Nantz comes home to cover one-of-a-kind Pro-Am

By MARY SCHHEY

FRESH OFF a whole lot of sportscasting firsts — first live broadcast of a major event after the start of the pandemic, first NFL games without fans, first Super Bowl with a home-field advantage — longtime CBS sportscaster Jim Nantz returned home to Pebble Beach this week to cover another first: the AT&T Pro-Am being played without amateurs and celebrities, as well as without fans.

Grateful for the chance to spend the week at home with his family instead of quarantined in hotels as he’s been for the past several months, Nantz said Tuesday he’s delighted to be able “to walk to work every day” during the AT&T, which started with practice rounds and culminates with a final round Sunday following three days of tournament play.

Blue skies ahead

While he doesn’t work for the Golf Channel, which covers the AT&T during the week, Nantz was asked to announce Wednesday’s Charity Challenge by Steve John, chairman of the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, which hosts the tournament.

“We’re going to have a five-hole match, and I think it’s a great idea, since there are no amateurs and celebrities this year,” he said. “This is the 75th anniversary of it being in Pebble Beach, and there had to be some sort of connection with the spirit and the lifestyle of such an important tournament.”

On Saturday, Nantz will step into the CBS booth with his crew to begin coverage of the final two days of the tournament, which will be treated more like a standard pro event, without the usual camera shots of celebrities and their antics seamlessly meshed with footage of some of the world’s best players vying for part of the $7.5 million purse.

And, as some of the country is hunkered down in brutally cold weather, he said, “you can bet there are going to be some spectacular camera angles for a lot of America to enjoy.”

“As many times as you can put a blimp in the sky and look down on the Monterey Peninsula, there’s a lot of value in that for the viewer experiencing through that broadcast,” he said. “They can watch and hopefully be entertained and there’s no one around, do they still make a sound?”

Musk begins testing satellite internet in Big Sur

By CHRIS COUNTS

BIG SUR has long had loopy internet and cell service, but that could change, thanks to Elon Musk’s low-orbit satellite-based internet service, Starlink.

“Starlink will begin offering service in your area beginning mid-to-late 2021,” reads a recent email from the company to local residents. According to Butch Kroland of the Monterey Community Association of Big Sur, the impending arrival of service has many curious about it. “Yesterday, this opportunity went live, and several AT&T Pro-Am locals have already signed up,” he said.

Rural and connected

Internet service is notoriously bad in Big Sur — especially along the South Coast and in remote canyons. But Kroland said he’s hopeful the new system may make it better — and wide enough bandwidth so people can stream movies, play online games or use the internet for phone calls.

“There are many places in Big Sur where nobody can get a signal, and there are other places where service is poor,” Kro- land said.

Starlink said “rural and remote communities — where connectivity has been a challenge — are ‘ideally suited’ for the service.”

The company is offering pre-orders of its service for $99 a month, plus $499 for a router and other equipment.

To make Starlink possible, Musk is assembling a constellation of small satellites that will work in tandem with ground re-ceiver/transmitters to provide internet connections. Each satellite weighs about 500 pounds and has its own solar array. More than 1,000 satellites have been launched so far, and the company hopes to have 4,000 in orbit by 2024, with long-range plans to increase that number to tens of thousands. The satellites will be in orbits just 350 miles high and, unlike traditional communi-

Moreno, vaccine rollout debated during ‘State of City’

■ Adams: Hard to keep up with constituent calls

W HILE THE Carmel Chamber of Commerce’s State of the City presentations Friday have intended to focus on city issues, it was Monterey County 5th District Supervisor Mary Adams’ comments that had some viewers spitting out their coffee.

In her presentation, Adams mentioned some issues facing the county, such as $600 million in deferred maintenance on county roads and the search for ways to pay for it, and complaints about traffic and illegal parking on Scenic Road around Carmel Point, but it was her defense of Monterey County Health Officer Dr. Ed Moreno and her own efforts during the past year that got people talking.

“Although you can call our office or you can email us or text us, so we can serve as a liaison to get you the answers that you want,” she said.

As for Moreno, who is often under fire for his poor communication skills, failure to crack down on the county’s hot spots and dysfunctional vaccine rollout, she said, “I hear so many people say Dr. Moreno is not the great communicator. Dr. Moreno is the most shy person I have ever met, and this is agony for him to have to speak publicly. He also is very conscious of giving precise and correct answers.”

Unmentioned during the call was the fact that Moreno took constituent calls and requires him to be able to “prepare clean and concise written and oral reports,” and “speak effectively before legislative bodies,” and “speak effectively before local community groups.”

Bad names

MacMurdo urged Adams to “get back to your constituents, and get back to them in a timely manner so that they fear less,” and the supervi- sor replied that she receives more than 200 emails a day, “and it’s very hard to keep up.” She also said her assis- tant is forced to listen to complaints, “ugliness,” and “vitrification,” “so it’s tough to pick up the phone to someone who has just read the riot act and called you bad names and said, ‘How can I help you?’”

And she said it’s “difficult” when “people are asking questions they already know the answer to, and all they want to do is complain.”

Jessica Faddis, executive director of the Carmel Youth Center, asked why nonprofits are barred from applying for the second round of county-ad- ministered coronavirus relief grants. Adams said she must be mistaken and that nonprofits were eligible, but Adams was incorrect. The applica- tion window for the new round of $25,000 grants opened Feb. 8, and nonprofits are listed as “ineligible” on the Monterey County Workforce De- velopment Board website.

See DEBATED page 31A

STARLINK

Once it has thousands of mini satellites in low-earth orbit, Starlink says it’ll be able to offer high-speed internet almost anywhere.

March 1, 2021

MUSK BEGINS TESTING SATELLITE INTERNET IN BIG SUR

By MARY SCHHEY

Nantz comes home to cover one-of-a-kind Pro-Am

Clockwise from left: CBS Sports broadcaster Jim Nantz, just days after calling the Super Bowl in Tampa, Fla, was the announcer for an “Every Shot Counts” charity event on Wednesday, with celebrities like Kathryn Newton (“Big Little Lies”), Larry Fitzgerald and Bill Murray. And during Thursday’s opening round of the scouts, AT&T Pro-Am, an official tries to answer the question, “If you signal for quiet, you can email us or text us, so we can serve as a liaison to get you the answers that you want,” she said.

As for Moreno, who is often under fire for his poor communication skills, failure to crack down on the county’s hot spots and dysfunctional vaccine
Sandy Claws

By Lisa Crawford Watson

Best of breeds

Born in Makawao and raised on the warm, white-sand beaches of Maui, Honi grew up husking coconuts, romping in the sea and, on occasion, riding on the tip of her person’s surfboard.

When he first moved to Maui, Honi’s person wasn’t planning to get a dog. But his roommate became homesick and he decided she might do better with a puppy to play with. And then he saw a week-old ad about some new puppies on Craigslist. Fearing he’d be too late to get one, he called the breeder, who promised him his pick.

“Among the puppies, some were trying to climb out of the pen to get to me,” he said, “and others wanted nothing to do with me. But one, the runt of the litter, was sitting there, staring into my eyes. I knew I’d found Honi.”

He named her Honi, which means “kisses” in Hawaiian, because she loves to slobber her love on his face.

Now 11, the Labrador retriever/Shar Pei/pit bull/boxer mix lives with her person and his young family in Sacramento. But when he comes to Carmel for a consulting gig, Honi gets to go to the beach.

“In Hawaii, I’d plop down on a blanket, toss her a coconut, and Honi would play with it for hours,” her person said. “On the mainland, I toss out a rock, which she rolls around, kicks, and drags in from the surf, totally entertained.”

If another dog comes by with a ball, Honi’s not interested in the dog or his ball.

“Honi’s a great dog and has been with me through a lot of important life stuff,” her person said. “If I ever won the lottery, I’d try to create a breed of dog just like Honi. I already feel like I won.”
Man faces murder charge after crash that killed C.V. man’s daughter

By KELLY NIX

A GREENFIELD man charged with murder and DUI for a wrong-way crash that killed a 23-year-old woman in South Monterey County last week has convictions for drunk driving and hit-and-run, and two years ago was charged with spousal battery and child cruelty, court records show.

The California Highway Patrol said that Baltazar Olivera Donato, 27, was traveling northbound on Highway 101 in San Ardo about 7:15 p.m. on Feb. 2 when he crossed the median into the southbound lanes and struck a car driven by Sabrina Lecce, 23, killing her. Her boyfriend, Grisey Castro, was in the passenger seat and had minor injuries.

Donato was hospitalized for moderate injuries before he was booked into Monterey County Jail last weekend. Because he was previously convicted of drunk driving — and presumably knew the dangers of doing so — prosecutors charged him with murder.

He “did unlawfully, and with malice aforethought murder Sabrina Theresa Lecce, a human being,” according to a Monterey County District Attorney’s Office criminal complaint filed by prosecutor Lindsey Keely O’Shea.

Donato was also charged with gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, drunken driving causing injury, driving on a suspended license and several enhancements.

Donato “did unlawfully drive a motor vehicle upon a highway at a time when his/her driving privilege was suspended and revoked for driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage and a drug when he/she had had knowledge of said suspension and revocation,” the complaint says.

“A pure heart”

Lecce’s father, Paul Lecce of Carmel Valley, said his daughter had a magnetic personality and loved animals. She also had an uncanny way with dogs and other furry critters, and they often gravitated toward her.

Everybody loved Sabrina,” Lecce told The Pine Cone, adding that she worked at a daycare center several years ago. “She had a pure heart and was so kind to everyone. She was just a gen-

Former Carmel Valley resident Sabrina Lecce, 23, was killed Feb. 2 by a drunk driver who was going the wrong way on Highway 101 and slammed head-on into the car she was driving, the CHP said.

See DUI page 2A

PEBBLE BEACH DREAM WITH OCEAN VIEWS

Sited on a nearly ½ acre ocean view corner lot overlooking the sixth hole and seventh tee of the PB Golf Links, Carmel Beach, and the Santa Lucia mountains, this 3 Bedroom/2.5 bath home features multiple indoor/outdoor living spaces to entertain friends and family and enjoy the idyllic weather of the Monterey Peninsula. Located just a short stroll to the Lodge, you can enjoy all the amenities of the resort lifestyle from the comforts of your own home. Perfect for a primary residence or second home, this Pebble Beach dream is ready for its loving new owners.

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For more of Tim’s listings, view the back cover of the Real Estate section

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Please say they cleaned the earbuds.
Science Over Stigma: How You Can Make A Change

The Epidemic in Our Backyard

Many of us knew Ginger as the young blonde woman who excessively walked around Carmel and Pebble Beach. Her short blonde hair, emaciated frame, and determination to move constantly disguised the Ginger who once was. In reality, Ginger Doyel was so much more: a valedictorian, an accomplished artist, an author, a lady from a different era. What many of us did not know was that she had been experiencing an eating disorder since 18 years old. In December of 2018, she passed away at 39 years old. Today, the number of our young people suffering with adverse mental health conditions -- suicide ideation, addiction, depression, and/or crippling anxiety -- is at critical levels, and that was prior to COVID-19 sky-rocketing conversations surrounding mental health into the zeitgeist, allowing more folks to be open about their mental health.

COVID-19 shined a light on what already was a global pandemic - youth struggling with their mental health. As terms like “self care” are seemingly ubiquitous across our feeds today, it seems that one light of the pandemic has been the collective acceptance for"Eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness," states Janice Bremis, Executive Director of the Eating Disorders Resource Center (EDRC) in San Jose, California. “Yet dollars allocated to research do not reflect the incidence of this life-threatening physical and mental illness.”

Science And Stigma - AIM is Leading the Way

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that, during this pandemic, younger adults (18-24 years old) reported having experienced disproportionately worse mental health outcomes, increased substance use, and elevated suicidal ideation.

“The solution? The CDC recommends increasing intervention and prevention efforts to address mental health conditions. To meet this crisis head-on, AIM Youth Mental Health is working to fund research to find the solutions.

Just like we need the science to find vaccines for COVID-19, we need the science to find better treatments for mental illness. While talking about mental health is important, it is not enough. We need to find the answers, and to find the answers, we have to fund the science -- the research -- that is so desperately needed right now.

This is how AIM is leading the way. While many mental health organizations focus on de-stigmatization efforts, once we move past the stigma and get folks in the door to treatment, the innovation ends abruptly. This is why AIM is committed to funding the research - so that the positive changes don’t end at eradicating stigma but that we continue to improve upon our means and methods to make treatment as effective as possible.

AIM Beyond COVID Youth Mental Health Research Fund

In 2020, AIM established the AIM Beyond COVID Youth Mental Health Research Fund, supporting studies to take treatments virtual to provide help to more families. Like Ginger, many young people are resistant to physically going to a facility or doctor’s office for treatment. But by going virtual, more children are accepting help. Virtual treatments are the new normal. According to AIM Scientific Advisory Board member, Dr. Barbara Cornblatt, who works with severely mentally ill youth, in one study she saw a 0% dropout in the virtual intervention funded by AIM.

AIM is funding a collaborative eating disorders study, the AIM Ginger Doyel Honorary Grant, led by two of the foremost authorities in the field, Dr. Walter Kaye at University of California San Diego and Dr. Jim Lock at Stanford.

