Youth center seeks license, upgrades to reopen

By MARY SCHLEY

THE CARMEL Youth Center, which was abruptly shut down in late March after the state discovered it was operating without a license, is undertaking the arduous licensing process to become legitimate, according to board President John Ruskell and former board V.P. John Plastini. They said the center, which was founded by Bing Crosby 74 years ago, will be able to open again late this year or early next, depending on how long the process takes.

The California Department of Social Services shut down the center March 27 after learning that younger kids were being bused directly from Carmel River School to the center for after-school care, according to Plastini. That meant it needed a license as a childcare center, which carries with it numerous requirements regarding staff accreditation, kid-to-staff ratios, and standards for the facility, including heating in every room.

Big ask

“Being a childcare facility definitely represents the need of the community,” Ruskell said. “I went to the youth center in the 1960s, when it was almost exclusively high-school kids, but now, it’s the younger children who want to be there, especially after school.

“Tha’s where the need is, so that’s what we want to fulfill,” he said.

Ruskell said the licensing application covers everything from the conditions of the 10,000-square-foot, multistory building to the number of students per adult and the

County busts landlord with illegal housing

More than 200 families lived there

By CHRIS COUNTS

In A case that highlights the critical need for local housing and the lengths some people will undertake to profit from it, county officials say they are fining proprietors Nicole and Ana Ravalca nearly $60,000 for a hotel at least 50 illegal dwellings to farmworkers and their families on San Miguel Canyon Road in northern Monterey County.

The county had at first estimated that about 100 people were living at the site, including women and children. Now that estimate is more than 200. The rental of the property was being advertised for $1,000 to $2,000 in rent each month. One tenant who was interviewed said she had no options beyond living at the site, but said she was treated with respect. Another woman who was interviewed echoed her comments.

See YOUTH page 16A

See HOUSING page 12A
Sandy Claws

BOOMER LOVES to ride in the car. Particularly if he thinks he’s headed to the drive-thru at In 6 Out Burger to get a “doggie patty.” The only problem is that when his person heads to any other drive-thru, such as CVS on Fremont, he thinks he’s in it 6 Out, so he puts on his most fetching face and lens out the window, hoping.

A social little thing, Boomer also enjoys riding in the cart at Home Depot. His person sets an old UPS box in the chair seat and Boomer sits up like a celebrity, expecting to draw attention.

Boomer, now 10, is his person’s first dog. After renting a house in Monterey, she had the chance to buy it, which seemed an ideal time to get a dog. A champion of rescue animals, she found 5-year-old Boomer, a Dachshund-Shih Tzu “Other” mix, at the SPCA and couldn’t believe anyone would have relinquished him or not have adopted the adorable pup ahead of her.

“I didn’t know exactly what I was looking for,” her person said, “but when I saw him, I realized he’s kind of perfect. He’s not too big, a manageable size, and he loves to run on the beach but doesn’t have to do it every day. A car ride suits him just fine.”

Boomer has spent a lot of time at Asilomar Beach, but he’s just as happy chasing after his ball down that long stretch of sand at Carmel Beach. “Our favorite place to walk,” his person said, “is from Carmel River Beach along Scenic and then, around the point, to Carmel Beach. Boomer gets so excited when we round the bend. He also gets very excited at the Barnyard shopping center since he knows which places will give him treats. If the door’s open, he heads in.”

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BY STICKLEY

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CARMEL VALLEY HOME RENTAL WANTED - Investor’s Dream Tenant

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Please contact us.

Tiffany Burch - 408.438.2776

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Fox to air program on P.B. golf course

Equipment fixed and flights should return to normal

By KELLY NIX

Following about 10 flight delays, diversions and cancellations at Monterey Regional Airport that started on Mother’s Day weekend due to a landing guidance system malfunction, officials said Wednesday afternoon that the technical problems had been fixed and that flights “should return to normal operations.”

But dense fog on the Peninsula could still mean some delays, they cautioned.

Beginning Friday, May 12, numerous flights had delays due to a problem with an FAA antenna on the airport’s instrument landing system, which helps pilots land aircraft during periods of limited visibility.

“We had a couple more delays last night and today before the fog lifted,” airport general manager Michael La Pier told The Carmel Pine Cone Tuesday just before 5 p.m. “The real problem is the fog coupled with the malfunction” of the landing guidance system. “The antenna has been replaced and fine-tuned.”

On Wednesday afternoon, the airport announced that problems with the instrument landing system, which is handled by the Federal Aviation Administration, had been resolved.

“With the restoration of the new equipment completed, air traffic should return to normal operations,” a media release said. However, “with the very dense fog that the area has experienced over the past five nights, some flights might still experience landing delays if the fog ceiling drops below 200 feet.”

“New approach”

While the delays caused major headaches for passengers, La Pier said that fog coupled with equipment issues rarely occurs, and so do major delays at Monterey Regional Airport.

“The airport is 98 percent reliable, meaning that 98 percent of all scheduled flights operate, even with all but extreme weather conditions,” he said. “The very dense fog with visibility of 100 feet or less at times, combined with the equipment malfunction, created the perfect storm.”

It’s been more than five years since delays of this kind have occurred at the airport, which La Pier said was a “testament to the new approaches FAA has introduced to the airport and the great work our partners at FAA do in maintaining their equipment.”

See DELAYS page 26A

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Thomas 8 years old
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The Carmel Pine Cone May 19, 2023

Police & Sheriff’s Log

MISSING: Lydia the tattooed lady

Here’s a look at some of the significant calls logged by the Carmel-by-the-Sea Police Department and the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office last week. This week’s log was compiled by Mary Schley.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

Carmel Valley: Report of alleged financial exploitation at an East Carmel Valley Road residence.

Carmel Valley: Online report of trespassing at a home on Gables Road.

Pebble Beach: A 39-year-old male was arrested on 17 Mile Drive for public intoxication and disorderly conduct.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Ongoing complaints of disturbing the peace on Junipero.

Pacific Grove: Subject on Constitution Boulevard was on a mental health evaluation hold at a local hospital and made threats against a police department. Report is for information only at this time.

Carmel Valley: Deputies conducted a welfare check.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Found wallet along the beach brought to station for safekeeping.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Investigated non-injury collision on Mission Road.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Subject on Fifth Avenue the loss of a phone.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Phone lost on San Carlos Street.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Field cite and release at Sierra and Guadalupe at 2150 hours for a 32-year-old male driving on a suspended CDL, false DMV registration and an outstanding warrant.

Pacific Grove: A local business reported fraudulent checks were cashed against their banking account. No viable suspect information. Report is for information only.

Pacific Grove: Officer was dispatched to the 1100 block of Lighthouse Avenue for an abandoned motorcycle. The registration was expired since 2018, and the vehicle was subsequently removed.

Pacific Grove: Subject reported suspicious circumstances at a business on Forest Avenue. Report for information only.

Carmel Valley: Neighbor dispute on El Potroo Road involving barking dogs.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Subject on Lincoln lost a cell phone. She later called back to advise she located her phone.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Welfare check on Hancock Avenue.

Pacific Grove: Parents requested welfare check of their adult son, a resident of Fourth Street, whose behavior is increasingly erratic.

Carmel Valley: Lost property on Old Ranch Road.

Carmel Valley: Deputies responded to a domestic dispute on Robinson Canyon Road.

Carmel Valley: Several items were stolen from an unlocked vehicle on Carmel Valley Road. A debit card that was taken later used.

See POLICE LOG page 5RE in the Real Estate Section

The gavel falls

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

April 19 — The Hon. Pamela L. Butler sentenced Daniel Gonzalez Guerra, 23, a resident of Salinas, to three years in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for committing second degree robbery on a victim who was 65 years of age or older. This conviction constitutes a strike under California’s Three Strikes law. This was Guerra’s first criminal offense.

On Sept. 11, 2022, Guerra was in the area of Starbucks on Constitution Blvd. in Salinas and was approaching unsuspecting persons asking to use their cellular phones. Guerra had been released access by two separate persons when the victim, a 93-year-old woman, was parking her vehicle. Guerra pulled the victim out of her car, throwing her to the ground, and then took her vehicle and cell phone and drove away. The police were called immediately. Salinas Police Officer James Schwab responded and immediately gathered enough information to broadcast a “Be-On-The-Lookout” of the suspect’s description and location of the victim’s car. Officer Schaf- fer was also able to get a ping location for the victim’s cell phone.

Law enforcement was able to identify the location of the victim’s car, and ultimately arrest Guerra within 4 hours of his attack on the victim.

This case was investigated by the Salinas Police Department with assistance from Marina Police Department and CSU Monterey Bay Police Department. The victim in this case was assisted by victim witness advocate Kristen Peterson.

Environmental Assessment for the Naval Innovation Center: The U.S. Navy is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed construction and operation of a Naval Innovation Center at the Naval Postgraduate School located in Naval Support Activity Monterey, California. A new Naval Innovation Center is needed to support rapid development of emerging technologies to meet current and future national security challenges driven by global strategic competition.

Public Involvement Opportunity

The U.S. Navy will analyze sites at Naval Support Activity Monterey as potential locations for the Naval Innovation Center, as well as a No Action Alternative. The public is encouraged to provide comments on the scope of the EA, viable alternatives, and specific environmental, historic, archaeological, and cultural resource topics for consideration in the EA.

Comments may be submitted online at www.NICMontereyEA.com, or by mail to:
Naval Support Activity Monterey
ATTN: Public Affairs Officer
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Monterey, CA 93943

For more information and a downloadable fact sheet, visit www.NICMontereyEA.com.

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“My name is Celeste and I came to the SPCA because my owner could no longer care for me. It is not my fault, I am a good kitty! I may seem a bit bashful when we first meet but I warm up quickly. I love to curl up with my human and snuggle. Meet me today at the SPCA!”

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“SPCA Monterey County Veterinary clinic is taking appointments for low-cost vaccinations! Go to www.spcamc.org to make an appointment online.”

4A
Carmel resident files suit against city, PG&E over ‘hazardous’ stake

By KELLY NIX

AN ELDERLY Carmel man who said he was injured twice by a steel stake in the ground next to his property — including a mishap where he broke an arm — has filed a lawsuit against the city and PG&E for allowing the stake to be there.

David Miller, 75, who lives on the south side of Ocean Avenue near Forest Road, said that in 2020, an internet company called Astound Broadband installed a steel stake in the ground adjacent to his carport on property which he said is owned by Carmel but leased to PG&E and other utilities.

The stake, which Miller said appeared to have been installed as a base for a guy wire, remained “sticking out of the ground for many months,” his lawsuit alleges.

The stake had been placed on the public property by Astound Broadband “with the consent, permission and knowledge of Carmel and PG&E,” according to Miller’s complaint, filed for him by Walnut Creek attorney Nick Casper.

Ouch

According to the suit, in early 2021, with the stake already in place for about one year, Miller was pushing his recycling bin toward the street for pickup when the first of two accidents occurred.

“The bin struck the stake, causing Miller to fall onto the pavement,” his suit contends. “He suffered a head laceration requiring a visit to the emergency room and stitches.”

After that, Miller said he made “numerous calls and email messages to Carmel and PG&E to complain about the stake and the danger it poses.” Public works told Miller that Astound Broadband installed the stake, but he couldn’t reach anybody at the company, his suit says.

Following his complaints, Miller said someone placed sawhorses and yellow tape around the stake, which he said were “frequently moved by pedestrians and the yellow tape was removed.” The sawhorses did not “adequately guard” against the stake, which remained jutting out of the ground without any guy wire, his lawsuit said.

On May 12, 2022, Miller contends he tripped and fell on the stake.

“He reached back as he fell and his left humerus snapped below the shoulder,” according to his complaint.

Councilman helps

Despite the serious accident, Miller said the stake remained in the ground for another five months until he brought up the issue with councilman Jeff Baron.

“Within several days of that conversation, the stake was removed,” Miller said in the suit.

The property where the stake was is “owned and controlled” by Carmel, PG&E and Astound Broadband. He said that it was “eminently foreseeable” that Miller would “repeatedly” encounter the stake and “could be injured by the dangerous condition,” his suit says.

Miller also noted that he made “repeated contacts” with Carmel and PG&E employees, telling them about the stake and urging that it be removed, but that the danger went “unaddressed.”

Carmel, PG&E and Astound Broadband knew or should have known that the stake alone, without any guy wire attached, posed an unreasonable risk of harm to the public.

Miller, who accuses the defendants of negligence and premises liability, is seeking an undisclosed amount in damages exceeding $25,000, including damages for hospital and medical expenses.
Mission Trail tank, well to be removed

By MARY SCHLEY

It has shown up on the list of planned capital improvements for years, only to be shoved to the back burner by more pressing matters, but a plan to remove an old water tank and well in Mission Trail Park is finally underway. Budgeted at $150,000, the work calls for taking out a 10,000-gallon tank that’s 30 feet long and 8 feet in diameter, demolishing a stone pump house and related plumbing, getting rid of an abandoned power pole, dismantling and capping an old well and removing hazardous materials, among other tasks. The city is seeking bids from contractors.

Last summer, the city council hired Wallace Group for $192,775 to manage four civil-engineering-oriented capital improvement projects, including decommissioning the well and removing the tank in the popular city park. The old well and pump house — which two decades ago captured water for washing the street sweeper — have long been considered an “attractive nuisance,” city administrator Chip Rerig said Thursday.

“We used to pump water out of the well into the tank and we would use it to rinse our sweeper,” he said. “We never should have been doing that, because it drains to the bay.”

Since the practice was abandoned some 20 years ago, the tank has fallen into a state of “severe disrepair,” Rerig said, so it must go, and the well can’t simply be capped.

“You can’t just cap a well and then walk away,” he said. “It could create a sinkhole and someone could walk across it and fall in. There’s a whole protocol that dictates how a well has to be decommissioned.”

According to the public works department, the consultant completed preliminary work earlier this year and provided them to the appropriate department for review.

