Molly, is principal of Stevenson Middle School, and his dad, Andrew, taught biology at Santa Catalina before becoming a fire captain. High grades are an expectation at home, he said, but with only minimal parental pressure.

“They’re good parents who kind of let me figure things out by myself and develop my own system,” Bozzo said. “They’ve never said, ‘You better get straight A’s’ — that’s pretty hard to achieve at Stevenson — but whenever I bring home a B, they want to know why.”

Positive push

Powers’ parents, Paul and Karen, run their own company, Powers Associates, an advisory and consulting service for mergers and acquisitions. They, too, have come to expect a high level of academic achievement, he said.

“They push me in a positive, healthy way. They don’t force me to do anything,” he said. “They know my goal is to play water polo in college, and their goal is to keep me focused and on track.”

Bozzo and Powers independently concur on the most-challenging class they’ve ever taken at Stevenson: advanced placement U.S. history, which they took last year. Both aced the course, and said their

teacher, Justin Bates (another Stevenson alum), ranked among the best they’ve ever had.

For the teacher, the admiration was mutual.

“Luca understands the value in the study of history, as he is one of the few students who sense the importance of humanity’s past experiences and he brings a wealth of outside knowledge into the classroom,” said Bates, who called Bozzo “a quiet philosopher.”

Powers, he said, is “an inquisitive student,” constantly asking clarifying questions.

“Patrick was extremely diligent in his at-home studies, always preparing himself for the day’s material. They are both very coachable young men, in the pool and in the classroom,” said Bates, who coaches golf, soccer and cross country.

Silver lining

Reynolds said those traits carry over into athletics for both students. Bozzo (a water polo player since childhood) is cerebral and analytical in the water. Powers, who picked up the game just two and one-half years ago, is a relentless competitor, obsessed with improvement.

The pandemic has forced the postponement of high school water polo in California — the fall season is tentatively set to begin in January — and classes at Stevenson have been moved online. Although Powers says he desperately misses the social component of school, he and Bozzo have found a silver lining: Attending classes remotely, using laptop computers, will enable both to play this fall with the SoCal Water Polo Club (based in Tustin), which was chosen Best Club in America by USA Water Polo 11 times since 2006, including the last five years in a row.

“I worked out with SoCal Water Polo all summer, and the pools down there have opened up (from shelter-in-place restrictions), so Luca and I have been invited to train with some of the best water polo players in the country,” Powers said. “It’s an amazing opportunity.”

Both said academics and athletics carry equal importance as they weigh their college choices. Neither has decided on a major, but Powers said he’s leaning toward business, and Bozzo is considering science (with the possible goal of becoming a field biologist) or history.

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

He had a summer job, spraying for mosquitoes, and often stopped for lunch at America’s very first Carl’s Jr. hamburger stand in Garden Grove, where she worked.

Going to school

She earned a bachelor’s degree and teaching credential from CSU Long Beach, and taught public school, spending most of her career at Carmel Middle School, where she caught history and literature. She also is an artist, painting with acrylics and crafting original art dolls.

They’ve been married 54 years, and have two adult children, Garrett, a financial analyst, and firstborn Angie, a school

teacher currently working her third stint at Carmel Middle School, where she teaches seventh graders.

“My daughter invited me in 2011 to come talk to her Language Arts class about creating art from recycled pieces, and give them a little demonstration,” Morriss said. “Then they created their own art pieces and wrote about what they made.”

“My presentation became real popular at the school, and after a few years they invited me to do my presentation to all of the seventh graders in the school,” he said. “I’d be there all day, which was a lot of fun, and I watched them produce some really fabulous stuff.”

TEACHERS

From page 3A

regardless of the type of instruction they’re offering.

At their Aug. 12 meeting, board members approved the contract without much discussion, but then commented further after parent and CUSD board candidate Jill Lewis was allowed to ask questions about it after the fact, due to not being able to do so during the hearing because of technical difficulties.

She worried the agreement would turn the state, county and federal health guidelines into “mandates” and might prevent in-room teaching from happening for a long time.

“I’m a little worried about making things laws that are supposed to be guidelines,” she said. “This is a very big deal.” She worried other parents were unaware of the contract.

Teachers association representative Bill Schrier said it had been posted on the district’s website for anyone who wanted to read it, and board members did not reconsider their unanimous vote to approve it.



In June, a small group of youngsters and their parents near Carmel High School demanded that schools reopen for the fall term. If and when schools do reopen, it will be under very strict coronavirus safety standards, according to a new agreement with the teachers’ union.

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Dear Larry

BY LARRY MESLER

DEAR LARRY: My father has a few classic vehicles that we will be looking to sell. Can you tell me how the market looks right now? — Beth in Pebble Beach

Dear Beth: We would need to know what the vehicles are to start. I believe the market is somewhat soft for most classic vehicles now due to the situation our country is in with the virus. Saying that, there is still strong demand for certain vehicles according to what type and condition the vehicles are in.

DEAR LARRY: Can you tell me how many bidders you typically get at a real estate auction? — Andy in Monterey

Dear Andy: It is according to the location and demand of the property we are auctioning. We auctioned a high demand home in Los Gatos California, where we sent out over 40 bid packets, with 10 people actually registered to bid the day of the sale. 8 of the 10 dropped out after the opening bid exceeded their limit.

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HEALTHY *Lifestyles*

Here's what to do when you've got the coronavirus blues

By ELAINE HESSER

IF YOU'VE been feeling a bit grumpier than usual lately, you're not alone.

Psychotherapist/licensed social worker Manfred Melcher — familiar to many as a speaker at the Carmel Foundation and for Hospice Giving Foundation — noted that as the epidemic drags on, the cumulative stress has been difficult for everybody.

"Everyone's confused and angry or sad," he said. "Behind all anger are

unmet emotional needs or other frustrations. Anger feels powerful when people are feeling vulnerable and powerless."

Melcher said people are also feeling grief over lost freedoms, missed events and the fact that many — if not most — thought the whole thing would be gone by summer.