"COVID has made it much more difficult for those with eating disorders to find treatment," says Dr. Kaye. "The intent of this study is to extend our evidence-based treatments using telemedicine to young people in their homes. AIM is making this possible.”

Dr. Lock, head of the Eating Disorder Program Stanford Children’s Health, reflects: “With the pandemic, we have seen a spike in eating disorders in youth and the gap between availability of therapeutic resources and need which was already large has become a chasm. For example, our own referral list for initial evaluation has increased from a 2 month wait time a year ago to over 9 months now. This study funded by AIM will allow us to address this growing need through developing online self-help strategies for parents who need help while they are waiting for care.”

Investments in youth mental health research sadly remain few and far between. There is an urgent need for a coalition of philanthropists and leaders from the public and private sectors to join forces to move the needle in changing the trajectory of the youth mental health field. AIM is committed to being a driving force in paving the way for this to happen by scaling youth mental health research initiatives.

With AIM, Researchers Can Expand Treatments - But AIM Needs Your Help

“I founded AIM when I discovered how little money was going into mental health research. It is shocking given the number of people suffering from mental illness. You would think that it would be a priority at top medical centers, but, in reality, it’s the opposite. Clinical science research -- the research that can be translated into better treatments to actually help and save young people’s lives today -- is grossly underfunded.” AIM Founder Susan Stilwell

While de-stigmatization efforts are vastly important for getting folks’ foot in the door to treatment, we need to simultaneously be developing research to keep those treatments relevant and effective.

If you would like to support AIM, please visit AIMymh.org. Or call 831-372-1600.
Suspected thieves, counterfeitors arrested downtown in separate incidents

By MARY SCHLEY

A HUSBAND and wife were arrested Jan. 30 for counterfeiting and various other crimes after an officer noticed their odd driving, and two men were taken into custody Jan. 31 after one of them stole three purses from Coach and ran away, according to Carmel Police Sgt. Jeff Watkins.

Last Saturday, “my officer was on patrol and noticed a person driving in the downtown area who was stopping, getting out, looking at business windows, getting back in—kind of like he was casing,” he said.

Noticing the car was missing a front license plate and had expired registration, the officer pulled the driver over at Mission and Seventh and discovered 51-year-old Monterey resident Stanley Mendez was driving on an expired driver’s license and was wanted for theft and shoplifting.

The passenger, wife Jeannie Mendez, 50, also had outstanding warrants for shoplifting and theft.

During a search of their vehicle, the officer found counterfeit money, as well as tools burglars use for stealing vehicles, and metallic foil tape, which can be used to disable the door sensors that beep when someone walks into a store. Stanley Mendez also had a fake $50 bill in his pocket.

The couple’s car contained several items that appeared to have been stolen, including a woman’s bag with the security device still attached, a Roomba vacuum cleaner and a set of knives, according to Watkins.

Police arrested both on multiple charges, including possession of stolen property, forgery, and their outstanding warrants. The woman was taken to Monterey County Jail, where she was later released on bail. The male, meanwhile, claimed to have a medical issue, so police cited him for the crimes and took him to CHOMP, but he fled as soon as the officer left. “We dropped him off” with a citation, Watkins said, “and he absconded.”

Hiding under a porch

The next day, an employee at the Coach store at San Carlos and Ocean observed a man walk into the shop, take three purses and leave without paying. The employee called police after following the man and seeing him get into a van with another person, according to Watkins.

Police stopped the van, at which point the passenger tossed the purses out and took off running, he said.

But the driver stayed put. He didn’t have a license and didn’t speak any English, so officers got a translator to help and then searched the van, finding bolt cutters, a window punch and several other burglary tools, as well as a Safeway basket full of items that had been stolen from the supermarket at the Crossroads, and several packages taken from homes in the Watsonville area.

Police arrested the driver, 28-year-old Salinas resident William Estrada, and went back to searching for the passenger after losing him outside the city limits.

See ARRESTS page 29A.
Meet the newest member of The Heinrich Team: Morgan Goldschmidt!

Big Sur Skies | $8,500,000
This Luxurious Modern Masterpiece on Big Sur’s Pfeiffer Ridge is ready to be moved into now. Designed by Carver and Schicketanz architects with exquisite landscape design by Bernard Trainor, the property was completed in 2014, yet feels brand new. Nothing was spared in the building of this nearly 5000 Sq Ft residence, which sits on over five acres with views of the Pacific, the Santa Lucia Mountain Range, the Big Sur River Gorge, and the property’s own redwoods. Floor to ceiling windows and massive glass sliders line the radiant heated stone floors, with auto-shades and AC when needed.

335 El Caminito Road, Carmel Valley | $2,595,000
Walking through the front door and being greeted with magnificent views of the oak covered mountains across Carmel Valley never gets old. The plentiful and large windows not only create a beautiful sense of space and light but also exposes the many views this house has to offer. We love the open feel of the living area that naturally flows out to the south-facing patio that is so welcoming for entertaining large groups or simply enjoying a glass of wine on a warm evening. This is some very dreamy Big Sur living, and then some.

Ben Heinrich, 831-915-7415

Golden Oaks Condominium | $430,000
Beautiful condominium above parking garage being sold fully furnished with sunny views over a large deck. Located near Del Monte Shopping Center and downtown Monterey. If you enjoy shopping at Macy’s or Whole Foods this unit is perfect for you. The unit has been well maintained and is ready to be enjoyed. Amenities include a Community Pool and there is also Jack Pack’s Park close by. An affordable getaway on the Monterey Peninsula.


For more info visit: www.bit.ly/bigskieranch

Happy Valentine’s Day, Sunday, February 14th!

48136 Highway 1, Big Sur | $2,995,000
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For more information on any of these properties visit: www.MontereyPeninsulaLifestyleHomes.com
Thanks to real estate boom, city getting more tax dollars than expected

By MARY SCHLEY

GANGBUSTER REAL estate sales driven by fleeing urbanites have pumped hundreds of thousands of unanticipated tax dollars into the city’s 2020-2021 budget, and better-than-expected hotel business has helped, too. Budgets and contracts director Sharon Friedrichsen told the city council last Tuesday during her report on the first six months of the fiscal year.

But other revenue sources, like fees for city services, are coming in lower than expected, and given the tumult caused by ever-changing coronavirus-related shutdowns would be, so the budget was conservative, anticipating $19.7 million in spending and $18.5 in revenues, with the balance covered by previous years’ surpluses.

“It’s important to think about our budget framework and what the assumptions were in the spring and June of 2020 when the budget was adopted,” Friedrichsen reminded the council.

The biggest surprise was the robust real estate market driven by people leaving cities for work-from-home situations in more beautiful surroundings like Carmel. While the adopted budget forecast property taxes of $6,622,304 — the single largest revenue source, given declines in sales and hotel taxes — actual numbers are trending toward a year-end total of $7,419,963, according to Friedrichsen, with $4,205,363 received so far.

“Based on December 2020 receipts from the County of Monterey, there will be $600,000 more in property tax revenues than budgeted,” she said.

“If we had a crystal ball that worked well, we would have seen that people in more urbanized areas all of a sudden could work remotely and decided to move to the Monterey Peninsula,” where they have bought up most of the available inventory, Rerig said.

That’s a lot

Property sales on the Peninsula peaked the week of Sept. 27-Oct. 3, 2020, with 76 properties changing hands for a total of $139,065,500, according to records searched by The Pine Cone. The property tax rate is 1 percent, and the city receives 6 percent of that, according to Rerig, who noted that the former home of Barney and Elinor Laiolo on San Antonio Avenue that had been assessed in the $250,000 range, saw a tax rate increase from $2,500 per year to $80,000 annually.

Also coming in higher than expected are hotel taxes, as travelers sought the city’s fresh air and scenery when the first shutdown eased in late May and many hotels that had been closed reopened. The trend continued, despite the cancellation of numerous summer events — most notably Car Week — and six months into the fiscal year, the city had received just over $2 million of the estimated annual total of $2,488,198, so Friedrichsen revised the estimate upward to $3,480,409.

Sales tax is trending as expected, headlining for a total of $4,936,796 this fiscal year, but revenues from what the city charges for permits and other “services” are down, most notably in the building department, which is now estimated nearly $400,000 below the $1.08 million target. Revenues for services were expected to bring in a little more than $2 million overall, but Friedrichsen revised the estimated total for the year to just over $1.7 million.

Spend v. don’t spend

On the expense side, spending is generally where it should be, though some departments have spent more than a half-year’s allocation, and others have spent less. The council’s decision to refinance the Sunset Center bonds carved $427,000 out of the estimated $1.2 million to be spent on debt this year.

Despite higher income than expected, given the uncertainties ahead, Friedrichsen and Rerig cautioned the council against deciding to spend any more than what’s already budgeted.

Police officers and the city’s executive team gave up part of their salaries to help offset the precipitous losses caused by the pandemic, Rerig reminded council members, and recruitment to fill four positions — police commander, dispatcher, firefight-paramedic and building official — is now underway.

While councilman Jeff Baron said he took “all of Chip’s caveats with the respect that they’re due, which is a lot of respect,” he’d rather get started on capital projects that could benefit from moving ahead now, including a study on the city’s greenhouse gas emissions needed for the climate change plan he and councilwoman Carrie
**PEDIATRIC CLINIC’S VOLUNTEER VACCINATION EFFORT MAY BE OVER**

**By KEELY NIX**

A MONTEREY pediatric clinic was informed by county health officials last week that it would no longer receive vaccine to help immunize elderly people, healthcare workers and others, a physician at the medical office told The Pine Cone.

Monterey Peninsula Pediatric Medical Group Dr. Jill Airola and others with the Ryan Ranch pediatric clinic had been vaccinating people at a small but efficient drive-through operation. Though it’s worked with humble amounts of vaccine, Airola said her office is prepared to vaccinate as many as 1,500 people per week — if the health department provides enough doses.

Health department officials, she said, told the agency last week they would no longer provide vaccines for the volunteer effort and would direct the doses to other clinics. They reiterated that Feb. 6.

“We were told that we should not expect more vaccines for first shots — that the health department wants to focus on giving vaccines to geriatric clinics,” Airola said.

“We let them know we were vaccinating geriatric patients.”

On Feb. 7, Airola said she and others gave the shot to dozens of seniors 75 and older and healthcare workers. It took them less than 45 minutes to administer the 48 doses.

“If we could just get more vaccine allocations from the health department, we could really get rocking,” she said.

Health department spokeswoman Kar-

See CLINIC page 30A

**Shots raising seniors’ spirits**

**By ELAINE HESSER**

TO HEAR some local senior-liv-

ing-facility managers tell it, the arrival (more or less) of the coronavirus vaccine is like the rising of the sun after months of darkness.

“The weekend we gave the vaccine, there was a sense of relief,” said Jay Zim-

mer, president and CEO at Carmel Valley Manor, which has already doled out the required second doses to its residents and staff.

Richard Cox, general manager at Del Mesa Carmel, said that the holidays there were “pretty somber.” “Our members are normally very social, and all day Thanksgiving and all day Christmas we had to do takeaway food only.” With the imminent arrival of the coronavirus inoculations, resi-

dents are feeling hopeful again — though longer provide vaccines for the volunteer effort and would direct the doses to other clinics. They reiterated that Feb. 6.

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See CLINIC page 30A

some of the problems caused by the virus will be with us for a long time.

Manfred Melcher is a local psychother-

apist and licensed social worker who was a frequent speaker for groups at The Carmel Foundation and Hospice Giving Founda-

tion before the virus curtailed that sort of thing. He believes that those 65 and older still have a “heightened vulnerability” to emotional issues because of social isolation over the last year.

“If they had a problem that was mild, it’s become moderate. Moderate problems be-

came severe, and severe issues went off the charts,” he said. In addition to the isolation, the loss of routines has been disruptive.

“If you imagine handholds and foot-

holds in rock climbing, those can repre-

sent the things that bolster us, and give life

See SENIORS page 30A

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Monterey Peninsula Pediatric Medi-

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Richard Cox, general manager at Del Mesa Carmel, said that the holidays there were “pretty somber.” “Our members are normally very social, and all day Thanksgiving and all day Christmas we had to do takeaway food only.” With the imminent arrival of the coronavirus inoculations, residents are feeling hopeful again — though longer provide vaccines for the volunteer effort and would direct the doses to other clinics. They reiterated that Feb. 6.

“We were told that we should not expect more vaccines for first shots — that the health department wants to focus on giving vaccines to ‘geriatric clinics,’” Airola said.

“We let them know we were vaccinating geriatric patients.”

On Feb. 7, Airola said she and others gave the shot to dozens of seniors 75 and older and healthcare workers. It took them less than 45 minutes to administer the 48 doses.

“If we could just get more vaccine allocations from the health department, we could really get rocking,” she said.

Health department spokeswoman Kar-

See CLINIC page 30A

some of the problems caused by the virus will be with us for a long time.

Manfred Melcher is a local psychother-

apist and licensed social worker who was a frequent speaker for groups at The Carmel Foundation and Hospice Giving Founda-

tion before the virus curtailed that sort of thing. He believes that those 65 and older still have a “heightened vulnerability” to emotional issues because of social isolation over the last year.