Site tour Wednesday

Bids are due by 2 p.m. June 27, but a pre-construction tour of the site has been set for May 24 at 10 a.m. at the Rio Road entrance to the park. Bidder questions are due June 2, and the city will provide the answers online by June 13, according to the 153-page request for bids posted on the city’s website.

“The contractor will have to abide by numerous environmental regulations and mitigation measures, which include a coastal development permit approved by the planning commission, staying out of the adjacent intermittent stream, and decommissioning the well and removing the tank.”

See TANK page 26A
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40000009240
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Lovers Point Pier to get interim fix

By KELLY NIX

The CRUMBING Lovers Point Pier in Pacific Grove is not in danger of “catastrophic failure” but should get some short-term repairs as soon as possible to avoid further damage and risk to the public, according to a recently released analysis given to the city council.

The 100-plus-year-old structure, which juts into the ocean next to the popular Lovers Point beach, was heavily damaged in 2020 by strong waves, and as a result, the end of the pier was closed to the public.

An assessment commissioned by the City of Pacific Grove, released this week, outlined the problems with the pier, including “extensive cracking” of the concrete.

The city council is expected to discuss the item at an upcoming meeting.

In December 2021, the city council OK’d an agreement with consultant GHD for an analysis of the pier at a cost of $100,000. The company’s subcontractor, Haro, Kasunich and Associates Inc., concluded in a lengthy analysis that the “development and installation of a short-term repair is warranted as soon as possible.” The solutions include reinforcing the exterior, replacing concrete on its edges and top, replacing footings and guard rail, replacing a concrete slab on the entire lower deck and resurfacing the lower staircase that extends into the water from the lower deck.

“As the reinforced concrete walls continue to fail, exposing more of the vulnerable core of the structure, we expect that the rate of deterioration will accelerate,” the consultant said. “In other words, this damage will only get worse in the coming decade if nothing is done to reinforce and stabilize the core.”

If repairs aren’t undertaken, the consultant said concrete debris would remain in the ocean and that “use of the pier by the public will be beyond an ordinary level of risk.”

The structure is “performing as expected” for its age, but some of the concrete is “very weak,” according to the assessment. The pier was renovated in the early 1980s with reinforced concrete walls and slabs on the upper and lower decks.

“The reinforced concrete improvements included iron and carbon rebar, which has corroded and expanded over time resulting in severe cracking” of the concrete “further exposing rebar,” the report said.

How it’s built
Among the recommended short-term fixes are repairing the tip so the public can use it, replacing concrete in portions of the structure, including concrete slabs.
P.G. spends big money fighting fired cop’s civil rights lawsuit

By KELLY NIX

It cost $175,000 for Pacific Grove to defend itself against a lawsuit by former police officer Michael Gonzalez — the city’s 2017 Police Officer of the Year — who accused the chief and city manager of retaliation after he was fired in 2021 over posts he made on social media.

Gonzalez, 32, alleged in a February 2022 complaint that P.G. Police Chief Cathy Madalone and city manager Ben Harvey violated his civil rights when they fired him Jan. 12, 2021, for anonymously reposting “F**k Black Lives Matter” and “Free Kyle Rittenhouse” on social media site Parler.

Free speech?

In April, Gonzalez and Pacific Grove settled the case, with the city paying him $10,000, and his attorney $8,000. Pacific Grove also agreed to change the status of Gonzalez’ departure from terminated to a voluntarily resignation, which could help Gonzalez get another job as a police officer.

The real cost to the city — and taxpayers — was its legal bills to fight Gonzalez’ lawsuit, which totaled $174,685.53. The city provided The Pine Cone with the figure following a public records request.

The city’s insurance company, ERMA Excess Insurance, paid $112,185.53 for the legal bills, while the city directly paid $62,500.

Gonzalez has told The Pine Cone that he made the social media post about Black Lives Matter because of the political organization’s anti-police stance.

Gonzalez used an alias and did not identify himself as a police officer when he made the comments on Nov. 28, 2020.

Nevertheless, Pacific Grove claimed the social media posts “violated a police department code of conduct requiring him to keep his private life unsullied” and to refrain from conduct and speech or expression “that could reasonably be foreseen as having a negative impact on the credibility of the employee as a witness.”

Gonzalez argued that his opinions were protected under the First Amendment, and because of that, the city had no right to fire him for expressing them while he was off-duty and on his own time.

GOOD OLD DAYS WAS BIG SUCCESS, CHAMBER SAYS

PACIFIC GROVE’S Good Old Days earlier this month attracted about 30,000 people over the event’s two days, according to an estimate from the president of the city’s Chamber of Commerce.

Jenny MacMurdo said that the 64th Annual Good Old Days on May 6-7 was a big success.

“We estimated a total of 2,500 people at any given time during the festival, and a rough estimate of 30,000 people over the two days of the event, which speaks to the success of the weekend,” MacMurdo told The Pine Cone Thursday.

More than 20 vendors who wanted to participate in the event didn’t get a spot because it was already full.

“We estimate the economic impact for Pacific Grove to be over $700,000 in gross revenues over the weekend,” she said.

The annual event has features musical and other entertainment, dozens of vendors offering food, retail and crafts and carnival rides for kids.

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Learn More
City seeks those with opinions on trees

By MARY SCHLEY

Strong opinions aren’t difficult to find in Carmel, especially when it comes to trees. In preparing an “Urban Forest Master Plan”— which the city council has said is a high priority — public officials are searching for a group of residents and others to serve on a steering committee that will direct the development of a 40-year scheme to determine how to foster the health of Carmel’s trees, and how to balance their needs against the development, infrastructure and safety needs of the town’s residents.

Inventory
Davey Resources Group was initially hired last August with a $150,000 taxpayer-funded grant that was part of a $29.9 million urban forestry grant program administered by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, commonly called Cal Fire. In the December 2021 application, then-city forester Sara Davis outlined the project, including a complete inventory and analysis of city trees, community involvement in developing the plan, analysis of “a future urban forest in light of a changing climate and aggressive pathogens and pests,” identification of tree maintenance priorities and cycles, creation of a priority planting plan, and other guidance.

When the city council accepted the grant funds in May 2022, it also committed to spending $20,000 in city funds on the plan. The Davey group is heading the effort and recently completed its survey of the 9,820 trees growing on public lands in the 1-square-mile city.

“The tree inventory is complete, about half of the 10 technical studies are in progress, and public outreach will launch this summer,” public works officials reported.

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Pine Cone 19A May 19, 2023
Carmel High senior wants kids to vote in school board elections

By MARY SCHLEY

STUDENTS AS young as 16 should be allowed to elect Carmel Unified School District board members, according to an initiative presented Wednesday night by Carmel High School senior and student body President Jack Norman. Voters in the school district would have to approve the change, as residents in Oakland, Berkeley and other areas have done.

Norman, the student representative at board of education meetings, first raised the idea a year ago and argued for it May 17. Kids who vote at 16 or 17 develop “a lifelong habit vital to a healthy democracy,” he said, and have the opportunity to address long-term issues that directly affect them and their education.

It would also give students “the same civic knowledge and political interests and skills as older voters” and would motivate them to learn more about the elected officials who make decisions on their behalf.

Others who’ve done it

Voters in Berkeley and Oakland, among others, have lowered the voting age for school board elections to 16, Norman said. In Berkeley’s case, the November 2016 ballot initiative giving the city council the authority to approve a lower voting age in school board elections passed with more than 70 percent of the vote, “a resounding and historic victory for the youth-led campaign,” according to Vote16USA, a national-wide effort to lower the voting age for all elections.

In 2020, Oakland residents approved Measure QQ with 67 percent of the vote. “This is a landmark victory, making Oak- land the largest jurisdiction to approve of 16-year-olds to vote in municipal elections: Takoma Park, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Riverdale Park and Mount Rainier,” he said.

“People should bring this up in their city council meetings,” Norman said. “The policy has proved to be a success, with 16- and 17-year-olds turning out at higher rates than older voters, and with local leaders reporting young people engaging with city government in new ways,” according to Vote16USA.

Lessons learned

“By using the examples of other districts, as well as contacting districts which found success, we can implement strategies which worked well and avoid potential pitfalls,” Norman said.

To bring about the change, the school board and students would have to show strong support for it, Norman predicted, and launch a grassroots campaign, circulate petitions and publicize the effort. He said proponents should take advantage of the resources offered by Vote16USA. When asked, he was unsure of the process for getting the initiative on the ballot.

Norman also acknowledged he’ll be attending Stanford University in the fall, so he won’t be around to spearhead the campaign, but his younger sister, a ninth-grader who will be sophomore class president next year, will take it over.

“I will be in direct communication with her, as well as a number of other students at the high school who are interested in this,” he said, adding that it’s “very important” to get students excited about the campaign.

“I remember you bringing this up maybe a year ago, so I’m really excited to see it moving forward,” commented board member Seaberry Nachbar. “I think our students and youth are disconnected” from the community, since they don’t have a voice through voting.

“This is a great way to engage them and give them a lesson on civics,” he said.

All of the board members similarly endorsed the idea and thanked Norman for his presentation, but they didn’t take any formal action on it Wednesday.

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May 18, 2023 The Carmel Pine Cone 11A
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Camp Quien Sabe Youth Overnight Camp (7–15 yrs.)
Weekly sessions offered M-F, June 19–July 28

Tiny Tots Summer Camp (3–5 yrs.)
Tuesday–Friday, 3 hours per day
June 6–30 or July 5–21

Chess Summer Camp (6–10 yrs.)
July 10–14

Summer Woodworking Camp (8–11 yrs.)
July 10–14

Registration is available online 24/7 at monterey.org/rec. Full program information is posted on the Monterey Recreation registration website at monterey.org/rec. Questions? Email: montereyrecreation@monterey.org.

HOUSING
From page 1A

According to KION-TV, Nicolas Ruvalca said he has done nothing more than try to help people, mainly from a community in Oaxaca, find a place to live. But county officials say the illegal housing has “seriously implications for illegal, health and safety.”

“We are working with the property owner to address these concerns,” county spokesperson Maia Carroll reported.

The county said the Ruvalcas will be asked to pay “two months of relocation assistance at the fair market value for every family” affected. “This is necessary to ensure that the families are able to find safe and suitable housing during this difficult time,” Carroll explained.

No windows, no light
The units, which included kitchen and bathrooms, were found inside a “greenhouse-type structure” and an “agricultural shed-type building,” the county said.

“In the units we observed, there were no windows, and no natural light except for some openings in the ceiling,” said Nick Puscelli, the county’s communications director. “There were obvious code violations and safety issues.”

The Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau reported that examples of “substandard housing conditions” at the site include units with “no heat, no stove/oven, carbon monoxide sensors, no windows, and no fire sprinklers.” Officials also noted the presence of “poor water quality, sewage discharge onto the ground, and mold.”

The county is working with two groups — the North Monterey County Unified School District Family Resource Center and the Coalition of Homeless Services Providers — to offer “viable housing alternatives for those who have been taken advantage of by the landlord.”

The executive director of the Coalition of Homeless Services Providers, Gene-vieve Lucas-Conwell told the newspaper that her group has interviewed about 30 of the former tenants, which she said mostly speak Spanish and Mixtec. Lucas-Conwell said her group is helping connect them with other groups that can provide services, such as temporary housing. But she conceded there is a bottleneck of people in the county in need of housing. “It’s a tough situation,” she said.

Fines go up by the day
County officials reported that the property has “numerous health, safety, and building violations.” The property was red-tagged May 3. “To date, the county has imposed a fee of $59,600, and those fees will continue to increase per day while the violations remain on the property,” Carroll said. “The county takes these violations very seriously, and we will continue to hold the property owner accountable for their actions.”

Besides helping former tenants relocate, the landlord must remove “garbage and rubbish,” demolish unpromtated units and utilities, and restore the land and vegetation, which was illegally graded. Trees were also cut down without permits.

An investigation into the case is ongoing, and involves the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office, Monterey County Sheriff’s Department and Monterey County Child Protective Services.

The district attorney has four investigators working on the case to determine if criminal charges are warranted.

“The District Attorney’s Office is investigating whether crimes may have occurred which require proof beyond a reasonable doubt and which may result in the filing of felony charges,” the office reported. “Our investigation is not directed at code violations, which are the purview of other county agencies.”

The property owners were contacted for this story but did not respond.

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Expert to give lecture on Frank Lloyd Wright house

A NOTED national expert on architect Frank Lloyd Wright will give a talk May 20 on the Scenic Road home he designed for Della Walker in the late 1940s. Hosted by the Monterey Area Architectural Resources Archive, the talk by preservation consultant, lecturer and author Kathrynn Smith will run from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Stanton Center at 5 Custom House Plaza in Monterey.

Drawing on her compilation of unpublished drawings, letters, historic photos and oral histories, Smith “will reveal the surprising story of how Wright designed and constructed his only built waterfront house,” and will complement the talk with extensive new exterior and interior photos, according to organizers.

The lecture is co-sponsored by the Carmel Heritage Society and the Monterey Bay chapter of the AIA. Smith has written numerous books and articles on Wright and lectures nationally. A book signing will follow her lecture. Admission is $10, and the doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

HEALTH

HEAD AND NECK PAIN

A CHIROPRACTIC MESSAGE from Dr. Steven MacDonald, D.C.

My specialty is the UPPER CERVICAL SPINE. The skull and the upper cervical spine must be perfectly aligned because they house and protect the most important parts of your central nervous system—the brain and the brain stem. If you’ve had a head or neck injury, chances are good that your spine and skull are not properly aligned. Many people don’t realize that old head and neck injuries can be the cause of many of the symptoms they have today. They can affect your mood, causing you to be short-tempered or depressed. They can affect your balance and your ability to think clearly, give you headaches, head pressure, neck and shoulder pain, mid and low back pain, poor memory, blurred vision and difficulty with speech. Head and neck injuries can also cause Parkinson’s and Fibromyalgia. Gently and specifically adjusting the cranial cervical area of the spine with the NUCCA UPPER CERVICAL system I practice can help with these problems, without cracking, popping or unnecessary force. This treatment can also help correct full spine, pelvis and leg length imbalances.

