SUPEs OK CRACKDOWN ON SHORT-TERM RENTALS

By CHRIS COUNTS

TAKING A tough stand against the rise of short-term rentals in Carmel Valley, Carmel Highlands and Big Sur, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 Wednesday to OK an enforcement program that specifically targets operators who lack county permits, fail to pay hotel taxes or create public nuisances.

“It’s become untenable for residents living near some vacation rentals,” said 5th District Supervisor Mary Adams. “It’s critical we take some action with increased enforcement.”

LAFCO says ‘no’ to Cal Am gov’t. takeover

■ Warnings about loss of tax revenue

By KELLY NIX

IN a major setback for the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, the Local Agency Formation Commission Monday rejected its efforts to take over Cal Am, compelling the water district’s general manager to say it would probably sue over the decision.

Three years ago, Monterey Peninsula voters OK’d Measure J, which called for the water district to buy out Cal Am if doing so would be financially feasible. Cal Am has repeatedly said its system is not for sale, which means the water district would probably have to go to court to fight for eminent domain of the system.

In order to forge ahead with its acquisition plans, the water district needed approval from LAFCO, but on Monday LAFCO said no.

Verizon antenna

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER HEARING numerous comments and reading hundreds of pages of correspondence from people largely opposed to the plan, the city council unanimously voted Tuesday night to deny Verizon Wireless’ proposal to install a wireless antenna on top of a power pole at Carmel and Eighth.

The telecomm giant’s next step would be to sue, which company representatives have repeatedly threatened to do. After trying and failing in 2019 to obtain city approval for five cell towers in the residential area south of Ocean, Verizon moved a couple of the proposed sites outside town and applied for two in the city — one on the roof of Sunset Center, which was approved in July, and the other on a power pole next to La Playa hotel.

Numerous reasons cited

The existing utility pole would be replaced and topped with a cell antenna for a finished height of 50 feet. The associated equipment, such as radios, backup batteries and other machinery, could be attached to the pole, split between the pole and the ground, or installed on the ground north of the pole. Principal planner Marnie Waffle explained to the council Dec. 7. The ground equipment could be painted green, wrapped with “artistic graphics,” or enclosed with a redwood grape stake fence.

In late September, the planning commission unanimously denied Verizon’s bid to install the tower, which at that point was designed to be a little over 1 foot taller than what the council considered Tuesday. Commissioners said it violated rules discouraging telecommunication facilities in the public right of way in the multifamily-residential district, where La Playa is located, and that it also contravened restrictions on height, visual clutter, negative impacts on public and private views, and ground-mounted equipment.
Cosmo is a Lagotto Romagnolo, which sounds like an exotic Italian car. Although definitely Italian and decidedly exotic, he actually is a 14-month-old pup whose specialty is truffle hunting, a pursuit he recently began in earnest. Cosmo’s people designated a digging area for him in the backyard of their home overlooking Mission Fields. Cosmo quickly became adept at discovering the truffle-oil-soaked cloths they planted there.

His teddy bear appearance belies the intensity of his work ethic. The Lagotto Romagnolo, a “lake dog” from the Romagnolo region of Italy, more loosely translated to water dog, is prized for more than truffle retrieval. He also is alert, lively and devoted to pleasing his people. Although a rare presence in a community more commonly characterized by golden retrievers, Labradoodles, poodles, Cavalier King Charles spaniels and terriers, a second Lagotto, Guido, lives down the street from Cosmo and is just as calm and affectionate.

“Cosmo is only our second dog,” his person said. “We’d had a rescue who came with a lot of fear and baggage. Having seen a Lagotto Romagnolo in a Rembrandt painting, the breed really intrigued us, so we decided to work with a breeder to have clear idea of what we were getting.” They also enlisted the help of a trainer, to keep their puppy calm and ready to work.

When not on the job, Cosmo is a beach bum who hits the sand every morning by 7. He loves swimming in the tide pools at the north end of Carmel Beach, chasing after a ball and socializing with a regular cast of canine cohorts. “Cosmo also loves the cave at the end of the beach,” one of his people said. “He just sits in there with his ball, completely content. It takes some coaxing to get him out.”
Garbage rates going up — again

By MARY SCHLEY

IN THE last five years, rates for trash hauling have risen more than 50 percent for residents and nearly as much for businesses in Carmel-by-the-Sea, and on Monday, the city council voted 4-1 to authorize another 3.76 percent rate hike.

The new price, which will bring the average monthly residential bill from $47.22 to $49, will cover the costs of implementing and enforcing a state law requiring everyone to compost their food waste rather than throw it in the garbage, according to environmental compliance manager Agnes Martelet.

Commercial rates, which are charged by the size of the cart or dumpster and frequency of pickup — will also increase by 3.76 percent.

Businesses also pay separately for recycling and food waste collection, which are included for residential customers.

The new state law “is the most significant state waste management legislation to affect local governments in more than 30 years,” Martelet explained to the council Dec. 6. The law’s goal is to “dramatically reduce the amount of methane generated from California landfills by reducing organic waste to landfills by 75 percent by 2025,” she said. In this context, “organic waste” means anything produced from something that was living, such as food, as well as paper products and lumber.

New rules next month

Residents are required to participate in the city’s garbage, recycling and yard-waste programs, and come Jan. 1, 2022, they’ll have to put all their food scraps — except for used grease and raw meat, which go in the garbage — in their green bins.

Housing complexes will have to provide the three-container system for tenants and make sure they and any contractors working on the property know what goes where.

Businesses will have to provide separate containers for food waste and recycling in all indoor and outdoor spaces where garbage cans are. The rules do allow waivers for those that have space constraints or don’t have any landscaping.

Employers must educate their workers and let city inspectors make sure they’re following the rules.

The city and its waste hauler have two years to educate and inform people about the requirements, with enforcement beginning in 2024, and in October and November, the city council approved changes to its garbage laws to include the new rules.

Enforcement efforts will include hiring “lid flippers” to check people’s cans to ensure they’re not throwing away items that are supposed to be recycled or composted.

GWR wants more

The garbage company also argued that it should get an additional rate increase due to the pandemic and the resulting sharp decline in revenues from commercial customers during shelter-in-place orders, but consultants and the Monterey Peninsula cities GreenWaste serves concluded “it was unreasonable for GWR to request additional revenues,” especially since its income had exceeded targets in previous years, according to Martelet.

She also noted the company is being sold to an investment fund, which triggered further review and will generate a $36,300 “transfer fee” to be paid to the city’s general fund.

Martelet recommended the city council approve the rate increase, and no one challenged it, other than councilman Bobby Richards, who observed that GreenWaste’s income had exceeded targets in previous years, according to Martelet.

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Clearly, it wasn’t a peace sign

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 list was compiled by Mary Schley.

Monday, November 22

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Walkie-talkie found in Devendorf Park at Junipero and Ocean.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Subject reported losing a wallet.

Pacific Grove: Attempted theft of vehicle exhaust pipe on Fountain.

Pacific Grove: Theft of bike on Lawton. No leads at this time.

Pacific Grove: In the 100 block of California, a male suffered from a drug overdose in a vehicle. He was transported to the hospital for medical aid. Info only.

Carmel area: Rio Road resident reported a disturbance in the area.

Tuesday, November 23

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Battery report taken at Lincoln and Seventh.

Carmel-by-the-Sea: Missing person report made at the station.

Nov. 3 — David Russell Stamm, 59, of Pacific Grove, was found dead on October 30 in Red Bluff of an apparent suicide.

The defendant faced charges of committing lewd acts on a child under the age of 14. It was alleged that in the summer of 2005, the defendant committed lewd and lascivious acts on John Doe 1.

These acts involved inappropriate touching as well as encouragement by the defendant to have Doe 1 masturbate with a sex toy in the defendant’s presence. It was also alleged that in 1998 and 1999 the defendant committed lewd and lascivious acts with John Doe 2 by masturabating and orally copulating him.

The defendant faced additional enhancements for committing a sexual offense against more than one victim and for substantial sexual conduct with a victim under the age of 14. The defendant faced a maximum indeterminate sentence of 90 years to life in prison.

The defendant previously faced charges that alleged he molested another child victim in the year 2000.

A jury trial was conducted in 2008 and a mistrial was declared after the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict. A second trial was held in 2009, which also ended with the jury deadlocked.

Charges were dismissed before a third jury trial was conducted. The People anticipated presenting evidence from these prior trials in the current prosecution.

The defendant had access to children including these victims due to his status as a Little League coach and owner of the Monterey Cages baseball practice and sporting goods business.

Nov. 8 — A jury found Salinas resident Luis Cea Nuñez, 44, guilty of committing 19 counts of child molest upon two victims. All the counts are violent felonies and are considered strikes under California’s three strikes law. The Honorable Stephanie E. Hulsey presided over the trial.

In December 2019, John Doe 1, 31, reported that Luis Nuñez, a family member, sexually abused him continuously from when he was around 7 or 8 years old until he was around 14 years old. Nuñez reportedly told Doe 1 not to tell

See CAVEL page 15A
Hiker’s adventure turns perilous

By CHRIS COUNTS

AT A remote location near the San Luis Obispo County line on Nov. 29, the California Highway Patrol used a helicopter to rescue a hiker who found himself in a dangerous situation.

The man appeared to be trying to climb down to the shoreline from Highway 1, but the grade was too steep and he got stranded. The incident happened at about 3:30 p.m.

A video shows a man in a red T-shirt and jeans standing with his chest pressed up against a steep rocky slope. His hands are outstretched above him, and he’s clinging to a ledge.

“The helicopter crew was requested to assist with rescuing a man stuck on the hillside just north of Ragged Point,” the CHP reported. “The crew located the man, who appeared exhausted but stable, clinging precariously to a small ledge several hundred feet above the surf line and over 100 feet below the highway.”

The crew used the helicopter’s public address system to urge the hiker to remain in place. Before leaving, they also reassured him they would soon return.

“They then landed on the lawn at the Ragged Point Inn, picked up a rescuer from the San Luis Obispo County Search and Rescue Team, and then lowered the rescuer to the cliff,” the report continued.

The rescue worker guided a basket down to the site where the man was stranded and helped him into it. Then the two were hoisted back up to the helicopter, where a medical crew from the Cambria Community Healthcare District awaited the hiker and treated him.
McAdams and Chaps Poduri attended the League of California Cities conference in Sacramento in late September. The three-day annual meeting drew hundreds of city leaders to discuss statewide issues and concluded with delegates voting on several topics. The council members’ trip cost P.G. taxpayers more than $4,500 for registration, lodging, food, mileage and other expenses.

McAdams — the councilwoman appointed Sept. 1 to be Pacific Grove’s delegate and therefore tasked with voting on its behalf — posted on social media before the event that she was “so excited to represent Pacific Grove at the League of California Cities Annual Conference.”

However, according to League of California Cities official Darla Yakub, who ran the voting booth at the conference, McAdams never voted — meaning she did not fulfill her obligation as Pacific Grove’s delegate. Voting took place Sept. 24, the last day of the conference.

“Jenny McAdams did not vote at the general assembly business meeting for the 2021 annual conference,” Yakub said in a Nov. 10 email message to city manager Ben Harvey. “There was neither a signature form completed by Jenny McAdams, nor was the ballot for the City of Pacific Grove picked up.”

McAdams and other delegates were asked to vote on amendments to the League of California Cities’ bylaws, which included recognizing the “full contribution” of its African-American, Asian-Pacific Islander, LGBTQ, Latino and Women’s caucuses, and broadening the groups’ representation on the league’s board of directors.

Also on the ballot was a resolution asking legislators to provide for “fair and equitable” distribution of online sales tax revenues, and another calling on state lawmakers to fund the cleanup of homeless encampments from railroad properties “that degrade the quality of life and result in increased public safety concerns” for residents who live near those areas.

While any absence of Pacific Grove’s vote at the conference likely would have not significantly impacted the city, McAdams’ council colleagues expected her to vote at the general assembly. At a Sept. 15 council meeting they authorized support for the “bylaws amendments prior to Delegate Jenny McAdams’ vote” at the conference.

What’s the truth?

Weeks after the Sacramento event, when questions arose as to whether McAdams had actually voted at the meeting, Poduri asked her that very question in a Nov. 14 email message. She did not answer.

Meanwhile, Harvey launched his own inquiry into the matter. After Harvey and McAdams exchanged a few emails on the issue, McAdams pivoted from the focus on KHUDQGSRLQWHGWR3RGXULDQG$PHOLRIRUIDLOLQJWR¿OH...
Welcome to the Shiny Lure house, named by the current owners because they wanted to lure their family and friends from around the country to visit them. They say, buying this lovely Carmel cottage, 20 years ago, changed their lives. Back then, they were a young family and both had demanding high tech jobs with little quality time. One day, after visiting Carmel by the Sea, just a short drive from their Los Altos home, they realized, who wouldn’t want to come to such a relaxing place, close to beautiful beaches and restaurants. Happily, as soon as they purchased it, friends and family flocked from all over the country to spend time with them. They say, every weekend felt like a special vacation.

Built in 1921, the original location was on 6th and Dolores Street where the Village Corner currently resides. Back in the 1940’s, when downtown Carmel began bustling with commercial properties, many of the local homeowners opted to physically move their homes to a more quiet part of town. North East Carmel, the last hidden gem, is where the locals like to live, still close to all Carmel has to offer, yet very quiet with a real neighborhood feel. The Shiny Lure is a modernized home with old world charm including original antique glass windows looking out over the beautiful sunsets. It is a true treasure and a once in a lifetime opportunity to own a slice of heaven in one of the most beautiful places on earth.