“If they had a problem that was mild, it’s become moderate. Moderate problems be-

came severe, and severe issues went off the charts,” he said. In addition to the isolation, the loss of routines has been disruptive.

“If you imagine handholds and foot-

holds in rock climbing, those can repre-

sent the things that bolster us, and give life

See SENIORS page 30A

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See SENIORS page 30A
New life planned for blighted house

By MARY SCHEY

A BOARDED-UP house that was abandoned nearly two years ago amidst a legal fight between owners and investors can finally undergo an overhaul, the planning commission unanimously decided Wednesday.

The prominent home on an 8,000-square-foot lot on the northeast corner of San Antonio and Ocean that had been halted mid-remodel and left surrounded by construction fencing was sold in September 2020 for $4,930,000, well short of the nearly $7 million “as-is” asking price sought by the sellers nine months earlier.

The new owner or owners haven’t been identified but call themselves Le Chiffre Holdings, after the villain in the James Bond film, “Casino Royale.” They hired architect Adam Jeselnick to bring revised plans to the city for approval, and even named the project “Le Chiffre Beach Club.”

A devious plot?

The city approved remodel plans for the previous owners in 2015, and work was underway in 2017 but ground to a halt in April 2019, with the building permits and design approvals expiring six months later due to inactivity. At the Feb. 10 meeting, senior planner Marnie Waffle explained the proposed plans are similar to those OK’d six years ago, with some minor modifications, including putting a flat, landscaped roof on the two-car garage in front, installing stone and wood siding, replacing a guest house behind the garage with a pergola instead of the previously approved ramada, adding a set of exterior stairs on the north side, installing a standing-seam metal roof instead of a slate roof, and using steel doors and windows instead of wood.

The remodeled residence will be 3,275 square feet, which includes the conversion of a lot of basement space under the events section.

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We may offend you: Henry Miller Library celebrates banned books

By CHRIS COUNTS

AS A writer, Henry Miller was more famous for being banned than anything else, so it’s fitting that the museum and bookshop in Big Sur that was named for him is dedicated to the idea that books shouldn’t be banned. In fact, the Henry Miller Memorial Library proudly boasts a banned book section, which is filled with titles that have been kicked out of some of the world’s finest bookshops, schools and libraries — including several recent books, along with the classics.

The poster child of the library’s banned book collection is Miller’s “Tropic of Cancer,” which details the writer’s struggles to make a living in Paris during the Great Depression. Written in 1934 — 11 years before Miller moved in Big Sur — the book is sexist by anybody’s standards, possibly homophobic and indisputably obscene.

“Tropic of Cancer” was banned by the United States Customs Service shortly after it was published in 1934. But a Supreme Court decision in 1964, Grove Press v. Gerstein, allowed the book to be sold here.

“He was a chauvinist pig!”

While the library in Big Sur continues to draw Miller fans from near and far, some people who visit actually are offended by the writer, who died in 1980.

“I have been verbally abused over Henry Miller,” executive director Magnus Toren said.

Yet Toren takes it all in stride — in part because Miller’s words are an awkward fit for modern times.

“He was a chauvinist pig,” he admitted. “It’s hard to argue.

But Toren insisted that Miller’s voice still deserves to be heard. Admirers of “Tropic of Cancer” included George Orwell, Samuel Beckett and Norman Mailer. The latter called it one of the greatest novels of the 20th century.

“It’s fascinating to me how many people say that “Tropic of Cancer” has changed them in a very positive way,” Toren explained.

So many creative people have been inspired by Henry’s work — despite its failings.

The 1964 Supreme Court case may have ended the ban on “Tropic of Cancer,” but it didn’t end the suppression of books. Toren said his “antennas are tuned in” to contemporary examples of banned or censored books — and he recently found a new one in Andy Ngo’s “Unmasked,” which investigates the left-wing activist group, Antifa, but won’t be sold at Powell’s Books in Portland, Ore., after protests, threats and vandalism.

There’s been a smear campaign that Ngo is an evil person with an agenda,” Toren said. “But there are very few examples of banned or censored books — and possibly homophobic and indisputably obscene.

So Many Dust Bunnies, So Little Time

Joining Miller and Steinbeck in the local’s section is a Temporary examples of banned or censored books — and possibly homophobic and indisputably obscene.

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“There’s been a smear campaign that Ngo is an evil person with an agenda,” Toren said. “But there are very few journalists covering events on the streets of Portland from his perspective.”

The library carries both “Tropic of Cancer” and “Unmasked” along with an assortment of books that have seriously offended somebody.

Banned in California

Miller isn’t the only local author to be sanctioned. John Steinbeck’s “Grapes of Wrath” was a bestseller when it came out in 1939, but it was banned and burned in Kern County, which was the Joad family’s destination in the books. Steinbeck’s pro-union sympathies and left-leaning politics made him an easy target for critics on the right in the last century. But last September, his writings ran afoul of the left when the Burbank Unified School District banned “Of Mice and Men” for alleged racism.

According to Toren, Steinbeck is the perfect example of a writer whose words need to be weighed against the standards of his time, not ours.

“Steinbeck is celebrated because he taught us about our common humanity, and our need to develop empathy,” Toren said. “As a writer of social and political realities, he is exceptionally important — we need to be able to put things into their historical context, and not condemn someone for being of their own time.”

Joining Miller and Steinbeck in the local’s section is the poster child of the library’s banned book collection is Miller’s “Tropic of Cancer,” which details the writer’s struggles to make a living in Paris during the Great Depression. Written in 1934 — 11 years before Miller moved in Big Sur — the book is sexist by anybody’s standards, possibly homo

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District plans to partially reopen elementary schools March 8

By MARY SCHLEY

With the rate of new coronavirus infections in Monterey County down 80 percent in the last month, Carmel Unified School District acting superintendent Trisha Dellis said Wednesday night that kids will be back in elementary school for hybrid learning starting March 8.

But a handful of parents who phoned in to the Feb. 10 board of education meeting complained that’s not soon enough and worried the numbers could go up again and thwart the reopening, as happened after the district got approval of its waiver last November to reopen but was prevented from following through when Gov. Gavin Newsom shut everything down again last December.

The district had settled on a Feb. 1 reopening, Dellis said, but in the meantime, the state handed down new rules saying schools can’t reopen for in-person learning when case numbers are higher than 25 per 100,000 people per day. “I know that caused a lot of confusion for people.”

Even though the county isn’t yet below that threshold, Dellis and other school administrators anticipate it will be and are preparing to have kids on campus starting March 8. “We are very, very excited to see those numbers are trending down,” she said.

The work ahead

The district submitted the required Covid-19 safety plan and other documents to the Monterey County Health Department and the state and plans to move ahead, barring any objections from them. “Those documents are also required to be put on our website and are there if you want to look at them,” Dellis added.

The district has already been testing faculty and staff for Covid infections and has worked to create a safe environment. Following a break next week, teachers will be back Feb. 22 and will be working on assessments and report cards, she said.

The week of March 1, faculty and staff will begin preparing themselves, their classrooms and their students for hybrid teaching, which has groups trading time between in-person and online instruction, with Fridays saved for in-person and online instruction, with Fridays saved for online classrooms, finalize the new bus schedules and get technology working properly, set up the students in their new online classrooms, finalize the new bus schedules and get everything else in place.

“We’ll still transition students that week, even if the numbers aren’t trending the way we would like,” Dellis explained. “They could possibly have a new classroom or teacher.” The timing is appropriate because it will be the end of the trimester, with a natural transition built in.

Dellis said it will take about four days to get the technology working properly, set up the students in their new online classrooms, finalize the new bus schedules and get everything else in place.

“That’s a two-week rollout to get us to March 8 to have hybrid and in-person learning,” she said. “We’re excited about this.”

Do it faster

Most of the nine parents who called in asked the board to override Dellis’ timeline and get the schools open sooner. “I would beg this board to reconsider delaying to March 8,” Sarah Miller said. “With the waiver, you lost the right to open due to an unnecessary delay. Is it really necessary to wait another four weeks when we were going to open Feb. 1?”

She also wanted to know why kids won’t be in school on Fridays with the new schedule, and if grades that have few students in the classroom could meet every day instead of alternating between in-room and at-home schooling.

Her calls for urgency and other complaints were echoed by several other callers. Shara McIntyre asked how Dellis and the others could prevent a repeat of the waiver situation. “While I’m cautiously optimistic about the March 8 reopening, I absolutely don’t want to tell my child about it, because it was such a disappointment last time,” she said. Her daughter is in

MONTEREY COUNTY VACCINE UPDATE

Local healthcare providers are now offering Covid-19 vaccines to those over 75.

Here are a few simple steps to take regarding your appointment:

1. If you have internet access, visit mcvaccinate.com to find a location.
2. If accessing the internet is not possible, ask a friend or loved one to assist you.
3. Contacting your Healthcare Provider is also an option.
4. Assistance is also available by calling 211.

Please do everything you can to keep your appointment when it is scheduled and remember to go back for your booster shot.

The County of Monterey is doing everything possible to assist in this process. Please be patient as we wait for additional vaccine supplies from the State of California.

Monterey County Health Department
For more information: mcvaccinate.com

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First mention —

He found fame, but never success — then he bought the course

By ELAINE HESSER

In January 1962, The Pine Cone reported that that year's Crosby Clambake would feature Arnold Palmer and TV personality Phil Harris in a foursome with a 33-year-old James Garner and Bob Rossbury, a pro from Palo Alto who'd won the previous year's tournament. The article was the first time the newspaper printed the name of one of the leading figures in the history of professional golf.

At the time, Palmer was already golf's top money winner, but he didn't win the Crosby that year. In fact, he never won it. Not for lack of trying, mind you. Near the end of his career, Palmer estimated he'd played in the Pebble Beach Pro-Am "close to 30 times," including not only a bevy of Pro-AMS, but the 1972 and 1982 U.S. Opens. In 1999, he said, rather enigmatically, "I was remiss that I never won a tournament at Pebble Beach." But nothing seemed to dim his love of the course or the area.

Thrilling the fans

In October 1962, The Pine Cone reported that Palmer was in town to film two days of play at Pebble Beach and Monterey Peninsula Country Club course with Gary Player, Ken Venturi and Byron Nelson, for "The Arnold Palmer Show," a short-lived TV golf program. Things went smoothly at Pebble, but then hit a snag. MPCC's board of directors asked for $1,000 and the show's producers "wouldn't go much over $500." Said the board's golf chairman, Jim Mustard, "We felt the fee was not unreasonable. Besides, we didn't much want them in the first place."

More winters than not, Palmer came back here, thrilled the fans and lost. In January 1970, The Pine Cone hopefully prognosticated, "Arnold Palmer, the only major golfer never to have won the Bing Crosby National Pro-Amateur, will really be pushing for a win."

A famous Ford

He might have pushed, but to no avail. Bert Yancey took that year's $25,000 top prize, with Jack Nicklaus nipping at his heels. Of Palmer, the paper said, "The $327 he collected for his finish will do little to cheer him up." And this was after playing in "almost ankle-deep mud," left over from "two days of high winds and driving rain."

In January 1977, President Gerald Ford, who was soon to leave office, accepted an invitation to the tournament, and Palmer was his partner. The pairing "should draw galleries beyond belief," The Pine Cone forecast.

Palmer's usual partner, Mark McCormack of International Management Group, was permitted to stand in for Ford in the first round of play on Jan. 20, since Ford had to be in D.C. for the inauguration of his successor, Jimmy Carter. Bing Crosby died that fall while playing golf in Spain, but the tournament went on with son Nathaniel — barely 16 — taking over as host. Years later, he told a group of fans that golfers tried to bribe him with candy bars for an invitation to play.

In 1978, Palmer was again paired with Ford, whom the paper called "the most famous golfer who never broke 80." A year later, Palmer recalled, "I didn't give him much help," either. He also expressed his gratitude that the tournament was continuing, and he remained a popular draw.
Caltrans still assessing Highway 1 washout

WHILE WORKERS are busy fixing damage to Highway 1 that was caused by recent storms, it’s still uncertain when a 150-foot chasm in the road at Rat Creek will be repaired — or even how it will be done.

“Intensive assessment continues at the Rat Creek site,” Caltrans said. “Surveys by land and air have provided the necessary data to describe the topographical conditions now in place after the immense debris flow. Geotechnical and environmental studies also continue. There is no current estimate of a timeline for when this assessment phase will be completed.”

Workers were also busy this week making repairs to the pavement south of Rat Creek, which also sustained significant storm damage.

“There is still much repair work to be done on Highway 1 between Rat Creek and Big Creek,” the state road agency continued. “This stretch of road will continue to be a high priority for crews and contractors. This section of road contains multiple locations of plugged culverts which were overwhelmed by debris flows.”

Late this week, Jim Shivers of Caltrans told The Pine Cone that the agency is “very much in assessment mode.”

“When we have more information, we’ll be announcing what our intention to do is,” he said. “We’re still removing trees, branches and debris.