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PINE CONE STAFF REPORT

Carmel Reads The Pine Cone

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FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

The review will analyze the center’s impacts on air quality, water, biological and land resources, noise, public health and safety and environmental justice, among other things.

The Navy’s “design goals” include “reducing the contribution to global climate change, enhancing individual human health, protecting and restoring water resources, protecting and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services and promoting sustainable and regenerative material cycles.”

Comments on the Navy’s proposal must be postmarked or received online by the close of the public comment period on May 31. The public can submit comments by submitting them to nicmontereyea.com or mailing them to Naval Support Activity Monterey, ATTN: Public Affairs, 718 Del Monte Ave., Monterey, Ca 93943.

two locations for the center, which are both on the Naval Postgraduate School campus off of Del Monte Avenue in Monterey.

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Much of Big Sur’s South Coast is set to reopen to motorists May 26

By CHRIS COUNTS

WHILE CREWS continue to work 12-hour shifts in an effort to clear several major slides in Big Sur and reopen Highway 1 between Carmel and Cambria, Caltrans announced this week that the closed portion of the highway will shrink to just seven miles May 26 at 4 p.m. As a result, motorists driving north from San Luis Obispo County will be able to access 21 miles of mostly uncharted coastline. A 7-mile stretch south of Esalen will be the last remaining closure along the entire route.

That’s great news for hikers who want to visit Big Sur’s South Coast. According to Andrew Madsen of the United States Forest Service, a network of trails that starts at Salmon Creek just north of the Monterey County line will be accessible to travelers from the south. The trails provide access to the Silver Park Wilderness.

Camping options are much more limited. While no campgrounds will be open May 26, Madsen said Plaskett Creek Campground will likely be open within a week. But he also reported that Kirk Creek Campground is closed indefinitely. Also closed is Limekiln State Park, which offers camping.

As for dispersed camping along dirt roads on the South Coast, a practice that many locals contend is dangerous due to fire hazards, Madsen said it won’t be permitted this summer. And camping along Highway 1 is prohibited — last summer, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors raised the fine for camping along the scenic route to $1,000.

Expect traffic delays

For those who are simply seeking a good picnic spot, day use areas at Sand Dollar Beach, Mill Creek and Willow Creek will be open, Madsen confirmed. Also open will be the Treebones Resort, which plans to welcome guests for the first time since February. The privately owned resort, which has spotty cell service but good Wi-Fi, has two restaurants and can accommodate about 60 guests. It’s located about 11 miles north of the county line.

“Our guests are excited to return,” Treebones general manager Jenna Scolinos told The Pine Cone. Motorists will face delays as they drive north along the scenic route. “Once the southern Highway 1 closure moves north, travelers on Highway 1 north of Ragged Point will encounter areas of intermittent traffic control as repairs to damage from winter storms continue at various locations,” Caltrans reported. “Travelers are asked to anticipate these areas of intermittent traffic control and to reduce their speed and increase their awareness accordingly.”

Two major slides — Paul’s Slide and Dani Creek Slide — continue to challenge road crews working to clear the highway. Kevin Drabinski of Caltrans said it will likely take months before even one lane of traffic can be established at Paul’s Slide, which is located about a half-mile south of the New Camaldoli Hermitage.

And just north of the hermitage, repairs “continue at the Dani Creek Slide, with work now estimated to be completed by mid-July.”

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Dr. Elaine Zhou
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Urology
Montage Medical Group

Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula
chomp.org/doctors
employees’ certifications.

“It’s long and complicated, and the board has divided up the responsibility to fill out these various sections of the application,” Russell said.

Meanwhile, the seven people who worked at the center before the closure, as well as executive director Jessica Faddis, were laid off soon after the state shut it down.

“After getting the cease-and-desist order, we couldn’t keep the staff on, because we had no income coming in,” Plastini explained. “That was very, very difficult.”

Help wanted

To help get the building, which is owned by the city but leased to the nonprofit, up to snuff, and to aid in the youth center’s operations, representatives asked the city council May 2 to funnel $50,000 per year in taxpayer funds to the nonprofit annually for the next five years. If the council approves, the cash will be part of the 2023-2024 budget, which is under consideration and must be approved by June 30.

“Right now, the main gymnasium is not heated,” said Plastini, who joined the board six years ago and holds a general contractor’s license. “It needs to be upgraded to meet that requirement, so we also asked the city if they would help with that.”

The state also requires a certain amount of square footage per child indoors and out, and separate restroom facilities.

“We are going through the process, and we are meeting every one of the requirements,” Plastini said. “Staff needs to be accredited, and that’s another process.”

Russell speculated getting everything completed will take at least four months, though “once we submit this application, we don’t know how the state is going to respond to it.”

Ideally, the center would reopen in time to serve kids in the fall, but it could be as late as spring 2024.

“Will they be a stickler for 100 percent compliance?” he asked. “There are a number of moving parts in terms of bringing the building up to an acceptable condition, hiring staff and filling out the application. We’re not stonewalling it — we’re doing it....it’s just taking some time. To give an opening date would be irresponsible.”

State officials have said they want to expedite the process, according to Plastini, but he acknowledged that doesn’t mean the center can cut any corners.

The men also reiterated the need for help.

“The community has been supportive, and if the people want to get involved, we can always use help on our board and with donations,” Plastini said, adding that anyone interested in what’s happening with the center and how to help can learn more at carmelyouth.org. “We are going to be celebrating 75 years and will reopen bigger and better.”
sheriff’s log entry in The Pine Cone about a Vermont social worker calling the sheriff’s office for “possible child abuse” on Madsen’s Carmel Valley street. Escondido made the accusation against Madsen from Vermont. It was Madsen’s first clue as to where Evelina’s mother was hiding her.

“I went to Vermont looking for her,” said Madsen, adding that he also tried to work with law enforcement officials there to notify them that Escondido had taken her daughter. He was unsuccessful in finding the two, however.

For some reason, the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office did not notify the press about Evelina Madsen’s disappearance several months ago when it issued a felony arrest warrant for her mother. Under sheriff Keith Boyd said last week he’s not sure why that did not happen, but that the agency would issue a press release this week.

Still must pay

In January, after Escondido allegedly abducted Evelina, the court awarded Madsen custody of his daughter. “When the court realized that she wasn’t supposed to leave California” but did anyway, “they gave me temporary full custody of my daughter,” Madsen said. “Her mother is not even supposed to have visitation.”

A judge also canceled the restraining order against Escondido.

Madsen said his case highlights what he called discrimination against fathers in child custody cases in Monterey County.

“Nowhere does it say the mother is better raising a child than a father,” he said. “Let’s be fair to fathers, because they are being discriminated against.”

Meanwhile, Madsen went to court in Marina Wednesday in hopes of getting an order that he would no longer have to pay child support — since the money isn’t getting to his daughter or her mother, and he has no idea where either of them is.

But the Monterey County Department of Child Support Services wants Madsen to continue paying, and he lost his bid in court. “They say I have to keep paying child support because I haven’t assumed physical custody of my daughter,” he said.

A letter from a county child support services attorney informed Madsen that the agency would not “object to termination of the support order” once Madsen “gains actual custody of the child.”

Child support services, Madsen said, is holding the money in an account until he gets Evelina back.

DANIELS

From page 1A

— besides Adams, supporters include Wendy Root Askew, Glenn Church, Jane Parker, John Phillips, Karen Strasser Kaufman, Marc del Piero and Carmel Mayor Dave Potter. Other backers include former Congressman Sam Farr, Sen. Anna Caballero, former State Sen. Bill Monning and Monterey County Sheriff Tina Nieto.

Daniels’ platform includes “creating housing for all income levels, bringing a renewed sense of urgency to tackle the homelessness crisis, fighting for a sustainable and affordable water supply, investing in our aging infrastructure with forward thinking projects, protecting the region’s natural beauty and resources, protecting our community from natural disasters and leading on climate action.”

Back to ‘school’

Daniels also thanked Adams for jump starting her career in county government.

“As many of you know, my county government service began when Mary asked me to run her campaign,” she added. “Following her big win, I became her chief of staff. I fondly refer to those years as my ‘master’s degree’ in county government.” 2018.

In 2018, Daniels unsuccessfully ran for a seat on the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District board.

In 2020, Adams chose Daniels to replace longtime county planning commissioner Keith Vandevere, who stepped down after serving for 16 years.

Daniels is a trustee for the Monterey College of Law and a former president of the Democratic Women of Monterey County.

She lives in Carmel Valley with her husband, Dan, and their sons, Daniel and Nicolas.

Support Pine Cone advertisers — shop locally!
**Save The Whales announces the passing of an indomitable force for whale protection.**

We have created a memorial board and welcome you to share your messages and memories of Maris and gave them a loving home.

She was a probate paralegal for many years, and gave her weekends to selling t-shirts with the name of the organization on them. She was an endowment established at UC Davis in 2019. and Dianne Child-Steve Whitaker Professorship Award for education and an Honoris Causa from Higgins. Among his many honors are an AICHE EK Cettina-Carr and B.C. Higgins. Among his many honors are an AICHE mechatronics and heat transfer. He is the author of four textbooks, the most recent of which is entitled the trajectory for their life-long mother and daughter commitment to the whales and to the organization. In the 1980s and 1990s, Save the Whales had a small office in Venice, California. They began their unique hands-on educational outreach program to schools, spoke to the public about dolphins dying in tuna nets, and organized community activities. In 2006, Maris I moved to Santa Cruz County, CA and continued the work with Maris II on Save the Whales based on Monterey County, CA. Maris I remained in Santa Cruz County until the last three years of her life when she moved to Carmel.

Maris I’s greatest accomplishments include: Preventing the U.S. Navy from detonating 269 “Ship Shock” explosives in waters off of Southern California in prime whale feeding grounds. The lowball estimate was that 10,000 marine animals would have died including endangered whales. This unprecedented case has inspired other organizations to prevent this from happening in the future. In conjunction with Mexican and U.S. environmental groups, stopping Mitsubishi’s plan to expand salt mining operations into the fragile San Ignacio Lagoon, Baja California -- the last undeveloped gray whale birthing lagoon in the world. Educating over 340,000 students about marine life and storm drain pollution. Save the Whales inspires children throughout Monterey and Santa Cruz counties with an innovative hands-on program taught by marine biologists. They bring whale bones and conservation messages to the classroom. Emphasis is on reaching culturally diverse, underserved children in disadvantaged schools.

Bringing awareness about the inhumane effects of cetaceans in captivity. Providing website and phone support to assist people locally and globally to obtain help with distressed or stranded whales For over a decade, Maris I focused on partnership efforts with national and international organizations to protect the critically endangered vaquita porpoise that only lives in the Sea of Cortez, Mexico.

Maris I nurtured a path for others to follow. A wonderful writer, she developed the whole profiles and newsletters for Save the Whales. She cared deeply about nature and wildlife. Her creativity continued the work with Maris II on Save the Whales and as an avid volleyball player, gardener and backpacker, and was especially fond of camping, mountain climbing and was particularly passionate about marine mammal protection. We have created a memorial board and welcome you to share your messages and memories of Maris I. A Memorial Fund will be used to carry her vision forward for future generations.

**STEPHIE WHITAKER**

Stephen Whitaker, born July 8, 1922, passed away away on May 9, 2023, at 90 years old. Ste was born in a small local hospital in Carmel, California to Doris and Elaine Whitaker. By all accounts she was a paralegal for many years, and gave her weekends to selling t-shirts with the name of the organization on them. She was an endowment established at UC Davis in 2019. and Dianne Child-Steve Whitaker Professorship Award for education and an Honoris Causa from Higgins. Among his many honors are an AICHE EK Cettina-Carr and B.C. Higgins. Among his many honors are an AICHE

**Fourth third Thursday**

**PINE CONE STAFF REPORT**

**THE CITY’S monthly Third Thursday event, when artisans, musicians and others gather in Devendorf Park alongside farmers market vendors for a few hours of in-the-round entertainment. On May 25 from 4 to 7 p.m., the music lineup will include the Bee Keepers, with pianist Reija Massey opening for her at the Front Street this month. On May 25 from 4 to 7 p.m., the music lineup will include the Bee Keepers, with pianist Reija Massey opening for them, according to community activities director Ashlee Wright.**

**“The special thing about this one is we will have a few pitas for the kids, and maybe one for adults. It should be really fun.” The monthly community event was moved to accommodate the Carmel Art Festi- val, which is underway through Sunday.**
The costs of materials and labor continue to increase, but the monetary cap on contracts the city administers is authorized to sign without city council approval has stayed the same for years. As of May 2 meeting, while updating the city’s purchasing ordinance, the council voted to increase the limit from $25,000 to $60,000 and to add policy favoring local businesses, particularly those owned by women and minorities.

City attorney Brian Pierik drafted the proposed changes and noted that “many of the city’s purchasing regulations are at least 20 years old and should be amended to conform with current public expectations for delivering goods and services.”

“Among other things, the cost increases associated with goods and services in the past 20 years justify a corresponding increase in authority for signing agreements between the city contractors,” he noted in the draft ordinance.

“Raising the limit from $25,000 to $60,000 allows us to react more quickly,” city administrator Chip Rerig told the council May 2. “The $60,000 threshold is consistently used throughout the state of California, so it’s not an anomaly. The existing threshold of $25,000 is low, and our ordinance is outdated.”

“The buck stops with Chip,” Pierik also suggested that department heads be allowed to sign contracts up to $25,000 without Rerig’s or the council’s approval, but city councilman Jeff Baron objected.

“The $60,000 threshold is consistently used throughout the state of California,” he said. “$25,000 is the appropriate base for city contracts.”

Baron added a “local business policy” included in the verbiage of the law itself, rather than simply referred to as a policy, lest it be forgotten.