"It's going to be around for a long time, so you have to adjust to that reality. The emotional fatigue and weight of this thing that was 'supposed to be over' by now is tough."

Kids are vulnerable, too. For all their resilience, Melcher said their lives "are all about what's ahead of them. While adults can say, 'I don't need to go to another concert,' for a teen, missing out is a huge disappointment."

With younger children, parents should look out for stomachaches, headaches, clinginess and more difficulty than usual in regulating their emotions. "They don't have the vocabulary to convey what they're feeling, so it comes out as psychosomatic symptoms," Melcher explained.

It's important to check in and talk with older kids, as well. Don't buy it

when they just say they're fine. "Spend more time with them, monitor their moods and help them put labels to their feelings like sadness or loneliness. If they push back hard, that's a red flag," Melcher advised.

He wanted to reassure everyone that whether you're 5, 25 or 95, there are things you can do to fight off creeping bad feelings.

Start with all the basics, Melcher said, like getting good, regular sleep, a healthy diet and plenty of water. Take time to exercise your body and mind. Maintain social connections as well as you can, and find an avenue for creativity and play.

Sofa serenity

Taken together, those simple things can make a significant improvement in how you're feeling, but Melcher said most people only do a few of them regularly, even when things are going well. While you're tuning up the diet



Kids are resilient, but still need good listeners.

and taking more walks, here are a few other ideas.

Meditating has been proven to help with mental and physical issues. Those new to the practice can check out one of many free-to-try apps, like the popular Calm or Headspace, or search YouTube for guided meditations. Sessions can be as short as one minute, no lotus position required. If you're sitting comfortably on the couch, you're halfway there.

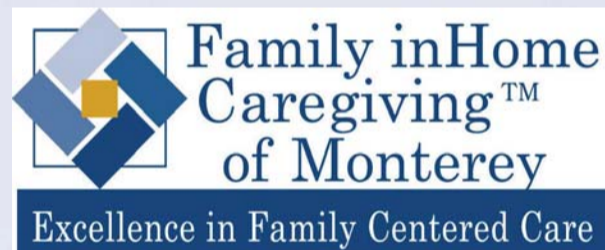
BLUES cont. on page 35A



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Kids' mental health issues were a big, silent issue — but no more

By ELAINE HESSER

QUICK, WHAT does a pink ribbon represent? Breast cancer awareness, of course. And in February, people wear red to draw attention to heart disease, which is often undiagnosed in women. Purple banners? They could be from the Alzheimer's Association or the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

But what color is anorexia's ribbon? Where can you donate money to aid a 16-year-old girl who's battling depression in silence, or a 6-year-old boy who spends every day under a cloud of unfocused fear and constant worry? AIM Youth Mental Health, founded in 2014 by Pebble Beach resident Susan Stilwell, tries to help answer those questions and more.

Stilwell may have founded the nonprofit and is chairwoman of its board of directors, but said she had no intention of starting her own organization. "In 2014, my daughter and I were members of the National Charity League, volunteering for nonprofits in Monterey County," she said.

When the two realized there were no nonprofits on the league's list that "focused on finding better treatments for youth mental health challenges — ADHD, anxiety, depression, etc.," Stilwell decided to start one.

"My intent is to fill a huge void in the mental health community by funding the critically needed research to help our youth struggling today. We have a real crisis," she said.

There's still a stigma attached to the topic, which Stilwell believes arises in part from a lack of understanding about mental illnesses, which are "involuntary, not a voluntary thing, and you can't make them

go away by 'bucking up,'" she said. They're also not character flaws or evidence of weakness, any more than physical ailments like blindness or paralysis.

Kathryn Morrissey, AIM's VP of Development and Marketing Strategies, said that when kids learn "it's just science — my brain is wired differently," it comes as a great relief.

Most people don't understand the extent of mental illness among young people. The Centers for Dis-

ease Control reports that in the United States, about 4.4 million children aged 3 to 17 have a diagnosis of clinical anxiety, characterized by pervasive and sometimes crippling worry and fear with no apparent basis in reality.

The center also says that there are 1.9 million children with depression and 4.5 million with diag-

KIDS cont. on page 33A



Susan Stilwell



(Above left) AIM Youth Mental Health's annual fund-raising walk was canceled this year by the pandemic, while its Pebble Beach gala (bottom right), which usually features celebrities like *The Bachelor's* Chris Harrison, shown in 2019 with Mark Stilwell, went virtual. A board of scientific advisors (top right) decides how the funds for research are allocated.



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Moving support groups online brings unexpected benefits

By DENNIS TAYLOR

TWO INDEPENDENT mental health organizations with local roots have remade themselves over the past few months due to the coronavirus pandemic and are reporting surprisingly positive results.

Breakthrough for Men was founded on the Monterey Peninsula in 1987 "to provide men with skills to free themselves from nonproductive, painful or abusive aspects of their lives," according to its mission statement. The successes of Breakthrough inspired the creation in 1993 of BreakFree for Women, "a community of women committed to breaking free from self-limitations to create the lives they really want."

Both self-help groups have relied heavily on in-person interpersonal interaction to build a culture of trust and intimacy among their participants, a successful model that was jeopardized by the coronavirus

epidemic, which rendered close-quarter group gatherings problematic.

A stopgap solution — foreseen as a band-aid at best — was to move all classes online using Zoom. The executive directors of both organizations, Chris Fitz of Breakthrough and Janet Thomas of BreakFree, embarked upon the videoconferencing option with only cautious optimism, but said they have discovered unexpected benefits.

"We're alive and well, adjusting and adapting," said Thomas, a licensed clinical social worker who also has a private practice in which she counsels individuals, couples and groups.

"Our original hope was to temporarily move our BreakFree gatherings onto Zoom, and eventually resume our in-person meetings after the pandemic was stabilized. That's still our hope, but when we put everything on Zoom we started gaining partic-

ipants who are outside the county and outside the state."

Fitz said his organization is experiencing the same growth, reconnecting with former Breakthrough members all over California.