Closure area shrinking

The closure area along Highway 1 has been shrinking as progress is made. For now, the southern closure is at Willow Creek, but sometime in the next week or so, the closure will be moved north to Big Creek, where a turnaround is being built. The road is closed to the north, at least for now, at Esalen Institute. A second turnaround is being built just south of Esalen at Lime Creek.

Businesses north of Esalen remain open, along with State Parks day use areas, while camping at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park resumed this week after a pandemic-related hiatus. Campgrounds and day use areas will reopen to the south when the highway access makes that possible.

Caltrans signed an emergency $5 million contract with Papich Construction of San Luis Obispo County to assist with repairs to Highway 1.

The washout at Rat Creek was the worst of at least 60 sites along Highway 1, and at least 18 sites along Nacimiento-Fergusson Road that suffered storm damage in recent weeks.

By CHRIS COUNTS

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Everybody reads The Pine Cone
Gregory John Franks was born on February 3, 1942 in Cleveland, Ohio, to Jerry Franks and Eleanore Paul Franks at 9:15 in the morning at University Hospital in Cleveland. Both of them were 26 when Greg was born.

For his early years he lived in a small, ethnic suburb of Cleveland called Newburgh Heights. Then the family moved to Parma, a new suburb, southwest of Cleveland. There he went to St. Charles school, a K-8 parochial school. From there they moved to Akron, Ohio where Jerry had bought a house. Those were some happy years for the family and Cindy (Cynthia), Greg’s younger sister was born in 1946. Eventually the family bought a new house in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio which is located south of Cleveland, near Kent, Ohio.

Greg went to Holy Family grade school and to Hoban High School (a Catholic High School run by brothers). He had some close friends in high school and dated. Those were good years.

Greg was the first one in his family to go to college having been accepted at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. He majored in Business Administration, but his heart was not in it. He was interested in the Army and joined the ROTC at Ohio University, distinguishing himself over the years. Eventually he graduated with a Distinguished Military Graduate award. Only one other person in his graduating class received a DMG, that person went into the Marine Corps. Greg choose Army. He wanted Infantry, but got Artillery for which he was soon grateful. He did get his Business Administration Degree and graduated in June of 1962.

He met his wife, Susan Katherine Otto, at Ohio University. They fell in love and were engaged in February of 1963 with wedding plans for after he was done from the Air Defense Artillery schools. He was off to his basic Artillery course after the graduation ceremony in June of 1962. Went through Airborne and Ranger school and Susan and Greg were married on November 19, 1963 and were off to see the world. Their first assignment was to Ft Bragg, NC to the 82nd Airborne. Those were some fine days. Their first son, Jeffery Alan Franks was born on April 16, 1965.

In May 1965 Greg went to Viet Nam for the first time six weeks after Jeff was born. He was assigned as an advisor in the Mekong Delta to the ARVN, (the Republic of Viet Nam army). Specifically in An Khe Province. He was very successful in his interactions with the Vietnamese soldiers as well as civilians.

He returned in 1966 and was assigned to the Artillery Advanced Course at Ft. Sill, Texas. We spent 6 months at Ft. Sill studying Field Artillery and 3 months at Ft. Bliss studying Air Defense Artillery. The two, Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery eventually split into two separate branches of the Army.

From there we were sent to Ft. Hood Texas. Assigned to the 1st Armored Division, Greg had his command. He commanded the 1/33rd Artillery which was assigned to the 1st Armored Division.

From there we were sent to Chiangmai Thailand where Greg was again an advisor in Jusmag to the Royal Thai Army. That was in 1968. We had a most wonderful time there. Cindy and I was in Thailand for three years; Greg for two. The difference was that I chose to stay in country while Greg went on a second tour to Vietnam with the 4th Army. Our daughter, Jennifer Edith Forsmo was born on June 16, 1970, just days before Christmas. Greg was able to come home for Christmas 1970 to see his new daughter. We all left in 1971 and were assigned to White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, a most enjoyable assignment.

Greg was able to come home for Christmas 1970 to see his new daughter. We all left in 1971 and were assigned to White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, a most enjoyable assignment.

In 1974 we finally got to leave WSMR, something I had been looking forward to for years. Greg was assigned to Ft. Bragg, NC back to the 82nd Airborne. We could not have been more thrilled. Again, those were some excellent years.

From Ft. Bragg, we got orders to Verona, Italy with NATO with language school first at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA. Wonderful time. We got to Verona in January 1978. It was an ideal place and situation. After three years there, we came back to the states with an assignment to Ft. Oid, specifically to the Combat Experimentation Command (CDEC) where Greg again was in Research and Development.

Greg left the service in June of 1984 after 21 years of service. From there he went to work as a stock broker, but the crash of 1987 ended that career. So he went back to work at CDEC as a civilian, working there for ten years.

Then, we got into the wine business. We sourced our grapes from Edna Valley andtalented winemakers and made our wine in a, 6000 hour opportunity with two professional, including myself. There we were able to work for four months in Santa Maria — the first such place in the nation. Our brand was the skin House and we made all reds, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Syrah. Our first release was in 2000 of our 1998 Pinot Noir — big hit. Our first Cabernet Sauvignon (1999) was voted best cabernet in California at the California State Fair, the first year it was released. What a thrill that was. We had our own winery, a tasting room and a few other interesting opportunities.

We made our first wine in 2010. Greg was not able to make the wine any more because of the Alzheimer’s disease.

Gregory J. Franks

JAMES FORSMO

James Forsmo of Pebble Beach, California was born on April 4, 1931, in Wausau, Wisconsin and died unexpectedly December 7th, 2020, after suffering a stroke.

Growing up in Wausau, Jim was active in the Boy Scouts and attained the rank of Eagle Scout. He was also a member of the Army Reserve for 4 years and served on active duty for 2 years as an officer with the Occupation Forces in Germany after World War II.

He graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in economics and began his business career with McKesson Corporation as a district sales manager in Danville, Illinois. In 1960 he relocated to San Francisco and was soon promoted to National Sales Manager and later became Director of Sales and Marketing with responsibility for domestic and international sales. Jim retired from McKesson in 1986 and started a new career with Challenge Dairy Products, Inc as National Industrial Sales Manager retiring in 1999 as Vice President and Division General Manager.

Jim married JoEllen (Johnston) in Redondo Beach, CA in 1964. They raised their family in the San Francisco Bay area before moving to Pebble Beach in 1999.

Jim was an avid golfer and skier. He was a member of the Monterey Peninsula Country Club in Pebble Beach and a member of the Peninsula Golf and Country Club in San Mateo. Jim and JoEllen enjoyed traveling and they visited all 50 states and over 50 foreign countries meeting many different people and gaining lifelong friends. Jim’s friends remember his loyalty, thoughtfulness, and sense of humor.

Jim is survived by his wife JoEllen of 56 years, his daughters, Jill Rommes (Paul), Susan Bean, four grandchildren, and extended family in Wisconsin and Texas. They enjoyed many good times together and have so many of the legacy Jim left behind. A life well lived with hard work, integrity and no regrets.

Flags planted at P.G. park to memorialize victims of coronavirus

By KELLY NIX

About 300 American flags will be planted in the grass of Pacific Grove’s Lover’s Point park next week as a memorial to those in Monterey County who have died while infected with the coronavirus, the city’s chamber of commerce announced this week.

As of Feb. 11, 301 people in the county had died with the virus, and the Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce and Paul Mortuary are organizing the flag tribute. Each flag will represent a person who has succumbed. They will be placed on Feb. 17 and remain in the park for four days.

“On behalf of the local business community we wanted to express our sympathy and sorrow to the families of the victims of the deadly pandemic,” chamber president Moe Ammar said. “Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people who are suffering the loss of loved ones. We wanted them to know that we share their pain — they are not alone.”

The small flags are being paid for by Paul Mortuary. The idea was Pacific Grove City Councilman Joe Amello’s. He talked to Ammar about it and they got the ball rolling.

“I have been following people who have died nationwide and in Monterey County, and felt that we should honor those who have died here,” Amello told The Pine Cone.

Representatives from 14 churches and several places of worship will hold a prayer and remembrance ceremony Friday, Feb. 19 at 10 a.m. Distancing and masks are required. For more information, call the P.G. Chamber at (831) 373-3304.

A demonstration of what the coronavirus memorial in Pacific Grove’s Lover’s Point park will look like when it’s set up Wednesday.
The Rev. Wayne M. Adams

OCTOBER 16, 1929 – JANUARY 28, 2021

The Rev. Wayne M. Adams, beloved Pastor and faithful servant, went to be with his Lord on Thursday, January 28, 2021, at the age of 91 years. He was born on Oct 16, 1929 in Sonora, CA to Neola & Merle Adams and had five siblings: Vione Pauls, Oakley Adams, Frank Adams, Denna Myovich and Chaplain Richard Adams. All predeceased him.

He received his education in the California Public School System and at Vanguard University. He was ordained in the Christian Ministry in 1954. His ministry has included pastorates in California, Oregon, and Washington. He also served for five years as Director of Youth and Christian Education for 200 churches in the state of Oregon.

He met his future bride, Patricia Jenker, in her sixth grade, and they married on August 27, 1950. God blessed them with 68 years of marriage and they were totally devoted to each other and to their call to the ministry. His beloved wife predeceased him in October 2018.

Rev. Adams has lectured throughout Latin America, Canada, the South Pacific, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the United States. He has spoken extensively at camps, conferences, youth and Christian education conventions, and for organizations such as Boys Scouts, 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers, Jaycees, service clubs, schools, and business groups.

Active in civic, educational, and political affairs, he served on the Boards of Directors of United Way, Children’s Home Society, Chambers of Commerce, Kiwanis International, Suicide Prevention, Boy Scouts of America, and several Ministerial Associations. He was a Charter Board Member of Leadership Monterey, a past president of Pacific Grove Kiwanis Club, and a past President and past Campaign Chairman of United Way. He has served on Mayors’ Commissions for various projects in the cities of Pacific Grove, CA and Vancouver, WA. He was appointed by then Governor Dan Evans to serve on the Washington State Committee on Law and Justice. He has worked in an advisory capacity for Fellowship of Christian Athletes, YMCA, Young Life, and other organizations.

In 1997 a survey conducted by The Monterey Herald, he was recognized as one of the most influential religious leaders in Monterey County. In 2002, he was given the Boy Scouts of America Humanitarian Award for his many years of outstanding community service.

Rev. Adams was the Founding Pastor of Cypress Community Church, an non-denominational congregation, where he served and ministered for 32 years. Cypress was founded in 1972 and is located on Highway 68 at Corral de Tierra, Salinas, CA. From the beginning and with the help of a very small group of “dreamers and doers,” it grew into a thriving community of believers committed to faith, fellowship and service. During the years of prayerfully following God’s leading through the challenges of building that church from the ground up, Pastor Wayne often led his growing congregation in singing, “Nothing Is Impossible When You Put Your Trust In God…” and he believed that with all his heart! He was always an enthusiastic and passionate communicator of God’s Word, and his weekly Biblical messages of love and grace were a great source of inspiration and hope to all who came to worship. At the end of each service, Pastor & Pastor would personally greet each person at the door as they departed, offering a warm smile, handshake, and words of encouragement. Truly a blessing to be counted on each and every week for decades!

After 51 years of ministry, Pastor Adams retired in May of 2005. He then formed Hands of Hope International, a non-profit religious and humanitarian corporation, where he served full time without pay as the President. He continued to speak to churches and groups throughout the U.S. as well as travel to many foreign countries to assess and respond to many needs in our hurting world. As the U.S. Representative for Seeds in His Garden Children’s Home for abandoned children in Nairobi, Kenya, he made regular trips to Africa and continued to raise funds for its support. He also continued to conduct worship services, weddings, funerals and was always available for prayer and counseling. He was always a “hands-on” and enthusiastic leader, enjoyed sports and bicycling with his family, meeting with his “Old Friends” group for lunch each Thursday, and appreciated the splendor of God’s creation here on the Monterey Peninsula. In 2019, he marked his 90th birthday by skydiving with his son-in-law and grandchildren to raise funds for Seeds In His Garden Children’s Home in Nairobi, Kenya. Upon landing on the airfield, he was greeted with the cheers of many family friends, and former parishioners gathered there to celebrate his long and exceptional life. He will be lovingly remembered for his faithfulness to God, his dedication to his congregation and community, his commitment to help the hurting in this world, and for truly “making a difference” in countless lives.

He is survived by his two daughters, Rebecca “Becky” Adams and Wendy Adams Rosa (Earin), as well as 3 grandchildren, Robert Campos (Kasey), Nicholas Campos and Samuel Campos, and 3 great grandchildren, Jesse, Jillian and June Campos.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date. Donations in his memory may be made to Seeds In His Garden Children’s Home, PO Box 12583, Fresno CA 93778.

February 12, 2021

The Carmel Pine Cone
fourth grade at River School. “If the numbers spike again, how can we avoid being set back again? It’s important for us to get rolling on a hybrid situation, even if it’s only for the last few months of the year, so we’re better prepared for next year.”

Another parent asked if administrators have a plan for bringing all students back to the classroom. “If we could start projecting for a full return, that would be so helpful for parents,” she said, adding that the “lack of predictability” is “being translated as a lack of urgency.”

