Virus cases few as shelter in place deepens

**City shuts beach parking until end of month**

By MARY SCHLEY

**PARKING WAS** banned on Scenic Road and in the lot at the foot of Ocean Avenue after a meeting Wednesday between city administrator Chip Rerig and Police Chief Paul Tomassini.

Sunny weather Tuesday and Wednesday brought a lot of visitors to Carmel Beach and filled the city’s beachfront parking, leading Rerig to extend the ban he initiated last weekend. The new closure lasts until April 30, and only applies within the city limits, not on Carmel Point.

“I have said I won’t close the beach,” Rerig said Thursday, the day the new parking rules took effect.

“We’ve been encouraging people to use the beach as a requisite for exercise and to get outside.”

Being able to take a stroll or run on the sand, or even just to stand and watch the surf, or to be in it, is a kind of therapy.

“But we do have people who aren’t social distancing,” Rerig commented. Police are responding to complaints about people not staying 6 feet apart and not wearing masks.

“We’ve been focusing on education and outreach. When our officers roll up, they talk about the dangers of not practicing social distancing.”

**Walk subtly and carry a stick**

A group of residents headed by Graeme Robertson is also out and about, wearing “City of Carmel” popups, click bait or paywalls. We also don’t harvest your data or make you create an account or password. Free subscriptions available at www.carmelpinecone.com.

Forest service tells campers to go home

By CHRIS COUNTS

CROWDS OF campers who are escaping the boredom of being stuck at home, rebelling against the restrictions of living in civilization nowadays, or maybe just clueless are taking up residence in some of Big Sur’s most isolated spots, raising concerns of not practicing social distancing.

“We have campers who are the spread of coronavirus, it’s somehow not surprising that some — labeled “doomsday campers” by one local — would rebel against the edict by getting in their cars and heading for Big Sur.

For weeks, some residents have complained about people camping along publicly owned dirt roads on Big Sur’s South Coast. But other residents say they have been hesitant to sound the alarm because they’re worried the news will just attract more campers.

**Have app, will travel**

While the rest of California hunkers down in response to a statewide shelter-in-place order to prevent the spread of coronavirus, it’s somehow not surprising that some — labeled “doomsday campers” by one local — would rebel against the edict by getting in their cars and heading for Big Sur.

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**See CAMPS page 22A**

Health department offers scary projection of infections in county

**But does it bear any relationship to reality?**

By KELLY NOX

EVEN IF 70 percent of county residents follow all the social-distancing rules, Monterey County will have an astonishing 33,000 people sick with coronavirus in the next six weeks and its hospitals will be overrun with nearly 1,000 seriously ill patients, according to data county health officer Edward Moreno presented to the board of supervisors this week.

But Moreno’s data also show that the county should have about 9,000 cases now and 300 hospitalizations, while his department has counted a total of 108 cases of the virus as of Wednesday, and just 22 people who’ve needed to be hospitalized throughout the entire county.

The discrepancy raised questions about the validity of Moreno’s data and the necessity of the shelter-in-place program he ordered into place last month. Tens of thousands of county residents have lost their jobs and their businesses because of the order.

Though Moreno had previously warned of a “surge” of cases the county could get in the next several weeks, the public was likely not prepared to receive the bleak outlook he presented to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors Tuesday.

“If 70 percent of Monterey county residents and businesses complied with the shelter-in-place order we would have, at the peak, 33,000 residents sick by the first week of June,” Moreno told the supervisors.

Crowded hospitals?

Of those sick people, Moreno said that “as long as we have good compliance with social distancing,” 954 of them would need to be hospitalized simultaneously.

**See VIRRUS page 22A**

DA threatens prosecution of gardeners, contractors

By MARY SCHLEY

WITH THE county health office apparently unwilling to back off his recent order that landscape, gardeners, carpenters and other contractors can’t work during the coronavirus shutdown except on projects that are for health and safety, Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine Pacioni issued a sternly worded warning this week that anyone found violating the new rules could be prosecuted.

“Violations of the April 3 order are subject to criminal and/or civil penalties,” she warned.

“Each day that a violation continues may be a separate violation. Both the contractor and owner of the building may be liable.”

In a revised, stricter shutdown order he issued April 3, Dr. Ed Moreno said work could only continue on projects immediately necessary for essential infrastructure, those associated with health-care or affordable housing, essential public works projects, shelters and temporary housing projects, providing “critical non-commercial services” to the elderly and disadvantaged, construction necessary to ensure building sites are safe and secure during the shut-
THE TEENAGER had a little chicken farm in Carmel Valley and enjoyed selling the eggs her hens laid, but what she really wanted was a dog. Her parents gave her a choice. The chickens had to go. She thought about getting a husky or maybe an Australian shepherd. Friends and family, who wondered how the busy, multi-sport teen would have time to care for a big, active dog, suggested something smaller, less active, without much bark and no bite. The French bulldog, which they said was bred for companionship, seemed to meet all the criteria.

“I immediately fell in love with the breed, and I don’t even think there’s an ugly Frenchie out there,” she said. “We did a social media search and located a litter near San Francisco, so my dad and I went up on the weekend.”

As they sat in the parking lot outside Petco, they started to have second thoughts, but when the breeder showed up with a truck full of tiny puppies, one of them was a honey-colored 4-month-old whose other potential family had backed out. The teenager fell for him and named him Auggie.

“I absolutely love the book ‘Wonder,’ about Auggie, a little boy with facial differences who was, nevertheless, the most adorable little guy,” she said. “Our Auggie, with all his facial wrinkles, couldn’t be cuter. I just love his face.”

Auggie gets to go on walks every day at Garland Ranch Regional Park, as an important part of his person’s social distancing routine.

“With my dad and I going swimming, he runs along the shore, parallel to us. He just wants to be close.”
The organization and its corps of volunteers “have been trying to keep our changing daily protocols up to date to keep everyone safe and healthy,” Winge added.

Which means they need plenty of disinfectant wipes, and paper bags with handles.

“Apart from those things, we’re finding everything else we need, one way or another,” Winge said.

“They don’t have work”

While a portion of the organization’s 300-plus unpaid helpers — some of whom have been with the organization for 45 years — have stopped doing deliveries during the shutdown due to their own health concerns, Winge said others who would typically be working and simply want to help have stepped up.

“Right now, people are coming in, because they want to be of service and they don’t have work,” Winge said. “It’s a natural flow.”

And those who have left for now “all say they want to come back,” she said. “It’s just a matter of when.”

The work of volunteers has also changed with the pandemic. Delivery drivers now knock and drop off the food, rather than having their usual interaction with residents. The loss of that contact has its costs, since often, the volunteer is the only person a Meals on Wheels recipient will see that day, so they are now chatting with each other by phone, instead.

“We also have volunteers calling and making contact with them. It’s more than delivering food,” she said. “This is what we love to do. We want to be of help, so whatever that looks like, we’re happy to be there.”

**Support Pine Cone advertisers — they make this newspaper possible**
Littering blamed on errant wildlife

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 Shirley.

**MONDAY, MARCH 30**
Carmel Valley: Carmel Valley resident reported a theft from his vehicle on Rancho Fiesta Road.
Carmel Valley: License plate theft on Carmel Valley Road.
Carmel Valley: Deputies responded to a report of domestic violence against a male by a 67-year-old female, who was arrested.
Carmel Valley: Deputies responded for a welfare check on West Carmel Valley Road.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 31**
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Dog bite to a person. 
Carmel-by-the-Sea: Officer responded to a concern of dogs barking and howling on Lopez near the Jane Powers Walkway. Contact was made with the owner and information discussed.
Pacific Grove: Theft on Lighthouse Avenue.
Pacific Grove: Vehicle towed from Gate Street for being abandoned.
Pacific Grove: Vehicle accident into fixed object on Grand Avenue.

**Police, Fire & Sheriff’s Log**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1**
Pacific Grove: Theft from an unlocked vehicle on Bishop Way.
Pacific Grove: A citizen surrendered ammunition to the station to be destroyed.
Pacific Grove: Female placed on a mental health hold.
Pacific Grove: Possible fraud from a business on Forest Hill.

See POLICE LOG page 11RE in the Real Estate Section

**The gavel falls**

Verdicts, pleas and sentences announced by Monterey County District Attorney Jeanine Pacioni:

Feb. 18 — Regino Maciel, 53, a resident of Salinas, was sentenced by Judge Carrie Panetta to 46 years in prison for committing child molestation.