"These are Breakthrough graduates who had largely lost touch with our community. Now, thanks to Zoom, they're able to join our leadership teams again and they couldn't be happier about it," he said. "So this is emerging as a tremendously exciting time for Breakthrough."

Indeed, Fitz said Breakthrough is considering advertising strategies to expand its organization to the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas, the East Coast, and any other venues where the group's graduates might be interested in launching new chapters.

Another happy surprise: Breakthrough was on the list of 2020 grant recipients from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, which recently announced that fewer applicants would receive funding this year due to financial challenges related to the pandemic. Programs benefiting "essential employees" would be prioritized.

"The goal of our organization, stated in our grant proposal, is to cultivate a greater capacity for emotional resilience in a time of crisis and stress," Fitz said, explaining why Breakthrough was deemed essential and grant worthy. "Breakthrough is the only local organization that focuses on providing mental health support to men. It was very gratifying that the foundation chose to continue funding us in an environment where they are unable to fund many of their previous grant recipients."

More than 1,500 men are graduates of Breakthrough's 34-week program, which, in non-pandemic times, is composed of two intense, 17-week workshops. BreakFree's alumnae include 1,000-plus women who have taken Thomas' three-workshop curriculum covering topics that delve into (among



Janet Thomas, center right, leads a group discussion for BreakFree

others) self-esteem, setting and maintaining boundaries, discharging old stress, full appreciation of ourselves and others, breaking free from gender conditioning, embracing conflict as a healing opportunity, and exploring sex, love and intimacy.

The pandemic has only enhanced the important of BreakFree for Women, Thomas said.

"The uncertainty is what's so difficult for people," she said. "We're still learning about the virus, itself, and how we might catch it, how we treat it, the vaccines — all that uncertainty, as well as what it means for our schools, for employment, for connection. The anxiety and depression coming from the uncertainty is very stressful."

Women currently participating in BreakFree also are expressing a strong sense of loss, she said.

"There's the loss of our old routines, the loss of what we used to do for fun, the loss of personal connection, the loss of the smiles we used to see in public that are now hidden behind masks," Thomas said. "But if we dwell on what isn't, we're on the negative side. I think it's important that we focus on what is. We're making the best of this through Zoom, figuring out how to connect, how to treat our time together as sacred."

GROUPS cont. on page 36

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

KIDS cont. from page 30A

nosed behavioral disorders; 6.1 million have ADHD. (Some children were counted more than once, as multiple diagnoses are common.)

By comparison, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation's website says that approximately 200,000 children under 20 have Type 1 diabetes, and St. Jude's Children's Hospital says it sees 8,500 patients annually. Of course, those are still worthy causes, but they also demonstrate the power of well organized group to call attention to a problem and help to solve it.

That's what Stilwell hopes AIM will do in the long run — fund research and raise awareness of children's mental health problems. Since its inception, it's raised more than \$4 million for brain research and awareness.

Projects funded by AIM have included one involving local kids that will test the effectiveness of a meditation-inspired video game that may help children with attention difficulties. Other grantees' projects have focused on suicide prevention, eating disorders and bipolar and psychotic disorders.

Morrissey said, "AIM has developed a strong foundation of individual donors and philanthropists." Additionally, the group raises money through an annual gala usually held at Pebble Beach during the Concours d'Elegance, and the AIM for Awareness walk, originally scheduled for this fall, which has since been canceled because of restrictions on public gatherings because of the coronavirus.

During this year's virtual gala, comedian Ray Romano — whose on-course antics are familiar to fans of the AT&T Pro-Am — shared some of his struggles with mental health problems.

"When I was a young man, there were many times when I needed someone to talk to, and I don't mean family and friends, although they are very important in those times. But I needed a little bit more than that, a professional who could help me through therapy, through medication — whatever it took — and I was very lucky to be able to access that. Not everyone can," the performer said.

AIM has an 11-member scientific advisory board, including doctors from Harvard, Yale, the UC system and Oxford, who decide which projects receive funding. Emphasis is on research with immediate applications — things that can help children sooner, rather than later.

Covid-19 has presented challenges and opportunities to the mental health community. The stark downside is an increased rate of suicide and exacerbation of existing mental health problems for those who have them. Job loss, fear of illness and isolation are commonly cited as contributing factors.

However, Stilwell noted that medical professionals "have been forced to pivot to telehealth," offering services online.

She said that could benefit people in rural areas, as well as those who may have avoided getting help because they didn't want to go to a mental healthcare provider's office. And, it's leading to more studies of how well online therapy works, compared with meeting in-person.

Morrissey said that for kids with mental illness, "What's really important to understand is that it's all a journey. Even in a supportive family, it's hard for some kids to find they help they need. We want all youth, no matter what background they're coming from, to have a less bumpy path."

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THE Kitchen

Montrio Bistro's grilled stone fruit with ricotta cheese

THIS MONTH'S summery delight comes from Chef Justin Robarge at Montrio and celebrates the joys of grilled fruit. One of the ingredients, saba, may be unfamiliar. It's a syrup made by reducing grape juice from the initial phases of winemaking, and it's quite flavorful, but if you can't find it, Robarge said an aged balsamic vinegar will work just as well.

Making your own ricotta is rewarding and ridiculously easy. You can play around with the fat content of the milk to find just the right balance of flavor and calories.

Robarge said that the recipe makes three to four cups of the creamy cheese, depending on how much you drain it. That's more than enough for the dish, but, Robarge said, "It will last refrigerated and covered for up to a week. It also freezes, and when thawed, works great in baked items such as lasagna. Its consistency will alter slightly, but it is still very good."

INGREDIENTS

Serves 3-4 people as an appetizer

- 1 peach
- 1 nectarine
- 1 pluot, aprium or plumcot
- 1 shallot, sliced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon sherry vinegar
- 3-4 leaves fresh basil, cut in thin strips

Slice each fruit in half and remove the pit. Place all halves in a bowl and toss with shallot, oil, vinegar, salt and pepper. Place fruit cut side down on a preheated grill for 2-3 minutes. Allow to cool and cut into cubes. Place back in bowl, toss with basil and set aside.