And another said she’s been listening to the board meetings for a year and has heard the parents’ complaints and frustrations. While she shares their concerns, because her child is struggling, too, she said she’s one of many who believe “the board is doing what it can.” Her child will stay home this week and go to school online next week. “I want in-room teaching to begin as soon as it’s conceivably possible, and the board members seem to be on the same page,” she said. She added that the “lack of predictability” is “being translated as a lack of urgency.”

“I’ve been talking to the parents,” she said, adding that the “lack of predictability” is “being translated as a lack of urgency.”

The March 8 date will be a challenge to meet as it is, Board members sympathized with the parents and kids already struggling, she said. She thanked the board and teachers for working hard. She said that if the board wants in-room teaching to begin as soon as it’s conceivably possible, and the board members seem to be on the same page, “They have an answer.”

The Carmel Woman’s Club, San Carlos and Ninth, is celebrating the community with impressive Valentine’s Day window decorations, and they hope everyone will come by to see them. The club was founded in 1925 has been a mainstay of community support on the Carmel Valley for 95 years. Its mission is to promote charitable giving, mutual help, intellectual advancement, social enjoyment and welfare of the community.

Jane Lowrey Weisser worked as a Social Security official for over 35 years in Northern California, including 32 years in Sacramento. She entered Federal service in 1959 soon after graduating from the University of California, working first at Social Security’s payment center in San Francisco.

Jane transferred in 1963 to Sacramento where the local Social Security office was located in midtown at 1818 J Street. She served Social Security through many programs changes, including the introduction and expansion of Medicare, major Federal health care program. She interviewed Pennsylvania coal miners in Scranton when Medicare began covering Black Lung Disease in 1970. She retired as a Supervisor in 1984. After severing 37 years of retirement, Jane died on Feb. 3, 2021 after a brief illness.

Born in Oklahoma in 1914, Jane came to California with her mother, Nola, and two brothers in 1946. The family settled in the Monterey Bay area. Her mother worked in a bank in Carmel. Jane attended local schools, graduating from Carmel High School in 1952.

After two years at Monterey Peninsula College, she moved to Berkeley to study Journalism at Cal. She met her future husband, Peter Weisser, at Cal while both were students there. They were married in 1958, both became reporters. Jane for a Marin County paper and Pete in Vallejo. The couple married in 1958.

Jane has lived in Sacramento for several newspapers, including the Sacramento Bee in the 1960s and the San Francisco Chronicle in the 1970s. He later served as an Information Officer for several State agencies, including the Departments of Health, Fish and Game and Water Resources.

Jane maintained close ties to Carmel by writing a monthly newsletter for high school classmates. She also organized a Neighborhood Watch group for the 14th Street neighborhoods in Sacramento in 1986.

Jane received last rites of the Catholic Church on January 27, 2021. No funeral services were held. Burial took place at El Carmelo Cemetery in Pacific Grove on February 11, 2021.

Survivors include her husband, Pete of Sacramento, an older brother, Keith, who lives in Virginia, and several nephews and nieces.
called the book racist and sexist, but Twain himself de-scribed it as “a satiric exposition of slavery.” In 1885, library officials in Concord, Mass. — where the American Revo-lution was launched barely a century earlier — called the book “trash and only suitable for the slums.”

“Ironically, Huck Finn was conceived only an earlier explicit expose by Twain — ‘The Rickey’ was censored,” Toren noted. “Twain supporters contend that the author was anything but racist and insist that the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn was a Nov 26, 1984, which Twain sought to highlight the hypocrisy of the society in which he grew up. Defenders of the book also insist that Jim comes across as having more common sense and as being more talented than either Huck or his best friend, Tom Sawyer.”

“Current orthodoxy”

Women can run also afoul of the censors. A book that the library carries, Abigail Shure’s “Invisible Damage,” questions the campaigns for transgender rights for children. Toren noted that Amazon carries the book, but refuses to promote it, which he describes as “nothing more than the suppression of ideas that contradict the current orthodoxy.”

Another book the library carries, Alice Walker’s “The Color Purple,” has been hailed for its portrayal of slavery. But Walker, it turns out, is considered anti-Semitic by many. So should she be censored?

“People can have bad ideas, and it does not eliminate the possibility that they have good ideas as well,” Toren suggested.

While most of the library’s visitors have taken the banned book section in stride, others have objected to certain titles. Shure’s “Invisible Damage” in particular. Toren said copies have been vandalized, and one was even flung off the library’s back deck into the canyon behind it. Toren readily admits that some titles in the library’s “recommended” books list will ruffle feathers, but he’s hopeful they will also inspire some healthy debate.

“The Nazis were the ones who burned books,” Toren said. “The Nazis were the ones who burned books.”

1983. His partner for the 1995 outing was former Presi-dent George H.W. Bush. Palmer was invited back and accepted for the 1996 event, which some readers may remember was an epic washout that was canceled after just 36 holes. In 1997, Palmer was recovering from surgery for prostate cancer. It seemed as if his time with the Pro-Am was at an end. But all that changed in 1999, when Palmer told report-ers in Florida that he was “hiding on Pebble Beach,” thus blowing the lid off hush-hush negotiations between the Japanese resort company that had owned Pebble Beach since 1980 and a group headed by Peter Ueberroth, Dick Ferris, Clint Eastwood and Palmer. For the next several months, the impending purchase made headlines in The Pine Cone, one of which read, “Ar-

VIVIAN EYRE SWEENEY

Vivian Eyre Sweeney of Carmel, California, died Monday, January 25, 2021. Born 1928, London, England. Graduated from St. Mary's Academy, Denver, CO and attended Rosemont College, Rosemont, PA. Married John Francis Sweeney, 1949, Denver. Survived by her children: Marnia Haley (Dennis), Michael Sweeney (Wen), Tim Sweeney (Bill), Carol Ulis (Rwini), Katie Kikawa (Colin), Edward Sweeney (Kathy); her daughters-in-law: Susan Brennan (Christopher) and Jane Schuster (Bruce); her grandchildren: Jason Haley, Sarah Michael, John Sweeney, Andrew Sweeney, Adam Ulis, Philip Kikawa, Caroline Kikawa, Luke Sweeney and Erin Sweeney; and five great grandchildren.

Predeceased by her husband, John F. Sweeney, 1983. His partner for the 1995 outing was former President Bush kicked off the inaugural First Tee Open (now the PURE Insurance Championship) at Pebble Beach. He also played in his last Masters Tournament and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Palmer died at 87 in Pennsylvania on Sept. 25, 2016. The world golf world mourned, and five days later, in a front-page obituary, The Pine Cone described Palmer as “an unpretentious and affable gentleman,” with “unique mag-netism” and “charisma.”
Don’t let joint pain stop you
Let us help you lead a more active life

Meredith Manhard is getting back to her life and back in the pool after hip replacement surgery at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. The Orthopedic Center at Community Hospital is the area’s leader in total joint replacements, working closely with your surgeon to provide the best experience, from start to finish.

chomp.org/joint  |  (831) 625-4994
To raise money for the Monterey County Food Bank, The Choral Artists of Carmel premieres a fundraising virtual concert Sunday.

Formerly known as the Hartnell Community Choir, the group changed its name about a year ago.

Led by director Robin McKee Williams, the choral group has a repertoire spans from early baroque to pop.

“We have a core group of about 15 singers,” Williams told The Pine Cone. “It’s a mix of professional and amateur singers. They’re not only extraordinary musicians, but they’re wonderful people. We’re doing this so we can give something beautiful back to the community — music is such a powerful gift.”

Sunday’s program includes Ola Gjerlo’s “Sacred Heart,”

G. Sviridov’s Bogomateri v gorode, Robert Schumann’s “Ich grelle nicht,” Shawn Kirchner’s “America the Beautiful,” Richard Thompson’s “Dawn” and two pieces by J.S. Bach, his Third Sonata in C Major and Herrscher from his St. John Passion.

The program also includes an interview with Thompson.

Baritone Kiril Havezov, soprano Lebertha Local and tenor Arthur Wu, along with violinist Jorge Avila and dancer Julie Fotheringham, will be featured as soloists.

Tickets are $25. The music starts at 3 p.m. A Zoom reception follows the performance. For more details, visit www.choralartistsofcarmel.org.

Q ‘Grab your sweetheart’

Mandolinist Dave Holodiloff and pianist Michael Martinez celebrate Valentine’s Day Sunday at Julia’s Vegetarian Restaurant in Pacific Grove. “We’re going to play love songs from around the world,” Holodiloff said. “It’s a program we’ve done for the last four years on Valentine’s Day. We’ve added some new stuff to our repertoire, and there will be something for everybody. So grab your sweetheart and head on down to Pacific Grove for the show.”

The concert starts at 10:30 a.m., and tickets are $20. Located at 1180 Forest Ave., the restaurant offers abundant outside dining. For more details, visit daveholodiloff.com.

Live music Feb. 12-18

Big Sur Vineyards in Carmel Valley — singer-songwriters Tom Faia and Kate Miller (Americana, Sunday at 4 p.m.). 1 Del Fino Place, (831) 652-3020.

Julia’s Vegetarian Restaurant in Pacific Grove — singer and guitarist Rick Chelew (folk, Friday and Sunday at 5:30 p.m.) and mandolinist Dave Holodiloff and pianist Jorge Avila.

See MUSIC page 24A

Virus alters CAA’s plan for spring show

On display at the Carmel Art Association is its annual March Catalog Show — even though March is still weeks away, and there are no plans to actually print a catalog this year.

“Normally we host an annual all-artist-members’ March Catalog Show that includes the distribution of a catalog of the show’s contents,” gallery manager Sally Abberg told The Pine Cone. “This year we’ve had to forego publishing the catalog. Instead, we’ve reset this exhibit to be on display at the Carmel Art Association through March.

See ART page 244

CAUTION: Peace of mind may lead to feelings of well-being, rejuvenation, and relaxation. Side-effects include happiness, stress-relief, and joy. Ask your inner child about Bernardus Lodge & Spa or call 831-658-3400 or visit bernarduslodge.com.
A committee with lots to do, more V-Day happenings, and Big Sur sharing

Monday marked the first public meeting of a city committee established last year to deal with the complexities of outdoor dining, from restaurateurs who won’t follow the rules, to what kinds of light fixtures should be allowed in parklets. Led by Mayor Dave Potter and councilman Bobby Richards, the group of city officials, residents and businesspeople decided Feb. 8 that restaurant owners must get rid of all their extra signs and banners in the next few weeks, that a Lincoln Street bar might be able to stay open longer than everyone else — and that they should meet once a week, because there’s so much more to talk about.

Carmel was the first city on the Peninsula to let restaurateurs begin using parking spaces and sidewalks to serve customers after pandemic-related shutdowns forced them outdoors last spring. Since then, conflicts have arisen over what parklets should look like, how many people should be allowed to sit in them, what color the umbrellas should be, and myriad other issues. The planning department set rules that the code enforcement officer and police have had to enforce, like not playing amplified music outside and not running extension cords across the sidewalk.

When is last call? At Monday afternoon’s meeting, Parker Logan, owner of Sade’s, reiterated the plea he made to the city council last week that he not be held to the new universal closing time imposed on restaurants — seating no one after 10 p.m. and emptying their outdoor dining areas by 11 — because that’s when his business is typically just getting going.

The universal closing time is meant to spare downtown residents from too much late-night revelry and to make enforcement easier for police who might be called every time someone thinks a restaurant is open too late. Under normal circumstances, restaurants’ permits dictate their closing times, which vary widely throughout the city from as early as 5 p.m. to as late as 2 a.m. Logan’s complaining resonated with some committee members. Richards suggested going with the times indicated in the permits and allowing Sade’s to stay open until perhaps midnight. Restaurant owners Rich Pepe, David Fink and Bashar Al Sneeh supported the universal closing time, but Fink and Sneeh also said Logan should be given some latitude, since Sade’s is unique — and is usually busiest after the restaurants close.

Begone, banners! On the topic of aesthetics — which will be more thoroughly discussed if the city decides to make outdoor dining in public spaces permanent — the group focused on the ubiquitous A-frames, banners and other brightly colored signs that have popped up during the pandemic to advertise restaurants’ operating hours, pancakes, cocktails and whatnot. Potter said he’d received several complaints about them, and while Carmel is typically quite strict about signs, new planning director Brandon Swanson observed, “Desperate times, desperate measures.”

“I think we are being a lot more lenient than we normally would be,” he said.

Restaurateurs should have to remove those signs soon, perhaps by the end of the month, they decided.

Is outdoor dining in parklets — a word Rerig hates — here to stay? That remains to be seen. But if it is, Ocean Avenue clothing store owner Todd Tice said, there should be a cap, since downtown parking congestion is often a problem, and restaurateurs should pay for their use of public property for personal profit.

Winetasting will go back inside as soon as it’s allowed, Potter noted, which will free up some downtown spaces, and he wondered if restaurants that have outdoor areas on private property should be prevented from using public space once they can serve indoors, too.

Because there are still so many more questions than answers, the committee decided to meet every Monday at 4 p.m. — except for next week. Since Monday is a holiday, the next session will be Feb. 16, and information on watching it or calling in can be found at ci.carmel.ca.us.