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Carmel Lodge restaurant gets OK for grease trap on public property

By MARY SCHLEY

THE OWNER of the new restaurant going into Mark Stilwell’s Carmel Lodge can install a new grease interceptor under the sidewalk at San Carlos and Fifth, the city council decided Tuesday, as long as he can install a new grease interceptor under the sidewalk on the northeast corner of San Carlos and Fifth.

The city and Stilwell developed an extensive agreement placing all the responsibility for maintenance, operations and service on the hotel owner and protecting the city against lawsuits should anything go wrong. The agreement also requires weekly inspections, yearly detailed recording and monthly scheduled cleaning.

Last month, council members considered the request but put off voting on it until they had more information about the potential impacts of the project, the circumstances at other restaurants, and how other cities have handled such requests.

During a meeting Monday, council members also decided they should have a policy for handling such requests on a case-by-case basis.

Monterey has allowed two grease interceptors to be installed in the street, as has Pacific Grove, planning director Brandon Swanson told the council Dec. 7.

The first case

Chang told the council he has learned a lot about the city’s sewer systems during the last 17 months of planning and review, and he encouraged city officials to embark on a long-term fix of the town’s grease-clogged pipes.

He also said installing the interceptor in the sidewalk is “the least intrusive option” and that its approval would establish “the precedent that Carmel-by-the-Sea is finally willing to take its grease problems seriously.”

Restaurateur Rich Pepe said that while he seemed opposed to the idea when he spoke at last month’s meeting, he has since had conversations with Chang, wastewater officials and the health department, and “can come back and say now that I think this is an acceptable plan.”

He also doubted other restaurants would rush to undertake similar expensive and elaborate projects.

A remodel could trigger the requirements, though.

“Several cities specifically allow this, usually at a staff level,” Stilwell told the council.

Councilman Jeff Baron, who was resistant to the idea when it was raised last month, remarked that “it’s a little bit unfortunate that the restaurant isn’t at the top of the list,” so a gravity-fed grease interceptor could be installed on private property.

“But this is the way it was built, it’s been that way for a number of years, and I certainly wouldn’t ask him to move it,” he said.

Baron was satisfied with the review and the agreement and said he would support the permit, and councilwoman Karen Ferrito made the motion to do so, which got a second from councilman Bobby Richards.

“We want to encourage people to do the right thing and to upgrade technology when the technology can do a better job of protecting our village,” she said. “I think the applicant has been very sincere about wanting to do that.”

The council wished Chang luck in his endeavors and Stilwell luck in getting the remodel done.

Artmas, you say? Yes — nine full days.

On Friday night, the Cherry Center will also host “Reflections on Emily Dickinson” featuring poet and Dickinson scholar Barbara Mossberg.

The event runs from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and costs $10, which will include gingerbread from “the poet’s own recipe.” Tickets can be purchased at Eventbrite.com.

The Carl Cherry Center for the Arts is at Fourth and Guadalupe. Visit carlcherrycenter.org or call (831) 624-7491 for more information.

The Carmel Bach Festival is in need of 30-day private home rentals in Carmel or Carmel-by-the-Sea, July 1-31, 2022.

For details and requirements, please visit: bachfestival.org/housing or email: housing@bachfestival.org
**Lawsuit after car goes 250 feet over Big Sur cliff, kills man**

By KELLY NIX

The family of a Seattle man killed in Big Sur last year when the vehicle he was a passenger in went over a cliff is suing the County of Monterey, alleging it’s responsible for the accident.

Tito Andrada, 72, died more than a week after the car his daughter, Melissa, was driving plummeted 250 feet down a very steep hillside “at or near” the Willow Creek Parking Area on Nov. 25, 2020.

According to the lawsuit, filed in Monterey County Superior Court by Beverly Hills attorney Robert Girard, Tito Andrada and other family members are successors in interest to Tito Andrada’s widow, Amelita, along with Melissa and another daughter, Joy. Willow Creek is about 30 miles south of Nepenthe restaurant.

“The vehicle failed to engage in the park mode,” according to the lawsuit, filed in Monterey County Superior Court by Beverly Hills attorney Robert Oujian. “After failing to engage in the park mode, the vehicle rolled forward.”

The vehicle would have been stopped from going over the cliff, the lawsuit suggests, if the parking area had had better barriers.

The complaint also doesn’t say whether improperly maintained guardrails, boulders, and/or other barriers to restrain or otherwise prevent vehicles from proceeding over the cliff at Willow Creek.

The Andradas also point to what they describe as improper landscaping, road markings, signs and lighting as reasons for the fatal accident. Tito Andrada died Dec. 4, 2020, at Natividad Medical Center, the county hospital in Salinas.

“The position, geometry, topography, and design of the parking area and adjacent property caused vehicles to traverse the barrier(s) and fall over the cliff,” according to the complaint.

“Not responsible”

The Andradas allege that Monterey County was negligent and created a dangerous condition.

The lawsuit does not say how much they think the county owes them.

Monterey County counsel Les Girard told The Pine Cone that the area where the accident occurred is not within the county’s purview.

“The Willow Creek parking lot is off Highway 1 and the beach is in Los Padres National Forest,” Girard said. “Monterey County has no responsibility for the area.”

The area, Girard said, could be controlled by Caltrans or the United States Forest Service.

Born in the Philippines, Andrada got an agriculture engineering degree before immigrating in 1986 to the United States, where he worked odd jobs before being hired at an aerospace company, according to an obituary.

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Technical failure kills hundreds of steelhead

By CHRIS COUNTS

EQUIPMENT FAILURE at Los Padres Dam caused much of the Carmel River to go dry for about 24 hours in late September, killing a large number of fish, according to Roy Thomas, former president of the Carmel River Steelhead Association.

“Virtually all the threatened steelhead population in the river below Los Padres Dam died,” Thomas claimed. “Thousands of young steelhead perished.”

According to Dave Stoldt, general manager of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, the technical failure only resulted in the loss of about 240 steelhead that were located along a 150-foot stretch of Carmel River below the dam.

Stoldt said a siphon that brought water to the river from the reservoir failed Sept. 20 at around 7 a.m. At the time, the river was flowing at about 5 cubic feet per second, but it dropped to 2.5 cubic feet per second an hour later. By 10 a.m., the flow was down to 3.1 cubic feet per second.

To bring water back to the river, Cal Am put a second- ary outlet pipe into action, as well as a pump.

“Still quite a few fish”

Stoldt said the water level in the river was also down near the Little League fields at Dampierre Park, where the agency rescued 105 fish a couple days later. He noted that about 9,000 steelhead have been rescued from the river this year and taken to the Slough Creek Fish-Rearing Facility.

Brian LeNeve, the conservation chair of the Carmel River Steelhead Association and a former president of the group, said he believes more than 240 fish died, including some along the 11 miles between the dam and Dampierre Park. But he also took issue with Thomas’ numbers.

“There were still quite a few fish in the river when we did our fall count,” LeNeve said. “It was not catastrophic, but it wasn’t insignificant, either. It absolutely shouldn’t have happened.”

Everybody reads The Pine Cone
Supes decline again to impose indoor mask mandate

By KELLY NIX

COUNTRY RESIDENTS will still not be required to wear face coverings in most indoor public places, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors decided Wednesday.

In the decision, the supervisors decided not to bring back a face-covering order that went into effect Nov. 5 but which they sus-
pended Nov. 16 after 5th District Supervi-
sor Mary Adams reversed course on it.

Adams said she changed her decision because Covid-19 data from the CDC, which the order relied on, has varied wildly at times from data supplied by the county health department and the state.

Frustration, disappointment

The supervisors Wednesday heard pre-
sentations from county health officer Dr. Ed Moreno and county administrative officer Charles McKee. While none of the information they provided seemed cause for alarm, McKee noted that Covid cases are on an uptick in the county.

After discussion and comments from the public, 4th District Supervisor Wendy Root Askew proposed basing the coun-
y’s mask order on CDC metrics but using coronavirus case rate data supplied by the Monterey County Health Department. Only 1st District Supervisor Luis Alejo was in agreement.

Second District County Supervisor John Phillips said people voluntarily wear masks at most of the places he visits.

“It was the mandatory wearing in all situations that caused a concern,” he said, before asking Adams her thoughts on Askew’s motion, which was made at the end of a lengthy supervisors meeting.

“Frankly, I don’t think we should change anything at this point and at this time of day with everything we’ve been working on,” Adams said.

“I think we should just maintain status quo as it stands now.”

Askew and Alejo were clearly frus-
trated by the decision.

“I just have to express my disappoint-
ment that we are not able to offer this kind of protection,” Askew said.

Alejo pointed to requests from his col-
leagues who voted to pause the mandate at the Nov. 16 meeting that any mask trigger should be based on local Covid-19 data — not data from the CDC.

“Here was a motion to do what was said by some of my colleagues, and even that was voted down,” Alejo said. “Instead, it’s doing nothing, and that is completely unacceptable.”

“I appreciate the lecture from my fel-
low supervisors, but that’s why a lot of us thought we should leave it to the health department to make those decisions,” Phil-
lips responded.

Same recommendations

When county health officer Dr. Ed Moreno said he could not justify a mask mandate because of the county’s low coro-
navirus numbers, the supervisors decided to supersede his authority and vote 3-2 to impose the indoor face covering order.

Phillips and 3rd District supervisor Chris Lopez at the time voted against the mandate, in part, because they didn’t believe the supervisors should make public health-related decisions usually left to the health officer.

Moreno for months has recommended that citizens, regardless of vaccination sta-
tus, wear masks in indoor places.

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Library honors longtime patron

By KELLY NIX

A POPULAR children's room in the Pacific Grove Public Library has been dedicated to the memory of a longtime community volunteer and library patron who died earlier this year.

When local architect Joe Rock passed away in January after a long battle with cancer, his family and friends donated $100,000, which the Friends of the Pacific Grove Public Library say will be used to pay for books, equipment, programs, services and other things for kids over the next 10 years.

The library also named the children's room after Rock.

"Joe's love of reading and learning at the library made it clear to his family that he wanted a substantial gift made to the Pacific Grove Public Library after his passing," according to Friends of the Pacific Grove Public Library President Kim Bui, who said other people donated in Rock's honor.

DELEGATE

From page 6A

a state-required report after the conference. (Poduri later filed the brief document.)

McAdams also brought up the question of the “equitable treatment, hypocrisy and intent” of the probe, suggesting she was being treated unfairly, and questioned why they were discussing a conference that took place “months ago.”

At no time during the email exchange with Harvey did McAdams specify whether she voted at the conference.

But Harvey told McAdams Nov. 16 that he concluded she had not voted at the conference. Although she didn’t violate any policies,

Harvey said that McAdams — as the city’s appointed delegate — was “expected” to remain at the conference for its duration and cast votes.

McAdams did deny that she failed to do so and thanked Harvey for looking into the matter.

But the tale doesn’t end there, and only becomes more muddled.

The Monterey County Weekly reported last week that McAdams told the paper that, in fact, she “did pick up a ballot and turned it in before leaving the conference early to pick up her son from school,” and that the League of California Cities was “mistaken.”

The Pine Cone this week could not confirm McAdams’ comments and get her version of events, because she did not respond to questions from a reporter.

County worker dies on Laureles Grade

By MARY SCHLEY

A 45-YEAR-OLD Monterey County Public Works employee died in an accident on Laureles Grade late Monday morning.

Lutu Moli was driving a 2021 Freightliner southbound on the Grade south of Southview Lane at around 11 a.m. Dec. 6 when he lost control of the large tractor trailer, which hit a guardrail before rolling down the hillside, according to California Highway Patrol officer Chad Cavender’s report.

The rig was traveling about 40 mph at the time of the fatal accident occurred, Cavender said, and it’s unknown why Moli, a 14-year employee of the county, lost control of it. He died at the scene.

County spokeswoman Maia Carroll said Moli had been hauling heavy equipment to a public works jobsite when he crashed, and that Cal OSHA was also informed of the tragic accident.

“The county mourns the loss of a member of our county employee family, and our hearts go out to family and friends,” she said.

Soon after Moli’s death, friend Anna Averett set up a gofundme.com campaign to raise money for his funeral expenses and to help his family.

“Our dear friend and coworker, Lutu Moli, was tragically killed in a car accident on Monday, Dec. 6, while traveling to his work site,” she wrote. “Lutu is survived by his wife and three daughters. We are attempting to raise money to assist them with the funeral costs and other related expenses.”
Scientists use technology to track great white sharks — and you can, too

By CHRIS COUNTS

THANKS TO new app you can load on your phone, it’s now possible to track some great white sharks off the California coast, including one who has the same name as one of Carmel’s most beloved residents.

The app, Expedition White Shark, is being offered by the Marine Conservation Science Institute, which tags and tracks great white sharks for research purposes.

“We have been using satellite tagging and photo identification to study and monitor the population of white sharks at Guadalupe Island, Mexico, since 1999,” the group said. “We have been working to increase knowledge of the behavior, migration patterns and habitat preferences of this threatened species.”

Just last week, a mature 17-foot female great white shark known as Poe Girl was located just off the coast of Piedras Blancas, which is famous for its elephant seals. But a few days later, the app showed her farther south near Lompoc.

Thought she was here

This week, the app also showed a young 12-foot great white, Betty White, near Lompoc. The shark is no relation to the TV star and longtime local resident.

Another great white, a young 14-foot female named Snowflake, was detected by the app just offshore from the Diablo Canyon Power Plant in San Luis Obispo County.

While Poe Girl, Betty White and Snowflake were tracked close to shore, two other great whites turned up in deep waters more than 300 miles off the California coast. One was a 12-foot male adult named Tough Guy, and the other was a 12-foot male called Great White.