Based on Monterey County’s “Small Local Business Outreach Program,” the policy reads, “The city council finds that it is in the public interest to promote utilization of local businesses that are small or minority-owned, such as Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises, Minority Business Enterprises, Woman Business Enterprises, and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises in all aspects of purchasing in accordance with applicable law. Accordingly, the city administrator is authorized to encourage participation of all DBEs, MBEs, WBEs, DVBEs and SLBs located within the city’s jurisdiction to the extent allowed by applicable law.”

“My fear is we have a lot of policies that sometimes are followed and sometimes are forgotten,” Baron said, but quoting it in the code itself will ensure future city administrators are aware of the preference, even though they will

See CONTRACT page 27A

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**COUNCIL GIVES CITY ADMIN MORE CONTRACT AUTHORITY BY RAISING LIMIT**

By MARY SCHLEY

The council on Monday May 16 approved a policy to give the city administrator authority to sign contracts up to $60,000 without city council approval, but City Administrator Chip Rerig told the council that the state of California is leading the way, as most states have already increased their amount. Rerig said the $25,000 limit has been in place for years. While some in the city council heard Rerig, they made the decision to increase the cap to $60,000 for the city’s purchasing policies.

Clyde Roy Klaumann, age 84, passed away on Saturday, April 13, 2023, following a brief illness. Clyde was a Carmel native born in the old Carmel Hospital on March 22, 1939, to Ruth and Clyde P. Klaumann, former Carmel Chief of Police.

Clyde attended grammar school in Monterey before moving to Carmel’s Sunset School in 1950. He was a proud graduate of Carmel High School’s class of 1957 where he excelled in track, basketball and football. In his senior year he was presented with the “Block C” award as an outstanding athlete. He remained a faithful “PADRE” for the next 66 years, and delighted in associating with other former CHS alumni.

Clyde graduated from San Francisco State University with a B.A. in Recreation Administration. He then enlisted in the Navy and served aboard the USS Saipan in the South Pacific during World War II. Upon discharge, he returned to the Monterey Peninsula to attend college, where he was joined by his former kindergarten teacher, Marcia DeVoe. Two years later, he would teach at Sunset School.

Clyde was the only student who attended Sunset School and later taught there. His last assignment was at Carmel High School, where he taught social studies, English and finally math. He remained math department chair until his retirement in 1995. “My philosophy is that if the student wants to learn, I can help them by being here. To help them. Every teacher has their own method. Mine just happens to be to get them to relax.”

He was all about numbers, and estimated he taught over 4,600 students during his 34-year teaching career. He taught and mentored with humor and often crafted nicknames for many students. He always stressed, “Spend time with your kids, kids keep you young.”

Clyde also worked at the Carmel Police Department while on school breaks and during his summer vacations, often delivering officers so they could take time off with their families.

In 1966 he met Pam Baloh, his assistant director of the Carmel Youth Center. She was planning the annual “Christmas Carpers,” and needed a “Santa.” He accepted the job and six months later he married Pam in June of 1967. They were married for 55 years and have two children, Tammi Lyon (Dave), and Clyde W. Klaumann (Melanie). Clyde was blessed with four grandchildren, Hannah Lyon, Luke, Blythe and Linus Klaumann.

Early in their married life, with Clyde working the day at school and sometimes nights at the police department so Pam could be home with the kids, the long hours occasionally became evident. One school story was relayed by a student who asked Mr. Klaumann if he had worked the previous night. “Yes,” he replied, “why?” “Because you have two different color shoes on.” He phoned home to get a brown or black loafer, which was promptly delivered to the school.

Pam and Clyde Klaumann gave their children a strong sense of family through Sunday morning worship and evenings at Carmel beach for a barbecue or picnic. They were the first to adventure with their children to the Bayview, Davenport, and the Tahon and Knott’s Berry Farm where the kids were small, later broadening their horizons with a cross-country trip to attend the World’s Fair in New Orleans and a Diversity of other destinations — among them Hawaii, London, Scotland, and cruises to Mexico and the Caribbean. Clyde’s favorite trips were to Kauai and Scotland.

Outside of school, Clyde was an endles volunteer. He loved Carmel and everything about it. It was his home, his life. He served on the Activities and Cultural Commission of Carmel by the Sea, the Carmel City Council, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, the Monterey County Boys Club, the Monterey County Youth Authority, the Monterey County Fair, the Carmel Valley Lions Club, the Carmel Community Church and many others.

Clyde was the active member of the Carmel Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula since 1972. He was the vice president and past treasurer of their board. He would often gather the middle school age middle and together they planned skating parties, barbecues and movie nights. He also found time for coaching. He helped in football, basketball, and high school girls’ volleyball, inicular in basketball.

He did find time to hunt and fish, a tradition passed down from his parents, and the family often enjoyed relaxing weekends at their Carmel Valley White Rock Cabin. Clyde was modestly proud of his success at many California and Nevada casinos, and never hesitated to share stories of his exploits at the slot machines.

Private burial has taken place with The Paul Mortuary in charge at El Carmelo Cemetery in Pacific Grove.

A celebration of life will be held on June 11 at 11 a.m. at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 4596 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel. Reception to follow, please come and share stories, all are welcome.
Potter said having Laird, who has served in local gov-
ernments as well as at the state level, advocate for the cit-
ies in his district could make a difference in Sacramento. 

“They seem to have forgotten about us,” he said, lead-
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them to other areas in the county.

While the community doesn’t “want to come across as
eisten,” it doesn’t have the capacity for 349 new housing
units without blowing up the zoning code and other local
laws, Rerig said. “We welcome the discussion,” since “349
might as well be a million in our little village.”

“We need to make sure these are deed restricted for
affordability,” he said.

Homework

At the lunch, Laird criticized Sen. Scott Wiener, who
attacked affordable rates. “We’re basically mandated to approve — that could help with the
accessory dwelling units — which local jurisdictions are
endorsing legislation without considering its
impacts on smaller communities.

“I think it’s not too late to un-ring the bell,” he said,
regarding housing laws and allocations that include no
reality checks or efforts to see if the new units can be rea-
sionarily incorporated into a community.

“I look to Gov. Newsom and wonder, ‘What are you
talking about here?’ — that he would give us this mandate
without seeing if it sticks,” Rerig said.

Regardless of what happens in Sacramento, Rerig said the
ad hoc housing committee of council members Bobby
Richards and Karen Ferlito is committed to the “home-
work assignment” of figuring out how, at least theoreti-
cally, the city could accommodate so many more homes.

The committee’s next meeting, set for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
May 24 in city hall on Monte Verde south of Ocean and
online via Zoom, will focus on public and private sites that
could be redeveloped with housing. “We’re not obligating
any property owners,” Rerig said.

Ferlito and Richards dubbed the effort “HOME,” which stands for “Housing Opportunities Made Easier.”

Highlights will include an overview of the state’s
regional housing needs assessment and what constitutes
fair housing, a discussion of potential sites for develop-
ment, and potential revisions to city policies and pro-
grams. EMC Planning Group, the consultant hired to help
with the effort, will participate in the meeting as well.

(For more information, contact principal planner Mar-
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homecarmelbythebay.com.)

Laird also acknowledged the stranglehold that the lack
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LAIRD
From page 1A

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NANCY WILTON GREEN

Nancy Wilton Green, a 55-year resident of Carmel and Carmel Valley, passed away on Sunday, May 7th, surrounded by her family.

Nancy was born in Pilot Mound, Manitoba, Canada, to Philip Keith Wilton and Margaret Campbell Wilton in 1931. She is survived by her older sister Margaret McFarber (Rober) of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and younger sister Bette Johnston (Albert) of Toronto, Ontario. The three sisters had a close bond and were lifelong best friends.

Nancy graduated from Nutana Collegiate in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, in 1949, after briefly attending City Park Collegiate to enroll in a physics class that she was prohibited from attending at Nutana because she was a girl. Always fiercely dedicated and determined, Nancy was an accomplished figure skater, a sport encouraged by her parents who would flood the backyard in the winter to make a small skating rink.

While in high school Nancy was the Saskatoon Figure Skating Club champion. She was also the club’s silver medalist in dance and attained the sixth and highest test level in figures.

At the age of 17 she turned professional and joined the Barbara Anne Scott show (the Canadian Olympic champion) titled “The Skating Sensations,” touring Canada and the United States. In 1949, at age 18, Nancy became the first teaching professional at the new Clinton Figure Skating Club, in Clinton, NY. Seventy-eight years later, the club still exists and is one of the oldest skating clubs in the country. Nancy’s annual ice show is still a club tradition.

At 20, she joined the traveling Holiday on Ice skating show, called The Vogues, starring Olympic champion, Sonja Henie. The troupe toured Central and South America in what became known as the extravaganza of the century. After a brief tour of the U.S., Sonja Henie selected Nancy as one of two skaters to join her on a world tour that visited 35 countries in 1954-1955.

While skating at a show in Berlin, Germany, in 1953, Nancy met her future husband, James Russell Green, a United States Air Force captain from Huntington, West Virginia. In Nancy’s words, “he was handsome and a good dancer, with a good sense of humor — and that’s all it took!” They had a one-month whirlwind romance and were married. He remained the love of her life until he passed away in 2012.

Soon thereafter her sons, Philip, Scott and Carlton, were born at various Air Force bases around the world. The family could not join Jim when the Air Force transferred him to Alaska, so Nancy joined the Casa Carcota Ice Review at the small but important military dinner theater in Germisch, Germany, nestled in the picturesque Bavarian Alps. The family moved to Vandenberg Air Force Base in California in 1961 until Jim retired in 1967. They relocated to Carmel Valley, California, where Jim was the construction engineer for the COMSAT Earth Station in Jamesburg. Jim and Nancy remained in Carmel and Carmel Valley for the rest of their lives. Among other things, they owned a Baskin-Robbins ice cream store and the Sandal Spot in Carmel.

Nancy received an associate of arts degree from Allan Hancock Junior College in 1963 and then a bachelor’s degree in social sciences in 1965 from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. She obtained a master’s degree in political science from UC Santa Barbara in 1967.

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Her children having grown and moved away, in 1976 Nancy decided to become a lawyer, and attended the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. She graduated in 1979, one day before her oldest son, Philip, graduated from UCLA Law School. Twenty years after taking her first college course, Nancy obtained her LL.M in Estate Planning at Golden Gate University.

Nancy practiced as a California State Bar Certified Probate, Estate Planning and Administration lawyer in Carmel from 1979 until she retired in 2013, at age 82. Most of her career, she was a partner in the firm of Stewart, Green & McGowan in Carmel. Nancy was active in many community organizations, including serving as a three-time president of the League of Women Voters of Monterey County and president of both the Democratic Women of Monterey County and the Monterey Peninsula College Foundation. She was a member of The Peninsula Club and a parishioner at St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church in Carmel Valley for 55 years.

Always an athlete and never one to slow down, Nancy enjoyed travel, cooking, skating, dancing, tennis, bridge, the symphony, opera, theatre, classes at MPC, and countless walks around Carmel Point with her friends.

In addition to her three children, Nancy is also survived by her daughters-in-law, Diane Fearn Green, Laurie Dahlstrom Green, and Mandie Green, her grandchildren, Alyssa Christensen (Todd), Cameron, Shelby and Aidan Green; and her great-grandchildren, Lyla, and Travis Christensen. In addition to her two sisters and their husbands, Nancy is also survived by her six nieces and nephews and their families.

Nancy was the love of her life and was always the center of her family’s lives. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and her family was always her first priority.

A celebration of Nancy’s life will begin at 11 a.m. on June 3 at St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church in Carmel Valley. Everyone who knew Nancy should feel free to attend the celebration. The family will like to thank the Hospice of the Central Coast and Julie Galeano for their loving care.

Donations in Nancy’s name may be made to Monterey Peninsula College Foundation, the National Lung Association, or a charity of the donor’s choice.

HOMER DONALD MARTINE

Homer Donald Martine, whose legacy is woven throughout the City of Pacific Grove through his articulate restoration of the Park Davis home, his time serving as a two-term city council member and through his time racing MGs around the track at Laguna Seca, passed away on May 9, 2023.

He was 88-years-old. Homer, known as Don Martine, was the only child of Homer and Norah Martine and was born on May 8, 1935.

He got his associate’s degree in business from Modesto Junior College and his bachelor of science in business psychology from California State University, Sacramento. He attended graduate studies at UCLA.

Returning to Pacific Grove, the city he loved, he purchased Kidwell’s Paint Store in 1971. His son Gordon Martine is the current owner.

Though he had many interests, he had a passion for civic duty and served the community as a two-term city council member from 1971-1975. His son, Gordon Martine, Sr., was in the Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce. He also helped establish the California Association of Bed and Breakfast Inns (CABBI) and was its first president. In addition, Don was instrumental in the referendum to establish Visit California, which promotes California tourism.

In 1984, Don renovated the historic Park Davis home in Pacific Grove and opened it to guests as the Martine Inn. A welcoming man who was always happy to share his insight and vast knowledge of the peninsula, he always tried to care for his staff and guests as if they were family. He was the 23rd recipient of the California Hotel and Lodging Hall of Fame award.

Don was a Renaissance man. With the ability to build a house or a car from top to bottom, he also played multiple instruments, and football at Pacific Grove High and acted at California’s First Theater. Yet Don’s true love was cars, especially MGs. His interest in MGs began in 1950 when his father, Homer Martine, purchased a 1949 MGTC. This interest further culminated as he witnessed Johnny Von Neumann drive his 1950 MG TD Special to victory at the inaugural Pebble Beach Road Race. Don later raced and owned the Von Neuman Special for 30 years as part of his MG collection. He spent many hours in his garage getting his hands greasy and sharing his love of restoring his collection of cars with his family. Putting the pedal to the metal, he raced his cars in over 130 races across the USA and was proud to say he won over 35 of those races.

He is survived by sons Gordon (Stan) Martine, Doni Martine, Grady (Barbara) Martine and his grandchildren Trevor, Ian, Grady Jr. and Carissa Martine.