Sharing in Big Sur

As anyone who’s ever grown zucchini knows, sometimes your garden produces more than you need. And as anyone who’s been conscious for even just a few minutes during the last year knows, a lot of people are hurting financially because of the pandemic. That’s why organizers of the Big Sur Big Share work to get surplus produce and other food to those in their community who need it.

“Our goal is to create more free exchange and encourage a sharing economy in which the health and wellness of our community become sustainable,” said the folks behind the effort. “We believe there is plenty for everyone.”

At the Big Sur Grange every Monday from noon to 2 p.m., Big Sur residents and workers can stop by to pick up boxes of produce and other goods, and organizers also deliver when needed.

Of course, in order to have good food to share, they need people to donate it, so contributions can be brought to the Grange during those hours or picked up. Harvesting help is also available.

Find all the details at thebigsurshare.com.

Soup to Nuts

By MARY SCHLEY

The city of Monterey and the Food Bank for Monterey County continue to offer their drive-through produce distribution in the Dennis the Menace Park lot at 777 Pearl St., with the next session set for Feb. 22 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. All produce is pre-packaged, and everyone gets the same thing.

Go to monterey.org/evac to make an appointment. Re-Continues next page
From previous page

cipients are asked to stay in their vehicles and keep their masks on, and will be asked to unlock or open the trunk so volunteers can load the produce without making any contact. Anyone with questions can reach Monterey Recreation at montereyrecre-

ation@monterey.org or (831) 646-3866.

■ Wine for women in need

Silvestri Vineyards, which has a tasting room on Seventh between San Carlos and Dolores, is donating 100 percent of the sales proceeds from a pair of select wines to Gathering for Women, a nonprofit that helps homeless women by providing a variety of ser-

vices, supplies and support. Through Feb 15, Silves-

tri is selling a two-pack of 2017 estate pinot noir and 2017 estate chardonnay for $50. It represents a $16 discount, and all the money goes to the charity. Go to silvestriviney.

ards.com to learn more.

■ Be my Big Sur Valentine

From noon to 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14, the Big Sur Vineyards tasting room in Car-

mel Valley Village will celebrate Valen-


tine’s Day by offering a glass of sparkling rosé or a flight of six wines, plus a plate of sweet and savory treats, for $25.

And Tom Faia and Kelly Miller will play live music from 4 to 7 p.m.

It all takes place outside, of course, due to current shelter orders, and reservations are recommended by calling (831) 686-

4550 or emailing lenora@bigsurvineyards.

.com. The tasting room is located at 1 Del Fino Place across from Kasey’s.

■ Love is a donut

Red’s Donuts in Monterey is selling heart-shaped donuts — and will even write surprises,” organizers said. “Find out what’s cooking from an expert chef, include salt-roasted beet salad, followed by grilled Wagyu steak and seared scallops with crispy po-


tatoes, roasted carrots and sauces. Des-

sert will be chocolate and caramel pot de crème.

Estéban is located at 700 Munras Ave.

in the Casa Munras hotel. Call (831) 375-

0176 for reservations or to order takeout.

■ Wine and chocolate (virtually)

The Monterey Public Library Friends & Foundation hosts its 16th Annual Choco-

late & Wine Benefit virtually this year, in-

viting supporters to order their chocolate, wine and other goodies and participate in a virtual gathering Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.

“This year, we will gather together vir-


tually — with wines, treats, surprises,” organizers said. “Find out what goes on behind the library’s closed doors, see what’s cooking from an expert chef, and celebrate the launch of the Friends & Foundation’s Monterey Learns.”

Registration with the “basic” gift bag of wine, chocolates, savories and printed pro-

gram is $75, and registration with the “pre-

mium” bag, which also includes a com-

memorative wine glass and a face mask, is $100. Contact-free drive-through pickup of the gift bags will take place Feb. 27 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Pacific Street parking lot next to the Monterey Public Library. Deliv-

ery is also available for an additional $10. Visit investing4lmp.org to sign up.

■ Online cooking demos

Can anyone remember the last time a chef did a cooking demonstration in person? Feb. 16 and Feb. 23, both Tuesdays, will feature the next best thing: chef Jason Giles of Salinas Valley Memorial hospital preparing vegetable curry with bok choy and lentils during the first session, and chef Brandon Miller of the Chef’s Stash show-

ing how to make cauliflower garpacho in second.

Everyone’s Harvest, the nonprofit farm-

ers market organizer, is hosting the two cooking demos, which are free and will begin at 4 p.m. on Zoom. The meeting ID for Giles’ session is 889 4268 4632 and the passcode is 482017, while Miller’s is 869 6315 0914, with a passcode of 053131.
**MUSIC**

From page 21A

Michael Martinez (world music, Sunday at 10:30 a.m.) | 1180 Forest Ave., (831) 656-9533.
Mauree Tasting Room in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist Rick Chelew (folk, Sunday at noon) | 69 W. Carmel Valley Rd., (831) 659-6221.
Rio Grill — singer and guitarist Stephen Shook (Friday at 4 p.m.) | singer and violinist Razzvio (Saturday at 1 p.m.) and singer and guitarist Adrea Caviano (Sunday at 1 p.m.) in the Crossroads shopping center, (831) 625-5436.
Tarpy’s in Monterey — singer and violinist Razzvio (Friday at 4 p.m.) and singer and guitarist Mike Creech (Saturday at 1 p.m.) and singer and guitarist Stephen Shook (Sunday at 1 p.m.) | 2999 Highway 68, (831) 647-1444.

**CALENDAR**

Feb. 14 — Big Sur Vineyards at 1 Del Fino Place in sunny Carmel Valley Village celebrates Valentine’s Day noon to 7 p.m. Join them for live music with Tom Faia and Kate Miller (4 to 7). Enjoy a glass of sparkling rosé or flight of 6 wines plus a plate of sweet and savory treats for $25. Reservations suggested. (831) 688-4556 or lenoreller bigsurvineyards.com

Feb. 18 — Aspire Health Plan Presents: Emotional Eating, a Virtual Community Connections Class. Ever find yourself eating when you aren’t hungry? Join us 10 to 11 a.m. to learn what emotional eating is, how it works, and strategies for dealing with it. This event is free. We ask you to register so we can know how many people to expect. RSVP to (877) 663-7651, or www.aspirehealthplan.org/connections2021
Feb. 23 — Aspire Health Plan Presents: Heart Healthy Burgers, a Virtual Community Connections Class. There’s something new cooking in the Blue Zones Kitchen. Join us 1 to 2 p.m. for a Cooking Demo and see how easy it is to serve up a fresh take on healthy. This event is free. We ask you to register so we can know how many people to expect. RSVP to (877) 663-7651, or www.aspirehealthplan.org/connections2021

**ART**

From page 21A

run for two months — February and March — and we retitled it ‘All Together Now’ to reference the vital role that art plays in knitting together our arts community. This is especially critical in isolating times like these.”
About 50 members of the downtown nonprofit gallery have up to three new pieces of art in the show, which will be on display through April 6. The artwork comes in an array of mediums and sizes.
Participating artists include Jeff Daniel Smith, Lucas Blok, Pamela Takigawa, and many others. Abeng called the exhibit “a must-see.”
More until March
Two other shows continue at the Carmel Art Association through March 2.
“Somewhere in Time” showcases Lisa-anne Price’s latest landscapes and seascapes, while “Voyage” celebrates the artwork of nonagenarian painter Susan Reith.
And online, the annual “For the Love of Art” contest and exhibit also continues through March 2.
The juried show calls attention to the creative talents of 47 local high school students, who compete for awards.
Located on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth, the gallery is open Thursdays through Mondays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Walk-ins may require a brief wait outside due to Covid protocols, and appointments are available by calling (831) 250-3347. For more details, visit www.carmelart.org.

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**MEAL FOR 2 $150  |  MEAL FOR 4 $300 (Includes 4 servings)**
What if you stepped outside on a cloudless morning, looked up, and discovered that the only thing brighter than the sun was your future?

In the spring of 2019, as a sophomore at Stevenson School, Kyla Cotton set three records in track and field. By DENNIS TAYLOR

Kyla Cotton, Jessie Merenda, Trinity Mobley and Dana Diniz of Stevenson School celebrate a school record in the 4x100 relay in the spring of 2019. (Right) Genevieve Baldwin and Cotton share the leading roles in ‘Freaky Friday,’ Stevenson’s 2020 musical production.

PHOTOS/COURTESY STEVENSON SCHOOL

She’s on top of the world, but still a mighty long way from peaking.

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

In the fall of her junior year, she led the volleyball team in kills and blocks (including 22 in a single match). Every winter, she breaks the heart of every coach, pushing athletics aside to take a starring role in Stevenson’s annual musical. She’s a singer, a pianist, a songwriter, a creative writer, and dabbles in art.

As she approaches graduation, Cotton, a stellar student, has academic scholarships offers from Loyola Marymount, Drexel University, and a few other colleges. The track coach at Johns Hopkins University dangled an athletic scholarship. Stevenson volleyball coach Maddy Underwood has little doubt that she could have played NCAA Division I volleyball if that had been her focus.

“When you come to a fork in the road, take it,” was the advice offered by baseball Hall-of-Famer Yogi Berra … but what if the “fork” leads in a half-dozen different directions, and they all look wonderful?

NYU, USC and Howard

The fork in the road that Cotton faced was between the University of Southern California where her father, Marcus Cotton, was an All-Pac-10 linebacker who played for the Seahawks, Browns and Falcons. It counts among its graduates George Lucas, Ron Howard, Robert Zemeckis, Elizabeth Allen, Jon Chu, Sam Peckinpah, John Singleton, Brian Grazer, Judd Apatow, Ryan Coogler, Jon Landau and John Carpenter.

And Cotton, an African-American, already has been accepted into the film program at Howard University, a prestigious, predominantly Black school whose alumni include Vice President Kamala Harris, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the late Sen. Elijah Cummings, poet/novelist Paul Laurence Dunbar, and politician and film director Andrew Young. The Performing Arts Department spawned actor-director Phylicia Rashad, comedian/producer Marlon Wayans, recording stars Sean Combs and Roberta Flack, and many others.

While her athletic ability probably came from her father, Cotton is quick to credit her mom, Dr. Kawanaa Carter, for other important attributes.

“My mom is a neurosurgeon — very, very smart, emotionally and intellectually,” she said. “She also is a go-getter, 100 percent, and I’m pretty sure that’s where I get that trait from.”

Cotton decided at age 13 that the large, public middle school she was attending in Sacramento didn’t offer the environment she craved.

“Honestly, I was thinking, ‘Wow, this place is very dark and gloomy,’” she said of the private boarding school. “That’s basically how I remembered it until we returned for a couple of other visits, and then I saw it in a much different way.”

Among the diverse elective classes available to her were songwriting, which Cotton took as a freshman, ceramics and 3D architecture (sophomore year), and making movies (her junior- and senior-year electives).

As a boarding student, she also found the level of independence she was looking for.

See SPORTS page 29A

NYU, USC and Howard

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Among the diverse elective classes available to her were songwriting, which Cotton took as a freshman, ceramics and 3D architecture (sophomore year), and making movies (her junior- and senior-year electives).

As a boarding student, she also found the level of independence she was looking for.

See SPORTS page 29A

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

In the fall of her junior year, she led the volleyball team in kills and blocks (including 22 in a single match). Every winter, she breaks the heart of every coach, pushing athletics aside to take a starring role in Stevenson’s annual musical. She’s a singer, a pianist, a songwriter, a creative writer, and dabbles in art.

As she approaches graduation, Cotton, a stellar student, has academic scholarships offers from Loyola Marymount, Drexel University, and a few other colleges. The track coach at Johns Hopkins University dangled an athletic scholarship. Stevenson volleyball coach Maddy Underwood has little doubt that she could have played NCAA Division I volleyball if that had been her focus.

“When you come to a fork in the road, take it,” was the advice offered by baseball Hall-of-Famer Yogi Berra … but what if the “fork” leads in a half-dozen different directions, and they all look wonderful?

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See SPORTS page 29A
Finally, the hot spots

Of all the debacles perpetrated by state and county health officials during the coronavirus pandemic, the most incomprehensible has been the failure to focus prevention efforts on the places where the virus has been worst. In East Salinas, Greenfield, Castroville and other communities, infection rates are more than 10 times higher than in Carmel, Carmel Valley, Big Sur, etc., yet all parts of the county have been subject to the exact same rules when it comes to business shutdowns, school closings and social distancing. At most, the hot spots may have gotten a few extra dollars in targeted community-awareness campaigns, but that’s it. We also haven’t seen much attention paid to why the infection rates are so much higher in those areas.

Meanwhile, the toll the disparity in infection rates has taken on the health of residents of the hot spots has been immense, even while the high infection rates in a few neighborhoods have cost people in all parts of the county their livelihoods. Which is to say that, while everyone has suffered because there’s been so much sickness and death in a few parts of the county, the residents of those hot spots have suffered the most — so nobody was doing them any favors by letting them off the hook when it came to stricter social distancing rules or more enforcement of the rules we have.