In April 2018, Jane Doe, age 29, reported that Maciel sexually abused her continuously from when she was around 4 or 5 years old until she was 14 years old. Maciel told Jane Doe not to tell anyone about the molestation on two different occasions. When Jane Doe was 14 years old, a family member walked in on Maciel exposing his penis to Doe. The family member and Doe’s mother both asked Doe if Maciel was molesting her, but Doe denied any sexual abuse. Nonetheless, Jane Doe’s mother immediately kicked Maciel out of the house.

At trial, Jane Doe bravely testified about the repeated instances of molestation occurring throughout her childhood. An expert in the psychological effects of child sexual abuse also testified that delayed disclosures of molestation are incredibly common due to numerous factors including the power imbalance between the perpetrator and victim, threats to not say anything, fear, and even inclusion of the perpetrator in a close family relationship. The jury found Maciel guilty of molesting a child and sentenced him to 46 years in prison.

On September 2, 2008, at 8:30 p.m., Cervantes father was murdered in the front yard of his home in south Salinas near Hartnell College. Less than two hours later Cervantes drove to Perez Street on the North Side of Salinas to an apartment complex that was known to be a predominantly Norteño area. Cervantes and an associate got out of a vehicle and targeted two individuals who appeared to have Norteño associations. Cervantes opened fire with a semi-automatic pistol injuring one and killing another. Cervantes fled the scene. Multiple 9mm and .40 caliber bullet casings were collected from the scene. The 9mm firearm was later located in the possession of a Hebron Street Gang member, the same subset of the Sureño Criminal Street Gang that Cervantes is a member of.

The case went cold for a period of time and changes were ultimately brought against Cervantes in August of 2017. Between 2010 and 2017, Cervantes was housed in the Monterey County Jail where he proceeded to participate in a violent attack of another Sureño criminal street gang member. These types of gang related attacks are called reenactments as a result of the assault to remove certain members from the Sureño criminal street gang.

On October 3, 2019, Judge Andrew G. Liu sentenced Cervantes to 35 years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
Getting fit now can help protect you from the coronavirus later on

By ELAINE HESSER

RIGHT NOW, it’s hard to see anything good coming out of the coronavirus pandemic. It’s one heck of a cautionary tale, though, and one people ignore at their peril — especially considering that even the most optimistic projections show that the virus will stick around for months, if not years.

While nothing is guaranteed to protect you from getting sick, there are plenty of things you can do to bolster your health against the coronavirus, if you happen to get it. And they’re not rocket science.

Dr. Martha Blum, medical director for infection prevention at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, is board certified in infectious diseases and internal medicine. In addition to taking recommended precautions like handwashing, she said that your overall health is very important. And if you have one of those notorious “underlying conditions, try to get it under control.”

“If you have diabetes, heart disease or chronic lung problems, check in with your doctor to make sure you’re managing it as well as you can.” Those conditions can put people at a higher risk for getting a disease and increasing its severity.

Simple advice

Dr. Richard Murtland retired last year, at age 94, from his life’s work as a physician and surgeon, and he said that asthma is especially hard on people who contract a respiratory illness. But he said steroids, sometimes used to treat asthma and other conditions, can depress the immune system, so someone taking them should use extra caution around those who are sick — regardless of the disease.

Diabetes is another condition that can affect every part of the body and must be controlled. Aside from issues of eyesight, kidney function and circulation, Murtland said, a flu or other virus can become much more severe for a diabetic.

Murtland also said obesity places a strain on the body’s systems, particularly the heart, and losing weight can leave you better able to fight off a disease and avoid complications. “When you’re obese, your heart is struggling just to push the blood through,” he said.

Blum recommended, “Have a balanced, healthy diet with lots of fresh fruits and vegetables.”

Get moving

Some people, because of a limited appetite, physical conditions or prescription medications, don’t get all their nutrients from food. Studies show that people in those situations — often seniors — can benefit from vitamin supplements. For example, Blum noted there is evidence that vitamin C and zinc may help improve the immune system’s response to disease, and Murtland — whose appetite has shrunk in recent years — also takes supplements.

Another avenue of defense is regular exercise. Murtland rides his stationary bicycle daily and urges others to do something similar. Getting the body moving has multiple, proven benefits — among them a stronger heart and reduced stress. And of course, stress is often implicated as a contributor to illnesses of all sorts, either helping to bring them on or making them worse.

Then, Blum said, make sure you get all the recommended vaccines, based on age and your doctor’s advice — flu for example. “Can you imagine if you had one of those and got this virus on top of it?” she asked.

See PROTECT page 23A
Coyotes stalk people and dogs in P.B.

By KELLY NIX

A PACK of coyotes tried to attack two women last weekend in Spanish Bay as they were walking their dogs, according to one of the women, who said they narrowly escaped being bitten in the terrifying incident.

Pacific Grove resident Mariah Elyse, 27, said she was walking her golden retriever and her grandparents’ two Labradors Sunday evening at Moss Beach near Spanish Bay when she heard in the distance, “howling and aggressive snarling and barking.”

A passerby then warned her to be careful because there was “some type of incident” between coyotes and dogs ahead.

Suddenly, she saw a woman in her early 20s with her two Labs run by her.

Mariah Elyse had a frightening brush with local wildlife when several coyotes tried to attack her and another woman.

A girl, “quite literally running for her life, came tearing off the path into the street dragging her dogs along with her,” Elyse said in a post on a social media site. “She was trying to get away from coyotes that were chasing her.”

Circled by predators

In trying to help the young woman flee the pack of coyotes — there were as many as five of them, she said — Elyse yelled at her to walk on the ocean side of 17 Mile Drive while Elyse walked on golf course side, since, at that point, the coyotes seemed to be coming after her.

“They circled us and came way too close,” said Elyse, who estimated the wild animals got about 10 feet from her.

After a few minutes, the other woman and her dogs were picked up by someone in a car and the coyotes left the area.

“I walked the rest of the way to my grandparents with no issue,” Elyse said. “Once we were back in the neighborhood, I felt safe.”

After dropping off the two Labs, she fetched her car and drove around the beach area to warn other pedestrians what had just happened.

Elyse thanked some young men who witnessed what was happening and were armed with baseball bats and ready to spring into action.

“They didn’t get near the coyotes, but they were ready to help,” she said.

Coyotes are not uncommon on the Peninsula, and they have been spotted all over, even roaming neighborhoods in Pacific Grove and other cities.

“I know we live in an area where wild animals intermingle with our daily lives, but the fact these coyotes were so close and aggressive was terrifying,” Elyse said.
Working together against COVID-19

Inspired by a generous gift from Paul and Helen Baszucki, Montage Health has launched a fundraising drive to support the critical work of our staff, on the front lines, saving lives, and keeping our community healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now, more than ever, we need your support.

Since the first COVID-19 cases were reported in China, we’ve been planning and preparing to care for community members affected by the virus. Your donations will support our continuing work, providing resources for patients and healthcare workers, including:

- Medical supplies such as personal protective equipment — masks, gloves, eye protection — for caregivers
- Additional medical equipment for the most seriously ill COVID-19 patients
- Supplemental staffing that may be needed in the event of a surge or extended pandemic
- Support for staff as they work through this challenging time

SUPPORT OUR MOST CRITICAL NEED FUND
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“This is the greatest health crisis of the last 100 years. With our gift, we are letting the entire medical team know that we support you and appreciate your hard work. We hope to inspire every person in our community to give what they can as well, to show you that we are in this with you.

— Paul and Helen Baszucki
He discovered commonalities in fires, pandemics and misinformation

By DENNIS TAYLOR

ANY OF the rational fears felt by firefighter Scott Fenton when he confronts a burning building, or a natural disaster, or an accident in the middle of a busy freeway, are mitigated by the confidence he has in the protective equipment he wears, the extensive training he’s had, and the experience he’s accrued in 33 years in the profession.

More worrisome for Fenton, a captain with Monterey County Regional Fire, is the pandemic of misinformation and disinformation inhibiting our global struggle against COVID-19, the coronavirus affecting 2 million people in 234 countries and territories around the world.

The dangers of false information spread deliberately (disinformation), then subsequently shared through ignorance (misinformation), was the central theme of a 100-page thesis authored by Fenton at the end of the rigorous, FEMA-funded master’s degree program he completed in 2019 at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. The NPS program is conducted in conjunction with the Center for Homeland Defense and Security.

Fenton’s work was honored with the program’s Outstanding Thesis Award.

“For me, as a citizen, it was frustrating to see how much misinformation was out there, whether it was election meddling by the Russians or other things,” said Fenton, who noticed similarities in strategies for fighting fires and epidemics, then used his thesis to suggest a similar approach to combat the spread of propaganda and false information.