Ricotta Cheese

1/2 gallon milk (you pick the level of fat)

1/3 cup white vinegar

1/3 cup fresh lemon juice

1 teaspoon kosher salt

Gradually warm milk to 185-195 degrees. Stir vinegar and lemon juice in gently. Remove from heat and let rest for 20 minutes. Place a strainer in a bowl with a layer of cheesecloth. Remove large curds (solids) with a slotted spoon and place in the strainer, then gently pour in the remaining liquid and curds. Let drain for 10-15 minutes.

For finishing:

Arugula (figure about 2-3 ounces per person, more to make the dish into a salad)

Sliced, toasted almonds

Lemon-flavored olive oil

Saba (see notes)

Presentation:

Be creative, conjure up your inner chef and have fun! Place the arugula in a bowl or on a plate and top with the fruit mix-



Justin Robarge



ture and ricotta. The saba and the lemon oil (ratio of 1 part saba to 2 parts oil) can be drizzled all over or just tossed in with the arugula. Sprinkle the toasted almonds all around or place them just so with tweezers. "I would love to see what you come up with — bon appetit!" said Chef Robarge.

CHEF BIO

JUSTIN ROBARGE has been working in kitchens since he was 16, when he was a prep cook in his hometown of Keene, N.H. He earned a degree in culinary arts from the New England Culinary Institute, and after working at several high-end establishments on the East Coast, he decided to turn his sights to the west.

Drawn to the natural beauty of Big Sur, he's worked at Deetjen's Big Sur Inn, and later became executive chef at the Big Sur Lodge. He met his wife Sara, and in 2012, the couple had twins (a boy and a girl), and Robarge left a job — he was working at Santa Lucia Preserve at the time — to be closer to his new family.

He was hired by the Cannery Row Brewing Company in 2013, and became the executive chef and general manager. Five years later, Robarge went to Montrio Bistro to lead the kitchen crew as executive chef. Since he's been there, he has stayed true to the restaurant's motto, "feel good about what you eat." You might see him at a local farmers market, filling up his very cool red wagon with fresh goodies from nearby farms.

How and why to wear a mask

Expert guidance from Dr. Chad Harris, Natividad Chief of Quality

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone wear masks or cloth face coverings when you are around others where it's hard to practice physical distancing, and the Monterey County Health Officer's order requires you to wear one in public. For example, when you go to the grocery store, pharmacy or hospital.

Do you have questions about COVID-19 or think you need to get tested? If you have symptoms like cough and fever, virtual screenings are available. Call (831) 772-7365 to get expert advice from one of our bilingual nurses.

Wearing a mask is recommended as an extra layer of protection. Staying 6 feet away from others (physical distancing, also known as social distancing) is important to slow the spread of the virus. It will not prevent you from breathing respiratory droplets that carry coronavirus, but a mask helps protect others from you in case you have COVID-19, even if you don't have symptoms. If everyone wears a mask in public, the risk for exposure can be reduced for the community. Thank you for doing your part to protect each other.



HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

BLUES cont. from page 29A

By focusing on breathing and being in the moment, Melcher said, people “get closer to a place of peace and serenity.” He continued, “The past is gone and the future’s not here,” and by meditating, it’s possible to eliminate — or at least take a break from — obsessing over that uncomfortable conversation you had yesterday or bills that are coming due tomorrow.

Dream away

However, looking to the future can be helpful — it’s all in what you focus on. Psychologically speaking, Melcher said that planning a dream vacation can give you almost as much enjoyment as going.

Don’t have a particular place in mind? Put on that pith helmet and spin a globe or throw darts at a map. Then research, look at pictures and save your ideas. But, Melcher said, don’t

spend the money yet. Mental health professionals recommend postponing big decisions if you can at a time like this, since anxiety can cloud judgment, even if you’re not aware it’s at work.

For instant gratification, bring up your web browser and type “Google street view” with a location, like the Eiffel Tower or Seoul, South Korea, to be rewarded with a virtual tour, sans crowds and lines. To travel to the past, hit up local Pat Hathaway’s vintage photo collection at caviews.com.

Or, Melcher suggested, plan a special dinner with all the people you

miss. What would you serve? Maybe you want to go back to your favorite restaurant. Peruse wine lists and menus. Is there a major birthday or anniversary celebration that was put on hold? Maybe you can write an appropriate tribute, or assemble some old photos to commemorate the occasion.

Take that old “I wish I had time to ...” list and try to check some things off. Melcher noted that nearly everyone has a junk drawer to clean out. While you’re at it, he said it helps to make a list of things you’ve found comforting during other difficult times and draw on that.

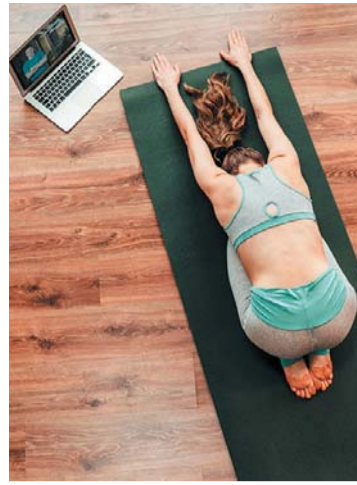
A friendly voice

If you’re feeling alone, Melcher said, “Reach out through technology.” People are discovering Face Time or Skype to communicate face-to-face, even though the technology’s been around for years. Zoom, the newly ubiquitous meeting app, really is as easy to use as everyone says.

Or use the phone, and not just for your own sanity. Call others you think might be having a hard time. “It’s a way to help others,” said Melcher, and it boosts both people’s moods.

“There’s nothing more comforting than hearing a sincerely asked, ‘How are you doing? Can I help you with anything?’ Just being able to talk about what you’re going through and having the power of knowing you’re not alone,” can make a big difference, he said.