This week, the county finally came up with a policy that targets the hot spots. Instead of a crackdown, they’re getting earlier access to vaccines. It’s not a move that will sit comfortably with everyone, but we support it, because the sooner the epidemic gets under control in the hot spots, the sooner it will be behind us.

The 12 zip codes identified as hot spots by the county this week — 93930 (King City), 93927 (Greenfield), 93960 (Soledad), 93926 (Gonzales), 93901 (Salinas), 93905 (Salinas), 93906 (Salinas), 93933 (Marina), 93955 (Seaside), 95012 (Castroville), 95039 (Moss Landing) and 95076 (Pajaro/Las Lomas) — have 74 percent of the county’s population, but almost 90 percent of its coronavirus cases. And when it comes to one of Gov. Gavin Newsom’s key metrics for reopening the economy — the seven-day average of new cases per 100,000 population — the hot spots do even worse. Right now, the seven-day average of new cases per 100,000 is zero in Big Sur, 1.1 in Carmel-by-the-Sea and 3.7 in Pacific Grove, while in Castroville, the number is a shocking 42.4, in one Salinas zip code it’s 51.1, and in Moss Landing, it’s a sky-high 71.7.

Clearly, getting those numbers down should be the county’s No. 1 priority. If they won’t do it with strict enforcement of social distancing rules, we’re glad they’ve decided to do it with more vaccine. While the policy means Peninsula residents will have to wait longer to get their shots, they can console themselves knowing that everyone benefits when fewer people catch the virus — no matter where they are.

Making vaccine distribution fair

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter concerning the blatant disregard for some of the people on the Peninsula in regards to vaccine distribution. I understand completely the tier system set up in the county to determine which people are suitable for vaccination. I completely understand the need to vaccinate those most vulnerable that need to be first in line. Healthcare, emergency, assisted living elderly, 75 and older, ag workers, etc. I don’t understand is when the 65 and older are up for vaccinations that we start a zip code priority.

Yes, we are all aware of the high numbers in the north/south county and the reasons why, highest number of cases are there. Also aware of the amount of vaccines coming into the county. This does not explain why certain zip codes have been left out of this next distribution phase. I guess I would really like to know in writing how the county will explain “why certain zip codes don’t apply.”

I moved to Pebble Beach two years ago with my husband, who is a retired orthopedic surgeon. My experience is 40-plus years of working in both the hospital and physicians’ clinics. I completely understand the concept of the “most vulnerable,” but it’s a first for me that it goes by zip code. The high cases coming from other areas don’t indicate they are more vulnerable. I also understand that people feel if these areas are vaccinated it will help slow the virus.

But every 65- to 75-year-old in my area or any other area of this county is vulnerable to this virus and in need of the vaccine equally.

There should be no zip code priority! I feel very strongly about this as I am in that category and my cancer history makes me very vulnerable.

Dawn A. Reimer, Pebble Beach

Thanks for coverage

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to the editor to voice my concern at how some people are being given priority to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. As a long-time resident and reader of The Pine Cone, I think I can speak for the entire community in stating our gratitude to Paul Miller and his staff for the regular coronavirus updates they have provided us all.

While I often disagree with The Pine Cone’s editorial positions (although many of them I do agree with), Miller and the local newspaper have provided us with clear information during such a difficult time which we are all experiencing. Hopefully, we can survive this crisis and return to our normal lives in the city and area we all are so lucky to share.

Larry Biegel, Carmel
There is nothing new under the sun (or rain) on the golf courses

The 2021 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am has turned out to be one of the oddest in history. Thanks to the coronavirus, it’s being played with only the pros, and without the amateurs, the field of golfers is smaller, so they’re only using two golf courses — Pebble Beach and Spyglass Hill. And since there are only two courses, the cut is being made after two rounds instead of after the three-course rotation that whole event, the organizers agreed they would find a date to return and finish the professional side of the tournament. It was Aug. 17 before most of the pros came back to complete the tournament as a 54-hole event. The field split across the three courses. Phil Mickelson fired a 67 at Poppy Hills to notch his first of five Pebble Beach Pro-Am victories.

Just two courses

As for using just two courses, it happened in 1952. When entertainer Bing Crosby began the Crosby National Pro-Am in 1937, it used just one course at Rancho Santa Fe in southern California. It was last played there in 1942, and then canceled in the following years due to World War II. After the war, Crosby moved the event to Pebble Beach, and in 1947, he made it a 54-hole, three-day tournament using three courses. There was no split field. All the teams played Cypress Point on Thursday, Monterey Peninsula Country Club’s Dunes course on Friday, and Pebble Beach on Saturday. There was no cut, nor a Sunday finish.

In 1952, winds gusting to 45 miles per hour led to high scores at Cypress Point, and it was even reported that Cary Middelcoff came in from the 16th Tee complaining that the wind was so strong the ball wouldn’t stay on the tee. Pebble Beach golf professional Peter Hay, serving as lead marshal and rules official, insisted there was no rule requiring golfers to use a tee and told him to finish his round. He did, and the cut was then made after the first round.

Rather than walking hand-in-hand with the 800-pound gorilla of her family tree, Cara Weston chose a different path for most of her life. She focused instead on motherhood — “still my greatest accomplishment,” she said — and avoided the intimidating shadow cast by her grandfather, Edward Weston, widely regarded as among the most influential, and innovative photographers in American history.

Her uncle Bing, who had his first international exhibition at age 17, was described by another legendary imagemaker, Van Deren Coke, as “the child genius of American photography.” Her father, Cole, whose resume included a short stint with Life magazine, found his own niche shooting color photography, unlike Edward and Bing, who worked exclusively in black-and-white. Cara, her big brother, Kim Weston — also highly accomplished — writes on his biography that he knew from the age of 6 that photography was his future.

Cole Weston, director

Cara Weston’s portfolio today, built over the past 25 years, is packed with crisp images — all black and white — of crashing waves, tumbling waterfalls, gnarly trees, ominous cloud formations, emotion-evoking figures, flora and fauna, architecture, both scarred and pristine, and abstracts.

But her journey was much different than those of her celebrated relatives. “I had no plans to do photography. It wasn’t really encouraged for women in our family, and I didn’t even understand that Edward Weston was world famous until I studied working for my father in my late teens, touching up and mounting my grandfather’s prints,” said Weston, who was a 1-year-old when Edward died. “My dad gave me a 35-millimeter camera, but he never really wanted me to be part of that stuff, so I just wasn’t headed in that direction.

Indeed, Weston, 64 and the grandmother of two, credits the abundant skills she displays in her art today to the years she spent studying and working with the black-and-white photography of her grandfather and uncle. Her only formal training, she said, came from a photography class she took at Monterey Peninsula College from another revered local shooter, Henry Gilpin.

She believes photography — not photography

Carmel’s Artists

She was a photographer — her father’s true love. Cole Weston established the second Forest Theater Guild in Carmel, directed more than 30 plays on the outdoor stage, and was involved with the physical construction of the Indoor Forest Theater (a small theater beneath the outdoor stage), hauling concrete and other building materials himself. He was involved with the guild for 50 years.

Cara and her second wife, Helen (Prosser) Weston, divorced when Cara was 5, and Cara and her siblings spent the next six years living with Prosser on a hilltop in Big Sur, at Garrapata State Park.

“My mother was a waitress at Nepenthe, raising my three brothers and me on top of this mountain, which, back then, was very isolated — dirt road, no other homes up here,” said Weston, who still lives on the Garrapata mountaintop where she spent her childhood. “My mom was always helping it to Nepenthe to work her shifts as a waitress, leaving us home alone, but that’s what she had to do.

Childhood memories

“Childhood memories — “She was really a crazy lady, a fun person,” she said. “She’d take us down in Big Sur and let us play in the riv- er. She had this old, beat-up VW Bug, and when it stormed she’d have all of us kids sitting on the rear bumper for traction as we tried to make it up the hill. We’d wander through these old, burned-out homes, looking through their trash piles. My dad had a trout farm, where people came to fish, and we’d have these big, family-style cookouts. We were kind of poor, but my childhood was really fun until I was 11.”

That’s when Prosser died of cancer, and the Weston siblings moved in with their father and his third wife, Maggi (Woodward) Weston.

Cara Weston was “a bit rebellious,”

See ARTIST next page

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Don’t miss “Scenic Views” by Jerry Gervase — every week in the Real Estate Section.

By NEAL HOTELLING

HISTORY BEAT

Don’t miss “Scenic Views” by Jerry Gervase — every week in the Real Estate Section.
and along with more than half of the field of 84 professionals, failed to break 80.

Five foursomes were not even able to finish the first round before dark and had to return to Pebble Point the next morning, when much of Pebble Beach was without power and trees were down throughout the forest. The second round, scheduled for the Dunes course, was canceled.

On Saturday, the golfers completed the tournament at Pebble Beach, it had become a 36-hole event using just the two courses. First-round leader Jimmy Demaret, who was paired with Bob Hope, went on to win the professional event. As a team, they finished third, one stroke behind two teams that tied for the win.

A 36-hole cut

In 1953, Crosby and the PGA changed the format for the tourney, which until then had run into another incompletion due to darkness, they split the field. Doing so also allowed them to increase the number of golfers from 84 to 100 teams. Half of them played at Cypress Point on Thursday and half played the Dunes. On Friday, they switched. Then, for the first time, there was a cut after 36 holes. Only the low 60 teams played Pebble Beach for a single round on Saturday.

Lloyd Mangrum led after 36 holes with three better than local star Lawson Little at Pebble Beach with a final round 71 for a total of 284. Mangrum, 36, has never been to the U.S. Open, and three better than local star Lawson Little at Pebble Beach with a final round 71 for a total of 284. Mangrum, 36, has never been to the U.S. Open, and four better than local star Lawson Little at Pebble Beach with a final round 71 for a total of 284. Mangrum, 36, has never been to the U.S. Open.

In 1957, the last time the tournament was played Pebble Beach, there were two rounds on Pebble Beach. There were 47 amateurs that made the Pro-Am cut and also played the two-round finish. Jimmy Casper won his first of two tournaments in 1958 and finished second in the Pro-Am with Bob Raymond. The only stroke behind two teams that tied for the win.

First-round leader Jimmy Demaret, who also played the two-round finish. Billy Casper won his first of two tournaments in 1958 and finished second in the Pro-Am with Bob Raymond. Jimmy Casper won his first of two tournaments in 1958 and finished second in the Pro-Am with Bob Raymond.

In 1959, the field grew to 150 teams, and the tournament used the now-familiar three-course rotation precluding the cut — 30 teams, 100 golfers on each of the three courses on the first three days, with the low 60 pros and low 45-50 teams playing Pebble Beach on Sunday.

The three courses have changed over the years, with Spyglass Hill replacing the Dunes in 1967, Poppy Hills replacing Cypress Point in 1991 and then the Monterey Peninsula’s re-designed Shore course replacing Poppy Hills in 2010. The number of teams making the cut has been reduced to 25, but in general the format has been constant for the past 60-plus years. Here’s hoping the 2021 format goes into the record books as a one-off oddity, especially since for the first time it has no gallery — the first time since 1947 and the first time since 1947.

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

Sent to 64 days in jail but given credit for time served, and was placed on probation for five years. He was also enrolled in a nine-month alcohol program and pay roughly $2,200 in fines. That same year, he was also charged with defacing property and obstructing or resisting a public officer.

In October 2019, Dona— who was charged with spousal battery after prosecutors say he used “force and violence” against a woman he was living with and drew knife on her in a “threatening manner” — was also charged with cruelty to a 3-year-old boy by inflicting “injuries causing physical pain and mental suffering.”

But at 40, Weston felt less weight from the time my daughters went there, but we didn’t learn anything there. And, honestly, I really didn’t want to go school — I just wanted to ride my horse.”

“Ansel was wonderful. I didn’t know him well, but my father and stepmom (Maggi) were married at his home … we’d see him at parties … he’d bring his prints into our gallery … he always impressed me as a really genuine person,” she said. “And, of course, I thought his photographs were beautiful.”

Weston’s own focus on fine art photography didn’t intensify until her daughters were in college. “Brian is a really good guy — we’re still good friends — but we got divorced after 20 years, and part of the reason was that I was never able to ride my horse.”

To learn more about this cutie, head on over to www.SPCAmc.org/adopt.

Meet the handsome Poppy! Poppy is a five month old boy who arrived at the Monterey SPCA’s over-flowing adoption center in July. She was born without a tail, and was driven without a license. But in general, he has grown so much! To learn more about this cutie, head on over to www.SPCAmc.org/adopt.
dependence she wanted, along with a man- 
date of responsibility that led to invaluable 
life-building skills. 

“The beginning stages of dorm life are 
awful. You make a lot of errors and you 
find out a lot about yourself very quickly,” she 
said. 

As an athlete, Cotton discovered abili-
ties she never realized she had. 

“Kyla played volleyball for the first time 
as a freshman on the JV team, and was 
very raw, with no real volleyball training at 
all,” said Underwood. Stevenson’s varsity 
coach. “I started coaching her during her 
 sophomore year, and immediately noticed 
that she was very strong and powerful —
just steaming with potential!” 