The app is available for $3.99 at the Google and Apple stores. Reviews are mixed, with many users saying they enjoy following the sharks, and others suggesting the software has bugs in it. One reviewer called it “cool,” but noted Poe Girl was shown to have visited Death Valley in October.
anyone about the molestation.

Doe 1’s sister, Jane Doe 2, also reported to law enforce-
ment that Luis Nunez sexually assaulted her from when
she was 5 years old until she was 12 years old. Nunez
told Doe 2 not to tell anyone about the molestations because
it would cause her family to separate. Both victims stated
that they waited many years to report the crimes because
they were embarrassed about what happened to them and
they loved Nunez.

At trial, Doe 1 and Doe 2 bravely testified about the
repeated instances of molestation that occurred throughout
their childhood.

An expert in the psychological effects of child
sexual abuse also testified that delayed disclosures of
molestation are common due to numerous factors includ-
ing the power imbalance between the perpetrator and vic-
tim, threats to not say anything, fear, and even affection
for a perpetrator if he/she is a close family member, friend
or authority figure.

Judge Stephanie E. Hulsey will sentence Nunez. Nunez
faces up to 258 years to life in state prison and will be
required to register as a sex offender for life.
JOBS

From page 5A

“I’m really proud to stand behind this,” he said. “This is really what we need to do to serve the public. It is going to cost us some money, but we’re in a better financial position than I thought we would be a year ago.”

Rerig and the heads of several departments developed the list of new positions and their justifications. In administration, a part-time IT worker would move to full-time, and an additional part-time finance specialist would bolster the bookkeeping and assist with employee benefits.

The planning department added the principal planner position — to which Marnie Waffle was promoted last week — but eliminated the senior planner job she held previously. An additional code enforcement officer, planning director Brandon Swanson said, would help address issues that have cropped up in the residential areas since the police department added a new officer. The chief compliance manager with stormwater and other issues, and the maintenance worker/gardener would handle tasks related to town.

Priorities

Finally, the police department would add a full-time police officer and a full-time community services officer, but they would only have two-year terms. Interim Police Chief Joe Yost said they would help CFPD avoid being short staffed as senior employees retire. The additional CSO would also help with parking enforcement, especially of the downtown punishable parkers.

Budgets and contracts director Sharon Friedrichsen said the new jobs would cost $380,000 if filled within three to six months, with additional expenses for recruitment, training, uniforms, equipment and vehicles, and insurance premiums and pension.

Councilman Jeff Baron wanted assurance the new workers would help the city move forward on several priorities and projects, such as paid parking, some addresses, updated design guidelines and other issues.

“We’ve gotten together and talked about it, but it seems like the process is not happening,” he said. “How do these positions go to fulfilling that?”

Rerig said some of the new workers would free up others who could focus more on those at the top of their duties, and consultants might also be hired for particular tasks.

Several public speakers argued for fully reopening the libraries and supported hiring more full-time workers at both branches. Baron again argued how the lag in when it comes to addressing the city’s strategic initiatives done, and Rerig suggested creating two additional general managers to oversee the city as some time during the next 30 days working to determine if and when consultants should be hired to handle specific projects.

Mayor Dave Potter said he is “not a fan of hiring people for the sake of hiring people,” and that he’d like to know how the new employees will be put to work.

“It never increased my productivity as a contractor to hire more people,” he said, without having a project manager and structure.

The council unanimously voted to approve the new positions and to ask Rerig to come back in a month with a strategy for tackling the top priorities as identified by the council.

Executives can earn more

Department of Public Administration is looking for the next city clerk, the building official and several other executive-level and at-will workers have had the same salary ranges since 2015. Rerig told the council Tuesday the city workers represented by unions have seen about 18 percent increase in pay over the past seven years through labor negotiations. As a result, the new salary range for those three to six months, with additional expenses for recruitment, training, uniforms, equipment and vehicles, and insurance premiums and pension.

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Voice Teacher to the Stars

Reneowned Los Angeles voice teacher Robert Edwards passed away on Oct. 30, 2021, at his home in Carmel, CA. With him were his wife, Deanna McKinstry Edwards, and their beloved dogs, Calder and Tessa.

Born in Ohio in 1940, Rob attended Kent State University, majoring in philosophy. After the 1970 Kent State riots, he left Ohio for LA to pursue music studies at CSU Northridge, and very soon opened the Robert Edwards Vocal Studio.

Solely by word of mouth, Robert became one of the most sought-after voice teachers in California, coaching 100,000+ students over his forty-plus year career.

Over three dozen Grammy winners and several Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees, as well as Oscar, Emmy, and Tony award winning actors, Rob earned the moniker “Voice Coach to the Stars.” He worked with such luminaries as Christina Aguilera, Sheryl Crow, Bonnie Raitt, Linda Ronstadt, Paula Abdul, Michael McDonald, the Manhattan Transfer, Michael Nesmith, Pat Benatar, Jennifer Warnes, Robben Ford, and Chuck Negron, to name just a few.

When Robert and Deanna moved to Carmel in 2015 and a local paper lauded his arrival, he soon had a thriving local client base. After adding online coaching sessions, his reach became international.

Rob was as much respected for his brilliant understanding of the human voice and his sensitive insights about singing as he was for his fine way he nurtured a dynamic, caring relationship with his clients. The hallmark of his teaching is reflected in the words of his students, who said he taught them more than just how to sing, but taught them to live life in a loving and life-affirming way.

Robert’s exceptionally inquiring mind knew no bounds, and he was particularly drawn to physics and the stars. With a poet’s heart and soul, he spontaneously connected with people from all walks of life, and they felt at ease and uplifted with him.

Besides his students, he leaves behind his musician brother John Edwards, and a loving circle of friends, who were indeed family: Patrick and Norma Kremen, Jennifer and Thor Erickson, and Esther and Morgan McCall ... and of course, Calder and Tessa.

And now Robert’s musical spirit sings in the hearts of students and loved ones across the globe.

Obituary Notices

Let us help you pay tribute to your loved one with an affordable obituary in The Carmel Pine Cone. You'll be surprised at how low our rates are.

For more information please contact: Anne Papineau (831) 724-8645 anne@carmelpinecone.com
SMASH

From page 1A

The.fleeing robbers.also.left their.hum- bers behind, which Cpl. Rachelle Light- foot took as evidence. All told, they were in the area for about an hour.

As soon as they had a description of the robbers’ vehicle, Carmel officers alerted other law enforcement agencies on the Peninsula to keep an eye out for the black SUV with no license plates.

On the lookout

Officers from various departments stationed themselves at major choke points in an effort to nab them, and the effort paid off. A CHP officer saw the SUV and stopped it on Highway 1 between Light- fighter and Injin in Marina, but by then, it only had two of the four culprits — 19-year-old Elijah Juarez and a 16-year-old boy whose name has not been released — on board.

A Carmel P.D. officer went to the scene to assist in the arrests, and Juarez remained in cus- tody Thursday on $80,000 bail on felony charges of robbery and conspiracy.

It was a newer-model Toyota, and obviously we are engaged in a very exten- sive investigation right now that includes tracking them back to the vehicle,” he said. “It was a rental vehicle, so that provides some valuable investigative leads.”

Ulhered cited the CHP and the Mon- terey County Sheriff’s Office for assisting in the capture of two of the four suspects and said CPD’s detective and other inves- tigators — including agents and evidence technicians from the FBI — are working on numerous leads that could help identify the other two robbers and link all four to the crime.

“The FBI was very supportive,” he said of the agents who combed through the store the day after the robbery. “They were the best in the world when it comes to evidence processing and identifying crime scenes and trace evidence and other critical pieces of the puzzle that will link the two we have to the crime scene down the line.”

Extensive security footage from the store and surrounding areas, as well as from the city’s traffic cameras, has also provided some “valuable information,” he said.

The Monterey County District Attor- ney’s Office commit- ted an investigator to the case, according to Ulhered, to talk to wit- nesses possibly among them a couple who were driving by and happened to see the robbers run in and out of the store.

They’re all trying to determine whether those who hit Fourtané are part of the orga- nized crime rings that have committed dozens of “takeover robber- ies” throughout the state in recent weeks, or whether they’re copycats.

“We’re piecing together information about who these people are, who they run with, what other kinds of crimes they might have committed,” Ulhered said, noting that not a new tactic, but it certainly has gotten a lot of attention in the last few months.

At any rate, he hopes the message gets out that the method “did not work in Carmel.”

“Two of the four are currently under arrest. We’re hopeful the investigation efforts we are in the process of undertaking will be successful in the identification and arrest of the other two perpetrators.”

Anyone who may have seen anything or has information is asked to call Carmel P.D. at (831) 624-6400.

Santa’s Fly-In returns to C.V. airport

PIECE CONE STAFF REPORT

WHILE DOZENS of local holiday events have been canceled due to Covid, the pandemic won’t be stopping jolly old Saint Nicholas from dropping into Carmel Valley Saturday by helicopter.

Santa’s Fly-In, which started in 1958, has become an institution in Carmel Val- ley. But the pandemic put the brakes on last year’s gathering.

On Saturday, people are encouraged to arrive at the former Carmel Valley Airfield at 25 Ford Road around 11:30 a.m.

“The helicopter circles overhead a few times before landing at 11 a.m.,” Ed Lake of the Carmel Valley Community Youth Center told The Pine Cone.

Once Santa and Ms. Claus land, they will lead a parade through the Village to the youth center, where at 1 p.m., there will be a family-friendly holiday party with Santa, holiday treats and live entertainment.

At the holiday party, the youth center will announce the kickoff of a fundraising drive to build a playground in the park that would be accessible to children with physical challenges.

It would be modeled after Tatum’s Play- ground in Salinas.

JAMES GILL, JR.

March 1, 1975 — November 23, 2021

Jim grew up in Carmel. He attended All Saints and graduated from the Stevenson School (RLS), where he was an all-league lineman on the football team. After his sophomore year, he took time off to travel to England, Paris, Austria, Australia, New Zealand and other destinations, including Ireland, which she visited for three nights just because she found a roundtrip ticket for $350.

In 2019, Katie moved back to Carmel, where she also had family. After working a winter in Tahoe, she had plans to go to Humboldt State University to study physics, but what would have been her first year was sidetracked by the pandemic. She got a job in Big Sur for California State Parks, instead, and she always said she felt amazingly lucky to be able to live and work in such a special and beautiful place. She loved being in nature, hiking and enjoying the amazing area that we sometimes don’t appreciate as much as we should.

While in Big Sur, Katie met her girlfriend, Kelsey, and in summer 2021, they started a new adventure together. After traveling around the Pacific Northwest and visiting Tennessee, they moved to Corvallis, Ore., and Katie started a new job. On Oct. 31, she was riding her motorcycle to the coast to go for a hike. There was a crash, and even with the quick response, her injuries were too much for her to survive. In losing her life, Katie was able to save two others with her organ donation.

Katie is survived by many friends and loved ones, including her mother, Eva Sotoodeh, of Tennessee, sisters Lasia Brady (Joes) of Idaho, Meena Lewellen (Paul) of Carmel Valley, Teresa Cole of Oregon, aunt Margareth and other destinations, including Ireland, which she visited for three nights just because she found a roundtrip ticket for $350.

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November 9, 1992 to November 10, 2021

KATIE MARGARET MCFADDEN

please visit


to read and share your memories of Jim

Jim was a beautiful soul, gone too soon. He will be missed by so many.
VERIZON
From page 1A

in public view.

On Oct. 8, Verizon filed paperwork demanding the city council override the commission because denial violates the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 and parts of the California Public Utilities Code.

Golden Bough alternative?

Waffle, who worked on the report with the city’s telecom lawyer, Tripp May, explained Tuesday that while she recommended approval when the planning commission considered the plans in late Sep-
tember, “it is the city staff’s long-standing practice to support the junior body’s recommendation to the city council on appeal,” and she said there was plenty of reason to deny Verizon’s request.

There is substantial evidence for the denial of this application,” she said. The planning commission’s resolution “pro-
vided substantial evidence that Verizon’s proposed facility violated six specific standards from the Carmel Municipal Code.”

May also told the council a consultant conducted an analysis and concluded the Golden Bough could be a feasible alterna-
tive site for the tower.

Several company representatives dis-
agreed with all the points Waffle made. Verizon attorney Paul Albertson argued that the theater on Monte Verde isn’t “a good fit, that federal and state laws compel the city to approve the tower because doing other-
wise would interfere with the company’s ability to provide service, and that the city “can’t dictate” the technology it uses.

“Verizon Wireless will enforce its rights,” Albertson said.

He asked the council to put off a vote while the engineers search for another location, so they could “avoid a conflict and avoid a legal fight between us in order to try to work with the city and accommod-
date its wireless needs.”

What motive?

More than an hour of public testimony followed, much of it delivered by members of the Stop Cell Towers in Carmel Neighbor-
hoods group, which gathered at La

Playa, and their attorney, Tony Lombardo. The group also organized a campaign that resulted in dozens of emails and hundreds of postcards opposing the proposal being sent to the city.

Lombardo noted Verizon two years ago said putting a cell site at Carmelo and Eighth wouldn’t work but has since changed its tune.

“These calls into question the veracity and accuracy of the information that has been submitted to the city,” he said. “In 2019, it is incorrect, and now it’s the only site that’s correct. There has to be another motive.”

Speakers focused on aesthetic impacts, the possible proliferation of additional towers if Verizon were allowed to install one, and other issues. Realtor Mike Can-
ning said properties with views sell for 42 percent more than those that don’t have views, and the tower would therefore neg-
atively impact values.