“As much as possible, be socially engaged,” Melcher recommended. Book clubs and movie discussions can go on virtually, and some organizations and churches offer online meetings tailored to various age groups. Don’t forget to snuggle with your dog



Physical exercise, like yoga, and video calls help chase away pandemic blues.

or scratch your kitty’s ears. They need social contact, too.

Is repeatedly walking around the same five blocks wearing thin? There are other ways to get moving. Find out if your gym or exercise studio has videos or livestreamed classes.

Avoid extremes

“Get your mind moving,” too, suggested Melcher. “The brain loves novelty and surprise.” Try the old standbys of crosswords and other puzzles, or take a virtual class.

Online learning doesn’t mean a huge financial or time commitment. Mooc.org offers almost 3,000 free-and-for-pay classes where you can do things like explore history through the Smithsonian’s collections. The Library of Congress’ website, loc.gov, has access to rotating exhibits on all manner of topics, as well as a nice collection of concert videos.

If you prefer your online experience with more local flavor, Harrison Memorial Library is providing easy access to audio books (ci.carmel.ca.us/audio-

books) while it’s closed. No downloads are necessary. Click on the link for Audio Book Cloud, then click on a book. When the new page loads, use the play button at the bottom to start listening.

On a cautionary note, Melchor said that those who get comfort from food and drink should avoid extremes. People are talking about the “Covid 15” — the weight they expect to gain from the lifestyle interruption, similar to what happens to college freshman. But if you don’t try to find your Zen in a pound cake, you don’t have to gain the weight.

While a glass of pinot isn’t a bad idea, Melcher said he believes people are overdoing the alcohol. “In my experience, the increase in humor about day drinking or drinking at work means there’s an increase in abuse going on.”

Finally, Melcher said, “We can’t control our circumstances. We can control how we adapt with our own self-care and how we treat other people. Focus on what you can control.”



Manfred Melcher



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|---|---|
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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

GROUPS cont. from page 32A

Breakthrough and BreakFree have always operated under separate umbrellas, but have intermingled in various ways over the years. A high percentage of graduates from both programs often stay connected afterward. Breakthrough alumni often step into leadership roles.

The healing, said Thomas, is a life-long process.

"Every time I teach a BreakFree workshop, I feel like I'm signing up all over again," she said. "I'm right there remembering, refreshing, reclaiming with everybody else. The love wants to come up, and so does the healing."

The friendships and relationships forged through Breakthrough and

BreakFree also tend to endure, they said.

"Part of what happens is that our graduates meet on their own, using the BreakFree principles," Thomas said. "I just spoke with a woman last night who has been in a self-led group for 11 years. She told me her group is still growing, and said she's so thankful for me, and for the things BreakFree has helped her bring to her relationship and to her parenting. Those things are very rewarding to hear."

Learn more about BreakFree at breakfreenow.com. Additional information about Breakthrough can be found at breakthroughformen.org.

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



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HISTORY

From page 25A

ably believed what the papers said — there they sat, gathered together to protect America. They were against the John Reed Club, and against the strikers. I was the only Negro there.”

Throughout the state, nearly two dozen “communist agitators,” including Caroline Decker who had spoken to a group at Lincoln Steffens’ home in November 1933, were arrested for “criminal syndication.”

Community risk

Carmel’s city council passed a motion on July 18 to declare that an “Americanization Committee” should be appointed by the mayor, and that “the commissioner of police be empowered to purchase any equipment and supplies required for the preservation of the public peace and safety.”

A meeting of citizens followed on July 22 to form the Americanization Committee. The Pine Cone reported: “Stirring addresses were made by Senator Ed Tickle, James Regan, chairman of the Carmel American Legion Club, and Thomas Warren.” The gathering agreed that Carmel’s avid group of communist strike-sympathizers was a community risk.

Byington Ford, who was active in the anti-communist movement, declared, “With parties using the constitutional means of the ballot box for effecting changes of government we have no argument. But those who breed strife and organize a vicious minority to seize government by force we will not tolerate.”

Stop the meetings

A semi-military group, “Company A,” composed mostly of World War I veterans, was then organized and sanctioned by a city council resolution. Artist Jo Mora was captain, and Ford was first lieutenant. Under them were sergeants and corporals who led squads totaling more than 100 men. The city resolution read: “Said company, is deputized and empowered to safeguard the public peace and safety of said city under the direction and supervision of the chief of police.” Company A was equipped with guns,

badges, whistles and even tear gas.

The committee effectively put a stop to public meetings of the John Reed Club in Carmel. Ted Kuster was threatened with a boycott of other events at the theater if he continued to rent to the “Reds.”

Town blacksmith Francis Whitaker and Dan James asked to use Sunset School for a John Reed Club meeting and were denied.

Speaking at a citizens’ committee meeting, Pebble Beach founder S.F.B. Morse made clear what he thought was different about communism.

“The old-line labor leaders deserve praise for their attempts to keep their followers in check against communistic agitators who were bent on smashing constituted government through radical action,” Morse said. “No persons are more American than your solidly organized workers, and yet communists would create strife between them and law authorities for the known purpose of gaining control

of government.”

Carmel never saw violence. Pine Cone editor Perry Newberry, also no friend of communism, summed up Carmel’s “Red Scare” on Sept. 14, 1934, after the San Francisco strike had been settled.

“Perhaps we can place the blame for Carmel’s reaction to the Red Menace upon the election so close at hand, the important state primaries, but there was none of that originality of thought and distinctiveness of purpose which we had believed an intrinsic part of the village, in the handling of the situation,” Newberry wrote. “Carmel ran with the pack. It mobilized for a riot, to suppress a little group of visionaries, pink-tea communists, our good friends of less portentous times, our good friends again, let us hope, when this excitement is past.”

Neal Hotelling has been researching and writing about Monterey County history for more than three decades. His email is nbhotelling@msn.com.

Pebble Beach Co. founder S.F.B. Morse, at 49, was a leader in California’s Republican Party. He made several speeches against communism in 1934.