Within weeks into preseason workouts, 
Underwood decided to give her a trial 
with the varsity team. “She was very shocked to be 
invited to play varsity,” the coach said. “But she outworked everybody, earned a 
starting spot, and wound up winning our 
Most Improved Player award that year.”

That spring, she surprised herself on 
Stevenson’s track team, establishing new 
school records in the high jump (5-foot-
10), 100-meter hurdles (15.79) — as an event she had never 
tried until coming to Stevenson. 

“She actually set the hurdles record in 
the semifinals of the Central Coast Section 
Championships,” said Ron Provost, the 
Pirate’s head track coach. “And she did it 
in despite wrong-footing the second or third 
hurdle. I think she went over the last seven hurdles 
with the wrong leg, and broke the record anyway.”

“Surreal” achievements 

“It’s surreal to think that I hold three 
school records,” Cotton said. “I worked so 
hard for those, and it’s really satisfying 
feeling to realize that my hard work paid 
 off, but three school records? That’s not 
something I ever imagined might happen.”

What a 6-foot-tall high jump champi

might have accomplished on a basketball 
court during the winter months will never 
be known, because she spends that quarter 
performing in both school musicals.

“She’s so busy during the day that she’s 
not able to take acting classes, so I end up 
teaching her onstage, during our rehears-
als,” said Stevenson Theater Director Kim 
Smitgenns, who directs the musical 
crew. “She has impeccable timing — some-
thing you can’t teach — but what’s really 
key in musical theater is she has a beautiful 
singing voice, and she knows how to tell 
a story through song.”

Cotton and her close friend, Genevieve 
Baldwin, had co-leading roles in the 2020 
production of “Freaky Friday.”

Stage fright 

“I actually have incredible stage fright — 
my school is something called Coff-
 feehouse, where anybody can get up and 
perform a song — and I’ve never partic-
ipated,” Cotton said. “But, in a musical, 
I’m playing a character, and that’s a big 
difference. I don’t feel nearly as nervous, 
knowing I’m just part of a whole cast, and 
everybody is supporting everybody else. 
We can’t really see the audience — we can only 
hear their reaction — and if we hear 
them laugh, or gasp, or applaud, we know 
we did something right.”

Cotton also has a scholarship in hand 
to travel to Rennes, France, this summer, 
pandemic permitting. There, she’ll study 
literature and creative writing (earning 
four college credits) for four weeks, during 
which she’ll have the opportunity to im-
merse herself in the culture, explore the 
country, and become more proficient in the 
French language, a passion of hers. 

“In a perfect world, I’d like to someday 
make films abroad, and, to me, it doesn’t re-
ally matter what kind of film it is right now, 
although I gravitate toward dramas,” said 
Cotton, who, for a school project, made 
short documentary about how her mom’s 
busy schedule as a neurosurgeon impacted 
the family. “It came out beautifully, and it 
was gratifying. As long as I can express 
myself in that kind of eloquence, I’m going to 
feel good about what I’ve created.”

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Auctions of Carmel is now open for business. Consigning or buying fine art, jewelry, rare watches, 
designer purses & knapsacks, silverware, china, sterling silver, antique furniture, pottery & rugs 
and objects of art. Go to GraysoneAuctions.com and click Auctions to view our real estate and 
personal property sales. Graysone Realty & Auction, Inc.

ARRESTS

From page 6A

“We called the sheriff’s office for assis-
tance, and they came and set up a perim-
eter,” in the area of Randall Way, a short 
street on the north side of Ocean between 
Highway 1 and Carpenter, Watkins said.

BUDGET

From page 8A

Their are working on in their committee. 

“Just to use an example that I’m close 
with, if we wait six months to do the green-
house gas work, we will not get our climate 
change project done in time,” he said. The 
study is estimated to cost $20,000. 

Councilwoman Karen Fertito agreed. 

“This is something the city has to do, and 
they are woefully behind,” she said. “I think 
we would be penny-wise and pound-fool-
ish not to get those studies done to com-
plete this project.”

Theis said it would be prudent to get 
started on the study, calling the climate 
action plan a “mandate by the state,” but 
was more cautious about spending without 
knowing how the rest of the year will go. 

“Also she said unanticipated income 
should be used to offset the 2020-2021 
budget’s reliance on more than $1 million 
in savings and to repay the employees who 
gave up pay to help the city get through the 
economic slump.”

Councilman Bobby Richards asked 
what the ramifications of holding off on 
the greenhouse gas study would be and 
opposed earmarking money for projects 
that are “special” to any particular council 
member, while Mayor Dave Potter strongly 
objected to any additional spending. 

“The only thing that’s going to compel 
me to support any allocations of any dol-
ars right now is some level of urgency,” he 
said. “I don’t think anything else out there 
is going to compel me to spend any more money until I get a look at the budget as a 
whole.”

Parting with dollars now would be 
irresponsible, he said, “when we do not know 
the consequences.”

“We’re halfway through our budget that 
we shed a lot of blood over,” he said, in-
cluding layoffs. “Our employees suffered, 
and I think we ought to honor that.” 

Ultimately, the council decided not to 
commit to any additional spending but 
asked for a report next month on what 
deadlines, exactly, have to be met regard-
ing the climate change plan.

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BLIGHTED
From page 10A
gets by these planning commissioners.”
As a group, the commission was happy to learn the dilapidated home will finally be getting some love, especially since it’s the last house at the end of the city’s main street leading to the beach.
“I’m thrilled that someone is going to do something with this piece of property, because this is like another piece of this unfinished symphony” of abandoned proj-
Left.
ects, including the giant pit at Dolores and Fifth, commissioner Gail Lehman said. “I like what you’ve done, Adam. I like the

sentor Stephanie Locke.

left.

nations satellites which must be parked in geosynchronous orbits, will constantly move across the global skies.
In response to concerns that so many satellites would disrupt nighttime views, the company said it’s gone to great lengths

SATLINK
From page 1A

STARKLAND
From page 1A

the night time sky “can be preserved.”
To put the satellites into orbit, Starlink uses rocket carrying 60 of them per launch. As they are deployed, they can resemble a string of pearls in the night sky.
10,000 already using

The company said the technology will be a boon to people who live in remote areas and will even offer a “competitive-
ly-priced” alternative
While the service is new — and won’t
go online officially until at least mid-2021 — more than 10,000 people around the world are now using it in a testing phase. Starlink urged those beta-testing the service to be patient while the company works out bugs.
Data speeds are likely to vary, at least

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one who missed concerts at Sunset Cen-
ter. “I just love it. It’s a very special place.”
Melcher said. “Nothing compares to going to a live performance. I hope it gets done!” added commis-

PHOTO/COURTESY

en Smith told The Pine Cone Feb. 4 that the agency had “not advised Monterey Peninsula Pediatric Medical Group that

Seniors
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The Carmel Pine Cone  February 12, 2021  30A

no long-term effect on viewings,” she said.

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To put the satellites into orbit, Starlink uses rocket carrying 60 of them per launch. As they are deployed, they can resemble a string of pearls in the night sky.

the last house at the end of the city’s main

"I'm thrilled that someone is going to do something with this piece of property, because this is like another piece of this unfinished symphony" of abandoned proj-

ets, including the giant pit at Dolores and Fifth, commissioner Gail Lehman said. “I like what you’ve done, Adam. I like the

city’s main street leading to the beach.

atisfied. “Family and friends should keep talking to them and checking on them, ask-
ing what they need and what they’re missing,” Zimmerman said.

Technology has played a big role for

many older people, even routine
doctor visits could be an important part of their emotional lives.

“When they’re at the doctor, someone listens, takes care of them and dispenses advice,” Melcher explained. Fear of con-
tracting the virus, however, put the kibosh on many medical appointments, particular-
ly for high-risk patients like seniors.

There’s also a lot of people at a time, and lawn bowling had resumed. Also, “There’s a lot of walking up here,” confirmed Cox.

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go online officially until at least mid-2021 — more than 10,000 people around the world are now using it in a testing phase. Starlink urged those beta-testing the service to be patient while the company works out bugs.

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PHOTO/COURTESY

MCCARTY COUNTY SUPERVISOR WENDY ROOT-ASKWORTH, noting the importance of the oper-
aton. Askew’s assistant, Jenny McAdams — also a PG councilwoman — thanked Airolo for her efforts and said “Askew, her colleagues, and county staff are working tirelessly to obtain additional vaccine.”
Airolo wrote to county health official Dr. Ed Moreno directly to ask for more, but isn’t very hopeful. “I think my quest to get the vaccines out is now drawing to a close,” she said Wednesday. “We give out second shots on Sunday, and then who knows when, or if, we will get any more.”

No nagging
Most importantly, he said, when you do
talk with someone, don’t just share infor-
mation and news “Speak from the heart, without trying to change, fix or give people advice” And of course, truly listen to what others are saying.
If you notice changes in a senior’s eat-
ing or sleeping habits, Melcher said it’s good to share those observations with the person and ask how you can be of help. Suggesting they talk with a professional is also appropriate, but you can’t force some-
one (or nag them) into seeking assistance.
Finally, Melcher encourages movement and exercise, something the folks at Del Mar and Carmel Valley Manor are doing, too. Zimmerman noted that they’ve conducted some outdoor exercise classes, while Cox said the swimming pool was open for lim-
ited numbers of people at a time, and lawn bowling had resumed. Also, “There’s a lot of walking up here,” confirmed Cox.
DEBATED
From page 1A

Asked whether the county would advise hospitality workers when it’s their turn to get vaccinated, Adams said she’s hoping employers will deliver the information — though she didn’t say how employers would know what to tell them. She also said social media will be used to get the message out.

Finally, MacMurdo asked a question sent by a chamber member. “How have you been advocating for the safe reopening of businesses over the past few months?”

“I know who asked that question — he asks it of me about once a month,” Adams responded, seeming to imply that only one person would ask such a question. “And it makes me feel like, ‘You know what I’ve been doing: I’ve been working 80 hours a week, I’ve been doing everything that I can, personally as well as professionally, to communicate with people at the state and federal level. That is what I do.’”

Adams said she fully grasps the importance of the hospitality and tourism industry to the county’s economy, and that if it doesn’t thrive, “none of us thrive.”

“I have been working very hard,” she said. “If he would like to look at my calendar, I would be happy to show him the appointments that I have.”

Mayor Dave Potter, who couldn’t attend the event and was therefore interviewed by MacMurdo earlier in the week, said his top three priorities this year are “economic recovery, economic recovery, economic recovery,” and he praised the council, the chamber and the Carmel Residents Association for working together on behalf of the city. “Frankly, we’re doing a better job than most communities in figuring out how to come through this together,” he said.

Potter advocated for continued fiscal prudence, even though some tax revenues are coming in higher than expected. “We don’t know what the next month is going to look like, we don’t know what the weather is going to do, we don’t know what this virus is doing,” especially with the new, more contagious variants, he said.

Potter also said that whatever happens, he wants to ensure the town doesn’t “change as a result of this pandemic.” But he said it could benefit from a bit more life on the street, as has been seen with outdoor dining during the past year.

“I would like to see sidewalk dining continue but don’t want it to be hodgepodge,” he said. “I don’t want to see run-away parklets like we have now.” Potter also took a minute to thank the nonprofits Carmel Gives and Carmel Cares for their help keeping the city beautiful and even purchasing equipment, like a new sidewalk cleaner, for the city.

“It’s unbelievably refreshing,” he said. “I’ve never seen anything like it.”

A city vaccination site?

After reflecting on some of the successes of the past year, including voters passing the Measure C sales tax increase, the reincarnation of the Sunset Center bonds, and the collaborative relationship between residents and the business community, city administrator Chip Rerig talked about outdoor dining, since he was the first city leader on the Peninsula to allow restaurants to set up tables and chairs in parking spaces, and ongoing efforts to keep the village looking nice, even without having nearly as much money to do it.

He also addressed those who constantly ask “why we let anyone who doesn’t live in the village come here,” pointing out that he can’t put a chain-link fence around the city to keep people out.

“We’re not Pebble Beach — these are public streets, obviously,” he said, adding that those working to promote the city are focusing on a sensible message reminding people to follow the rules when they visit.

He said he hopes large events like Concours on the Avenue will return and said his staff will be ready. “We will be poised, if we’re allowed to have the events, to host and to do them in a very safe and responsible manner,” he said.

But all of that hinges on the vaccine and a steep decline in Covid-19 infections. At the current rate of 4,500 vaccinations per week in a county with 440,000 residents, Rerig noted it will take nearly 100 weeks to get everyone inoculated. “That’s just not acceptable at all,” he said.

Rerig said Police Chief Paul Tomasi is trying to work with the county to get a mass vaccination site in or near the city, perhaps at Carmel High, Sunset Center or Larson Field. But the city was not consulted by county officials when they signed contracts for 32 sites throughout the county.

“We don’t know the locations — that’s part of the communications breakdown with the Office of Emergency Services that is a little bit frustrating,” he said.

In the meantime, he said, people need to remain vigilant about wearing masks, keeping their distance and washing their hands, “so we don’t get a variant of the virus spiking hospitalizations and deaths and sicknesses again.”
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