Many challenged Verizon’s assers-
tions that the city has coverage gaps, and Carmino Real resident Bob Kowner, who spearheaded the anti-cell-tower group, speculated the company’s real motive for investing so much time, money and effort in getting the tower approved is because it plans to install many more and build a network that can compete with cable for streaming and online services.

“It is about Verizon’s highly marketed strategy to build a broadband wireless entertain-ment network to compete with the Comcast service we already receive,” he said. “Verizon has told Wall Street they’ll earn higher margins by streaming.”

Following public comment, council members debated whether to outright deny Verizon’s tower and move on — a position pushed by Mayor Dave Potter and council-
man Bobby Richards — or continue it for

six months until the towers at Sunset and locations outside the city come online, and to give the company more time to find an alternative location.

“If we deny it, there’s nothing stopping them from applying for a new location,” Potter said. “I don’t like the bullying — I’ll sue you if this happens, I’ll sue you if that happens.”

He said it seemed likely Verizon is try-
ing to use Carmel to get service to Pebble Beach.

“I don’t see anything wrong with taking a pass to see if Verizon can find another location that will work for them,” coun-
cilwoman Karen Ferlito countered. “That way, they would get their coverage, and we would avoid a lawsuit.”

“We don’t want what you’re selling,” Richards told the company.

Thirty speakers came forward tonight, and not one person said, “I want that cell site here.” Potter said. “That’s why I’m kind of passionate about it.”

Councilman Jeff Baron said he also doesn’t like being bullied but was willing to give Verizon a few more months.

“The fact Verizon still wants to work with us is a good thing, and I hope that is genuine,” councilwoman Carrie Theis commented “I think the council is unani-
mosous in not liking the current location, but can they find something else that would be feasible?”

They went in circles for about an hour, articulating and re-articulating their opin-
ions, and occasionally asking questions of the Verizon representatives, before Ferlito made a motion to continue the hearing. It failed 2-3, with Theis seconding with Richards and Potter — who had also mentioned that delaying would require more staff time. The subsequent motion to deny Verizon’s application passed unanimously.

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Many thanks to the Carmel Chamber of Commerce
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Before the vote, county official Erik Lundquist laid out a timeline of steps needed to get the enforcement program up and running. Lundquist plans to meet with the county’s budget committee in January and report back to the supervisors in February. Next, three jobs will need to be filled, a task that could take a couple months. In April, the county will start contacting operators to gather information and inform them of the upcoming enforcement effort.
Adams said the outreach effort will “put people on notice” that the crackdown is coming. “When they see that we’re moving more aggressively, we’re hoping that they will voluntarily come into compliance,” she told The Pine Cone.
The supervisor said there’s a lot of work that needs to be done before enforcement can get started, including determining how much fines will be.
“There are still a lot of questions,” she added. “It could very well take a year.”

THE WATER DISTRICT IS REDRAWING ITS VOTER DIVISIONS
SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District needs to adjust its voter division boundaries due to the 2020 Census data.

A Redistricting Advisory Commission will be appointed to help draw the lines and to ensure compliance with legal requirements under the United States Constitution, the CA Constitution, the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, the CA Voting Rights Act of 2001, and the CA Elections Code.

The Advisory Commission will promote representation of the diverse geographic and social interests in our community.

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Never mind ‘what might have been’ — Pirates see a bright future

THE STEVENSON Pirates of two years ago cannot claim to be the greatest girls basketball team in school history — but they were in that stratosphere.

That 2019-20 team went 21-5 overall under rookie head coach Lucy Stockdale, and reached the semifinal round of the Central Coast Section Division V playoffs.

Peninsula Sports

By DENNIS TAYLOR

That was the best record at Stevenson since the 2007-08 Pirates went 25-3 (including a first-round loss at CCS). The 2005-06 team also earned bragging rights with a 22-5 mark, narrowly losing in the D-V semifinals. And the most accomplished team won the school’s only CCS crown in 1997-98 and reached the NorCal semifinals in a 22-7 season.

Forever filed in the “what might’ve been” category is this: Stockdale’s varsity roster two winters ago included three juniors, four sophomores, and three freshmen. We can only wonder how good the Pirates could have been in 2020-21 — the pandemic year — with 10 returning players from the previous year’s 21-victory team.

The good news — and it’s very good — is that seven of this year’s Pirates played on that squad, which won the Pacific Coast Athletic League’s Cypress Division crown with a 10-0 mark — only the second unblemished league record in school history (the 2007-08 team was 14-0 in the Mission Trail Athletic League).

“We missed the most last year during the pandemic being together as a team,” said Stockdale, a Denver native who played collegiate basketball at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, before coming to Stevenson to teach English.

“We have a family bond with this program and returning to that space this year has been emotional for all of us,” she added. “Not only because we’ve experienced a lot of success on the basketball court, but also because we’ve grown to support each other off the court, through thick and thin.”

All-season as a sophomore

The list of returning lettermen includes four seniors, topped by Rhea Cosand, a 5-foot-10 wing who earned first-team All-Cypress Division plaudits in her sophomore season, when she averaged 11.1 points, 6.6 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 3.0 steals per game.

She’s one of three captains for the Pirates this season.

“She’s a playmaker who sees the court well and knows how to execute,” Stockdale said. “She also shows up every day in Rhea fashion, working her butt off out there; pushing her teammates to be better, and always putting the team above herself.”

Gaby Perez, also a captain, is a 5-3 shooting guard who also can play the point position and ranks among the team’s best defenders because of her aggressiveness.

“Gaby is a ferocious payer — not the tall-est, but she plays big, and never shies away from attacking the basket,” said the coach of Perez, who averaged 9 points, 4 rebounds, and 2 steals as a sophomore. “She’s really good at reading the court and finding those openings, not only for herself, but for her teammates.”

The third senior captain, Grazi Carman, is a 5-3 shooting guard who spent much of the pandemic working on her game, Stockdale said, and showed up this season with more confidence in her shooting.

The other senior Sidney Craven, a 5-7 forward, will be expected to battle inside for rebounds, using some of the athleticism she’s displayed as one of the top golfers in the CCS.

Three players won varsity letters two years ago as freshmen and figure to play significant roles for the Pirates as juniors.

Clymo at the point

Senior Rhea Cosand earned all-season honors two years ago as a sophomore at Stevenson.

Junior point guard Sydney Clymo will help run the offense for the Pirates this year.

See SPORTS next page
SPORTS

From previous page

previously occupied by her big sister, Kaili, who graduated last year.

“She’s an extremely smart player with the ability to make strong passes that will open up our offense,” Stockdale said of Clymos, whose father, Justin, is head coach of boys varsity basketball at Stevenson.

Alex Dalhamer, a 5-11 center, is a physically dominating athlete who may be the team’s most reliable player down low.

“She’s strength is second to none,” her coach said. “Her job will be to put her body on somebody, grab as many rebounds as she can, then put the ball back up and into the basket. We’re looking for her to be our team’s most reliable player down low.

Topping the list of varsity newcomers is 5-11 Chloe Pattawi, who has the size to play under the basket and potential to become a threat as a 3-point shooter.

sharing time between the varsity and junior varsity teams this season will be sophomore guards Grace Ishii, Emma Hall and Maya Chavez, and basketball newcomer Sabrina Hardin, a softball player who shows potential as a strong post player.

After blowing away the Cypress Division in 2019-20, the Pirates have been bumped upstairs to the Mission Division, where they’ll deal with five much larger schools — Alisal, Everett Alvarez, North Monterey County, Seaside and Watsonville.

“Her strength is second to none,” her coach said. “We had a really successful season two years ago. She had a hard time during the pandemic to refine her shot, and build her confidence,” Stockdale said. “She’ll be looking for those catch-and-shoot moments from the 3-point line.”

Varsity newcomers

Topping the list of varsity newcomers is 5-11 Chloe Pattawi, who has the size to play under the basket and potential to become a threat as a 3-point shooter.

Dec. 30 at Greenfield (6:30 p.m.), Jan. 6 against Carmel (7 p.m. at home), and Jan. 7 against St. Francis SCP (7 p.m. at home).

Stevenson’s Mission Division opener is Jan. 10, when the Pirates will host Seaside in a 7 p.m. contest.

This is the first of three girls basketball previews. We will profile Carmel High on Dec. 17 and Santa Catalina on Dec. 24.

■ Pirates earn All-CCS

Senior Kate Morgan earned first-team All-CCS honors in water polo for the Stevenson Pirates, junior Sofia Bozzo was a third-team pick, and goalkeeper Olivia Garvey, another senior, received an honorable mention.

Morgan also was one of 20 players chosen to participate in the CCS Senior All-Star Game (date to be announced).

Two Stevenson players also were honored by the CCS in boys water polo. Jasper Dale, a senior, was a second-team all-section choice, and Wyley Dale, a junior, was named to the third team.

The Pirates were undefeated Gabalan Division champions in both boys and girls water polo this fall.

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

What we would do without

NOW THAT the city council has dispensed with the cell phone antenna Verizon wanted to instal on Carmelo Street, we can write this editorial. If we’d written it before, some people would have taken it as a recommenda-
tion that the cell tower be approved, which is definitely not the case. Whether a cell tower and its accompanying infrastructure should be built in any par-
cular location is a question for the community to decide, which it now has.

Nevertheless, the controversy over the Verizon cell tower provides a lesson in the importance of infrastructure and the tendency of 21st-century Americans to take it for granted.

Have you ever driven down the street and run into a construction zone that gets you cursing because it makes you late? Or gotten annoyed because a plane taking off from a nearby airport interrupted a conversation you were having? Or signed a petition to stop a smart meter from being installed at your home?

We do those things because it’s easy to forget how important the water, sewer and gas lines that run beneath our streets are. Sure, it might be possi-
ble to stay alive if we had to supply our water and fuel, not to mention get rid of our own sewage, but it wouldn’t be fun. And if we want services like water, sewer and gas to be there, we have to be willing to let the infrastruc-
ture that brings them to our homes not only be built in the first place, but ser-
viced and maintained. Try to remember that next time you start grumbling over the sound of a jackhammer or the sight of one of those “lane closed ahead” signs.

Likewise the airport. Sure, the noise from airplanes is annoying. But nobody worries about it when they’re inside the plane, taking off for a vaca-
tion in Hawaii or Europe. If you want to go places, please keep in mind that there has to be transportation to take you there.

Smart meters were a very hot political topic in these parts 10 years ago, when PG&E proposed to attach them to everybody’s gas and electric meters. According to opponents, the radio waves emitted by the meters (which remotely report gas and water usage) would cause everything from cancer to insanity. Maybe those epidemics are yet to arrive, but so far it seems that the smart meter opponents were just wrong. Meanwhile, regardless of how many people have solar panels on their roofs, we all still need PG&E and the power grid, and if smart meters help them function efficiently, then everybody benefits.

Similarly, it hardly requires mentioning that cell phones have become essential to daily life — and not just for recreational things like check-
ning Facebook or finding the answers to silly questions on Google. We use them to accomplish an endless list of tasks, including to communicate with friends, catch up on the news, do our jobs, shop, get healthcare, track work-
outs, monitor our bank accounts, find our way and call 911 in emergencies — and all that at very low prices.

It’s hard to imagine life without cell phones and the thousands of other devices that use cellular technology. So while cell towers may not belong in a particular neighborhood, they must be somewhere. The whole country needs hundreds of thousands of them.

We live in a time when even the most essential infrastructure can be bit-
terly opposed by activists and NIMBY types. Fortunately, it hasn’t always been this way. If it had, we not only wouldn’t have cell phones, we’d be doing without central heat, hot running water, refrigerators ...
There were horses, cows and swine, but surprisingly, no sheep

PROBABLY EVERYBODY on the Monterey Peninsula knows Mission Ranch and understands it was originally part of the lands developed by Junipero Serra and others after the Carmel Mission was established in 1771. During the roughly 100-year stretch between the closing of the Mission in 1835 and the ranch’s transfor- mation into a popular hospitality establish- ment, the longest period of residence was by John Martin and his family, who lived there for about 60 years.

History Beat

By NEAL HOTELLING

Martin’s route to Carmel was anything but direct. Born in 1827, he was in his teens when he emigrated from Scotland with his parents and settled in Ontario. In the mid-1840s, the lure of the Gold Rush prompted his father, William Martin, to move the family to California—a chal- lenging trip that took them west to the Mis- sissippi River and then down to the Gulf of Mexico, where they switched from a river- boat to a schooner to continue south, cross- ing Panama by land. From there they took a boat to a schooner to continue south, cross- ing Mexico, where they switched from a river-boat to a schooner to continue south, cross- ing Panama by land. From there they took a

Don’t mix ‘Scenic Views’ by Jerry Gervase — every week in the Real Estate Section.

Carmel’s Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

Today, as an abstract artist, Muscarello seldom colors anywhere else, creating moody paintings inspired by her emotions while ignoring borders and convention.

Art saved her life

She sets judgment and doubt aside as she works, trusting her marks, shapes, lay- ers, colors — and deep-seated feelings — to make a statement. If the beholder sees or feels a different story in her art, that’s a result all on its own.

“All of my art is driven from emo- tions,” she said. “It has been from the very beginning.”

For Muscarello, that beginning could easily have been the end.

“I saved my life,” declared the painter, who a decade ago was under siege, battling multiple health issues that neither she nor her doctors seemed to know how to control.

“I wasn’t seeing a lot of hope in my life at that moment, and I was in a very dark place,” she said. “Making art gave me hope, and I started cranking out 10 or 12 pieces a week. I consumed myself.”