A celebration of life service will be held at 11 a.m. on May 20, 2023 at the Martine Inn, 255 Ocean View Blvd., Pacific Grove, CA. All are welcome to attend.
Editorial

The state vs. the cities

WHO SHOULD have the final say over land uses in California? If a housing project, shopping center or school is proposed, should it be up to the Legislature or the governor to say “yes” or “no,” or should those decisions be made locally by a city council or a county board of supervisors? From the founding of the state in 1849 until 1976, the answer to that question was considered a non-starter. Whether it was a general plan policy to set a city or county’s long-term development goals, a zoning designation to create a neighborhood or a business district, or a decision about a permit for a specific project, local control was the name of the game. Except for things like highways and power plants, Sacramento approval was required in what the state’s cities and counties decided about how they wanted to grow. All that changed in the mid-1970s, however, when powerful environmental interests looked around the state and decided some cities and counties were growing too much and allowing far too many homes, apartments and businesses to be built, especially along the beautiful coastline. Take a drive in Malibu sometime and you’ll see what the problem was. So many homes were approved by local officials in the 1950s and 1960s that you can barely see the ocean from Highway 1.

In response, a citizens’ initiative and subsequent legislation were approved to take land use authority along the coast away from the cities and counties and hand it to a state agency, the Coastal Commission. But instead of modifying local zoning and land use decisions to protect coastal resources while allowing for growth to accommodate the state’s booming population, the commission imposed a draconian clampdown on coastal development, effectively blocking new housing and other projects anywhere within half a mile of the Pacific Ocean. Exhibit A of this phenomenon is the Monterey Peninsula, where almost no new subdivisions or housing projects have been created in the last 45 years. And the cities and places like Carmel, Pacific Grove and Monterey had nothing to say about it.

Of course, this created a terrible housing shortage, not only along the coast, but thanks to other laws similar to the Coastal Act, in almost every part of the state. And ironically, instead of looking around California and saying, “this is our fault,” the state legislature blamed the cities and counties for not approving enough new housing. The result is a flurry of laws enacted over the last five years to force local governments to approve new housing projects whether they like them or not.

We’ve told this story before. But this time it has a different ending. This time, cities and counties are fighting back. One group, “Our Neighborhood Voices,” is pushing for a constitutional amendment to take away the governor and the Legislature’s ability to overturn local decision-making on matters of local concern.

“Instead of actually working to create new housing without traffic gridlock, sprawl and environmental damage — Sacramento politicians handed a blank check to developers to build what they want, where they want, without contributing to new transit, schools, or roads — and without our ability to speak out,” the group says.

They are fundraising and organizing right now to get an initiative on the November 2024 ballot. Another group, California Cities for Local Control, is a coalition of officials pushing for legislative changes to restore local control over land use, zoning and planning decisions.

“We must not allow the state Legislature to mandate changes to our cities that will remove local control and be detrimental to our communities,” the group says.

Both organizations face an uphill battle, with anti-local control forces firmly in charge of the legislature and governor’s office. But they seem to be making headway.

As we report on our front page this week, the Monterey Peninsula’s representation in the State Senate said last week that he supports “flexibility” in the state’s housing mandates to help protect the values that give local communities their character. This coming from a man who voted “yes” on almost all the statewide housing bills so many cities and counties despise.

Some parts of California are perfect for large-scale housing projects. They have plenty of available land and infrastructure, and many of them want to grow. But other places, such as Carmel-by-the-Sea, have almost no available land and will be grievously harmed by large-scale new development.

The Legislature needs to take this into account, and with the help of groups like California Cities for Local Control and Our Neighborhood Voices, not to mention political leaders like John Laird, we’re sure they can be persuaded to do so.

Letters to the editor

The Pine Cone encourages submission of letters which address issues of public importance. Letters cannot exceed 350 words, and must include the author’s name and home town. We reserve the right to determine which letters are suitable for publication and to edit for length and clarity.

‘Take back control’

Dear Editor,

For visitors, businesses and especially residents, protecting the character of our Bay Area is essential. In the days ahead while we support our city’s preparation of a revised housing element on time, we will be extremely challenged to embrace the 349 mandated new housing units in our built-out 1 square mile.

If we fail in this work, the state will move in taking control of our zoning and apply financial penalties. So, in parallel, we must push back on these state lawmakers who are hell bent on forcing high density housing in the 5 percent of our beautiful state that already houses 95 percent of the population.

How do we take back local control from these unrealistic Saracen requirement? As citizens, we can eventually vote out these misguided state representatives or fight each relevant existing, new, or future state-mandated laws.

Optimally, the more permanent path forward is supporting of the November 2024 proposed ballot measure, a California constitutional amendment that preserves local controls of land use and zoning. This is led by the state-wide group Our Neighborhood Voices (www.ourneighborhoodvoices.com), a non-profit organization. Right now, they are soliciting funding to assure, once the ballot measure is approved by the attorney general with ballot title and descriptions formalized, that they have the needed funding for the 1 million voter signature effort and awareness.

If you can contribute to Our Neighborhood Voices, and then be ready to support gathering voter signatures in this fall, please do.

Nancy Ann Twomey, Carmel

Democratic voters

Dear Editor,

As a many time visitor to Carmel over 50 years, I read with interest a letter concerning the state taking over development control in California cities, including Carmel. While I would hate to see Carmel change, it seems rather disingenuous for residents to argue for protection from the omnipotent governor and Legislature, while the rest of us in other areas suffer their heavy hand.

The preponderance of Democratic voters have given the Legislature a super majority vote, i.e., no balance. I suspect many in Carmel like how the liberal

Letters to the editor

The Carmel Pine Cone
Women’s golf goes the distance

The FIRST U.S. Women’s Open was a creation of the Women’s Professional Golf Association in 1946. Founded by WPGA President Betty Hicks, the event was a competitive match of the 1938 Del Monte Championship and the 1940 U.S. Amateur at Pebble Beach. In 1941, Hicks became the first Californian to win the U.S. Women’s Amateur. She then became one of the nation’s early women golf professionals.

In May 1946, after securing arrangements for the Women’s Open at Spokane Country Club in Washington, Hicks returned to Pebble Beach to compete in the 54-hole Northern California Women’s Medal Play Golf Championship at the Monterey Peninsula Country Club. Hicks finished second to Patty Berg, another women professional. The next week, Berg won the Pebble Beach Championship.

In August, Hicks and Berg were among the six professionals and 36 amateurs who entered the first U.S. Women’s Open. California was well represented in the event by 10 amateurs, most of whom had competed at Pebble Beach. Eight of the California amateurs reached match play in the championship flight of 32 golfers.

First Women’s Open

One of the Californians, Mildred “Babe” Zaharias, had previously played as a professional but was reinstated as an amateur in 1943, the year she won the Del Monte Championship. She was a favorite to win the U.S. Women’s Open but lost her opening match to an 18-year-old from Connecticut, Grace Lenczyk. Ellen Kieser, the 1943 Pebble Beach Champion, defeated Lenczyk in the second round but then lost in the quarterfinals to professional Betty Jameson, the 1940 U.S. Amateur champion at Pebble Beach.

Two other California amateurs played against each other in the quarterfinals. Clara Callender Sherman had grown up at the Monterey Peninsula Country Club and won numerous championships, including the California and Nevada state amateurs. She faced Dot Kielty, who, in early 1946, won the Southern California Amateur, defeating Sherman in a semifinal match. Kielty again defeated Sherman to reach the semifinals, where she lost to Jameson.

In the semifinal match, Berg faced Spokane’s top amateur, Betty Jean Rueter, who had eliminated Hicks in the second round. Berg won their match and then defeated Jameson to win the first U.S. Women’s Open in Spokane. Both finalists had won previously at Pebble Beach.

A month later, the finalists in the 1946 U.S. Women’s Amateur in Tulsa had also won at Pebble Beach. There, Zaharias didn’t lose any of her matches, including the final in which she defeated Sherman.

The role of Pebble Beach in shaping and defining top golfers — men and women — likely played a role in the USGA’s return to Pebble Beach for the 1947 U.S. Men’s Amateur and the 1948 U.S. Women’s Amateur. These national championships were in addition to the annual tournaments of the Women’s Golf Circuit and the Men’s State Amateur.

For extra spice, Bing Crosby brought his pro-am to Pebble Beach in 1947. It became an annual event, and the men’s California Open came to Pebble Beach in 1948. The Monterey Chamber of Commerce began promoting Monterey as the Golf Capital of the World.

But our focus is on women, and for now, the 1948 U.S. Women’s Amateur. Only two prior champions played in a field of more than 20 golfers, Glenn Day and pellet Vare, who first won the championship in 1922 and won it for a sixth time in 1935, and 1937 champion and Central Middle School and Carmel High (Class of 1976). Her parents, Joseph and Lanning Yang, had been educators before immigrating to San Francisco in 1967 with 7-year-old Bela and $80. Until they received their green cards (also known as permanent resident cards) in 1968, the family lived in constant fear of deportation, she said.

They moved to the Peninsula in 1971 and operated their own business on San Carlos between Fifth and Sixth avenues, where they sold Chinese imports and antiques.

Joseph Yang worked there seven days a week for 17 years, but retired and became a painter and sculptor when Belle returned from China. He also began sharing his life story with his 30-year-old daughter, who listened, took notes and began writing and illustrating her books.

“We spent a large part of the next 30 years talking and telling stories,” Yang — who previously had only written in her own journals — authored nine children’s books, beginning with the autobiographical “Hannah Is My Name,” based on her family’s immigration experience. She has also written two adult non-fiction books chronicling the turbulence her father endured as he fled authoritarian regimes in China and Japan.

“I think Belle is the best writer/painter in America,” said Steve Hauck, a retired Navy officer who owned Grace Gallery, Hauck Fine Arts, has represented Yang’s artwork for almost 30 years. “I can’t think of another important creator who also has written nine children’s books and three adult books. It’s kind of amazing to me that he didn’t do it sooner.”

Yang illustrated all her children’s books and her book covers with her colorful Chi-noo stylings.

During the same period, she created paintings that have been featured in museum exhibits in Bakersfield, Santa Cruz, Sacramento and Santa Clara, as well as to Alexitant, La Raton Nut, San Francisco, and Saginaw, Mich. She has had one-woman shows in Jowell Gallery at the San Francisco Public Library, the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, and the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas. Yang said she shifted emotionally from her parents, an estrangement she attributes to “many bad choices in life,” particularly her ill-fated relationship with her ex-boyfriend who forced her to leave the United States. “My parents never liked him,” she said.

But she grew from her experiences in Germany, returning with a deeper appreciation for America and a hunger for a deeper bond with her parents.

Befriending Amy Tan

Hearing and writing about her father’s often harrowing journey to Taiwan from China to Japan and the United States was enlightening and enriching for Yang, whose writings attracted the attention of San Francisco author Amy Tan, author of “The Joy Luck Club” and several others. Tan wrote the foreword for Yang’s book, “Baba: A Return to China Upon My Father’s Shoulders,” making this observation: “She is an American writer who writes in English and thinks in Chinese.”

Tan also introduced Yang to her high-powered literary agent, Sandy Dykstra, who helped her forge a relationship with Harcourt Brace Publishing, which

A picture is worth a thousand words — but she still writes

The ARTISTIC rebirth of Belle Yang began at 30, when she returned to the Mon-tery Peninsula after three years in China, where she’d been hiding from a stalking ex-boyfriend, studying at the Beijing Institute of Traditional Chinese Painting, and experiencing fallout from the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre.

The death count from the Tiananmen incident remains unknown nearly 34 years later, but estimates range from several hundred to several thousand after Chinese troops with automatic weapons, accompained by tanks, opened fire on a large crowd of pro-protestors who were occupying the square, as well as other locations in and around Beijing. Thousands more were wounded.

The death of enthusiasm

“I thought I would stay in China forever, because I was there at an exciting time, when you felt like the country was about to make a truly great leap forward,” Yang said. “But after Tiananmen, the enthusiasm you saw in the faces of all of the young people kind of died. Life got harder and, I just decided it was time to go home.

Though she was born in China and spent her earliest years there and in Japan, home was Carmel-by-the-Sea for Yang, who attended River Oaks Elementary School, Carmel Middle School and Carmel High (Class of 1976). Her parents, Joseph and Lanning Yang, had been educators before immigrating to San Francisco in 1967 with 7-year-old Bela and $80. Until they received their green cards (also known as permanent resident cards) in 1968, the family lived in constant fear of deportation, she said.

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The paintings of Carmel artist and author Belle Yang celebrate her Chinese heritage, as well as the natural beauty of the Monterey Peninsula.

Don’t miss “Scenic Views” by Jerry Gurnse — every week in the Real Estate Section.
She helped engineer a brighter future for those who need homes.

NANCY JONES had it all figured out. After graduating from high school in Southern Indiana, she thought she'd stay in her home state, major in math at Purdue University and become a math teacher. The math department also offered computer courses, and she enrolled in those because she was intrigued by the technology.

As she progressed through her studies, Jones figured she might need a Ph.D. in math to teach the subject at the degree or level she wanted and to be the kind of applied mathematician that students would want to learn from.

She helped engineer a brighter future for those who need homes. 24A

Launched her second career.

attended the Carmel Bach Festival. And this is where she

Grauling, moved into the Carmel home they'd purchased

companies, Jones retired. But, as is true of so many Penin-

sions, stimulate public awareness and raise funds to pro-

vide grants to fulfill their mission. They also created the
group's tagline, "Joining hands to make a difference."

Our operating principle was to not ask any faith

community for money, which meant we had none,"

recalled Jones. "But, to make a difference in the com-
nunity, we needed money. So, we decided to open a thrift

shop."

In their initial meeting, the people Jones had gath-

ered established Interfaith Outreach of Carmel. They
drafted a mission to address interfaith spiritual and

practical needs in Monterey County, emphasizing grants to agencies that provide housing resources.

As outreach leaders, their goal was to create solu-
tions, stimulate public awareness and raise funds to pro-
vide grants to fulfill their mission. They also created the
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shop."