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Our Awards of Excellence Committee is excited to announce our first ever Virtual Awards of Excellence Gala! You'll be treated to a delicious meal & wine delivered to your door and an Awards Program recognizing members who have truly shined this year! MARK YOUR CALENDAR - and stay tuned for more details!

SECTION RE ■ August 28-September 3, 2020

The Carmel Pine Cone

Real Estate



■ This week's cover property, located in Carmel-by-the-Sea, is presented by Cheryl Heyermann of The Peninsula Group (See Page 2RE)



THE PENINSULA GROUP
REAL ESTATE

Real Estate

August 28-September 3, 2020



Great location in the heart of the Golden Rectangle!

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Carmel

24501 Via Mar Monte unit 44 — \$682,500

See HOME SALES page 4RE



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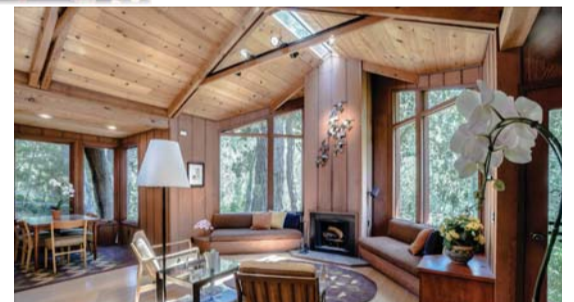
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From page 2RE

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24755 Lower Trail — \$1,450,000



3163 Del Ciervo Road, Pebble Beach — \$21,000,000

Kent and Kimberly Allen to Vince Lewis
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24896 Lincoln Street — \$1,700,000

Roger, Michael and Christine Lundblad to Eric Katz
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Torres Street, 5 NE of Fifth Avenue — \$1,710,000

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25990 Junipero Street — \$2,075,000

Angela Weigel to Davis and Anna White
APN: 009-353-009

Perry Newberry Way, SE corner of Fourth Avenue — \$2,100,000

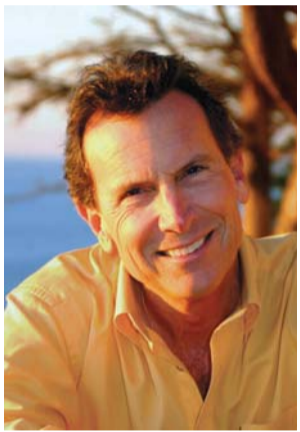
Jay Desai and Travel Inn Associates LP to Stela Llusha
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See ESCROWS page 6RE

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A small glow of hope among the 2020 events that have gone dark

THERE IS no way to quantify the loss of the many events that annually happen in our community. Not having the Bach Festival is like a spring without the music of birds. I recognize the importance of the Concours D'Elegance, though I've never been able to get down and dirty with the Duesenberg set. I sorely missed the Concours on Ocean because I love the autos featured at that event. A 1966 Mustang was the sweetest car I owned.

The Jazz Festival is another Peninsula iconic event that was cancelled. It stopped being my gig when I could no longer identify the music being played. Go to YouTube and find Bing Crosby and Louis Armstrong in the 1956 movie, "High Society," and, man, *That's Jazz*.

One of the cancelled events was close to my heart because I play a small part in it. It was the annual Friends of Harrison Memorial Library book sale. The pandemic left hundreds of homeless books without a safe haven when this year's library book sale was canceled.

Getting started early

So I was delighted when the delightful Anne Rurka, an enthusiastic member of the friends group, told me that beginning Sept. 8 they will be collecting book donations for the 2021 book sale. Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon an eager staff will be at the collection site behind Sunset

Center (San Carlos and 10th).

There will be changes in the collection process geared to maintain the safety of donors and collectors. Donors will have to stay in their cars and the volunteers, wearing

Scenic Views

By JERRY GERVASE

masks and gloves, will come out to get the books. Then they will "air" the books until Friday when other volunteers will price and box the donations.

"Needless to say, we are excited about reopening but are being incredibly careful about how we do it to protect all our volunteers," Anne said. "It's a very different world we are living in right now, but we are trying our best to normalize the craziness!"

Very true, Anne, the reopening of the collection center is a significant step to bring back a sense of normality to our village.

I have a hard time getting rid of books. Every time I try to trim down the number on my shelves, the volumes

selected for removal cry out to me: "I'll be good. I promise not to collect dust. And I won't slouch, so my spine won't become crooked."

Books, so lovely to hold, so heavy to move. One by one I take them from the shelves, placing them in two separate piles: books to keep and books to let go. Certain books, like those about professional athletes, have no-cut clauses within them. One is the family Bible. Another is "Schott's Original Miscellany," a small book that is beyond trivia, and essential to discovering useless information.

Not useless at all

And who can predict when I'll need to know the dessert choices on the Titanic on April 14, 1912? (Waldorf Pudding, Peaches in Chartreuse Jelly, Chocolate and Vanilla Éclairs, French Ice Cream.) Or carry on a conversation about some notable Belgians (Audrey Hepburn and/or Jean Claude Van Damme).

Another keeper is "Mrs. Byrne's Dictionary of Unusual, Obscure, and Preposterous Words." Where else would I have found apopemproclinic, which means inclined towards divorce, or catoptromancy, meaning fortune telling with mirrors?

See GERVASE page 10RE



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POLICE LOG

From page 4A

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vandalism to a window at a home at Ninth and Lincoln. No suspect information.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vehicle towed from Mountain View west of Santa Rita for parking over 72 hours.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found bag retrieved by an officer at Scenic and Santa Lucia and held for safekeeping. Pending out-of-county owner pickup.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of an in-progress theft from a business on Ocean east of Monte Verde. Suspect not found at scene.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Suspicious circumstances regarding missing or stolen plants from private property on Camino del Monte south of Second.

Pacific Grove: Damage to city property on Ocean View Boulevard.

Pacific Grove: Theft of a bicycle on Jewell Avenue.

Carmel area: A vehicle window was damaged in a parking lot on Highlands Drive.