The two years she had lived most of her life believing she didn’t have a creative bone in her body, deferring to her older brother, Mark Muscarello, a profes- sional sculptor in Southern California — and her father, Tony, who she said is also exceptionally creative.

Mark Muscarello focused instead on a busi- ness career, occupying her adult years as an account manager, a reinsurance accountant, a processing manager, and an assistant director of product develop- ment for an insurance company.

“I honestly didn’t know creativity was a part of my DNA until I started design- ing clothing and accessories from recycled materials,” said the South Salinas resident, who spent her childhood in Louisiana, attended the University of Tampa, and moved to the county in 1988.

“That turned out to be a door for me, but then I returned to the business world when I partnered and I started an organic gourmet company.

That pursuit proved unfulfilling, she said, and the decision to close the business, combined with her health issues, prompted Muscarello into an emotional tailspin.

“At some point, I sat down at my dining room table and started drawing faces on a lined notepad with a piece of charcoal,” she said. “It became a ritual for me — kind of an escape, I guess — and I started getting those drawings on social media. Suddenly, I started getting messages saying, ‘Wow, that’s amazing. Are you selling these?’”

“So cathartic’

No, she wasn’t — she hadn’t considered it — but the unex- pected encouragement, along with the emotional release that came from creating art, prompted Muscarello to convert part of her garage into a studio and begin experimenting with paint on canvas.

“I discovered that painting was so cathartic that it allowed me to work through a lot of things that I wasn’t even aware we were going on with,” she said. “It was a won- derful therapy.

“There are times when I’m painting when I almost feel out- of-body — so engrossed that I feel like I’m not even there — until I reach this crescendo of emotion, with tears streaming down my face,” Muscarello said.

One year after she tackled her first charcoal sketches, she was

Cindy Muscarello’s belated discovery of her artistic ability was cathartic and life-changing.
By ELAINE HESSER

Collins, Joshi still didn’t get it. Not really. It finally hit her in fall 2019, when the publisher flew her to New York City and Toronto to meet the people who would help promote and sell the book, which was 10 years and dozens of revisions in the making.

“I told the marketing manager. ‘You’re so nice to do all this,’ and she said, ‘We don’t do this for every author. We think your book is going to be a bestseller.’” The book debuted at No. 14 on the New York Times bestseller list, has been published internationally in at least 23 languages, was chosen by Reese Witherspoon for her Hello Sunshine book club and is being developed into a series by Netflix. And, what’s planned to be a trilogy continues. Book No. 2, “The Secret-Keeper of Jaipur,” was released last summer and received warmly by critics and readers.

Thoroughly modern

Since “The Henna Artist” came out in 2020, Joshi said she’s met with 651 book clubs and about 7,000 or 8,000 readers via Zoom. “The book has opened up a whole world I never would have imagined. There’s been so much encouragement for Lakshmi and for me.”

Lakshmi Shastri is the story’s protagoni- nist-narrator, modeled on Joshi’s mother, who died in 2012. Joshi said that her parents were wed in India in an arranged mar- riage in 1955. “By the time she was 22, my mother had three children,” she said. (Joshi is the middle child, sandwiched between two boys.) “My mother always walked five steps behind her father. She never called him by his first name. Can you imagine?” the elegant, outspoken author asked over a cup of coffee in Pacific Grove, where she and Owens live. “My mother was gorgeous. She was so extraordinary. And she never said, ‘You need to be a good Indian girl and marry a good Indian boy.’”

Instead, Joshi, 63, said she was raised as a thoroughly modern American woman. The family moved here when she was 9 so that her father, an established engineer in India, could study the subject further at the University of Iowa. Joshi’s mother equipped her to live her life on her own terms, introducing her to birth control by saying, “These pills are so you don’t have to marry the first man you’re with.”

And, as her father was “keen on educa- tion,” Joshi attended Stanford, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in art history. She also completed a Master of Fine Arts pro- gram at the California College of Arts in San Francisco.

When Joshi began “The Henna Artist” in a writing workshop in 2008, she told her mother, “I’m going to give you a life in fiction you could never have had.” That was born Lakshmi, who Joshi said was “different from Mom in that she had the courage to live a very different life than the one pre- destined for her.”

Her mother’s courage did evolve, how- ever. A few years before Joshi and Owens were in 1995, Joshi wrote her mom a long letter, telling her that she deserved a happy, more fulfilling life, even if it meant divorcing her dad (not that there was anything wrong her father, with whom she’s still close) and moving closer to Joshi and Owens.

“I was stunned. She did every- thing in the letter — before I knew it, she’d divorced Dad and moved to California. She reviled in making her own decisions,” at 60, Joshi recalled. Lakshmi, on the other hand, finds her nerve much earlier in life, facing an arranged marriage and reinventing herself in the Indian city of Jaipur.

Getting it right

There, she becomes a successful henna artist, using dye made from plants to paint intricate temporary tatoos on wealthy women for all sorts of reasons, rituals and occasions, and is taken into her confidence, much as American hairdressers are often privy to clients’ secrets. Lakshmi also quietly runs a business making and selling herbal preparations for birth control and to terminate unwanted pregnancies in ways that mimic miscarriages.

She’s preparing to move into a house she’s having built for herself when her estranged husband tracks her down, bringing a younger sister Lakshmi never knew she had, and for whom she unexpect- edly becomes responsible. How she deals with all that while navigating the lab- yrinthine social and cultural paths required for her business is a remarkable tale.

The challenge of accurately portraying Indian culture weighed on Joshi. She said she worried that someone would say, “This is a country you haven’t lived in since you were 9. What gives you the right?” That concern motivated her meticulous research into Indian history, which she combined with stories from her parents. She also traveled to Jaipur with her mother. It all paid off. She said that people from India have asked her, “How did you get this right?” She’s also gotten some feedback that saddened her. In many Zoom book club meetings, she said, women shared stories of sexism which — while subtle by comparison — was still far more pervasive than she thought.

When she was in advertising, in which she said she was passed over for “juicy assignments” and often paid less than her male counterparts, she fought the prob- lem by opening her own firm and hiring as many women as she could.

Now, Joshi hopes that her themes and stories of women’s choices — as intri- cate and complicated as the henna designs Lakshmi applies to her patrons — inspire readers to seek their own destinies, too.

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To inspire philanthropy and be a catalyst for strengthening communities throughout Monterey County
where the students look forward to attending football games on Friday night?  
Geoff Johnston, Carmel

Benches deserve more study

Dear Editor,

The Scenic pathway is easily one of the most precious assets our community has the privilege to enjoy and share with guests; and it is about to be altered permanently with installation of 16 unneeded benches to add to the existing 37 benches, bringing the total to 53.

This was decided by the planning commission in its October meeting. I do not believe that the commission was provided adequate information to make such a decision. The direction for such a decision states that it must consider "demonstrated need" as one of the criteria to determine if a new bench is appropriate. There was no study provided to them that demonstrated a need for more benches. They must consider "existing structures located in the sidewalk area." There were no mockup benches placed at the locations to illustrate for the commissioners what the visual impact to the pathway would be — in one instance, at 10th Avenue, with seven benches clustered together.

There was no input from the forest and beach commission or from Carmel Cares who are maintaining and restoring the pathway. Although all the normal noticing was done by way of publishing that this issue was on an agenda, very few were aware of the significance of this subject or that the process leading up to the vote had been done by way of publishing that this issue was on an agenda. It has been my personal privilege to be one of the Carmel Cares volunteers who has restored and maintained the pathway over the past 16 months. We studied the original pathways and surprised.

five hours every Wednesday morning, other volunteers take, sweep, wipe down signage and benches along the entire 3,250 feet of pathway. We prune back the plants to improve and preserve the panoramic views.

The signs are ugly

Dear Editor,

It has been my personal privilege to be one of the Carmel Cares volunteers who has restored and maintained the pathway over the past 16 months. We studied the original 1987 award-winning plans to guide us in our restoration plans. Every day of the year, a “pick-up posse” volunteer is picking up trash the entire length of the pathway and Scenic Road.

Five hours every Wednesday morning, other volunteers take, sweep, wipe down signage and benches along the entire 3,250 feet of pathway. We prune back the plants to improve and preserve the panoramic views.

Having spent many hours walking the Scenic pathway picking up trash, planning our work sessions as well participating in 61 Wednesday work sessions so far, I have had an opportunity to observe bench usage at various times of the day. There is minimal usage of the existing benches except occasionally at sunset. Do we really want to further diminish the natural, simple design of the Scenic pathway by permanent installation of 16 additional benches?

Shirley A. Moon, Carmel

The signs are ugly

Dear Editor,

While local activists are immersing themselves in crucial issues such as cell towers, short-term rentals and benches, may I humbly suggest the addition of hideous signage on Scenic Road to the list? I don’t know what bureaucratic was assigned the task of selecting and placing the dozens of no parking signs along one of the most iconic roads in the world, but it was clearly not anyone who lives nearby.

There were no mockup benches placed at the locations to illustrate to the commissioners what the visual impact to the pathway would be — in one instance, at 10th Avenue, with seven benches clustered together.

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When local activists are immersing themselves in crucial issues such as cell towers, short-term rentals and benches, may I humbly suggest the addition of hideous signage on Scenic Road to the list? I don’t know what bureaucratic was assigned the task of selecting and placing the dozens of no parking signs along one of the most iconic roads in the world, but it was clearly not anyone who lives nearby.

The signs belong in Manhattan, not Carmel, and by the way, have done almost nothing to deter those inclined to park on Scenic from doing so.

Perhaps those concerned with maintaining the beauty of our area can add this to the list of issues to take up with local leaders, who can certainly do better than this.

Michael Der Manouel, Jr., Carmel

Citizen deputies

Dear Editor,

Obviously, there are not enough police to answer requests to stop homeowners who violate the short-term rental laws.

Here’s a solution. Allow any other homeowner on a street where violations are a nuisance, to get deputized specifically for STR Notices to Appear (or think up another name). The deputization process would include an hour or so training program at the police station, and then the citizen would be issued a tablet of citations. This could also be available online so it can be registered, then printed off, then carried to the house and served.

At any time a violation of the STR laws occurs and it is annoying to the other homeowners, one of those homeowners who are deputized can calmly issue the violators a citation. A digital copy can be sent to the owners of the property, and the police station will also be sent a copy. The owner, aka violator, will be assigned a fine or consequence. (First-time offenders may just get a warning, next time a small fine, second time a bigger fine, third time a punishingly huge fine.) If they wish to contest the fine, then they appear in court and talk it over with the judge and the police.

This privilege could be abused by the “deputized”

See MORE LETTERS next page
MORE LETTERS

From previous page

Skeptical but convinced

Dear Editor,

I’ve been an all-organic veggie and anti-vaxxer for life. Yet, I recently took the shots like 71 percent of the U.S. population who have received at least one dose. And just in time, for now stepping into our nightmares present, the aptly named non-existent strain: omicron. Sounds like a horror film that Hollywood is undoubtedly scripting right now.

So, why do, if you’re sipping your wine and checking your stocks, and thinking all was well, the joke’s on you. Get back to the pharmacy, if you can, as if you’re still in Fourth grade and you just want it over with.

The more I research pandemics, the more I realize that they are the No. 1 killers of humans — not cancer, not wars, not winning too many Tom Hanks/Meg Ryan films.

This is the time to stand in line, roll up your sleeves, take that grocery for a pint of organic vanilla ice cream — you deserve it.

Suzette Lilly, Carmel

States run elections

Dear Editor,

In replying to Zoe Edington’s Dec. 3 letter about the Freedom to Vote Act, I would really desire that centralization of voting

farmhouse, now used for guest rooms, was the Martin home. When originally built, it was a three-story home.

Later, the family made the original home into a second story above a larger ground floor structure. The previous restaurant building was the barn where the Martins milked the cows for their dairy. The large barns supported their animals and equipment for their farming, which included growing barley and potatoes.

Martin’s mother, Mary, died in 1878, and her father, William, returned to Neponsit and lived with his sister, Mary. Their Jefferson property comprised a large family. By 1880, the Jeffersons, both in their mid-40s, had eight children. The eldest was 17, the youngest, 1. William and Mary Martin died in Castroviejo in 1885.

In February 1993, a despondent John Martin walked a short distance from the house and hanged himself in a pine tree on the ranch. He was 66. Elizabeth never remarried. Isabel, her youngest, was 9, and her sons from her marriage to Stewart were in their 20s and able to take on the lead ranchers. All the sons made farming their lifelong occupation, except for the youngest.

Carmel Martin got a degree from Stanford in agricultural sciences. She wrote a book about her family, the Martin Ranch, and was passionate about farming and the environment.

Elvis Napoleon, Carmel

HISTORY

From page 23A

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Monday, commissioners voted 5-2 to reject the water district’s application, crippling — at least for now — its efforts to acquire Cal Am.

The commissioners who voted against the water district cited the loss of the roughly $1.7 million in property taxes Cal Am pays each year — money that goes to county schools, fire departments and other government agencies. While private companies pay property taxes, government operations do not. LAFCO commissioners also said they were concerned about higher water rates for customers in five smaller satellite water systems in the county that would be retained by Cal Am.

Both sides cite failures

LAFCO heard spirited comments from Peninsula rate-payers before discussing the topic.

Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce spokesman Peter Mounteer said, “The water management district was formed almost 50 years ago to solve our water supply issues, and it’s summarily failed to do that. That’s why we are all here today.”

Seaside resident Susan Schiafone said Measure J passed for “valid reasons” and claimed that “Cal Am has mismanaged our water sources, charges exorbitant rates. And yes, there may be water quality improvements.”