Nancy Jones started this organization and served as

president of the board for 14 years, until she turned it over

almost since the beginning."

On May 7, Interfaith Outreach of Carmel honored

Jones by establishing the Nancy J. Jones Housing Insecu-

rities Endowment Fund to advance her mission of abating

homelessness in her wider community.

Last year, $125,000 was granted to 13 nonprofits that

help the homeless in Monterey County. Although Jones no longer serves on the board, she continues to volunteer at the benefit shop, to lend her tenor voice to the All Saints choir, and, it must be noted, to absolutely love dogs.
Playing with integrity

An 18-hole qualifier narrowed the field to 62 who began match play. Most of the favorites made the list, which was headed by Benny Minus White of Dallas with a 77. Lenczyk was second with 80. Young Marlene Bauer tied for sixth at 83, two strokes better than her big sister.

All but one of the contenders named above reached match play, as did another local, MPCC member Mary Briggs. Keilty, however, did not qualify. She disqualified herself after realizing that the 82 she signed on her scorecard should have been 83 — she took 9 strokes, not 8, on the final hole.

Osborne, Shepherd and Weismuller lost their first matches. Except for Marlene Bauer, the others named above lost their second matches. Notably, Traung and Sar managed to win their two matches before losing to Zaharias in the semi-final match. Kirk was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2019, and Han will be formally inducted in June 2024.

Sigel played in the 1940 U.S. Women’s Amateur at Pebble Beach, and in 1941 finished runner-up to Bettye Hicks. In 1946, Sigel defeated Lenczyk in their second match before losing to Zaharias in the semi-finals. It was different in 1948. In the morning 18 holes, Sigel had only one birdie, compared to Lenczyk’s three. And with 10 bogies or worse on her scorecard, Sigel was lucky to be only down 5 when they broke for lunch.

In the afternoon, Lenczyk bogied holes 1 and 3, cutting her lead to 3. Lenczyk won the 10th, lost the 11th, and won the 12th to go up 4. They tied holes 13 to 15, ending the match with Lenczyk up 4 and three holes to play. Pebble Beach had hosted four national championships — two for the men (1929 and 1947) and two for the women (1940 and 1948), but the nature of the game was changing. Professional golf was coming of age, and the PGA was now coming annually with the Crosby pro-am. The ladies would not be left out. Helen Lengfeld assured that the Women’s Golf Circuit continued compet-

The ladies would not be left out. Helen Lengfeld and Alice Bauer (left) and her little sister, Marlene (right), were born in South Dakota, but their family moved to Southern California in the mid-1940s. By 1950, less than two years after competing in the U.S. Women’s Amateur at Pebble Beach, they became two of the 13 founders of the LPGA. Marlene had a successful LPGA career and was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2002. Alice will be added in 2024.

HISTORY

From page 23A

Lawson Shepherd (Del Monte Champion in 1936 and 1937) and Dorothy Traung (Pebble Beach Champion in 1934, 1936 and 1939), as well as younger players including the Bauer sisters (Alice, 20, and Marlene, 14) and the former Aileen Gates, who got her first hole-in-one at age 10. At 21 she won the 1947 Pasadena championship, and in early 1948, became the fourth Mrs. Johnny “Tarzan” Weismuller.

Alice Bauer (left) and her little sister, Marlene (right), were born in South Dakota, but their family moved to Southern California in the mid-1940s. By 1950, less than two years after competing in the U.S. Women’s Amateur at Pebble Beach, they became two of the 13 founders of the LPGA. Marlene had a successful LPGA career and was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2002. Alice will be added in 2024.

Professional golf was coming of age, and the PGA was now coming annually with the Crosby pro-am. The ladies would not be left out. Helen Lengfeld assured that the Women’s Golf Circuit continued competing on the Peninsula courses. She even helped bring women’s professional golf to Pebble Beach. More on those events in the coming weeks, as we near the first women’s Major to be held at Pebble Beach, the 78th U.S. Women’s Open, July 5-9.
ART FESTIVAL TURNS 30 AS PLEIN AIR PAINTERS DESCEND ON TOWN FOR CONTEST

To celebrate its 30th anniversary, the Carmel Art Festival will give away a record $30,000 in prize money this weekend to the winners of its plein air contest.

The generous purse has tempted many talented painters to enter the competition. “Among the sixty registered painters are 42 past winners,” festival president Hella Rothwell reported. “This year is going to be a real competition.”

The festival is also going to be a reunion and a celebration. “Reaching out to some of the most successful artists from the past honors the festival’s history,” Rothwell said.

This weekend, the park will also host an art sale, a quick draw contest, an interactive art event for kids and live music. For more details, visit carmelaquarealfestival.com.

Proposed Action: Will consider adopting the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Operating and Capital Budget.

The City Council of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 on or after the hour of 4:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 920 Ocean Avenue, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, 93923 or by video conference to consider the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Operating and Capital Budget. The City Council will also consider adopting the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget. More information can be found at ci.carmel.ca.us/budget.

Proposed Action: Ratify the City's Appropriation Limit for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The City Council will also consider adopting the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Operating and Capital Budget.

The Carmel Pine Cone will pay up to $50 for photos of noteworthy events around the Monterey Peninsula.

Submit yours to news@carmelpinecone.com. Payment made for photos accepted for publication.

We pay for news photos!

ART Roundup

By CHRIS COUNTS

“At the same time, it guarantees the art collectors and visitors who come to the festival will have an incredible collection of paintings to choose from.”

The painters arrived Wednesday and began working on their pieces — with their easels braced against the ocean breeze, many could be seen at work in turnouts along the coast.

The festival gets underway Friday, May 19, when the winners of the competition are announced.

Many are looking forward to this year’s art festival, including painter and gallery owner Joann Turner. “Over the 30 years it’s been in operation, the festival has become a Carmel tradition that brings the community together to celebrate art and to benefit youth arts programs,” Turner said.

“Tough to beat!”

A first-place winner in 2007, painter Terri Ford will be in town for the contest. Ford said the subject matter she finds here “is tough to beat.” “It has everything from the beaches, rocks, surf, dunes, beautiful eucalyptus and cypress trees, news, lush farmlands and so much more,” she said.

Local sculptor Steven Whyte will return Saturday and Sunday to Devendorf Park, where each year he creates a mystery sculpture of someone famous. Whyte called the gathering a “representation of Carmel’s unique artistic legacy.”

“Artists have been historically drawn to this region for community and inspiration,” he said. “That’s what the festival celebrates.”

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Fifty years of photography

The subject of an ongoing exhibit at the Monterey Museum of Art, photographer Martha Casanave will be on hand Saturday at 4 p.m. when the Center for Photographic Art welcomes her show, "Fictions."

Curated by Monterey art writer Cydney Payton, the exhibit includes work by Casanave that spans her career of more than 50 years as a fine art photographer, which included a stint as legendary photographer Ansel Adams’ assistant. More than 60 images will be displayed.

The show will feature a series of images Casanave captured of the USSR during the 1970s and 1980s. After studying Russian at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, she worked as a translator in the USSR, giving her ample opportunities to take photos of the country before it collapsed in 1991. She used black and white film but tinted the images with what CPA executive director Ann Jastrab called “radical color.”

“They’re really dramatic,” Jastrab told The Pine Cone. “We blew them up, so they’re really huge. They’re pretty special.”

Another series in the display includes portraits of local people done sequentially to show them at different times throughout their lives.

The show continues through July 9. The gallery is located at San Carlos and Ninth.

Weston Collective introduces muralist

The artist-in-residence for the Weston Collective, muralist and photographer Jorge Torres shares a new mural, as well as new images, at a pop-up show set for Tuesday from 5 to 7 p.m. at the group’s studio in Seaside.

“Jorge has been working hard creating a mural that represents the Weston Collective’s mission within the community,” the Weston Collective announced. “Thank you to the Arts Council for Monterey County for sponsoring our artist in residency.”

The studio is located at 1713 Broadway Ave.

Public Input

All interested persons are invited to attend via teleconference or in person at the time and place specified above to give oral or written testimony concerning this matter.

To attend via Zoom (copy and paste the link into your browser): https://ci-carmel-ca.us.zoom.us/j/85953646798

Meeting ID: 859 5364 6798, Passcode: 496285, Dial in: (253) 2 1 5-8782

To view or listen to the meeting will be televised live on the City’s website and archived there after the meeting.

For more information regarding City Council meetings, please contact the City Clerk's office at 831-620-2000 ext. 102 or by email cityclerk@ci.carmel.ca.us.

All interested persons are invited to submit written comments up to 2 hours before the meeting in order to be provided to the legislative body. Comments received after that time and up to the beginning of the meeting will be made part of the record.

From page 3A

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published Yang’s books.

And her formal art education in Beijing, where she watched Chinese masters create their work, inspired her to focus more deeply on painting.

“I did my paintings in our garage or in the back bedroom, and my dad would work on a little desk in a corner,” she said. “He’d paint and finish, and then he’d put it away without showing it to anyone.”

Thus, it was largely a secret that Joseph Yang, who died at their Carmel home in February 2019 at 90, was also an exceptional artist. His work, her daughter’s paintings, and some of their writings will become part of the permanent collection at the Monterey Museum of Art.

Luming Yang — also creative (“She knitted acres of sweaters, without using patterns,” her daughter said) — was 88 when she passed in March 2021.

“I’m no longer working on book projects, at least for now. I am devoting my full time to painting, and I tell my friends that this is the beginning of an endless summer vacation for me,” said Yang, whose home is a short distance above Carmel High’s tennis courts, across the street from fellow artist Nancy Johnson, a friend and mentor since Yang was 11.

“My work is done”

“I feel like my work in this world is done, but I want to hang around on Earth as long as I can. And as long as my mind is clear, I want to spend my time painting,” said the 63-year-old artist, who aspires to complete 101 paintings of Point Lobos, dozens of which already are finished. “I feel blessed every day — and the older I get, the more grateful I feel.”

Images of her art and additional information can be found at belleyang.com. And her paintings, plus several by Joseph Yang, are on display at Hauk Fine Arts at 206 Fountain Ave. in Pacific Grove and haukfinearts.com.

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

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Aquellos ojos verdes
Que yo nunca olvidaré

Hilary
December 25, 1941 - May 24, 2006

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Just Listed in Tehama

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Close to town, yet a world away. Here is a place where you can start your day with a cup of coffee, absorb breathtaking sunrises and experience the restorative sounds of living in a natural environment. Located above the fog a few miles to the Pacific Ocean and Carmel-by-the-Sea, this dramatic 12 acre Tehama lot presents cinematic vistas of mountains and wilderness with a 1 1/3 acre building envelope ready for you to create your space with a guest unit, artist studio, outdoor entertaining area, gardens and more.

Open Houses This Weekend

3348 Ondulado Road, Pebble Beach
Saturday, May 20th from 1pm-3pm

12th Avenue 2 NE of Monte Verde, Carmel
Saturday, May 20th from 1pm-4pm

SEC Camino Real & 9th, Carmel
Saturday, May 20th from 1pm-4pm

2579 14th Avenue, Carmel
Saturday, May 20th from 1pm-4pm

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Playoffs evoke bad memories, drive Padres and Pirates to play hard

A BITTER aftertaste and an insatiable hunger linger when a team comes close — oh-so-close — as the Carmel Padres did last spring, and the Stevenson Pirates did the year before, at the Central Coast Section baseball playoffs.

As a result, both teams feel focused and confident as they return to the 2023 playoffs, which begin Saturday and extend through the coming week.

The Padres (15-12) are seeded No. 3 in the CCS Division 3 bracket, and plays No. 6 Christopher (17-8) in Saturday’s first-round game at Carmel High.

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

11 a.m. quarterfinals game at Carmel High. The Padres are seeded behind No. 1 Branham (20-7) and No. 2 St. Francis SCP (17-9). Also in the bracket are No. 4 Sacred Heart Prep (19-7-1), No. 5 Carlmont (12-15), No. 7 Los Altos (13-13), and No. 8 Palo Alto (13-12).

Stevenson (16-4), seeded No. 1 in the Division 6 bracket, plays No. 8 Andrew Hill (15-7) in a 1 p.m. quarterfinals game on the Pirates home field. The bracket also includes No. 2 Alisal (14-10), No. 3 Thomas More (17-9), No. 4 Prospect (16-9), No. 5 Greenfield (18-5), No. 6 Priory (15-1), and No. 7 Design Tech (13-3-1).

Semifinals are Wednesday at the home fields of the higher seeds, and finals are Thursday at Excite Ballpark, 555 Alma Ave. in San Jose.

Time for redemption?

Four current players were in Stevenson’s lineup for four of that team’s five losses, including the decisive 4-3 setback in the CCS Division 6 championship game, when the Sharks rallied for three runs — tying the game with a dramatic suicide-squeeze bunt — in the top of the seventh, then snuffing a Padres rally in the bottom of the inning for a 4-2 win.

Three of this year’s Padres — Bobo Landoli, Zander Lunt, and J.J. Sanchez — were significant players on that 2022 division runner-up squad, and 15 others were listed on the varsity roster.

Stevenson seniors Trent Toole, Alex Glasscock and Rider McCormick, and junior Sean Ishii were starters on that 2021 Stevenson team and will be going to CCS for the third time in their high school careers. And a fifth — junior Anumil Wilson — started on last year’s Division 6 semifinals team, which was eliminated by Monte Vista Christian, 4-3.

And because of those battle veterans, and also because their heartbreak has made them hungrier, both teams are unintimidated by the challenges they’ll face in this year’s playoffs.

Carmel finished strong

Carmel started the season 5-9, including a six-game losing streak, before changing the philosophy of its offense after an 11-0 loss at home to Hollister — the eventual champion of the Gabilan Division of the Pacific Coast Athletic League.

“Until that loss, we had been playing a station-to-station brand of baseball, just trying to out-hit our opponents, and we concluded that we needed to start doing some things differently,” said Padres coach Mike Kelly, who pivoted the team’s lefty pitching ace, and also plays first base. Senior J.J. Sanchez leads Carmel in most offensive categories, is the team’s lefty pitching ace, and also plays first base.