“People who are intentionally spreading disinformation, or subsequently sharing that misinformation, compose the “agent” side of that triangle. “Our free-speech laws allow people to say pretty much whatever they want to say, so it’s hard to intervene on that side of the triangle,” Fenton said. “As the hosts, we can make the effort to educate ourselves, be skeptical of things we read or hear, check the facts, and avoid spreading misinformation.”

The third part of the triangle — the environment — is composed primarily of the internet, which spreads the virus of misinformation worldwide.

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Del Mesa residents understand the true meaning of community life

By ELAINE HESSER

Del Mesa Carmel’s residents love to walk, and they don’t seem to mind the hills that run through the senior community of about 400 people just a short distance up Carmel Valley Road from Highway 1.

COVID-19 is a pretty steep slope all on its own, but according to resident Sis Connolly, “Everybody is being positive and making the best of it.” Her friends and neighbors focus on the good, even while they’re deeply concerned about the disease and its effects on the economy.

Many of the people at Del Mesa enjoy morning strolls or hikes, and during the shelter-in-place order, it’s been one of the ways they check in with each other.

“We’re social, but totally respectful — we stay 6 feet apart,” Connolly said.

Normally, she is busy as chair of the community’s enrichment committee, booking speakers and musical performers to come engage with the residents.

Instead, the 76-year-old said people are finding their own creative ways to spend the time, “Some of the people here are artists, and they say they’re doing a lot of painting. Others are sewing and quilting.”

Connolly, Ted Whitney, who is the vice president of Del Mesa’s board of directors, and Richard Cox, the community’s general manager, joined The Pine Cone for a conference call Tuesday.

Whitney said he’d typically be spending his days attending various committee meetings, but now he’s reading to pass the time.

He has a wry sense of humor that’s obviously helpful. When asked his age, he said, “Old enough to know better, young enough to try anyway.” After a few minutes’ more discussion, he amended that. “OK, young 80s.”

Unthinkable

The group said that as retirees (except for Cox, who’s 63 and lives in Pacific Grove), they’re spared concerns about loss of income that tug at their adult children. “Going through this retired versus going through this raising a family is different, but everyone’s still worried about the economy,” Cox said.

A conversation he had with one resident who remembered the Great Depression and World War II summed up the bewilderment many people have when trying to take in the current situation. Said Cox, “One person was saying that back during that crash, here in the wealthiest country...
earlier, and even sang to him. The song she chose was Nat King Cole’s “Stay as Sweet as You Are.” This week I was able to ask if he had heard my voice while he had been sedated on the ventilator,” she said. Not only did he say he’d heard her, he told her, “It was the song we danced to at your wedding.”

“‘He was touched’

They talked, and Andy mentioned to his daughter that he had heard someone had written a story about him. In response, Audrey read him the article from last week’s Pine Cone. “His eyes welled up with tears,” she recalled. “He was touched.”

Audrey also shared with him numerous online comments wishing him well. Many local musicians reached out to him via the internet, including John Nava, Brian Stock, Tomas Marius, Leon Joyce, Jaqui Hope, Donna Dickman, Paul Contos, Lee Durley, Andrea Carter and many others. “He expressed astonishment at the outpouring of support,” she said.

Despite his improving condition, Audrey said her father appears to be on the mend. Audrey described his breathing as “very labored.” “His voice is breathy, sort of gravelly, and very quiet, halfway a whisper,” she continued. “He is very emotional now. Through tears he expresses astonishment at the outpouring of support.”

A week earlier, Audrey had spoken with her dad by phone a few days earlier, and even sang to him. The song she chose was Nat King Cole’s “Stay as Sweet as You Are.” “This week I was able to ask if he had heard my voice while he had been sedated on the ventilator,” she said. Not only did he say he’d heard her, he told her, “It was the song we danced to at your wedding.”

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These times are extraordinary. Fortunately, so are our heroes.

At Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System, we are thankful to our doctors, nurses, support staff and all of our colleagues whose hard work is keeping our community safe.

You are appreciated more than you can imagine.

Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System

svmh.com/coronavirus | #HeroesWorkHere

Nonprofits miss their senior volunteers — and it’s mutual

By ELAINE HESSER

BACK IN the good old days — about six weeks ago — when you could wander the Monterey Bay Aquarium or take in a concert at Sunset Center, you probably noticed that the vast majority of volunteers were seniors. Those places are shut for the duration of the pandemic, but they’re not the only ones who have come to rely on retirees’ service. Community Hospital, for example, depended heavily on seniors for help.

Usually, when someone came in for a test or procedure, they would be checked in by a cheerful member of the CHOMP Auxiliary, according to Michele Young of Montage Health Foundation. Young oversees the volunteer force of 350 or so people and said that they do the work of 28 full-time employees — about 60,000 hours a year, all told.

She said that about half of them are older adults, while the other half are a combination of working adults and college- and high school-age students. The younger people, however, are not as available on weekdays, and that’s where the seniors come in.

“Some of these volunteers are in their 80s, and they were pushing other people who are in wheelchairs,” she said. Young has taken at least one turn trying to fill in at the front desk.

“It was fun, but hard. I took more than 20,000 steps in one day,” she said. Like many other fitness-minded individuals, Young has a pedometer. And since doctors have a hard time getting their patients to take 10,000 steps a day, she knows she did a lot of walking.

CHOMP no longer has volunteers serving in any capacity, but initially, they just asked all those 65 and older to stay home, and that was hard enough on the hospital — and the volunteers.

“They kept calling, and they wanted to come in,” said Young. She told The Pine Cone that at the time, one man was relieved because he was 64 and could continue working, while another, in his 90s, tried to tell her he was 39.

Details emerge about virus fatalities

By KELLY NIX

THE 97-YEAR-OLD woman who died at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula from coronavirus in March was a Monterey resident with a long career in the beauty industry and liked to travel.

On March 30, Rosaleigh Marie George passed away from COVID-19. George was born in Aromas May 12, 1922. She attended elementary school and part of high school in Portland, Ore., before attending Watsonville High and Hollister High, where she graduated.

George had an extensive career as a licensed cosmetologist and taught cosmetology in several beauty schools, including in San Francisco. She also worked for beauty product manufacturers and traveled to several states teaching students how to perm and color hair.

“She loved swimming and traveling to Europe and Africa,” her obituary, published on Bermudez Family Cremations and Funerals’ website, said. “She liked attending church. She was a Christian.”

She is survived by a daughter, Dorene Joan Holmes, four grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and many great-great grandchildren. Her husband, Thomas George, to whom she was married to for 26 years, preceded her in death.

Other COVID-19 victims

The Monterey County Sheriff’s Office confirmed several other people who died from COVID-19.

Rita Clausen, 92, was the most recent person to die from the virus, which has infected 108 people in the county. Most of them have not been hospitalized. Clausen, of Salinas, passed away April 7 at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital.

A Monterey County man in his 50s who has not been publicly identified died at Watsonville Community Hospital on March 20 from the virus, Dan Brothman from Halsen Healthcare, the company that runs the hospital, said.

A fourth person, Mary Lou Vizcarra, 83, who died at Natividad Medical Center, was a resident of San Benito County. Because she did not live in the county, the Monterey County Health Department did not include her in its COVID-19 data.

“The data that our local health department publishes is data with respect to individuals who are considered residents in our county,” Elsa Jimenez with the health department told reporters April 6.
Nearly 200 inmates freed to prevent epidemic from breaking out in jail

By MARY SCHLEY

With a state emergency order reducing many criminal suspects’ bails to $0 and the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office working with attorneys and the court to release inmates early in an attempt to reduce the risk of a COVID-19 outbreak, the population of Monterey County Jail has dropped significantly since the county-wide shelter-in-place order took effect March 18.

Four weeks ago, the jail population was 803. As of Thursday, the number stood at 624.

“We did release some early, based on evaluation with the court, district attorney, public defender and probation department,” sheriff’s Cindr John Thornburg said Thursday.

Another 53 were released when their bail was eliminated.

Bail Schedule dictator that “bail for all misdemeanor and felony offenses must be set at $0,” except for “serious” and “violent” felonies — and people arrested for use of force against an officer, violation of a restraining order, witness intimidation, spousal battery or rape, threatening or perpetrating violence against someone protected by a restraining order, making terrorist threats, stalking, sex crimes, DUI, looting, or being a felon or convicted drug user in possession of a firearm.

The rules also allow the courts to let people with multiple misdemeanor warrants and those with drug charges on their own recognizance, according to Thornburg. “We work with the DA when new people come in to see if they are eligible, which accounts for the last seven,” people released, he said.

“All have combined to lower the number of inmates,” he said.