When it came time for the commissioners to weigh in, several of them, including Salinas Mayor Kimbley Craig, cited the property tax losses. She also said she was worried about the possible $700 million acquisition cost.

Commission chair Chris Lopez, the District 3 Monterey County Supervisor who represents South County, was concerned that water rates for residents in Chualar could increase under a public ownership scenario. Even if a takeover of its Monterey system were successful, Cal Am would still operate the Chualar system and four other smaller satellite water systems in the county. But the utility would not have the advantage of subsidizing water costs in those areas if it’s operating a much smaller overall system.

Commissioner Pete Poitras, board president for the Monterey County Regional Fire District, was worried about the loss of about $140,000 in annual tax revenue with a public water agency. The monetary loss costs the same as a firefighter’s salary, he said.

“We can’t afford to lose a frontline firefighter as a result of this,” Poitras said.

Commissioner Matt Gourley also cited tax impacts to fire agencies. “I don’t think government can run anything efficiently, and I think we’ve seen that,” Gourley said.

In a discussion that goes to the heart of Measure J, but which turned out to be largely irrelevant to LAFCO’s decision, the agency’s executive officer, Kate McKenna, offered that whether Cal Am’s system could be operated cost-effectively as a government operation would be the “central question at the core of LAFCO’s decision-making role.”

Water district general manager Dave Stoldt assured commissioners that “the district can provide the services at a reasonable cost,” and that the group that spearheaded the Measure J effort, Public Water Now, has long promised that it could mean “lower costs of service, more transparent governance, and an ability to see what’s going into your pockets.”

Commissioner Dave Stoldt accused commissioners of “pursuing their own personal political interests, rather than working together as a group” to abide by the law and allow the district to move forward with its plans.

David Soneff, an attorney representing Cal Am, used the relation to the commission’s decision, told The Pine Cone Tuesday that the water agency’s board of directors would meet in closed session in the next few days to discuss possible litigation against the commission.

Stoldt said he believes that the commission exceeded its authority in denying the water district’s application.

“Unless LAFCO offers something different, I would say, yes, it is likely to be litigated,” Stoldt said. “But that is for my board of directors to decide, and I do not have a clear indication at this time.”

Commissioners — in denying the water district’s application — rejected a recommendation of approval from the agency’s staff and the will of Monterey Peninsula voters, who voted 56 percent to 44 percent in 2018 in favor of a public water system if it would be financially feasible to have one.

Stoldt accused commissioners of “pursuing their own parochial interests, rather than working together as a group” to abide by the law and allow the district to move forward with its plans.
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By ELAINE HESSER

The holiday season is full swing, but if you haven’t trimmed a tree or slipped your list to Santa yet, there are still plenty of opportunities to get into the spirit of things. While you’re shopping for last-minute gifts, set some time aside to enjoy the veritable smorgasbord of local happenings that include history, choral music and dance.

Ice skating continues at the Custom House Plaza in Monterey through Jan. 2, including holidays, so you can glide with a view of blue water just a short walk from a restorative cup of clam chowder and perhaps a toddy. Grown-ups pay $15, kids 12 and under are $13. No ice skates? Rentals are $5. If you’re practicing to become the next Johnny Weir or Tara Lipinski, a season pass is $150 (not including skate rental). The rink is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sundays from noon to 8 p.m. Iceskatingbythebay.com has more info.

Christmas on Fisherman’s Wharf is going on through Dec. 19, on Fridays from 5 to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 6 p.m. Santa will be receiving visitors next to Abalonetti’s Bar and Grill, and merchants will offer hot cider, hot cocoa (or something a bit stronger) and cookies for sale. A variety of live entertainment is planned and the 23-foot Christmas tree will be there every day, surrounded by illuminated sea creatures. montereywharf.com

Monterey’s 37th Christmas in the Adobes runs from 5 to 9 p.m. Dec. 10 and 11. Tour nearly 20 historic buildings all decked for the holidays, with knowledgeable guides in period costumes. Many are not usually open to the public, so here’s your chance to get a peek. Tickets for one evening start at $25, with discounts for youth, active duty military and Monterey State Historic Park members. For $40, you can go both nights. Bring your mask, as it will be required for entry, and a flashlight is handy for navigating some of the streets. Check out mshpa.org for more information and remarkably specific ticketing instructions.

Whirlybird vs. reindeer
On Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 11 and 12 at 8 p.m., I Cantori di Carmel presents a winter concert with an orchestra at the Carmel Mission. It will feature Mozart’s Kronungs Messe (Coronation Mass) and works by Johann Sebastian Bach, as well as 20th-century composers Francis Poulenc and Max Reger. Tickets start at $30 ($20 for military and youth) and are available at Pilgrim’s Way, Bookmark music shop in P.G., Luminata in Monterey or through icantori.org. Proof of vaccination is required. Santa and Mrs. Claus will board a helicopter for San-WHATSOEVER YOU give GET IT AT THE CROSSROADS!

WHATEVER YOU give GET IT AT THE CROSSROADS!

WITH OVER 50 SHOPS, RESTAURANTS, SERVICES AND WINE TASTING
Downtown shopping turns up some unusual treasures

By DENNIS TAYLOR

We ALL have boring, unimaginative holiday gift lists for people in our lives who seem to have everything — but, most likely, they don’t have this stuff. Merchants occupying Ocean Avenue and its cross streets have a whole bunch of quirky, rare and fascinating things — big and small — that you probably haven’t seen before.

A recent walking tour of some of North America’s most eclectic shops and boutiques unveiled this tiny sample of out-of-the-ordinary things Carmel merchants are offering this holiday season.

High tea for rodents

Heaven in Carmel (Lincoln Street, between Ocean and Seventh avenues) is in its 21st year as a destination for anybody looking for cute clothes and shoes for stylish babies and kids, plus quirky, ornate gifts like tiny model cars, magnificent, handcrafted doll houses, and elegant décor like a miniature tea party from Denmark that features hand-sewn mice ($28 each), a table and chairs ($68), and a tea set with biscuits ($32).

Music from another time

Next door at the Carmel Music Box Company, owners Janna and Ted Martynov buy, sell, restore and repair some of the world’s rarest music boxes. Among the treasures: a 1906 Edison phonograph ($4,600); a vintage-1900 German-made birdcage, occupied by a tiny, very vocal mechanical songbird ($3,300); a disc music box, made in Switzerland in 1880 ($16,000); and many more, each one breathtakingly beautiful and melodic. All are antiques. “These are museum pieces,” said Janna Martynov, who has operated the shop in Carmel for 40 years.

Cannibalism: The game

The corner of Ocean and Seventh is where the Carmel Bay Company brings foot traffic to an abrupt halt with colorfully crowded display windows packed with fascinating stuff. Inside, you’ll find two stories of unusual home furnishings, furniture, clothing, art, books and fun, like tea towels ($15 apiece) emblazoned with snarky humor — “Does anyone know which page of the Bible explains how to turn water into wine? Asking for a friend.”

There are unusual 1,000-piece Cavallini & Company jigsaw puzzles ($23.75), raucous board games like “Donner Dinner Party: A Rowdy Game of Frontier Cannibalism” ($19.95), and strangely charming books, like the memoir of a lonely dinosaur entitled “All My Friends Are Dead” ($9.95).

Birthday treats for dogs

Cross Lincoln Street and wander south, past the Cypress Inn, to find Carmel Dog Shop, a paradise for pooch pamperers, where the offerings include Puppy Scoops ice cream mix for dogs ($10) — just add water and freeze — in flavors that include vanilla, maple bacon, carob and birthday cake. Or, if it’s actual cake your dog wants, Puppy Cake mix ($88) comes in vanilla, pumpkin, carob, and peanut butter flavors.

Santa on wheels

Return to Ocean and head east, past Dolores, to Krist Kringle of Carmel, Carol Montana’s 37-year-old business “Where It’s Christmas Every Day.” Where else can we find a Christmas ornament adorned with a painting of the fabulous 7th Hole at Pebble Beach Golf Links ($26.95), or a shiny, bright red, vintage model truck ($110) with reindeer riding in the cargo bed, and Santa waving from the interior of the lighted cab? Oh, and a Christmas wreath hangs from the driver’s door, because it’s all about the details.

Cheese knives made to impress

Carrigg’s of Carmel, which opened in 1999, is an oasis offering one-off pieces of furniture, candles, mirrors, clocks, lighting and office work, like paintings by former Peninsula resident Isa D’Aruns (one of a handful of women whose art has been shown at the Louvre in Paris). For the impulse buyer, there’s a glittering selection of very fancy cheese knives that sell for $17 apiece.

A muscular merman?

Adam Fox, a 57-year-old Carmel gift shop (Ocean, between Mission and San Carlos), is a place to find anything from stylish jewelry, to offbeat figurines (the muscular merman might be an acquired taste), to bizarre and risqué greeting cards (a bargain at $6.95) for that person in your life whose preferences are a bit off-center.

Bicycle with a sidecar

A well-heeled sportsman might be smitten by the shimmery, red Tracker e-bike ($7,000) with a matching sidecar ($1,995) for a happy dog or kid. The parade-worthy vehicle sits in the front window at Mad Dogs & Englishmen, a Specialized bicycle store at Ocean and Mission. If the purchase price is a budget buster, rent the full contraption (bike and sidecar) for $175 a day or $95 an hour.

Also at Ocean and Mission is Land & Sea Golf, a place to find sporty tops, bottoms, hats and caps, golf accessories and a magnificent shuffleboard table ($4,500) to dress up any rec room.

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In HALLMARK movies, the holiday season is a time of slowing down for family reunions, mugs of hot chocolate by the fireplace, decorating the tree together, wandering the holiday markets hand in hand, and restoring relationships, faith and a sense of wonder.

In real life, the belief in such a seemingly idyllic time of year persists, yet intentions often get lost in the breathless, frenzied energy of an overloaded calendar, overstretched budget and pressure to uphold traditions, deck the halls — and please everyone.

“The holiday season is not and should not be a performance, and there should be nothing to prove,” said Monterey licensed clinical social worker Janet Thomas. “Traditions are important and meaningful, but we need to keep them heartwarming, not mind-boggling. It’s important to maintain flexibility and patience around money, energy and values.

Sometimes that means paring back.

Thomas, who has traditionally hosted a solstice party on Dec. 21, remembered stringing so many white lights in her yard that the circuit breaker blew. Without electricity until 11 p.m., she, along with family and friends, collected and lit as many candles as they could find.

“It turned out to be the most magical evening,” she said. “Instead of having more lights than Macy’s New York, the whole yard was aglow with candlelight. And the energy among us softened in keeping with the firelight. Everyone sang and held up candles, and then let go of some persisting notion, written down and tossed into the fireplace.”

Thomas believes the magic of the season shows up when we seek the tenderness of an uplifting experience, instead of the tyranny of trying to keep up with the expectations of a commercial Christmas.

“It keeps coming down to balance,” she said. "It is a time of gift-giving, but sometimes that gets lost in the rush. We need to remember the true meaning of Christmas, which is about giving and spreading joy. It’s not about how many gifts we give, but rather the thought and care we put into them. It’s also important to be mindful of our budget and not overspend on gifts. It’s about being creative and finding unique ways to show love and appreciation for others. At the end of the day, it’s about spending quality time with loved ones and enjoying each other’s company. It’s about being present in the moment and cherishing the memories made together. It’s about embracing the holiday season for what it truly is, a time of love and joy. The only thing we should be focusing on is spreading love and making merry, not stressing over the holiday season. It’s about being happy and spreading joy to others."
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EVER SINCE the Franciscan friars in Soledad planted their first crop of wine grapes 200 years ago, Monterey County has been home to world-class wines. According to the Monterey County Vintners and Growers association, there are more than 85 vintners and 175 distinct vineyards. From Carmel Valley to the Salinas Valley, there’s plenty of fertile ground for pinot noir and chardonnay, not to mention smaller quantities of 40 other varieties. Quality vineyards producing award-winning wines for every palate are more plentiful than any oenophile deserves. So, this holiday season, as you prepare to buy gifts for the wine lovers in your life — or perhaps find something special to sip on or share at home — here are some ideas to help you in your search.

Fake doc, real good wine
Stokes’ Ghost, a petite syrah made by Scheid that sells for $34, is named after the ghost that is said to haunt Stokes Adobe in Monterey (where a new, namesake restaurant has recently opened). Legend has it that James Stokes, a British mariner, jumped ship in Monterey in 1833, taking with him all the medicine he could find onboard. Understandably, many of his patients met untimely deaths, but somehow he maintained a successful practice and even became the mayor of Monterey. When he was eventually exposed as a fraud, he took his own life, but his ghost is said to stalk the adobe where he once lived and practiced.

Each bottle of Stokes’ Ghost is dipped in wax. Remove it carefully before uncorking and you might find a few words from the late “doctor” concealed underneath. Bottles are going fast, but they’re still available at A Taste of Monterey on Cannery Row. Although the ghost can’t be found there, you can discover an assortment of other local gems — including some amazing cabernets and the ever-popular claret — at Scheid’s tasting room at San Carlos and Seventh.

There are a few local options for sparkling wines for holiday toasting. Folktale Vineyards (folktalewinery.com) on Carmel Valley Road, for example, has a light and fresh sparkling brut for $40 and a sparkling rose of pinot noir and chardonnay for $42.

Wine club members can also purchase Folktale’s recently released Halotis, a sparkling sangiovese. Winemaker David Baird aged the bottles under at Monterey Abalone Company’s farm under Wharf No. 2 in Monterey for four months, taking advantage of the consistently cold temperatures of Monterey Bay. When divers went down to retrieve the bottles, they found abalone — scientific name halotis — hanging out among them, along with other marine life, which apparently also have excellent taste in wine.