Additional keys to their successful stretch run have been a reliable defense and exceptional pitching from a defense got in covering the bunt. The same improvement happened for our defense as we practiced hit-and-run and base running,” the coach said. “That was the spark — a turning point for us.”

Two days after that 11-run loss, the Padres traveled to Hollister and hummedered out a 13-5 victory, and went 10-3 for the rest of the season. Carmel rallied from a 1-5 start in the Gabilan to tie St. Francis for second place in the division at 12-9, with an overall record of 15-12.

The Padres won two out of three from Hollister and Palma (the team they overtook for second place in the final day of the regular season), and beat St. Francis 6-1 the last time they played.

Additional keys to their successful stretch run have been a reliable defense and exceptional pitching from a...
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Toole, McCormick, Glasscock and Ishii.

caught, went 7-for-7, with 4 doubles, last week, and he’s our No. 9 hitter.”

The Pirates also stole 84 bases in 20 games this year, led by Ishii (19), Toole (17), Bell (16), McCormick (14), and Glasscock (11).

The pitching staff is led by Toole (5-0, 1.25 ERA, with 2 saves), who pitched a 5-inning perfect game against King City, and Aizuna (6-4), who figure to be the

See MORE SPORTS page 37A

From previous page

staff that goes six deep, including three stellar starters: J.J. Sanchez (5-3, 1.88, 72 strikeouts in 55 innings), a senior left-hander, junior Zander Lunt (4-4, 3.30), and sophomore Matt Maxon (2-4, 3.27), both right-handers.

“Off-the-charts great”

“These three have been off-the-charts great during the final stretch of the season, and I feel like I have five, maybe six pitchers we could use in the playoffs,” said Kelly, whose bullpen includes Ryan Hendrix, Jackson Lloyd (a 6-foot-6, 305-pound sophomore), and Dom Borgonuino.

Sanchez, who does double-duty at first base, leads a Carmel offense (.417 batting average, 14 runs, 14 hits) that also features catcher Ethan Jackson (.313, 4 homers, 2 RBIs), and Lloyd (.318, 8 doubles, 2 home, 16 RBIs), another first baseman.

“We’ve seen very, very good pitching this year in the Gabilan Division, and we feel like we’re very prepared for what we’ll see at CCS,” Kelly said.

Stevenson went 14-2 in the PCAL’s Mission Division for a second-place finish behind Monte Vista Christian (15-1, 21-5 overall). The Pirates finished with a nine-game winning streak, including a 7-6 victory that ruined MVC’s bid for a perfect division record, and won 16 of 18 after an 0-2 start.

“There’s definitely a feeling of confidence among our players, and it’s hard to think of any team I’ve had in the past with as much playoff experience as those four players,” Coach Nick Wilcox said of Toole, McCormick, Glasscock and Ishii.

Toole, a standout infielder with a full-ride scholarship to Villanova, leads the team in hitting (.474), hits (26), RBI (39), on-base percentage (.583) and slugging (.660), but is hardly alone.

Tough batting order

Stevenson’s batting order also includes Andrew Aizuna (4.07), Wilson (.397), McCormick (.396), freshmen Reggie Bell (.386) and Phinn Thomas (.371), Glasscock (.352), Ishii (.322) and sophomore Jack Bucicchi (.286).

There are no weaknesses in our lineup,” Wilcox said. “Phinn Thomas, our freshman
Symphony shares new piece by composer-in-residence in season finale at Sunset

CLOSING ITS 2022-2023 season at Sunset Center with concerts Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m., the Monterey Symphony will perform a new piece by its composer-in-residence, John Wineglass.

Titled Sacred Land, the composition is dedicated to the local Esselen Tribe, and their homeland, Big Sur. It features a solo by local violinist Edwin Huizinga.

Wineglass began developing the piece eight years ago in Big Sur. “It was conceived in 2015,” explained Nicola Reilly, the symphony’s president. “He was spending time at the Glen Devin Ranch and working on another piece, Big Sur the Night Sun,” that was commissioned for the Carmel Centennial Celebration in 2016.

“While John was working on it, he was inspired to do a violin concerto,” Reilly said. “He wrote it especially for Edwin. He also had the Esselen in mind when he wrote it — he had a chance to spend time on reclaimed Esselen land.” The program also includes early 20th century French composer Maurice Ravel’s Daphnis et Chloé, which the symphony’s music director, Jayce Ogren, calls an “Impressionist masterpiece.” Ogren said the piece possesses “one of the most thrilling and hair-raising endings in the entire repertoire.”

Tickets start at $44, with discounts available for students, seniors and active military. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 646-8511 or visit montereysymphony.org.

On a High Note

By CHRIS COUNTS

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■ Two shows, two good causes

The latest offerings in the Music in the Forest series, two shows this weekend at Forest Theater showcase local musicians and raise money for worthy causes.

On Saturday at 5 p.m., The JJ Hawg Band, singer Barbra Ann Wagner and Red Beans and Rice play a benefit concert to raise money for the Veteran’s Transition Center Music Therapy Room. And on Sunday at 4 p.m., three singer and guitarists, Tim Brady, Anthony Arya and Kyle Kovalik, are on stage at the same venue, along with Rivers, a duo featuring singer Richard Bryant and guitarist Kyle Kovalik. A portion of the proceeds will be given to the Monterey County chapter of Guitars Not Guns. “Bring a picnic and your favorite beverage and enjoy the music of some very talented local musicians as well as the beauty of Carmel,” suggested promoter Steve Vagnani.

Tickets are $23 for general admission and $18 for everyone under 18. The theater is located at Santa Rita and Mountain View. For details, visit pacrep.org.

■ ‘Unruly, rubble-rousing’ music

Led by fiddler Alasdair Fraser, a group of Scottish fiddlers will play “jigs, reels, airs, and other lively tunes” at the Carmel High School Performing Arts Center Sunday at 3 p.m.

See MUSIC page 34A
Two outposts from familiar names, new Barnyard brews, and a release party

**Soup to Nuts**

By ELAINE HESSE

Bernardus will be showing off its new rose at a release party on May 21, which will also include tasty bites by Chef Tim Wood. Kona Steak and Seafood in Del Monte Shopping Center.

Bill Lee and Teresa Raine-Lee are welcoming customers to their new Kona Steak and Seafood in Del Monte Shopping Center.

Klaus Georis grew up in the hospitality business. His father, Walter Georis, gave the family name to his Carmel Valley winery after opening La Boheme (now home to La Bicyclette), Casanova and a few other notable eateries with his brother, the late Gaston Georis. Klaus Georis said he didn’t attend culinary school. Then he paused and amended, “I went for a week and dropped out.” He explained that his first lesson was in paring carrots, and with tuition running $65,000 a year, that didn’t seem like a good use of his time — or money.

Instead, after having dinner at Michele- lin-starred Quince in San Francisco, Georis told the chef he’d work in the kitchen for free for a year, just to learn. The chef said, “Come back at 5 a.m. tomorrow if you’re serious.” Georis was, and he did. After a year at Quince, he began cooking his way across Europe in France, Norway and Belgium.

When he returned to the United States and was ready to open a restaurant of his own, Georis was discouraged by the high rents in Carmel. Last summer, he went to Sea- side and opened Maligne at 600 Broadway. He said the name was the feminine version of “something my dad called me when I was growing up. It means someone mischievous, a troublemaker.”

“It lends itself to a style of food — sometimes, it’s not what people are expecting,” he explained. He likes being play- ful with dishes, but said that as he settled into the neighbor- hood, he decided to do “fine casual” dining. “I want to offer the same products as a high-end restaurant, but in a more accessible way.”

Maligne had no sign at first, but Georis opted to order a small one, like the kind he’d seen in Europe. The logo, which you can see on the website (restau- rantmaligne.com), was done by Hanif Panni, a Seaside artist.

**Comfort food**

Georis’ menu is almost pure comfort food, much of it straight from the wood-fired oven. Starters include a Caesar salad and prawns with prosciutto and spiced tomato sauce. For an entrée, diners can choose among familiar items like moules frites, grilled polenta with olive tapenade and cauliflower, steak Béarnaise and chicken parmigiana.

“A lot of people like our burger,” he added. The Royale with Cheese — the name comes from “Pulp Fiction,” a favor- ite movie of Georis’ — is made from beef he purchases from Knights Valley Wayqay, a small-production ranch near Calistoga. Apple tarte tatin shares the dessert bill with gelato. Prices range from $10 to $20 for most appetizers (oysters cost a bit more), and are in the $24 to $30 range for entrees. As for the wine list, he said, “I grew up drinking wine with my family, but I’d never put a wine program together. I bought all the wine I like to drink, that I knew was good.”

Maligne also offers two beers on tap — one’s an aged Belgian from Orval Brew- ery in Belgium and the second comes from Other Brother Beer, just up the street. “I just go over there and ask, ‘What do you have in kegs, what are you excited about right now?’” Georis said.

With nine tables and 40 seats, the space isn’t crowded. The open kitchen lets everyone watch the action, and the spot is designed to “break the barriers of fine din- ing, and give the feeling of being in some- one’s living room,” Georis said. Reserva- tions are recommended, but walk-ins are welcome.

Maligne is open for dinner Wednesday through Saturday, and for Sunday brunch.

Bill Lee hits the mall

Did anyone believe Bill Lee when he said he was retiring? He and his wife, Teresa Raine-Lee, sold Sur in the Barnyard and stuck around for a while to help the new owners get their footing, finally leav- ing the restaurant for good about a year ago.

When he and Teresa were invited to a friend’s wedding in Kona last May, they said, “We never had more than one day off a week together,” so, with Sur securely in the new owners’ hands, they headed off to paradise.

Meanwhile, P.F. Chang’s — the large chain restaurant in Monterey’s Del Monte Center — had closed, leaving an empty 7,300-square-foot storefront (plus upstairs offices and a patio for outdoor dining). Even the gigantic horses that guarded the front doors took their leave, presumably retiring to a large stone pasture somewhere.

Lee said he had spoken with the shop- ping center’s management about putting in a new eatery, but hadn’t wanted to inter-upt his orderly departure from Sur. The See FOOD next page
Food
From previous page

Food & Wine

Trip to Kona, however, gave him and Teresa some fresh inspiration. That’s how a Hawaiian-themed steakhouse arrived at Del Monte Center. Kona Steak and Seafood had a soft opening in March while awaiting its liquor license, which arrived not long after. Lee said having a good bar was a must.

"At my restaurants, the bar is always another appealing outlet for food," he noted. The Zen Den materialized, with two happy hours — 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., Sunday through Friday.

Sur veteran Omar Garcia, Kona’s bar manager, has created tropical cocktails, many served in retro tiki glasses. They include the Guava Smash (Skyy vodka, orange liqueur, fresh citrus and guava) and Lilikoi Rita (Esposito Blanco tequila, Lilikoi syrup, fresh citrus and honey). Draft beers, mocktails, and wines by the glass or bottle are also available.

The restaurant is open with a full menu served from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily, plus additional lunch items offered from 11 to 3. The kitchen’s in the capable hands of Mario Luciano, another former Sur denizen.

Lee said the fried rice bowl, which can be topped with BBQ pork or jumbo tempura prawns, is one of the most popular midday options. Fun items like duck tacos, tempura scassas, a bacon cheeseburger, BBQ Hawaiian pork sandwich, and more — all under $20 — round out the lunchtime fare.

Starters include a pupu platter for two or four with coconut prawns, BBQ baby back ribs and crispy calamari. For the main event, Kona Steak and Seafood lives up to its name, with enough Black Angus to satisfy Fred Flintstone.

A 10-ounce top sirloin with brannaise sauce, au gratin potatoes and grilled fresh vegetables goes for $32. Filet mignon, skirt steak and a grilled New York are also available.

As with his previous 11 restaurants, Lee has created an ambitious menu with something for everyone. There’s seafood, like cioppino, along with mushroom ravioli with lobster sauce. Veggie lovers can choose from a braised tofu and mushroom plate, several salads, and an Imposible burger.

A family-style chocolate lava cake with Marianne’s ice cream, is served in a dry ice fog, as is a family-sized helping of Hawaiian shave ice. You can also walk up and get an order of shave ice to go. Read more at konamonterey.com; reserve a table by calling (831) 920-2911.

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Food & Wine

■ Wild yeast at Hidden Hills

You might have noticed that the former location of Carmel Craft Brewery in the Barnyard has become Hidden Hills Brewing and Blending, owned and operated by Jef- frey Vitalich. The new name became official last October, and Vitalich is planning a ribbon-cutting May 25.

He refers to the spot — appetizingly situated between Allegro Pizza and Surf restaurant — as a nanobrewery, meaning it’s even smaller than a microbrewery.

The Monterey native said he fell in love with fer- mentation and started home-brewing beer in his garage. He got his B.S. in industrial engineering from CSU East Bay in 2015, and took courses in brewing and marketing craft beer at Oregon State University and through UC San Diego’s extension program.

After working for Gordon Biersch in San Jose for two years, he became head brewer at the Soquel Fermentation Project in Santa Cruz County.

Vitalich said that he uses wild yeast and malted barley from the Central Valley and the Sacramento area to give the beers their distinctive character and quality. Because wild yeast makes the results are so unpredictable, he blends different batches to get the flavors he wants.

Visitors to Hidden Hills will find 12 to 15 of Vitalich’s house-made brews on tap. He said people usually go for four-ounce tasters, while he enjoys explaining the process.

See WINE next page

May 21 • San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers starring Music Director Alasdair Fraser, with special guests, 3 p.m. at Carmel High School Center for the Performing Arts. Kids 12 and under free, special prices for seniors and students. $32 general admission. Tickets at www.sfifiddlers.org

May 21 • All are invited to Jackson Stock Celebration of Life, 5 to 8 p.m. at Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Valley Road one mile east of Highway 1. Refreshments and potluck treats provided. Details: call Wayne Martin (831) 601-0022.