Two weeks ago, a sheriff’s official said releasing inmates would not only reduce the risk of coronavirus making it into the jail and spreading, it ensures every new person who has to be quarantined can be quarantined for 14 days before joining the general population, and it provides space to separate anyone who becomes ill.

He made no mention of the increased crime that might result from the changes.

So far, Thornburg said, no one in the sheriff’s department or at the jail has tested positive for coronavirus.

Monterey to lay off 84

With its sports center, parking garages, community center, library and conference center shut down since March 14 due to coronavirus, and tourism and retail business nonexistent since unprecedented county-wide and statewide shelter-in-place orders were imposed days later, the City of Monterey is grappling with an estimated $10 million general fund deficit, city manager Hans Ulrar said Thursday.

As a result, he’ll ask the city council to consider laying off 84 people and freezing 23 vacancies, which will save the city about $956,000 per month, when the council meets April 21.

“The city cannot continue to spend general fund and other fund dollars to staff temporarily closed or non-existent programs, operations, and facilities, especially when the tax and program fees associated with funding these positions has, together with service needs, suddenly evaporated,” he explained. “Layoffs are recommended now,” with the understanding that the workers will be offered their jobs back when the facilities reopen and programs resume.

If approved, the employees would be notified immediately and terminated as of June 1, with medical benefits continuing through June 30.

CPD officers wear masks

CARMEL POLICE officers are now wearing masks when out on patrol, Police Chief Paul Tomasi said in a video message with city administrator Chip Rerig Tuesday, and city officials want everyone in town to do the same.

“I think the best thing we can do is social distancing,” Tomasi said, but staying 6 feet away from everyone isn’t always possible, so this week, city workers were ordered to wear masks. Masks don’t prevent them from catching the virus, but they keep them from spreading it to others near them, in case they are carrying coronavirus and are unaware because they have no symptoms.

Rerig agreed. “And we’re certainly encouraging residents to do the same,” the city manager said. “Masks don’t do a normal thing to do, now, and we should all be doing it.”

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The Carmel Pine Cone April 17, 2020

Norma Jean Keleher

Norma Jean Keleher, nee Cleochon, was born on February 24, 1924, in Orb, Nebraska. She was the sixth child of Charles and Mary and was raised on a working farm. It was the challenges of the Great Depression along with the accidental loss of her left arm at 7 that helped instill her “I’ve got this!” attitude. Her older sisters advocated for her and helped jump-start her independence.

Entering college at 16, she graduated with a Nebraska teaching certificate but moved to San Francisco shortly thereafter. She thrived there and met her first husband, Al Calley, who fathered her two children, Scott and Suzanne. They lived in Auburn for over ten years but the marriage dissolved and the Coast called her again. Norma moved with her two young children to Pacific Grove, where she finally used her teaching skills. She remarried Tom Keleher within a few years of moving to PG, and had a loving, enduring marriage until his death at 84.

They shared many hours on the road in their mobile home with their cat, Boo, and enjoyed traveling to exotic locales. Norma was a determined traveler and wasted not a minute. No museum, restaurant or significant landmark was overlooked. She loved to ride bikes, ski dive, ski, and jazzercise.

Norma taught into her late 60s and had many life-long friends from this career, who recently shared her 96th birthday with her. Of special importance to her was Patty Brimie, a generous and loving friend of many years duration.

Her spare time was spent at the Discovery Cancer Shop, where her sales skills were honed. These were some of the friends that made up her community. She adored her children and shared a weekly dinner with her beloved Suzanne trying new restaurants and wines. When Suzanne was lost in the Pentagon plane crash on 9/11, her world crashed as well.

Her time was spent at the Discovery Cancer Shop, where her sales skills were honed. These were some of the friends that made up her community. She adored her children and shared a weekly dinner with her beloved Suzanne trying new restaurants and wines. When Suzanne was lost in the Pentagon plane crash on 9/11, her world crashed as well.

In her later years, she continued to travel with her friends, old and new, and her iPad (loaded with books) always looking for a good dance partner. She found love at 90, and Bob put a sparkle in her eye.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Salvation Army.
A CARMEL couple inspired by local medical workers — who are putting their lives at risk by treating coronavirus patients — donated $500,000 to the philanthropic organization that supports Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, officials said this week.

On Monday, Community Hospital announced that Paul and Helen Bazuzski made the contribution to the Montage Health Foundation, which supports the hospital and its parent company, Montage Health. The couple’s contribution was meant to be a challenge to others to donate money to the fund.

“We hope to inspire every person in our community to give what they can as well, to show you that we are in this with you,” Paul Bazuzski said in a statement. Specifically, the couple’s gift and other donations will be used to purchase supplies such as masks, gloves and eye protection for healthcare workers and for medical equipment that will help seriously ill coronavirus patients.

It will also be used to hire additional healthcare workers if the county gets a surge of coronavirus patients or the pandemic goes on longer than expected.

Foundation head Kevin Causey said the nonprofit was hesitant to ask the public for donations “when so many are facing economic challenges. But then the community came to Montage Health, offering support,” he said.

Causey noted that the Bazuzskis made their contribution as the first coronavirus cases in Monterey County were identified. Others followed, asking what they could do to help healthcare workers who are “bravely serving our community on the front lines of this crisis.”

Robert Anthony Crivello
1926 – 2020

Robert Anthony Crivello, age 94, passed away peacefully of natural causes at his home in Carmel on Saturday, April 4th. A lifelong resident of the Monterey Peninsula, Bob was born here on April 27, 1926, the son of Nina V. and Jane T. Crivello.

Upon graduation from Monterey High School, Bob immediately enlisted in the United States Navy. He served on a Fletcher class destroyer, the USS Metcalf, in the South Pacific, where he saw extensive action at the peak of the conflict. When the war ended, Bob returned to Monterey and began a very long, colorful and fruitful sixty year career as a Real Estate broker.

It was shortly after his return to Monterey that he met the love of his life, Edna Ellen Boldeson. They were married in 1953 and had two sons, Anthony Alan and John Robert. They remained constant companions until Edna’s passing in 2012.

Bob was a very gregarious man who was fond of company and being sociable. He was always overtly friendly and thrived on the process of interacting with others in order to develop professional and social contacts. He was a natural networker who positively influenced countless lives over his career. His unbridled work ethic and an uncanny ability to craft a fair and equitable deal were keys to his successful career. He was always generous with his time and loved to mentor people in need of direction. Bob was a “beauty” and will truly be missed by many.

Bob was survived by his two sons, Anthony Alan who lives in Bermuda Dunes, Ca., and John Robert who lives in Myers Flat, Ca. He was preceded in death in 2016 by his younger brother John A. Crivello of Monterey. Bob was a loving son, wonderful husband and caring father.

Bob’s family would like give a special thanks to Dr. Michael A. Plaise of Carmel for helping make Bob’s last few days painless and dignified. We would also like to thank personal caregivers Lynn Botsch and Macrina Palafso as well as the VNA Hospice team for the great job they did in making Bob as comfortable as possible right to the end.

Due to the Covid-19 crisis there will be no formal service for Bob at this time. Bob’s urn was interred at the San Carlos Cemetery on April 14th. An “extremely large” celebration of life event is being planned for this summer; details will be announced at a later date. It is the family’s request, in lieu of flowers or gifts, that donations be made to the “Casa Pacheco Preservation Foundation” at 602 Abrego St., Monterey, Ca. 93940.

Condolences may be written to the family at www.bermudezfamilyfunerals.com

David L. Stainbrook
Oct. 21, 1937 - March 28, 2020

David Lynn Stainbrook, age 82, passed away peacefully on the evening of March 28th, 2020, in Carmel, California. He was surrounded by his three children.

David was born into a family of six boys on October 21st, 1937 in Meadville, Pennsylvania, to Stella and Neil. David attended Allegheny College where he played varsity basketball and received his Bachelor’s in History. He then joined the Army and served in Germany for four years. After leaving the Army, David went on to be a police officer in Tucson, Arizona. He then moved to the Monterey Peninsula where he became a claims adjuster and private investigator. There he met Marilyn Kay Alexander, the love of his life and wife of 42 years. The two had three beautiful children — Tamara, Stacie, and David II.

David was a religious man — an active member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel for 40 years, many of which were spent as a youth group leader. In addition, he was a beloved coach in the Carmel Valley Little League for over 30 years — Go, Tigers! Among other things David loved watching sports, routine weekly meetings with old friends, was an avid crossword puzzler, and attended all of his children’s and grandchildren’s events. He was a kind yet sarcastic man and had a fantastic sense of humor. His love for his family was the strongest of all — never ceasing to be a committed father and granddad. He was loving, intelligent, witty, funny, and extraordinarily handsome.