Tiny bubbles
Caraccioli Cellars on Dolores between Ocean and Seventh is well known for its sparklers, including a brut cuvée of 60 percent chardonnay and 40 percent pinot noir ($52 for a bottle, $115 for a magnum) from the Santa Lucia Highlands. Caraccioli’s sparkling wines are prepared using the méthode champenoise, the traditional method for making

Proof of great taste is easy to find in Monterey County’s wine country

By SALLY BAHO

Wines cont. on page 37A

Pierce Vineyards has the perfect wine to go with your paella.
champagne that allows for two fermentations. Visiting the tasting room is like entering a private wine cave, leaving the bustle of holiday crowds behind for a bit of self-indulgence. See caracciolicellars.com to learn more.

Cue the music

Movie and music buffs will surely enjoy a holiday gift of wine made by the Grammy and Emmy winner who wrote for the score for “The Polar Express.” Famed composer Alan Silvestri, who was also responsible for the music in “Back to the Future,” “Forest Gump” and “Cast Away,” to name a few, also owns Silvestri Vineyards (silvestrivineyards.com) with his wife, Sandra. Visit their tasting room on Seventh between San Carlos and Dolores to discover their wines made from grapes grown in Carmel Valley. The 2018 barbera — a bold Italian varietal — retails for $65 and could be paired with a nice bowl of cioppino as part of a Christmas Eve Feast of the Seven Fishes.

Pierce Ranch Vineyards, with a charming tasting room in an old house at 499 Wave St. in Monterey, specializes in Spanish and Portuguese varietals grown in the remote Lockwood area of the Salinas Valley. If wines of the Iberian Peninsula are your jam and varietals like tourbillon, albarino and tempranillo excite you, then Pierce is the place. Visit piercevineyards.com to learn more.

Rugged hills and history

Get a gift for a wine-loving hiker or history buff from the oldest continuously producing vineyard in Monterey County. Chalone Vineyard, a stone’s throw from Pinnacles National Park (the location is celebrated on the wine’s label with a silhouette of the enormous rock formations). The first vines were planted in 1919 to produce a pinot noir, which was sold as sacramental wine during Prohibition. Although Chalone continues to make pinot noir, the focus these days is on pinot noir and chardonnay, as well as pinot blanc and syrah. And the winemaker, Greg Freeman, can be found many an evening donning a kilt and playing the bagpipes at sunset on the beach at the bottom of Ocean Avenue. The dramatic landscape of Pinnacles National Park serves as a backdrop for the tasting room, which is 20 minutes from Highway 101 in Soledad, or you can visit chaloneye vineyard.com from your living room.

With so many choices, the assortment can be mind-boggling, but the best part about shopping for wine is you get to taste it — all in the name of research, of course.

WINES cont. from page 36A

Clockwise from top left: Silvestri has some — dare we say lyrical — offerings, while Carracioli’s tasting room provides a pleasant break from shopping. Folktale’s sparklers and Chalone’s estate wines are among other selections for giving and toasting.

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“It’s in the decorating that the creativity and Christmas spirit come out,” she said.

**Putting ‘no’ in Noel**

Megan Mayer learned a long time ago that while the holidays are about embracing time-honored traditions with family and friends, the key to enjoying the season lies in learning how to say “No.”

The Pebble Beach-based attorney and chair of Network 4 Impact, an organization dedicated to helping businesses and organizations maximize their impact through civil discourse and relationship building, has refined her facility for “no” through years of negotiations.

More recently, during the pandemic, Mayer has learned to draw boundaries around remote meetings. “I had to learn that just because it’s possible to Zoom around remote meetings. “I had to learn that just because it’s possible to Zoom, doesn’t mean I should,” she said.

Learning to say no to the seduction of spending and socializing during the holidays has brought a calm to the tired month of December that Mayer hadn’t experienced since she was a child.

“By simplifying our calendar, picking and choosing what we want to do instead of wedging it all in, everything we did became meaningful,” she said. “Last year, when everything was canceled, we got to experience the silence of the season and focus on what matters — our family.”

This year, with the pandemic still on their minds, the Mayers will head up into the mountains to celebrate the season in their cabin. Getting away together in the calm silence of winter snow is all about “calm for the holidays,” she explained.

Mayer taught etiquette at Carmel Cotillions, which she owned while her children were in school. She said that declining invitations is healthy and appropriate when done graciously. The way to do that, she says, is to express gratitude for the invitation and then say no, clearly and succinctly.

“To delay a reply or to string it along would be rude and stressful,” she said. “Simply give a sample explanation and then affirm the host. Just remember to lead with a kind heart.”

This holiday season, just say no. Choose to slow things down. Sip, savor, and socialize without the traditional breathless, frenzied energy of years gone by. Pare down the Christmas card list, book the spa session, co-host at someone else’s house, give gift cards, satisfy your entire shopping list at one store, have dinner catered and cleaned, pretend it’s snowing outside, build a fire and hang out by the hearth.

www.carmelpinecone.com
December 10, 2021
The Carmel Pine Cone
HOLIDAY GUIDE

CALENDAR cont. from page 29A

hat’s fly-in to Carmel Valley on Dec. 11. To see their arrival, organizers recommend arriving at the airfield off Ford Road a little early — around 10 a.m. — and say refreshments will be available. If you can’t get there, however, fear not — the Clauses will be featured in a parade down Carmel Valley Road that will end at the Carmel Valley Community Youth Center, where there will be lots for the kids — and grown-ups to enjoy, including live entertainment and photos with Santa.

More ballet? Yes, please — if it’s Smuin’s Christmas Ballet at Sunset Center on Friday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 11 at 2:30 p.m. According to Sunset Center’s website, it’s not all tutsus and fairy dust: The two acts “feature the best of both worlds: sublime classical ballet set to carols and red-hot contemporary works set to pop favorites.” Tickets start at $67 and can be purchased at sunsecnter.org, where you can read about all the pertinent Covid policies, too.

Saturday, Dec. 18 from 8:30 to 11 a.m., you and the kiddos can have breakfast with Santa, presented by the Mission Trail Lions Club of Carmel at the Carmel Youth Center (Torrus and Fourth). Children 12 and under pay $6 each; adults eat for $10. Pancakes and sausage with fresh fruit are on the menu. The Girl Scouts will be collecting coats for their One Warm Coat drive and the Carmel PD will be there with Operation Kid ID. Donations of nonperishable foods for the Veterans Transition Center are welcome, too. Tickets will be available at the door, and organizers want everyone to be aware this is a cash-only event.

A Chanticleer Christmas returns to the Carmel Mission for two performances on Thursday, Dec. 23, at 6 and 8:30 p.m. “From the candlelit chant procession to the triumphant gospel conclusion,” the group said it will offer “joy and transcendence” to listeners. Face masks and proof of vaccination will be required and tickets start at $67. Go to chanticleer.org for more information.

Party now, run later

Ring in 2022 with First Night Monterey, where the theme will be New Beginnings “to celebrate our re-emergence from pandemic life,” organizers say. For $29 for adults — $22 until Dec. 13 — and $18 for youth ages 6 to 15 ($12 before Dec. 13), you can enjoy more than 50 acts in venues spread throughout downtown Monterey. Revelers will need to provide proof of a Covid vaccine or a negative test within 72 hours and receive a wristband for admission to indoor performances. Finally, start out the New Year with the 32nd Rio Resolution Run, sponsored by the Rio Grill to raise money for CASA of Monterey County. Individuals and teams can register at runsignup.com/RaceInfo/CA-VirtualRace/RioGrillResolutionRun and receive a long sleeve T-shirt and race bib. Run or walk 5 or 10 kilometers — costumes are encouraged — and report your finish time by Jan. 5 to be entered in prize drawings and vie for awards for best dressed, fastest team and more.

Prescribed reading: Local history books at Carmel Drug Store.

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ORIGINAL from page 30A

History all around you

And the local history aficionado should be satisfied by an array of locally-authored books at the iconic, 111-year-old Carmel Drug Store (Ocean at San Carlos). Offerings include “Missions of Monterey” by Robert A. Bellezza, “Big Sur” by Jeff Norman, “Monterey’s Waterfront” by Tim Thomas, “Monterey County’s North Coast” by Margaret Clevis (all $21.95), and “Monterey: Presidio, Pueblo and Past” by J.D. Conway ($24.99).

Finally, the village is also famous for its world-class art galleries — dozens of them — featuring paintings, sculptures, fine-art photography, jewelry and other imaginative creations.

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Mission Trail Lions Club of Carmel at the Sunset Center on Dec. 11. To see their attractions for kids and grown-ups alike.

Prescribed reading: local history books at Carmel Drug Store.

A Chanticleer returns to the Carmel Mission this year, and First Night’s family-friendly celebration will ring in 2022 in Monterey with attractions for kids and grownups alike.

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Nestled in the heart of downtown Carmel-by-the-Sea, Carmel Plaza is home to one-of-a-kind fashion finds and specialty national brands, distinctive restaurants, gourmet shops, wine tasting rooms, wellness studios, and more – in a relaxed yet sophisticated setting.
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**This Week**

**Food & Wine**

**Galleries and Art**

**Live Music, Clubs and Events**

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**With a little help from friends, banjo legend brings music back to Sunset**

**LIVE MUSIC** returns to Sunset Center when banjo legend **Bela Fleck** plays Monday, along with a cast of his talented musical friends.

A 15-time Grammy Award winner in nine categories, Fleck is credited with helping bring bluegrass into the 21st century.

The instrumentalist recently came out with a new album, “The Bluegrass Heart.” The third in a trilogy that began with the 1988 LP “Drive,” the record has been nominated this year for a Grammy for Best Bluegrass Album.

Fleck will be joined at Sunset by some of the finest players in bluegrass, including mandolinist **Sam Bush**, guitarists **Jerry Douglas** and **Bryan Sutton**, fiddler **Stuart Duncan** and bassist **Edgar Meyer**. All have earned Grammy Awards.

Showtime is 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at $70. Sunset Center is located at San Carlos and Ninth. Call (831) 620-2048 or visit sunsetcenter.org.

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**I Cantori welcomes new leader**

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Since 2019, **I Cantori di Carmel** celebrates its 40th year with a holiday concert Dec. 11-12 at the Carmel Mission.

Besides marking a return to the stage for the choral group, which presents major classical works, the concert introduces the group’s new music director, **Daniel Henrik**.

“We just had a rehearsal with the orchestra,” Henrik told The Pine Cone this week. “The group sounded fabulous — everyone is so dedicated.”

The singers are going to great lengths to make the in-person concert possible. “The whole chorus gets is getting tested for Covid before every rehearsal so we can make sure we can perform,” explained Henrik, a native of Germany who performed in Europe as an opera singer.

The program includes Mozart’s *Kronungs Messe* and Bach’s *Cantata for the First Sunday in Advent, BWV 62*, along with music by 17th-century German composer **Michael Praetorius** and 20th-century composers **Francis Poulenc** and **Max Reger**.

The music starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are $30, with discounts available for active military and kids. The mission is located at 3080 Rio Road. For more details, visit icanitori.org.

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**See MUSIC page 47A**

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**TIME TO START PLANNING YOUR Christmas Dinner**

**Order Your Specialty Cut Meats Now**

- Standing Rib Roast • Filet Mignon Roast • Spiral Cut Ham
- Brisket • Crown Roast of Pork or Lamb
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**CLEAN ON THE INSIDE, CULINARY WEEK UPDATE, AND HOLIDAY HAPPY HOURS**

**A NEW way to make sure restaurants are as safe as possible for indoor dining is taking shape in Carmel, with high-tech sensors detecting airflow and contaminants, and filters, fans, doors and windows used to provide cleaner, presumably virus-free air.**

Dale Byrne, volunteer and nonprofit group Carmel Cares and Carmel Givess is working with Bill Hayward and a company called Air by Design "to start a program to clean-air-certify Carmel restaurants," Byrne said.

"The goal is to get 100 percent of our restaurants on this program," he said.

**The effort includes sensors in interior spaces “with an expensive ‘sniffer’ to develop a 3D model for ideal airflow and developing recommendations regarding the installation of HEPA filters to HVAC systems, other measures, like opening windows and doors.**

"We are using grant money to subsidize the program, and I am also getting landlords involved, as this is really a long-term improvement to their property in Covid times," Byrne said. "The city has said they would work with us to expedite any permits that might be required and probably waive fees related to them."

Ideally, the quality of the air inside the restaurants should be the same as outside, he said — which is critical as Covid remains a concern and the colder weather and shorter days are driving diners indoors.

"Carmel Givess has issued about $5,000 in a grant toward the startup effort in Carmel-by-the-Sea," Byrne said. "Also, the Monterey County fund “to help subsidize projects like the clean-air-certify Carmel restaurants,” Byrne said. "This may very well be something every restaurant will want to have," he said. "It’s something everyone should do," he said.

Rich Pepe, who’s agreed to have the equipment installed at his downtown establishments, observed that more than than ever before, people are concerned about air quality, especially indoors.

"Many restaurant guests continue to choose to eat outside, but by installing the filtration system and air quality sensors, I hope to offer my guests and also my staff the opportunity to feel comfortable indoors," he said. "Breathing clean, fresh air indoors will improve the overall guest experience, and I believe it will be worth the financial investment."

Byrne this week said he got approval from several other restaurants interested in participating and hopes more will buy in.