May 24 • The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB) will present a dinner / lecture, 6 p.m. at the Carmel Mission Inn, 3665 Rio Road, Carmel. Topic is “Geopolitics and Energy,” presented by Dr. Daniel Nussbaum, chair of the Energy Academic Group at the Naval Postgraduate School. Visit http://www.wacmb.org for event information and registration.

May 28 • Gaelic Supergroup Daimh (“Dive”) performs at St. Mary’s By-the-Sea at 3 p.m., doors open 2:30 p.m. Advance tickets are at a discount, available at www.celticsociety.org. 146 12th Street and Central Ave., Pacific Grove

Save the date for the 14th Annual Whalefest Monterey on Saturday and Sunday, April 13 and 14, 2024. This “educating” free family friendly event is held at and around Old Fisherman’s Wharf and the Custom House Plaza. Updates at Whalefest.org.

Celtic Music Series at St. Mary’s

St. Mary’s By-The-Sea is once again proud to present these incredibly talented musicians from Scotland who combine their Gaelic roots with a modern youthful vibe. Daimh, pronounced “Dive,” Gaelic Supergroup, is an exciting collection of straight in the eye Highland music are based around West Lobaher and the Isle of Skye.

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For additional information, Call or text 831-224-3819 for more info. www.stmarysbythesea.org

146 12TH STREET • PACIFIC GROVE
MUSIC
From page 31A
A native of Scotland and a long-time California resi-
dent, Fraser joked that the ensemble is “full of surprises.” “It’s not an orchestra, but an unruly, rambunctious, anar-
chistic bunch,” suggested the fiddler, who is a member of the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame.
Jackie Pierce, who helps put on Celtic music shows at St. Mary’s church in Pacific Grove, encouraged the audience to cut loose. “Dancing in the aisles is definitely encouraged,” Pierce added.
Tickets are $32 for general admission, $27 for seniors, $16 for students and free for anyone under 12. The high school is located at 3600 Ocean Ave. Call (831) 224-3819 or visit sfiddlides.org.

PIANIST SHARES NEW ALBUM
Just in time for spring, local pianist Wendi Kirby shares music from her debut album, “Bloom,” Friday at the Sand Box in Sand City. The concert starts at 7 p.m.

Kirby is music director at Stevenson School. “Her versatile and lyrical style is inspired by the people that touch her life and their stories connect the audience to her music,” according to Morgan Pierce, Kirby’s father and music director at Stevenson.

The Carmel Pine Cone - May 19, 2023
Fragnards (folk, Thursday at 5 p.m.) 290 Figueroa St. Folktaile Winery in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist Daniel Cortes (Friday at 4 p.m.), singer and guitarist Bobcat Rob Armenti (Saturday at 2 p.m.), singer and multi-instrumentalist Casey Wickstrom (rock and blues, Sunday at 2 p.m.) 8940 Carmel Valley Road.

Gusto Pasta and Pizza in Seaside — singer Janice Perl and keyboardist Gary Meek (jazz, Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.) 1901 Fremont Blvd.

Hyatt Carmel Highlands — singer and pianist Dino Vera (jazz, blues and r&b, Saturday at 8 p.m. and Thursday at 6 p.m.) In the Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive.

Intercontinental Hotel in Monterey — singer and guitarist Zack Freitas (Friday at 7 p.m.), guitarist John Sherry (folk, rock and blues, Saturday at 7 p.m.), guitarist Reija Massey (pop, rock and country, Sunday at 4:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist Johan Sotelo (jazz, Friday at 7 p.m.), pianist Andy Weis (jazz, Saturday at 7 p.m.), bassist Steve Uccello and drummer Andy Weis (jazz, Saturday at 7 p.m.) 2700 17 Mile Drive.

The Links Club — Octane (rock, Friday at 7 p.m.) and Singer-Songwriter Showcase (Tuesday at 7 p.m.) Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

The Lodge at Pebble Beach — singer and multi-instrumentalist Meredith McHenry (Friday at 6 p.m.), singer and pianist Reija Massey (pop, rock and country, Saturday at 4:30 p.m.), singer and guitarist Johan Sotelo (jazz, Thursday at 6 p.m.) In the Terrace Lounge at 1700 17 Mile Drive.

Lucy’s on Lighthouse in Pacific Grove — Snake Oil Road Show (acoustic rock, Sunday at 8 p.m.) 120 Highlands Drive.

Vera in Seaside — singer and guitarist Terrence Ferrell (folk, Thursday at 5 p.m.) 290 Figueroa St.

Folktale Winery in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist Johan Sotelo (jazz, Friday at 7 p.m.), pianist Andy Weis (jazz, Saturday at 7 p.m.), bassist Steve Uccello and drummer Andy Weis (jazz, Saturday at 7 p.m.) 750 Figueroa St.

The Links Club — Octane (rock, Friday at 7 p.m.) and Singer-Songwriter Showcase (Tuesday at 7 p.m.) Carmel Plaza, Mission and Ocean.

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Dear Editor,

I am confused by David Fockler’s (letters, May 12) nebulous comments that I feel were casting aspersions on those who are going above and beyond in their efforts to take back our water from a company that never tells us where the money we give them is actually going toward improving our water quality and sustainability.

I have volunteered for these groups, and am astounded that anyone could see evil or greed in any of their efforts to bring back ownership, certainly as compared to the continuous actions of Cal Am that seem to get more brazen every year. The only people to benefit would be the citizens of the Monterey Peninsula, who could spend their hard-earned cash here, rather than watching it go down the drain to Cal Am’s benefit.

Public Water Now and Monterey One Water’s efforts are for the benefit of the citizens of Monterey, and these incredibly hard-working intelligent people are of the highest caliber people we have here in this county.

My only question to you, Mr. Fockler, is how do you benefit from Cal Am’s constant economic insults? If you want to point fingers, it looks to me you are actually pointing to your own risks and benefits.

Cate Mulligan, Seaside

‘Cal Am wants more’
Dear Editor,

While discussion ensues about Measure J, passed by district voters who were well aware of what they wanted, Cal Am is pursing yet another rate increase for its Monterey district. Cal Am has increased the cost of our water by $26.4 million in the last four years.

Cal Am is also trying to insert a new charge for meter size adding another increase on top of rates. Ratepayers also subsidize the assistance program and businesses on a more favorable tier system.

Our rates are the highest in the state, even among Cal Am’s other service areas. Cal Am projects its average bill at a lower rate by including homes not occupied for the majority of the year.

It is really important to tell the CPUC how we feel about our extremely high rates and stop Cal Am from gouging us. The cost just keeps going up. Even if you use less water, you pay more. They do not follow through on infrastructure commitments and have actively worked to delay expansion of the recycled water project which can provide enough water for lifting the CDO. Instead, they would rather torture the community with a lack of water for needed housing to press the desal upon us, an environmentally destructive choice that would raise rates by another additional 50-70 percent. If we don’t speak up, nothing changes.

Ratepayers can voice their concern by going to www.cpuc.ca.gov and typing Proceeding A2207001 into the search bar. Then click on A2207001 for the page to comment.

Susan Schiavone, Seaside

‘Unrelenting lobbying’
Dear Editor,

Apparently, Ron Chesshire (letters, May 5) loves paying high water rates. He also does not understand the intent or the full text of Measure J — approved by 56 percent of the voters — that mandated a feasibility study as a prerequisite for a takeover of Cal Am by the water district. It had to be in the ratepayers’ interest.

It was found to be in the ratepayers’ interest and financially feasible by some of the best financial experts in the country. At the CPUC meeting last month in Seaside, 25 of the 28 speakers were there with their last several water bills protesting Cal Am’s last 11 percent increase at the beginning of this year and protesting the outrageous increases over the last 10 years. They were also there to oppose Cal Am’s proposed new increases over the next several years.

We have all the water we need, but Cal Am has been holding up the water reclamation expansion for the last 3 years, which would lift the moratorium on new water connections, because Cal Am insisted on building their costly, unneeded and environmentally destructive desalination project. As a representative of the building trades industry here, Ron Chesshire should be welcoming the new water connections that the water reclamation expansion project would allow for responsible growth, that he, family, and friends as Monterey residents could enjoy in perpetuity.

So Mr. Chesshire, please look carefully at the details of Measure J and the water district website and note also that the cost of taking over Cal Am is nothing compared to what Cal Am has cost us and Marina in legal battles, failed projects, and in their unrelenting lobbying with our money to keep their oppressive presence here.

Walt Noltey, Monterey

Bait and switch
Dear Editor,

On the Monterey Peninsula, a real estate buyer can investigate a potential purchase, its zoning, architectural heritage, and any known limitations on use prior to completing a transaction. But for some reason, the powers that be, or neighbors, have the right to change the rules after the investment has been made? Seems simple to me: The rules that apply at the time a purchase is made are the rules that apply after the purchase. That is logical, fair, equitable and the American Way and should apply to all of us.

Mike Patton, Carmel

‘Kindness and forgiveness’
Dear Editor,

As a current Carmel High student, I feel compelled to share some thoughts about kindness, forgiveness, and personal growth. I feel that there is a growing trend in our community to accept and support a dangerous dichotomy between granting forgiveness and administering punishment for past mistakes.

Understand that I am a young person: I do not have the benefit of understanding all the possible outcomes of my actions or words. Some things I will not understand until I am much older when cultural vantage points have shifted with time. There are things I believe today that I will refine with age, and other things I believe today I will be glad to replace with better understanding and behavior as I get older. I understand that I am bound to make mistakes. Yes, I will make mistakes the same way as every single person alive is bound to. Some mistakes are bigger than others, but if you have not actually violated a legal statute of our society, how can destroying a person’s career or reputation based on a handful of past events or for a past statement that person has made, “cancel” all the good deeds they have done? This question is further complicated with the opinions or behavior of said person have changed to understand past wrongdoing.

Can there truly be personal growth without repentance and forgiveness? “Cancel culture” seems to me to be diametrically opposed to the intent of what should be the basis of American political discourse. My father once explained to me: “No man has hated another man so much that his hate has changed his mind or behavior.” A current celebrity recently noted that “taking a man’s livelihood is akin to killing him.” We all don’t all see eye to eye.

If the solution in our future of differing opinions relies on destroying each other verbally, socially, and economically then how is “cancel culture” any different than shooting someone who isn’t. And if you can help, then our readers are waiting to hear from you!

Chase Lander, Carmel

HEALTHY Lifestyles

Now more than ever — personal health is on everyone’s mind

The coronavirus epidemic had everyone thinking about their overall health and fitness, because someone who’s in tip-top condition can fight off illness much more readily than someone who isn’t. And if you can help, then our readers are waiting to hear from you!

Contact your rep today to reserve space in our next edition of Healthy Lifestyles — May 26

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MORE SPORTS
From page 3A

starters in the playoff bracket. First out of the bullpen will be Ishii (3.3, 2.47) or Glasscock (1.1-2.33). Carmel has won eight CCS championships, the most recent in 2007. Stevenson has never won a section title.

■ CCS UPDATES

Boys volleyball: The Carmel Padres advanced to the finals of the CCS Division 2 Boys Volleyball Championship on May 13, where they lost to Harker 25-17, 25-21, 25-21 at St. Francis High School. Those two schools have faced each other in the CCS finals three times, with Carmel winning the crown in 2018, and Harker taking the title in 2019 and 2022.

The second-seeded Padres (22-7) defeated Seaside in the quarterfinals on May 9, and Monterey in Thursday's quarterfinals on May 11.

Top-seeded Harker finished the year with a 17-18 overall record.

Boys lacrosse: Stevenson (14-7) were eliminated from the CCS playoffs on May 12, losing 15-6 to Bellarmine in the quarterfinal round. The Pirates defeated Los Gatos 18-6 in their tournament opener on May 10, thanks to an 18-6-opening-round defeat of Los Gatos on May 10.

Stevenson defeated Bellarmine 11-10 in a regular-season matchup on April 28.

Track and field: Santa Catalina junior Juliette Kostmont, the reigning champion in the girls 100-meter dash, qualified second in that event in the CCS preliminaries on May 13 at Gilroy High. Elite McCue-Hay, a freshman from St. Ignatius, broke the tape in 12.04 at the meet, where Komstoch was clocked in 12.15.

Stevenson senior Harrison Fung qualified No. 2 in the 300-meter hurdles (time 39.12) behind Miles Roberts (38.70) of Los Gatos, and placed the finals of the 110-meter hurdles with an eighth-place qualifying time.

Others who qualified for Saturday’s CCS Championships at Gilroy (semifinals at 10 a.m., finals at 3 p.m.) included Stevenson’s Nile Glover (third in the boys long jump, fifth in the high jump) and Siobhan Ong (seventh in the girls pole vault), and Carmel’s Aidan Tarantino (11th in the boys 1600) and Bella Ortega (10th in the girls pole vault).

Boys golf: Stevenson obliterated its competition Tuesday at the CCS Golf Championships at Laguna Seca Golf Ranch, shooting 1 under par as a team to leave its closest competitor 21 strokes behind.

Luke Brandler was the individual medalist with an astounding score of 65 — six under par — two strokes better than runner-up Trevor Moquin of Junipero Serra.

Stevenson defeated Bellarmine 11-10 in a regular-season matchup on April 28.

Contact him at scribelaureate@gmail.com.

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**TUNES**

From page 37A

(Thursday at 5 p.m.), singer and guitarist Kevin Pfeffer (Saturday at noon), singer and guitarist Daniel Cortes (Sunday at noon). 2999 Highway 68.

Trailside Cafe in Carmel Valley — singer and guitarist Scott Frequent (Saturday at 6 p.m.), 3 Del Fino Place. Wild Fish restaurant in Pacific Grove — The Lighthouse Jazz Quartet with pianist Bob Phillips, saxophonist Paul Contos, bassist Zach Westfall and drummer Mike Shannon (Friday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m.). 545 Lighthouse Ave.

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

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