David is survived by his brother, Elmer Stainbrook, and sister-in-law Pat of Palm Coast; three children, Tamara Hardisty of Carmel Valley, Stacie Tarantino of India, and David Stainbrook II of Visalia; son-in-law Gerry Tarantino of India; daughter-in-law Hannah Stainbrook of Visalia; 11 grandchildren, Brianna Lackey, Shane Lackey, Colby Tarantino, Drake Hardisty, Troy Stainbrook, Miles Tarantino, Taylor Stainbrook, Tucker Stainbrook, Michael Stainbrook, Alexa Stainbrook, and Rebekah Stainbrook, as well as many nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

David was laid to rest at a private burial. A mass and celebration of life will be held for David at Our Lady of Mount Carmel at a future point in time. Special thanks to Bermudez Family Cremation and Funeral for their extraordinary compassion and invaluable guidance.
FAA gives more than $1B to California airports

Monterey gets nearly $12.7M

By MARY SCHLEY

TO HELP offset the impacts of the precipitous drop in air travel due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Federal Aviation Administration this week announced it would be distributing more than $1 billion in taxpayer funds to 188 airports throughout California — and Monterey Airport is set to receive $12,664,025.

Because they are smaller and don’t serve commercial aircraft, airports in Marina and Salinas will receive far lesser sums — $30,000 and $69,000, respectively.

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao announced the distribution of $1,088,980,831 as part of the S2 trillion CARES Act Tuesday, explaining the funds will “support continuing operations and replace lost revenue resulting from the sharp decline in passenger traffic and other airport business due to the COVID-19 public health emergency,” and can be used for capital expenditures, operating expenses like payroll and utilities, and debt payments.

**‘A lifetime’**

Mike La Pier, executive director of Monterey Airport, said the money is critical to continued operation of the airport, which relies on revenues generated by traffic and activities there, not local tax dollars.

“The funds are a bit of a lifetime for the airport,” he said. “Those revenues are being challenged as the result of the current economic and pandemic crisis, so it is great to know these funds are available to provide the backstop we will need until the economy recovers and people are comfortable flying again.”

The amount awarded to Monterey considerably exceeds FAA grants that would normally require a match from the airport, so that could help with capital projects at Monterey, too. Last year, the airport was granted more than $15 million in federal tax funds under the Airport Improvement Program and supplemental discretionary grants.

“Under normal circumstances, AIP grant recipients contribute a matching percentage of the project costs,” Chao said in the announcement. “Providing this additional funding and eliminating the local share will allow critical funding and eliminating the local share will allow critical services and projects to be started, and in some cases, completed.”

The CARES Act also provides money to fully fund FAA grants that would normally require a match from the airport, so that could help with capital projects at Monterey, too. Last year, the airport was granted more than $15 million in federal tax funds under the Airport Improvement Program and supplemental discretionary grants.

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There’s something missing around Montage Health as we mark Volunteer Week this year...

the volunteers

At our request, they’re staying home and staying safe.

We can’t wait to welcome them back — both humans and dogs — once the COVID-19 pandemic ends, and to thank them for all they do.

Thank you to our volunteers from:

- The Auxiliary
- Chaplain Services
- Hospice of the Central Coast
- Therapy Dog Program

MONTAGE Health
He isn’t the best javelin thrower, but he’s definitely one of them

A WEEK ago we shared 15 Seconds of Fame from Martin Beaulieu, a Quail Lodge resident who, during his own heyday, was a 6-foot-5 high school basketball star, and used those skills through the years to teach his growing sons a few lessons in humility. He regularly thrashed the whippersnappers in two-against-one games in the driveway.

Karma caught up a few years later, when Beaulieu’s oldest, Eric, grew to 6-foot-8, became captain of his college team, and returned to thrash his dad 10-8 in a one-on-one game... after spotting the old man an 8-0 lead.

This week’s 15 Seconds of Fame is shared by Pacific Grove octogenarian Chuck Wilkinson, a former college javelin standout who tried to recapture some of his glory years almost six decades later.

Wilkinson started throwing the javelin when he was a student at Covina High in the late 1950s, spent a couple of years at Mount San Antonio College in Walnut, then enrolled at University of Redlands, where, as a junior, he placed ninth out of 12 javelin throwers at the 1960 U.S. Olympic trials. (He was recovering from a pulled hamstring at the time.)

Picking it up at 79
That summer, a healthier Wilkinson subsequently competed in meets against the three javelin throwers who had made the U.S. Olympic team.

World record-holder Albert Cantello won one of those meets, but Wilkinson beat out the other two Team USA throwers to take second place. In the very next meet (with Cantello absent), he took first place, outthrowing the same two Olympians.

As a senior at Redlands 1961 (a non-Olympic year), Wilkinson was the nation’s No. 1-ranked thrower, but he had to forfeit the NCAA Division I crown, then took third place that summer at the U.S. Nationals.

Almost six decades later, as he approached his 80th birthday, Wilkinson picked up the javelin again at the urging of a friend.

How’d that work out? Read on.

Peninsula Eye Care

The distance of my practice throw did, in fact, rank me 15th in the world. What an upper!

But I quickly plunged into the downer mode: My deeper investigation revealed that only 14 other people my age on planet Earth were throwing the javelin. So it goes.

What’s your tale?
Did you fight the town bully in a Toughman competition in a smoky bar? Were you the runner-up in a pie-eating contest at your church picnic? Did you whip your big brother, the high school basketball star, in a game of H.O.R.S.E.?

In 600 words (give or take), tell us the story of your 15 Seconds of Fame. Name names if you want, exaggerate if you must, be descriptive (brownie points for local flavor), and provide us with a photo, vintage or otherwise, if you can. Send it to Dennis Taylor at scribelaureate@gmail.com.

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

P.G. resident Chuck Wilkinson, 83, was the NCAA Division I champion in the javelin throw in 1961, his senior year at Redlands University. Almost six decades later as a great grandfather, he decided to give the sport another try.

That summer, a healthier Wilkinson subsequently competed in meets against the three javelin throwers who had made the U.S. Olympic team.

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How’d that work out? Read on.
Airplane hangar gets new life, singer livestreams from Cypress Inn

While THE lights have dimmed on stages at local music venues during the coronavirus lockdown, there's one stage in an old airplane hangar that is helping to keep the beat alive until people can be in the same room again.

Located between Monterey Airport and Monterey Fairgrounds is Hangar Monterey, a production studio “striving to showcase the Central Coast’s incredible talent.”

“It literally is an airplane hangar,” said singer-songwriter Razzvio, who doubles as the marketing manager for the studio, which is owned by her husband, Kevin Proctor. “We needed a space to store live sound equipment. We lucked out and got the space. We saw the potential in it, not just for us, but for the rest of the music community.”

Razzvio said her husband identified the need for a private production studio like the one he has established. She called it “an incubator” of talent.

“There’s a gap here on the Monterey Peninsula for a quality sound stage to produce music videos or record music,” she told The Pine Cone.

Proctor leased the site in January and set to work building the studio. The space was insulated, and an assortment of high-tech equipment was installed. By March, the studio was ready for a video shoot with singer-songwriter Leche Malo.

Razzvio, meanwhile, is using the space to livestream performances and produce videos promoting her music. “I’m the Guinea pig right now,” she said.

Getting ‘visions off the ground’

Even after the stay-at-home order expires, Razzvio doesn’t believe the local music scene will return to normal right away. “I don’t anticipate us going right back into crowded night clubs and bars,” she suggested.

But the lack of live venues will mean that online concerts will continue to be a vital way for musicians to connect with their fans. The studio plans to offer more online music in the coming months. “We’re hoping to paper towels,” she said.

If you can get them, of course.

■ Emotional and pure

The completed video, which is complemented by an audio track of Steffany’s “Emotional and pure”, was a fundraiser for Carmel Presbyterian Church.

As a fundraiser for Carmel Presbyterian Church, Simon Bull woke up early last week and painted the sunrise from his deck. His daughter filmed the action, and a video of it accompanied a live-streamed Easter morning service.

![PHOTO/KEVIN PROCTOR](Image)

Singergoer Razzvio livestreams a performance from Hangar Monterey, a production studio recently opened by her husband, Kevin Proctor.

![PHOTO/KEVIN PROCTOR](Image)

Artist surprises church with painting

While watching an Easter morning service that was livestreamed last Sunday by Carmel Presbyterian Church, worshippers were treated to a little unexpected beauty and generosity — courtesy of local painter and gallery owner Simon Bull.