"This will be a subscription service, whereby a fee is charged for the up-front analysis, the equipment is installed, and a low monthly or yearly subscription fee is charged. That will cover the cost of the equipment and monitoring the air quality, and making recommendations and adjustments," he said. "Each restaurant will receive a clean air verified rating which includes a sticker for their windows and logo for their website, along with a real-time readout of the air quality."

More information can be found at cleanrestaurantair.com.

* Culinary Week party moved to Plaza*

The kickoff party for the Carmel Culinary Week set to take place next month won’t be on city streets after all, but in Carmel Plaza, according to Amy Herzog, executive director of the Visit Carmel tourism group. "The Carmel Culinary Week planning committee in conjunction with the Monterey County Visitors & Growers Association, our partners for the kick-off party, decided yesterday to move the location for the Carmel Culinary Week kick-off party scheduled for Friday, Jan. 14, 2022, from 3 to 5 p.m., to the Carmel Plaza, so we no longer needed permission from the city council to use the public right of way," Herzog told The Pine Cone.

"The main reasoning was that we felt more protection from the elements would mitigate our risk of having to cancel due to weather," she continued. "Also, the new location requires less of an outward of financial and human resources.

The city council was set to vote Tuesday on allowing the sale of alcohol on public property, but with the move to the Plaza, that decision became moot. While it’s referred to as a week, it’s really longer, Herzog noted, since it runs Jan. 14-23, 2022. “We have 27 different restaurants planning to participate this year by offering special prix fixe menus, and/or incentive offers, and/or special events and demos throughout the 10-day period,” she told The Pine Cone.

**CONTINUES NEXT PAGE**
From previous page

While she no longer needed their help with the kickoff party, in a letter, Herzog asked council members to consider extending outdoor dining in parklets to at least the end of the campaign. As it stands, if the council doesn’t decide to extend the parklets, they’ll have to be removed by Jan. 20, right in the middle of Culinary Week. “We are hoping to maximize dining opportunities for locals and visitors alike so that they may enjoy creative menus, special offers and experiences at our restaurants,” she explained.

Information can be downloaded from the free mobile passport that will be available early next month, and can also be found at carmelculinaryweek.com.

Grand opening at Total Wine

Total Wine & More is opening its first store on the Monterey Peninsula in the Sand Dollar Shopping Center at 808 Playa Ave. in Sand City next week. The chain was started in 1991 by brothers David and Robert Trone, who opened their first store in Delaware. Since then, they’ve added more than 225 locations focusing on “unbeatable prices and unrivaled service from our expertly trained staff.”

They announced the new store carries 8,000 wines, 4,000 spirits and 2,500 beers, and contains a climate-controlled wine room for rare offerings and a walk-in humidifier for fine cigars.

To celebrate their newest location, the owners will donate part of their sales from Dec. 16 to Dec. 19 to the Food Bank for Monterey County. An invitation-only ribbon cutting will be held Wednesday to mark the official opening. To learn more, visit totalwine.com/monterey.

Holiday Happy Hour

Rio Grill in the Crossroads shopping center is hosting holiday-inspired Happy Hour throughout December, offering food and drink specials Monday through Thursday between 3 and 5:30 p.m.

Executive chef Luis Oseio’s risottoauer toto, muffin-Manchego cheese frits, and lamb lollipops can accompany a wide range of drinks.

Specialty cocktails are just $9 during Happy Hour and include the Rio Rita, Maple Old Fashioned (bourbon, maple syrup and Angostura bitters), Holiday Mojito (Sailor Jerry rum, allspice dram, cranberry, lime and mint), Lemon Drop (limoncello, lavender simple syrup, lemon and butterfly pea flower-infused liqueur) and a watermelon-infused margarita.

Wines by the glass are $12 each, with Muet & Chandon brut Champagne, 13 Celliers sauvignon blanc from New Zealand,
FOOD & WINE

Bernardus Monterey County chardonnay, McIntyre pinot noir, Daou cabernet sauvignon and Seghesio zinfandel on offer. And for those who prefer beer, Scrimshaw pilsner, Alvarado Street Mai Tai IPA, Anderson Valley Boont amber ale and Sincere cider can be had for $7 apiece. Find more information at riogrill.com.

Gifts at Mezzaluna

With Christmas around the corner, Mezzaluna — which won the Golden Pine Cone for Best Italian Restaurant this year — has stocked its little market with items perfect for gift baskets and stockings for the food-lovers and italophiles in your life.

Open Wednesday through Sunday from 5 to 9 p.m. for drinks and dinner, the restaurant on Forest Hill in Pacific Grove has a retail liquor license that allows owners chef Soerke Peters and partner Amy Stouffer to offer expansive wine and amaro selections.

Customers will also find finely ground Pasini “00” flour that’s ideal for homemade pizza dough, as well as imported pastas and prepared sauces. Panettone in various flavors — among them pineapple and apricot, citrus and saffron, chocolate chip and Ama- rena cherry — can be found alongside authentic jelly treats, chocolate figurines, marzipan and other scrumptious sweets. And olive oils and vinegars are available too, of course.

Baskets can be assembled according to taste, and Mezzaluna offers pre-packed ones, as well. Find more information at mezzalunapasteria.com or call (831) 372-5325.

Foragers Fest will be back

The Big Sur Health Center’s annual Foragers Fest will return for in-person tastings and other festivities Jan. 20-23, 2022, and is hosting an online fundraiser instead of the auction that typically accompanies the event.

All items in the online auction store have been donated by supporters of the Big Sur Health Center, which serves residents and visitors in the Big Sur area, from hospitality workers and retirees to firefighters and tourists. To pur- chase any of the items, go to bigsurhealthcenteronline-store.org.

Those looking to eat, drink and learn may be interested in accompanying chef and mushroom expert Todd Spanier on the “Hike With The King Of Mushrooms” and indulge in the “Beer and Brunch” to follow at the Big Sur River Inn. The events are set for Jan. 22, and the hike will cost $60 per person, while Beer and Brunch will cost $50. See bigsurhealthcenteronline-store.org/hikes-brunch.

Christmas Dinner

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Grilled Hog Island Oysters

DESSERT Choice of 1
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Persimmon, Creme Brulee

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acts that pay tribute to the colorful rock band founded the late singer and guitarist Jerry Garcia, perhaps none capture the band's spirit better than the Dark Star Orchestra.
The paint may dry, but the subject matter stays wet in Wagstaff’s work

While many of us are drawn to water, few make it a bigger part of their creative journey than Jan Wagstaff, who shares her latest paintings in a show that opens Friday at Studio Fogline.

Art Roundup

By CHRISS COUNTS

As an artist, Wagstaff sees a world of possibilities in one of life’s essential elements.

“I’m always drawn to the motion of water, whether it be a river, a bay, a pond or even a fountain,” Wagstaff, a member of the Carmel Art Association, told The Pine Cone. “I find it fascinating to look at water and try to distinguish between the layers. I’m not interested in seascape vistas. I’m more interested in the water itself — what’s around the water, what’s in it, how it moves and how it reflects everything.

While there’s plenty of water to paint around here, despite our endless water crisis, Wagstaff seeks out water in many places. Some of her recent work was inspired by the Pesc River in New Mexico, which she visited in September and October.

Unlike many painters, Wagstaff doesn’t bring along her brushes and easel when she visits a watery subject.

“I take photos and lay them out in my studio,” she explained. “I construct a painting by taking bits and pieces from each of the photos. — I’ll take a little of this one, and a little of that one.”

Studio Fogline, meanwhile, is calling attention to local artists with monthly shows.

“The studio is evolving into a hub, a gathering place for artists and collectors, and those seeking to curate a setting through a complement of fine art and furniture,” the studio’s Maxine Russell added.

The reception starts at 5 p.m. A design studio that pairs art and furniture, Studio Fogline is located at Juniper and Fifth. studiofogline.com

Follow the blue lanterns

More than a dozen artist-owned galleries host the latest Carmel Art Walk: Saturday from 4 to 7 p.m.

“Kick off your holiday festivities with a self-guided tour through the quaint streets of Carmel,” suggests artist and gallery owner John Turner, who has a gallery on Dolores between Fifth and Sixth.

Fourteen galleries are participating in the walk, including Gallery North, Patrick Qualls Gallery, Gallery Sur, Delia and Aaron Chang Gallery.

The event, which is free, showcases artist-owned galleries downtown.

Pick up a map at any of the participating galleries and follow the blue lanterns,” Turner added. “Each gallery will have a lantern displayed out front to help you along your self-guided tour.

Music, wine and ‘petite’ art

Just as does each year, painter Erin Hanson shares a treasure trove of miniature pieces at her downtown gallery, which is located on San Carlos between Fifth and Sixth. The paintings are no larger than 20 inches by 24 inches, and many are smaller. “The whole gallery is filled with new ‘petite’ paintings,” reported gallery director Miranda Register.

The gallery will be the site of a reception Saturday from 4 to 8 p.m. Violinist Briana Di Mara will play classical music, while Holman Ranch Vineyard will pour wine.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name is prohibited pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code.

A fictitious business name may be used in this state only by the person in whose name it is filed. A new and different fictitious business name may be used only after the fictitious business name statement pursuant to Section 17913 has been recorded in the office of the County Clerk.

INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

I, the undersigned, declare that all information supplied in this statement is true and correct. I understand that a Fictitious Business NameStatement must be recorded with the County Clerk of the County of Principal Place of Business before it can be used. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use of the Fictitious Business Name.

Date signed: Nov. 12, 2021

CRAIG MAINZER, 337 73 E. Carmel, CA 93923.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

LES POISSONS RESTAURANT LLC., 5th Ave Lot 1 2806, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93923.

County of Principal Place of Business:
Monterey

Address:
1180 Forest Ave, Space C, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Registered Owner(s):
DEBORAH KAY CUTRUFELLI, 230 Littleness Ave., Monterey, CA 93940.

Date filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County:
Nov. 15, 2021

Date of first issuance of letters under the fictitious business name:
Jan. 20, 2020

Statement generally expires at the end of:
2021

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

RECORDING AND NOTICE OF FILED CLAIM

This business is conducted by an individual.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

A WILD COAST, 1180 Forest Ave, Space C, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

Registered Owner(s):
S/Jerit Davis, President
S/Roslyn Anderson, Managing Mem-

Date filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County:
Nov. 16, 2021

Statement generally expires at the end of:
2021

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

50A      The Carmel Pine Cone

(See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

The following person is doing business as:

S/ Katrina Lee, President
Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

Date filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County:
Nov. 24, 2021

Statement generally expires at the end of:
2021

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

5th Ave Lot 1 2806, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93923.

Registered Owner(s):
S/Lance Jorgensen, CFO

Date filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County:
Nov. 16, 2021

Statement generally expires at the end of:
2021

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

BY SIGNING, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

Date signed: Nov. 12, 2021

CRAIG MAINZER, 337 73 E. Carmel, CA 93923.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

S/Jerit Davis, President
S/Roslyn Anderson, Managing Mem-

Date filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County:
Nov. 15, 2021

Statement generally expires at the end of:
2021

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

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Date filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County:
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Statement generally expires at the end of:
2021

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Date filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County:
Nov. 24, 2021

Statement generally expires at the end of:
2021

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.

By proving that your name is the name of a decedent, you may file a petition to determine the rights of others in connection with the decedent’s property. You may also file a petition to settle a decedent’s estate. The court will grant any requested relief if it deems it just and proper. A petition to determine rights must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use of the Fictitious Business Name.

Date filed with the County Clerk of Monterey County:
Nov. 16, 2021

Statement generally expires at the end of:
2021

Filing type: ORIGINAL FILING.
stunned to be offered a solo show for her paintings at For- ward Gallery in Old Town Salinas, where she encountered other people who liked what she was doing.

Part of Muscarello’s emotional relationship with her art is laid bare in a disturbing series of mixed-media abstracts done in oil, pastel, resin and beads. It’s entitled “Wish You Were Here,” and was inspired by a breakup in 2017. The first piece, entitled “Stay,” depicts a weeping woman with arms outstretched. The next, “Leave,” is the adverse reaction of a man in a fedora and plaid bowtie. The last, “Goodbye,” is a woman with mascara streaks under dark, hollow eyes, arms hanging at her side in despair.

The series drew the most interest among 20 pieces Mus- carello exhibited at a 2018 show in Carmel Valley Village. “Some people — especially women — said, ‘Wow, these are amazing. What were you thinking?’” she recalled. “I would explain and they’d invariably say, ‘Oh, my yeah … I’ve done that!’”

Art Battle Monterey

In 2019, Muscarello was among the artists invited to take part in Art Battle Monterey at the Dali Expo, a com- petition challenging painters to create an abstract in each of three 20-minute rounds. Her painting was declared win- ner of round one.

This past summer, she was invited to display her work in a three-month-long solo show, part of the Monterey History & Art Association Dali Exhibition at Custom House Plaza.

“It’s all very surreal to me — I’m still kind of amazed,” she said of her success. “But I’ve also been willing to put myself out there. I came from the business world and what I’ve learned about marketing has enabled me to do that.

Indeed, Muscarello is not represented by a gallery. Her only showcase is at Carrigg’s of Carmel, an upscale home and furniture store on Ocean Avenue, but her online pres- ence is significant, utilizing several social media outlets and her own website.

She also is a familiar face as a volunteer at community events, including a seven-year stint with the Carmel Art and Film Festival and four years as a board member and executive committee member with the Monterey County Film Commission. Muscarello also frequently partici- pates in social justice marches and rallies, especially those involving women’s rights. The political climate is a recur- ring theme in her art.

Additional information and images of her work can be found at cindymuscarelloart.com.

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