Pebble Beach: Two suspects unlawfully entered a vehicle on Portola Road and stole cash and credit cards. The suspects later used the credit cards at several businesses.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Subject on Cabrillo

See SHERIFF page 10RE

ESCROWS

From page 4RE

Carmel (con't.)

Casanova Street, 3 NW of 11th Avenue — \$3,550,000

Guy and Shirley Cuccia to Edward and Susan Ward
APN: 010-272-006

Dolores Street, 2 NW of Seventh Avenue — \$4,250,000

Alejandra Solomone and Chew Trust to Dolores & 7th LLC
APN: 010-147-006

Carmel Highlands

205 Upper Walden Road — \$1,135,000

Hofman Trust and Wells Fargo Bank to Jonathan Silberman and Debra Fields
APN: 241-271-018

183 Sonoma Lane — \$1,175,000

Alvin Segal to Victor Klee
APN: 241-311-010

Carmel Valley

3600 High Meadow Drive unit 27 — \$600,000

Andrew Wolfe and Dutton Trust to Gabriel and Michaela Taylor
APN: 015-471-033

65 Del Mesa Carmel — \$615,000

Paul Ankar to Monica Martinek
APN: 015-446-007

44 Del Mesa Carmel — \$640,000

Anthony Bakan to Gary and Patricia Barolo
APN: 015-442-019

11 Southbank Road — \$775,000

Mark Orrisch and Jana Clark to Aaron Laub
APN: 189-481-006

4000 Rio Road unit 25 — \$780,000

Aileene Boffa and Raymond Alcini to Lise Keen
APN: 015-541-025

See MORE SALES page 8RE



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5125PASOVENADO.COM
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Patty Ross 831.236.4513

CARMEL



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Kathi Holland: 01463550 | Linda Guy: 00875231

MORE SALES

From page 6RE

Carmel Valley (con't.)

12050 Carola Drive — \$820,000

Nancy Hunter to Noah and Candace Trosky
APN: 416-061-013

Old Ranch Road — \$1,036,000

American Commercial Properties Inc. to Julie and Christopher Crawford
APN: 416-541-052

9819 Club Place Lane — \$1,079,000

Thomas and Linda Meyer to Stacey Montoya
APN: 416-561-017

24520 Outlook Drive unit 27 — \$1,100,000

Frank Chriorazzi to Michael Boggiato
APN: 015-551-027

25980 Colt Lane — \$1,240,000

Tanaa and Whiteis Fredric to Alice Larue
APN: 416-122-008

36 Encina Drive — \$2,075,000

Monica Jain and Remy Garderet to Mark and Patricia Davis
APN: 187-041-048

29 Los Robles Drive — \$3,800,000

Neil and Nazneen MacDougall to Alex and Erin Himel



24485 San Luis Avenue, Carmel — \$3,044,000

APN: 187-061-010

Highway 68

2969 Highway 68 unit B16 — \$329,000

Monterey Motorsport Park LLC to Marina Beach Inn Inc.
APN: 259-022-027

2969 Highway 68 unit B2 — \$347,000

Monterey Motorsport Park LLC to Superfly Enterprises LLC
APN: 259-022-013

2969 Highway 68 unit B8 — \$694,000

Monterey Motorsport Park LLC to Martin Beaulieu
APN: 259-022-019

2969 Highway 68 unit C7 — \$757,000

Monterey Motorsport Park LLC to Micah Combs
APN: 259-022-040

120 San Benancio Road — \$823,000

William and Marie Temple to Kevin and Vanessa Tottino
APN: 416-221-026

20220 Portola Drive — \$824,000

Matthew and Kathleen Gibbs to John and Renee Barnes
APN: 161-272-030

13482 Paseo Terrano — \$970,000

Timothy and Elva Patterson to Gary and Meechal Hall
APN: 161-381-010

10 Black Tail Lane — \$1,198,000

CJO Investors LLC to Conor and Lauren Larkin
APN: 101-301-014

6 Mesa del Sol — \$1,562,500

Anne De Giorgio to Sunny, Thys, Maxwell and Diane Norton
APN: 161-191-003

18000 Corral del Cielo Road — \$1,800,000

Jeremy Chisum and Elizabeth Grijalva to James and Tarin Benjamin
APN: 416-441-047

605 Belavida Road — \$2,600,000

William and Shawn Ebert to Al Spector and Tatjana Soli
APN: 173-075-010

See TRANSACTIONS page 12RE



Heartfelt wishes to our community for courage and resilience in this truly beautiful place.

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|------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
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| 923 Alameda, Monterey | \$985,000 | 3006 Ransford Cir, Pacific Grove | \$965,000 |
| 729 Hillcrest Ave, Pacific Grove | \$840,000 | 412 Park St, Pacific Grove | \$822,645 |
| 25435 Telarana Way, Carmel | \$795,000 | 511 17TH St, Pacific Grove | \$716,000 |
| 700 Timber Tr, Pacific Grove | \$660,000 | 1064 Paloma Rd, Del Rey Oaks | \$649,000 |
| 312 1st St, Pacific Grove | \$625,000 | 1034 Lorenzo Ct, Seaside | \$619,000 |
| 718 Palm Ave, Seaside | \$610,000 | 1688 San Lucas Ct, Seaside | \$530,000 |
| 1281 Hilby Ave, Seaside | \$515,000 | | |

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GERVASE

From page 6RE

Among other untouchables is the "Dictionary of Imaginary Places." It is my irreplaceable Baedeker whenever I return to Xanadu, Shangri-La or Narnia.

I would be lost in an entomological wasteland without my "Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins." And if you wanted to know who Achilles' parents were (Peleus and Thetis), you better have a "Short History of Mythology" handy.

I wonder if the exercise to cull books from the shelves might be a pretense to reconnect to each book, a chance to meet and greet old friends such as Billy Collins, Lawrence Block, Nelson DeMille, Dunne

and Didion, Eco and Oates. I can hold their books in my hand and revisit the thoughts and ideas I gleaned from their pages.