A few days earlier, Bull whose Meuse Gallery is located at Ocean and Monte Verde — woke up before sunrise and assembled his paints and brushes on the deck of his home at Carmel Point.

The sun’s rays were just beginning to creep over the horizon, and the thermometer had yet to hit 40 degrees. But the birds were chirping, perhaps encouraging the artist.

With his daughter filming the action on her iPhone, the artist poured tubes of thick acrylic paint onto a canvas, and then, using a roll of paper towels as a brush, he painted a stunning sunrise scene unfolding to the east.

“It’s a technique I invented and perfected over the years,” said Bull. “I’m the only one who does it. It’s a great way to paint — you can create tremendous effects with paper towels.”

See ART page 18A

![PHOTO/KEVIN PROCTOR](Image)

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When Paul and Johanna Wainscoat, owners of Pavel’s Bakkerie on Forest Avenue in Pacific Grove, had to cancel their March vacation to Seattle because of coronavirus, they opted to stay open and use the money they would have spent to help their community. “At first, we thought we could still go on the trip, but then it got really serious up there fast,” Paul Wainscoat said this week. “So we decided we should stay home and stay open.”

Using the refunds they got from their canceled trip, the couple first focused on helping to feed kids in the Pacific Grove Unified School District, which was waiting to receive funding for kids’ meals. “We did breakfast and lunch for two days,” and then after the district received its funds, they decided to keep preparing breakfasts while the school district took over lunches. “We took our vacation money and put it back into our food costs, and that’s how we’re able to continue on with feeding the students,” he said. As the virus and resulting shutdowns continued to disrupt daily life, the Wainscoats also learned many of their regular customers suddenly had no incomes. “We decided we should do something for them,” he said, and since the bakery’s seeded farmers bread is so popular, they began giving free loaves to people who’d lost their jobs.

“We’re in a fortunate situation where we have our house paid off, we don’t have bills, and we can do this for a few months,” he said. “That’s how we’re able to do it.” Wainscoat, whose dad was also a baker, said his parents taught him about doing “charity through food,” because everyone needs to eat, and when times are tough, they are needy, too. Customers are also answering the call.

“We continue to get a consistent stream of praise for the beer,” he added. “It was emotional, pure worship — it all works very well for our family. Because he and his family attend services at Carmel Presbyterian Church, he wanted to do something special for it. Pastor Tim Yue said he was “honored” to screen Bull’s Eye to the frontline healthcare workers at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. The Taste of Carmel gift box includes two 1.8-oz. jars of honey from Carmel Honey Company, 2 oz. olive oil and 2 oz. balsamic vinegar from Trio Carmel, and 4 oz. of Goi’s Caramels from Lula’s Chocolate, and costs $25, including shipping. Order at bit.ly/34bWMx3.

Fundraising for hospitality employees

Classic Hotels, which owns La Playa and Hotel Carmel, has started a fundraising effort to help its furloughed employees here and in its home state of Arizona. President and CEO John Grossman, whose parents founded the company, launched the effort at gofundme.com and secured a $50,000 match to help support the 80 percent of the company’s workforce who are now on unpaid leave.

“Many of these associates have been with our family-run business for decades,” he said. “They are heartbroken and doing everything we can to help, but it is not enough.”

And if you live locally and like beer, mixed six-packs of beer are available at Brophy’s Tavern at San Carlos and Fourth for $10 each, with the proceeds going to the employee relief fund. The beer deal is available with any purchase of food to go. Hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call (831) 586-5566 or visit brophystavern.com. To donate to the fund, go to gofundme.com/ClassicHotelsEmployeeRelief.

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Cocktail boxes to go

The bar might be closed, but Pearl Hour on Lighthouse Avenue in Monterey is selling Cocktail Boxes delivered to customers’ doors. Each box comes with cocktail recipes and all the necessary ingredients, of course.

Noel Wells Boys of a dozen vodka tonics or gin tonics sell for $30 and $35, respectively, while Classic Cocktail Boxes include Bee’s Knees ($75 for 12 cocktails), Cali Old Fashioned ($40 for 12), Boulevardier ($100 for 25) and a dry Negroni ($60 for 25). The bar’s half-dozen House Special Boxes run from $60 to $125.

For details and to order, text (831) 229-4132 or email people@pearlhour.com.

P.G. chamber helps restaurants

To support the 25 downtown Pacific Grove restaurants that remain open for takeout and to show appreciation for essential businesses, the P.G. Chamber of Commerce bought 50 gift certificates for $50 worth of dining and plans to distribute them to them to hardware stores, mechanics, CDVs, laundromats, hotels and inns, and physicians and other medical practitioners.

The certificates expire in two weeks to ensure people will use them now. Chamber president Moe Ammar said the goal is “to keep the restaurants open during this difficult time and thank the essential business owners for their continued support of the local community.”

Ammar said the chamber is buying and distributing the gift certificates because restaurants “are a major contributor to the city’s sales tax revenues,” and due to the shutdown, are relying almost entirely on locals for business. He plans to do it again in another two weeks.

Open on North Fremont

Several restaurants in the North Fremont area of Monterey also remain open for takeout and delivery during the coronavirus shutdown. For a list that includes operating hours and other useful information, go to northfremont-monterey.org.

The fine art of science

If you’ve ever been tempted to delve into the fine art of scientific illustration, here’s your chance. The latest in its online offerings, Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History will livestream a class by artist and illustrator Erin Hunter Saturday at noon. “We’ll learn how she got her start, what she’s up to now, and how she’s teaching her children the marvels of science illustrated,” reads a description of the event.

Besides making highly detailed color illustrations of flora and fauna, Hunter has also illustration a number of children’s books.

The event is limited to museum members. For more details, email brooker@gmgmuseum.org.

Soup to Nuts

By MARY SCHLEY

ceive funding for kids’ meals. “We did breakfast and lunch for two days,” and then after the district received its funds, they decided to keep preparing breakfasts while the school district took over lunches. “We took our vacation money and put it back into our food costs, and that’s how we’re able to continue on with feeding the students,” he said.

As the virus and resulting shutdowns continued to disrupt daily life, the Wainscoats also learned many of their regular customers suddenly had no incomes. “We decided we should do something for them,” he said, and since the bakery’s seeded farmers bread is so popular, they began giving free loaves to people who’d lost their jobs.

“We’re in a fortunate situation where we have our house paid off, we don’t have bills, and we can do this for a few months,” he said. “That’s how we’re able to do it.” Wainscoat, whose dad was also a baker, said his parents taught him about doing “charity through food,” because everyone needs to eat, and when times are tough, they are needy, too. Customers are also answering the call.

“We continue to get a consistent stream of praise for the beer,” he added. “It was emotional, pure worship — it all works very well for our family. Because he and his family attend services at Carmel Presbyterian Church, he wanted to do something special for it. Pastor Tim Yue said he was “honored” to screen Bull’s Eye to the frontline healthcare workers at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. The Taste of Carmel gift box includes two 1.8-oz. jars of honey from Carmel Honey Company, 2 oz. olive oil and 2 oz. balsamic vinegar from Trio Carmel, and 4 oz. of Goi’s Caramels from Lula’s Chocolate, and costs $25, including shipping. Order at bit.ly/34bWMx3.

Fundraising for hospitality employees

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get live-streams going on Thursdays and Sundays to show-
Tough questions

ONE WORD comes to mind when you take a look at the predictions presented to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors this week by health officer Edward Moreno about the severity of the coronavirus epidemic in this county over the next six weeks. That word is—“wrong.”

A different word comes to mind for the way the county supervisors reacted to Moreno’s predictions. “Clueless” is what the supervisors obviously were.

And when it comes to the tens of thousands of county residents who’ve lost their jobs and businesses as the virus has spread, the only thing you can think of is—“hapless.”

Way back when the effects of the coronavirus were first being felt, hair-on-fire predictions were being made by everybody, and you really couldn’t blame them. Back then, nobody understood how contagious the virus was, or how deadly, or who would be most at risk. The death toll in this country, we were told, might even be in the billions. But now we know that infections, hospitalizations and deaths are much lower than were projected—so much lower that barely six weeks into the epidemic in the United States, elected officials and health experts from Sacramento to Albany are talking confidently about the worst being behind us and being able to restart the economy in the not-too-distant future.

But not here. Perish the thought that our health officer would talk forthrightly about the threat to Monterey County residents and what can be done to protect their economy as well as their health, or that he would only make predictions firmly rooted in empirical data about the county’s experience so far and the factors that make this county different from other places. Instead, he uses scare tactics to make everybody think the worst is yet to come—and that it will be far worse than what we’ve seen so far.

For some reason, the supervisors seemed to buy Moreno’s predictions, even though they were ridiculous on their face. The health officer’s own data claimed there should be a total of about 9,000 people infected with the virus so far, a number which cannot even remotely be true. If it were, a lot more than the 108 cases his office says it’s confirmed would have come to the health department’s attention. But nobody among the supervisors seemed to notice this obvious discrepancy, much less question it.

Moreno’s charts and graphs also showed that about 300 people should be in the county’s hospitals with coronavirus right now. The actual total to date is just 22. So how will there be 900 at the beginning of June?

We understand that there are still serious risk factors. A senior community could suffer a major outbreak, or one of the state prisons could. A lot of seasonal farmworkers will be arriving in Monterey County over the next few weeks, and it’s certainly possible some of them will get the disease and spread it among family members and co-workers. But even if all of those things happen at once, Moreno’s predictions are wrong, because his starting point is wrong.

Nevertheless, our economy is at a standstill, and many people are experiencing the helplessness of not being able to pay their bills or care for their families. Even gardeners—one of the most socially distant professions imaginable—have been told they have to stop working.

Obviously, the shutdown order should not be continued one second longer than it has to be. And that means our political leaders need to start asking tough questions of the health “experts” about what justifies keeping it in place today, not to mention how long it needs to continue.

Dear Editor,

Don’t be fooled

Thank you for your frequent updates on the situation in Monterey County. I am concerned with a growing opinion on social media that Californians were exposed to coronavirus earlier in the fall/early winter. This belief relies on the low number of those infected and low death-rates in California compared with New England. This is extremely unlikely and it is not something you should gamble your health on.

If this were true, there would have been a great many mysterious cases of people in the ICU’s all over the region requiring ventilation. Many (most) would have been negative for all of our standard tests and it would have been all over the news. Medical professionals would have been on very high alert and they would be investigating these cases. There was a high prevalence of influenza A and B this last flu season, which people may be believing/assuming to be an untested case of COVID-19. It would be foolish to believe that because you had flu-like symptoms that you are immune to this new disease. This rumor is extremely unlikely to be true and is an unscientific excuse to get back to business as usual. It is also dangerous to spread any story that would reinforce people’s belief or influence them to think that they may be immune.

The reason why California is not reflecting what is happening in New England is because of our early institution of sheltering in place.

As a frontline healthcare worker at Natividad it is reassuring to me that our hospital has many empty beds at this point. We must continue to shelter in place in order to have the capacity to care for the rising numbers of people infected in our area.

Ryan Jung, RN, Natividad Medical Center

Apology on the way?

Dear Editor,

I don’t understand how Edward Moreno can estimate that 33,000 Monterey County residents will be affected by the coronavirus without telling us what model he used or how he came up with that number.

Also perplexing is that not one supervisor questioned him about it. And since his announcement, Moreno has not been forthcoming with any additional information to substantiate his claim.

Right now, we have 108 verified cases in the county, and we are probably on the backside of the pandemic. If we get to 310 cases when this ends, his estimate will have been off by 99 percent. If we get to 3,300 cases he will still be off by 90 percent! If his input carries a lot of weight when the shelter-in-place is lifted, we are in trouble, because he will probably want us free of the virus for six months before we can come out of hiding. If we get close to his estimate, I will be the first to offer an apology, but if his numbers are off by 90 percent or more, then Moreno owes an apology to the citizens of Monterey County for creating additional unwarranted stress during this unprecedented time.

Ronald Grubb, Salinas
The stuff of stoic endurance and fanciful stories grows here

While the Monterey cypress has been successfully planted in many parts of the world, it is believed to be indigenous to this area, with only two native stands: one along the coast at Point Lobos and the other between Cypress and Pescadero points in Pebble Beach.

For nearly two centuries, these stately trees and their uniquely twisted silhouettes have inspired poets and artists. In 1870, Robert Louis Stevenson wrote, “they might figure without change in a circle of the nether hell as Dante picture’d it.”

Despite its isolated native range, the Monterey cypress has become very popular with humans, who have planted it from Great Britain to New Zealand. The cypress also became a favorite in many parts of the Peninsula. In the late 1800s, Chinese families planted several near Stillwater Cove on land they leased for a fishing village.

The majestic trees reminded them of their homeland. Poet Robinson Jeffers and his students gathered by botanist Aylmer B. Lambert. Her research led her to Dr. Leodi Mazinian who, according to her master’s from Oxford and doctorate from Heidelberg, Germany. In 1915, he was Bishop of the Adi Da School on the same day her divorce became final.

“Statements about life”

Her nursing career also had an unscripted beginning. Nichols was just 28 when her marriage ended in 1970. With two young daughters to feed, she enrolled in nursing school on the same day her divorce became final.

A trail ends, a new career begins

For Nichols, creating art also was a career that helped with her grieving process. She had been desperately in love with the career that had ended so abruptly.

“There was a lot of crying every day, and, for me, it was one of those be-careful-what-you-wish-for lessons,” she said. “I can remember being a 35-year-old nurse, telling people I wanted to retire at 55. And when I was 55, I really wanted to work into my late 70s. Then came the accident and I didn’t have a choice anymore.”

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The county has only 678 licensed hospital beds to care for patients, which means the hospitals would soon be overrun with sick people, according to Moreno. Local hospitals are treating very few coronavirus patients, however.

Confusing model

Moreno's predictions — which he said relied on a COVID-19 model developed by the University of Pennsylvania — were based on Monterey County's population, demographic, level of compliance with social distancing measures and other factors, he said.

Using the best-case scenario, Moreno also told supervisors that toward the end of May, the county would need about 235 licensed empty care hospital beds, even though the county only has 33. And while the county's four hospitals have a total of 158 ventilators, there would be a need for about 210 of the expensive machines.

Moreno did not respond to numerous questions from The Pine Cone about why his predictions depart so widely from current data.

But he acknowledged that the model he used to make forecasts for Monterey was intended for large cities.

"The models were developed for areas with large populations with a high burden of disease," he said, "when applied to smaller areas like Monterey County, the information might not be as reliable." Later during the presentation, Moreno said the models have to be "utilized and interpreted carefully" and may "oversimplify the scale," but do "reflect local effects of social distancing." Supervisors who did not seem surprised by Moreno's presentation and did not question the validity of the figures.

Moreno reiterated that social distancing is "really important," and has said that's the reason for the low number of cases here. He also said that if there had been no mitigation to stave off COVID-19 in the county, "the number of cases would double every two days, which is exactly what we saw when we first started having cases here in Monterey County." However, it is not what the county is experiencing now.

Meanwhile, in the event the county's four hospitals are overrun with coronavirus patients, hospital and county officials said they'll be prepared.

The county has lined up an "alternate care site" at the Marina arena in the form of a 55,000-square-foot tent that could treat from 250 to 300 people with the virus. Joby Aviation agreed to provide the tent, which a spokesman said would take a few weeks to build.

Office of Emergency Services Manager Gerry Malais said the county has also identified "alternate home sites" at the Monterey County Fairgrounds and Sun Lorenzo Park in King City that will be used for people who are infected with the virus but don't need hospitalization, or are suspected of being infected.

They will live in trailers on those properties provided by the state.

Malais, who also said his office is looking at booking hotels to house people, if necessary, declined to say how many tax payers are footing for the alternate sites, since the agreements are not yet final.

The health department has contacted about 550 people who were likely exposed to the patients who tested positive for the virus, and have been "ordered" to home-quarantine.

Not 'business as usual'

Moreno said he recognized the impact social distancing has on social, emotional and economic aspects of life in Monterey County, and he touched on the possibility of easing some of the harsh restrictions in his shelter-in-place order.

"Because of how long this epidemic could possibly last, many of us in public health believe it's not feasible to continue this level of restriction throughout the county, " he said. "So we are starting to have discussions on how we might start to reduce some of the restrictions in California." Moreno did not indicate what an easing of his shelter-in-place order might look like, but said when shops and restaurants reopen, it would not be "business as usual."

"It will be a few more activities, a few more services that are allowed, but you'll still have to maintain social distancing; otherwise, the surge we're trying to avoid would happen anyway, and we don't want to get into that situation," he explained.

CAMPERS

from page 1A

BOLD THREAT

President of the Big Sur Community Association, Kroll said he caught some of the dispersed camping gasoline from his yard. He said the incident reminded him of theft that occurred during the Soberanes Fire.