This year the fires threatening our area made it easier to donate books to the sale. We had to prepare to evacuate. There were only a few books including the aforementioned titles that I put aside.

Not that the others were not important to me, but when I asked myself, "When was the last time I looked at that book?" as the criterion, I had to admit I could let them go.

If you're ready to let go of some treasures, there's a place for them with people dedicated to seeing they find a good home. And it's a small step to getting back to normal.

Contact Jerry at jerrygervase@yahoo.com.

SHERIFF

From page 6RE

Street given verbal warning regarding taking city property from restrooms and driving while her license was suspended. Subject stated she understood.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Report of possible elder abuse of a female on Monte Verde south of Ninth. Welfare check was conducted and pictures were taken of suspected bruising on the subject. Report was taken and forwarded to adult protective services.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Business asked a hotel guest to leave, and guest requested theft of personal items be documented. Homeless shelter resources were also provided to the subject. Theft report unfounded.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Vandalism by sharp object or key to a vehicle on Scenic south of Ocean. Photos taken and documented. No suspect information.

Pacific Grove: Female placed on a mental health hold.

Pacific Grove: Report of a stolen bicycle on Pedersen. Another stolen bicycle from outside jurisdiction left at the scene. Re-

turned to owner.

Pacific Grove: Burglary on Lighthouse.

Pacific Grove: Driver was issued a citation for driving with an expired license.

Pacific Grove: Subject on Forest reported a three-year-old civil matter.

Pacific Grove: Physical fight on Ocean View Boulevard.

Pacific Grove: Sexual assault reported on Eden Path involving a child under the age of 14.

Pacific Grove: A 71-year-old male was arrested on Lighthouse Avenue for outstanding warrants at 2303 hours.

Carmel area: Burglary reported at a business on Carmel Rancho Boulevard. Perpetrator remains at large.

Carmel Valley: Deputy sheriffs were dispatched to a welfare check of an elderly female on Rio Vista Drive.

Carmel Valley: Unsecured tools taken from a home construction site on Carmel Valley Road overnight.

Pebble Beach: A female reported that a male threatened her on Bird Rock Road.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Citizen reported a lost scarf.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found wallet on Junipero at 0504 hours.

JUST SOLD IN PACIFIC GROVE!



140 17th Street, Pacific Grove | 2 beds/2bath | 994 sqft

A short stroll to Lovers Point Park and a short skip to everything downtown make this a very desirable location. The vaulted ceilings make this romantic PG bungalow feel much larger inside than it appears. Remodeled interior, 2 fireplaces, with bamboo floors and a walk-in master bedroom closet. Sold for \$895,000

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831.920.7103 MOBILE
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TRANSACTIONS

From page 8RE

Marina

3293 Steven Court — \$630,000
Michele O'Brien to Timothy West
APN: 033-061-027

3123 Lake Drive — \$639,000
Martha Ruiz to George Gorohoff
APN: 033-221-006

609 Matterhorn Court — \$986,000
WC Marina LLC to Richard Begley
APN: 031-274-019

Denali Drive — \$1,027,500
WC Marina LLC to Pamela Imbeau
APN: 031-276-010

Denali Drive — \$1,069,000
WC Marina LLC to Erin Reeder
APN: 031-276-011

Monterey

250 Forest Ridge Road unit 13 — \$539,000
Weidong Li to Forest Trust
APN: 014-141-013

125 Surf Way unit 329 — \$650,000



29 Los Robles Drive, Carmel Valley — \$3,800,000

David Hibbert to Michael Cetinich
APN: 011-443-046

7 Wyndemere Vale — \$919,000
George Milligan to Scott Love
APN: 014-081-007

835 Doud Avenue — \$925,000
Benjamin Franklin to Guido Zito
APN: 001-481-019

14 Greenwood Way — \$1,335,000
Jack Baxter to Steven Anderson
APN: 014-101-014

116 Sea Foam Avenue — \$1,597,000
Troy Anderson to Gregory Williams



125 14th Street, Pacific Grove — \$1,434,500

APN: 011-462-004

Pacific Grove

385 Grove Acre Avenue — \$800,000
Joseph Krackeler to Scott and Karen Hudson
APN: 006-401-024

1117 Presidio Blvd. — \$835,000
Lindsay Synstebly and Tovey Trust to Brendan Policarpio
APN: 007-584-039

610 Dennett Street — \$935,000
Georgia Grijalva to Srikanth and Sylvie Venkat
APN: 006-421-020

125 14th Street — \$1,435,500
Triple G Properties LLC to Koray Oner and Emily Yang
APN: 006-183-010

860 Jewell Avenue — \$2,350,000
Jose Kofman and Tracy Richards to Betsy Craib and James Farmer
APN: 006-093-008

Pebble Beach

3054 Strawberry Hill Road — \$980,000
Jackson Dinwiddie and Jill Reeves to Stephen and Janis Huld
APN: 007-482-005

3162 Del Ciervo Road — \$21,000,000
James Crane to Tenir LLC
APN: 008-371-022

Seaside

2035 Mariposa Street — \$469,000
Kim Beard to Justin Devine
APN: 011-054-009

1625 Military Avenue — \$585,000
Rodolfo Zucca to Ramon Mayorga
APN: 011-051-004

1128 Kimball Avenue — \$730,000
Tom Dimaggio to Frank Aliotti
APN: 012-451-006

704 Broadway — \$955,000
Stephan Georis to 704 Broadway LLC
APN: 011-292-020

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4 Beds, 3.5 Baths • 71 Spring Road, Royal Oaks
\$1,150,000 • www.71SpringRd.com



2 Beds, 2 Baths • 9 Forest Lodge Road, Pacific Grove
\$850,000 • www.9ForestLodge.com



3 Beds, 3.5 Baths • 18547 McClellan Circle, East Garrison
\$849,000 • www.18547McClellan.com



3 Beds, 2.5 Baths • 588 Rosa Monte Way, Marina
\$786,000 • www.588RosaMonte.com



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