"I caught a guy walking up my driveway with a 5-gallon can of my fuel, stolen from behind a screen protecting my generator," he said. "I had to ignore my no-trespassing sign and figure out how to get around a locked gate to do so. This is the kind of behavior I witnessed during the last big fire. It is unnerving and the last thing any of us need now. Once I straightened him out, he admitted he had been car camping up on Plaskett Ridge." Road becomes campground

Resident Brendon Shave, meanwhile, has drawn attention to the problem by posting images of the campers online. He told The Pine Cone he counted 30 cars parked along Plaskett Ridge Road one morning. Some had campfires.

Locals have long complained about dispersed camping, which means campers are using public land outside of a designated campground. The practice has previously been blamed for starting fires here and elsewhere, and many would like to see it banned in fire-prone areas like Big Sur.

While late rains have possibly delayed this year's fire season, by this time next month, that won't likely be the case. Uncontrollable camping in Big Sur has also led to complaints about unsanitary disposal of human waste and litter.

Also backing the temporary closures were Congressman Jimmy Panetta, top Los Padres National Forest official Kevin Elliott and Monterey County Supervisor Mary Adams, who represents the district. The Big Sur Community Foundation also endorsed the closures.

SHUT FROM PAGE 1A

Volunteer Beach Patrol guards around their necks and carrying a 6-foot-long stick between them to illustrate what the government has determined is a "safe distance," week in and week out. He urged them to take action.

"We need to take control of our town here and close the beach and send people back home again," he said. "It is unnerving and the last thing any of us want. ”
ruses of misinformation until it becomes a pandemic of its own, he said.

A hazardous environment rife with false information can make a crisis more difficult to control, said Fenton, who tries to keep the dangers of his profession in proper perspective.

“My personal opinion is that our job as first responders isn’t any more dangerous than it’s ever been. There are always opportunities for us to expose ourselves to danger, whether it’s going into a burning building or working in the middle of a highway at a vehicle accident,” he said.

“The threat of communicable diseases also is nothing new,” Fenton added. “We’re aware of the dangers that people in other jobs aren’t exposed to on a regular basis.”

Minimizing risk

The current pandemic, though, has accentuated the need for safety, he said. Standard personal protective equipment (PPE) includes face masks, face shields, goggles, gloves, and a mask, plus either a gown or coveralls.

Dispatchers now routinely ask pertinent questions on incoming calls about possible COVID-19 symptoms, then share the information with first responders, enabling them to take additional safety measures, if appropriate.

Protocol requires firefighters to check their temperature twice daily to help monitor any possible health concerns. When they return from a call they typically disinfected their boots, scrub their hands, and change into clean clothes to avoid contamination. They clean their living quarters frequently.

“We do take precautions and follow procedures, but this is an invisible threat, we’re learning more every day about viral spreading, things that can happen before you present any symptoms, things that can still happen after those symptoms have gone away,” he said.

“I really don’t feel like there’s any way to completely eliminate the risk, but hopefully, with the procedures we have in place, we minimize any risk of exposure to our families and each other.”

At this point, Fenton says no first responders in Monterey County are known to have contracted the coronavirus. Five Hollister firefighters who treated a COVID-19 patient were quarantined for 14 days in March (none subsequently tested positive for the virus), and 13 San Jose firefighters and eight in Long Beach have tested positive. Approximately 20 percent of officers of the New York City Police Department are on sick leave.

“I don’t know if it’s because we’re doing a better job, if our shelter-in-place measures are working here, or if we’re just waiting for the wave to hit us,” said Fenton, a Carmel High graduate (class of ’82) who was 23 when he joined the Carmel Valley Fire Department as a volunteer fire captain in 1987.

After 18 years as a volunteer, he was hired in 2005 by Carmel Valley Fire, which consolidated in 2011 with Monterey County Regional Fire. He is based at the department’s Carmel Valley Village station.

Dennis Taylor is a freelance writer in Monterey County.

Contact him at scribelaureate@gmail.com.

SENIORS

From page 9A

out to eat.

“i don’t like cooking seven days a week,” said Conolly. “I thought I was done with that,” Whitney said that Irene, “the beautiful woman” she’s been married to for 40 years, is a great cook. He’s in charge of the grill and made a leg of lamb for Easter that came out well.

And they should be thankful that seems to be occupy- ing people’s time nowadays. He and his wife Skyped with their kids and grandkids, who live in Pacific Grove. In fact, Connolly said that she’s been hearing from many people who have learned to use Zoom, the online meeting app.

“They say they’re spending more time with family than they had before,” she observed.

Connolly, Whitney and Cox laughed at the way the tables have turned — they used to fight over their kids’ safety, and now they are telling the children they are calling on the carpeting respectfully. “They’re making sure we don’t do anything they don’t approve of. They tell us, ‘Don’t you dare’ do this or that — in a nice way,” Connolly said.

No bowling zone

Regardless of that admonishment, they’re still shopping for necessities — mostly during early morning hours some retailers have designated for seniors.

“We take turns going to the grocery and CVS,” Conolly said. In addition to comparison-shopping for green beans and organic chicken breasts, they measure store’s appeal in how well they protect patrons.

“At Trader Joe’s, they only let in 30 people at a time and they sanitize each cart you,” said Connolly appreciatively. Sometimes, spouses dictate additional precautions.

“We go to the store, but my wife won’t let me go in,” said Whitney, who will go on the car.

Another thing Whitney is waiting for is a dentist’s ap- pointment. He’s got a bum tooth that needs to be pulled, but as with so many things people once would have labeled necessary, prudence dictates postponement.

Many residents also eagerly await the day when they can return to lawn bowling. Whitney said about 45 people turn out three days a week for the sport, and Cox added that there are national champions among the residents.

While it seems like that sport should lend itself to social distancing, Connolly said, “We get a little chummy, so it doesn’t.”

People in general are structuring their days as best they can. “We get up and get dressed every day,” said Whitney, and Connolly agreed.

They now look forward to nighttime binge-watching. At the Connolly’s, that means the political thriller, “Des- ignated Survivor.” For Whitney, it’s “Inspector Morse,” a late-80s detective series from Great Britain.

Cox was concerned about long-term effects on the community. “Isolation affects mood, health and outlook on life. After a month, it can start to affect some people physically. When will it end?”

Whitney, Connolly and their neighbors also take that threat seriously, staying in touch with each other and calling those who don’t get out and socialize as much. But they feel like they’re all going to get through it. Together.

PROTECT

From page 5A

You can also follow the example of healthcare workers on the front lines — get enough sleep, and make some time to take care of yourself, away from the onslaught of 24/7 news cycles.

Mirtland is energetic as ever and attributes part of that to regular, uninterrupted sleep, along with short rests when needed throughout the day.

Finally, Blum wanted to remind people that “The No. 1 best advice for how to prevent getting exposed and to stay healthy is to follow social-distancing recommendations. We perform excellent hand hygiene, stay home when ill, fre- quently disinfect high-touch surfaces, and so on.”

It’s the same thing doctors have been trying to get folks to do every flu season, albeit quite not to this extent. May- be this time, it’ll sink in.

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PACIFIC GROVE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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CARMEL GIVES

CARMELGIVES.ORG is a nonprofit tasked with supporting the local community. We like to think creatively to help from a financial and personal perspective. To this end, we have partnered with the nonprofit Community Foundation for Monterey County.

These are unprecedented times, many local families, businesses, and people are in need of financial and personal support. We are here to help and by pulling together as a community we will come out of this even stronger.

If the Monterey Peninsula and its people are a part of your life then please consider working with us to help.

We feel a grassroots, three-pronged approach is the best way to move forward:

1. Support your local businesses and help keep commerce moving which benefits the entire community
   a. Buy gift certificates at your favorite stores and restaurants
   b. Order take out or delivery food (make sure to tip your delivery person)
   c. Shop locally

2. Give your time and expertise to help others in need
   a. Reach out to the elderly in the community who may need help and a connection
   b. Offer services to others and businesses who could benefit from your experience and connections

3. Donate to make a difference

We have partnered with Community Foundation for Monterey County to raise funds and will be making an initial contribution to the Carmel Gives fund and match up to $50,000 in donations from our friends, colleagues, clients and family to raise funds for local charities.

We also pledge to give 5% of our real estate fees from all transactions for the balance of 2020 to the Carmel Gives Fund to support local causes.

Please consider lending your support for this worthy cause. The time to act is now. It is our goal to make an immediate impact, so please join us in donating to the community foundation. It’s easy, just visit CarmelGives.org to make your tax-deductible donation. Anything will help.

Please feel free to reach out to us at Team@TimAllenProperties.com if you have an organization, personal need, or any ideas of how we can work together to help the community.

Sincerely,

Tim Allen and Team

TIM ALLEN
PROPERTIES