Antibodies, a quick hospital and very sad cars

A RETIRED associate professor of physics at the University of Maryland who has published studies about the HIV epidemic is challenging Monterey County Health Director Dr. Ed Moreno’s dire projections about the number of sick coronavirus patients the county will have in the next six weeks.

Carmel resident Ivan Kramer, a mathematician with a Ph.D. in physics from UC Berkeley, said this week that Moreno’s estimate there would be 33,000 coronavirus patients in Monterey County and nearly 1,000 people hospitalized by the first week of June is way off base.

“The numbers Moreno has gone public with bear no relationship whatsoever to reality,” said Kramer, who has decades of experience in disease modeling. “The model Moreno is using, he said, should not be used to project the number of coronavirus cases Monterey County will get, because the county has a relatively small population and a small number of cases.

“We have a case here, five cases yesterday, three cases on Thursday, none tomorrow,” he said, as an example of what he believes the county will get, because the county has a relatively small population and a small number of cases. Moreno has conceded that the University of Pennsylvania coronavirus model he’s basing his projections on is intended for larger cities.

Widespread infections?

Kramer pointed to new antibody studies by Stanford University and the University of Southern California that indicate far more people have had the virus than first believed. The results are good news since they mean that many more people have had the virus but were asymptomatic or had mild symptoms.

He’s in agreement with those — including the researcher from USC who authored the Los Angeles study — who believe accurate estimates of the virus’ ubiquity would make it easier to lift shelter-in-place orders and reopen shops, restaurants, etc.

“If you look at the infection in the Peninsula area, down to Big Sur, you will see the infection here in our community has been eliminated,” Kramer said. “There is no reason to shelter in place. We are effectively in stage one of recovery.”

Since April 5, according to data compiled by The Pine Cone, the Monterey Peninsula has had only five coronavirus cases. Moreno didn’t respond to The Pine Cone’s questions about Kramer’s claims.

District attorney warns about short-term rentals

FOLLOWING HER warning that landscapers, gardeners and other contractors found violating the county’s strict shelter-in-place order would be investigated and could be prosecuted, Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine Pacioni this week also told owners of short-term rentals and hotels they could be busted for advertising to or accommodating travelers during the coronavirus shutdown.

Lodging and rentals that serve vacationers, and that advertise for visitors, are violating the prohibition on travel except under certain circumstances, such as if it’s for “essential” activities, business or government work or to perform “minimum basic operations” at a non-essential business.

“The use of short-term lodging facilities, including short-term rentals, hotels, inns, and the like, for vacation purposes while the April 3 order is in effect is not permitted,” Pacioni warned. “Moreover, advertising rentals for use not allowed by the April 3 order or encouraging travel in violation of the April 3 order is unlawful.”

“Very passionate”

Deputy district attorney Emily Hickok, who is handling cases involving alleged shelter-order violators, said her office has “received five complaints that implicate over 100 properties.”

“Some people are very passionate about this issue and will send us lists of multiple properties that are violating the order,” she said. “I have spoken to code enforcement

By MARY SCHLEY

By KELLY NIX

By MARY SCHLEY

By KELLY NIX

Wearing masks will soon be mandatory

MONTEREY COUNTY residents should be required to cover their faces when they go to the supermarket and work with others, according to the county health officer, who said he’s consulting county attorneys on an order directing everyone to do just that.

In a briefing with reporters Wednesday, Dr. Ed Moreno said he’s drafting a mandate similar to ones rolled out in the 70th FBI. Concours d’Elegance. Their acceptances will still stand in 2021, she said, so their efforts won’t go to waste, and tickets already purchased for this year’s show will be good for next year’s. See CONCOURS page 144

Realtors say new rules make it impossible to show homes

AS LEADERS across the country struggle to find a balance between keeping people safe and not destroying the economy during the coronavirus crisis — and many push back against safety mandates they disagree with — some realtors here say restrictions imposed by Monterey County are making it impossible to show houses if they are furnished.

“My feeling is that the county health officials have gone way overboard on a number of items, including not allowing showings of a house that is furnished or staged,” realtor Tim Allen told The Pine Cone.

The restrictions are part of a stay-at-home order issued.

By CHRIS COUNTS

By MARY SCHLEY

By KELLY NIX

By MARY SCHLEY

Wearing masks will soon be MANDATORY

By KELLY NIX

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Sweet Cookie

As her sons got older, she decided they needed a dog, so she started looking online at shelter websites. But then she found what she wanted on Craiglist and pretty soon she met a woman who couldn’t keep her 8-month-old Maltipoo-terrier mix. At a restaurant in Monterey, the woman handed over the puppy, a custom car seat and a tiny collection of costumes.

“I have boys, and I’m a tomboy who barely takes time to do my hair,” she said. “What were we going to do with this fussy little thing?”

Nevertheless, she drove home with the puppy and called her sons out to help. They opened the door, and there sat the fuzzy little black-and-white animal. They looked at her coloring, decided to call her Cookie, and carried her into the house.

“I got Cookie for my boys, but she’s definitely mine,” said Mom. “I’ve never had a girl. Now, we have matching vests for when we go out. I taught her to dance, twirling to the right and left, and doing the foxtrot, forward and back. I love all this feminine energy in the house.”

Cookie, now 2, clings onto her person like a baby and lays her head on her shoulder. Whether someone seems happy or sad, she wants to snuggle, to bring comfort and joy to her family and everyone else she meets.

Cookie loves to walk with her person from their home near the top of Ocean Avenue straight through town and down to Carmel Beach. They walk from one end of the beach to the other, keeping their social distance, and stopping to press paws and hands against the seawall, as a sign of gratitude.

“It’s important to give praise for where we live, so I taught Cookie to do it, too,” her person said.
A SALINAS woman who was drinking at a hotel in Carmel and a Hayward resident who came to stay here last weekend because she “was tired of feeling cooped up” were busted for violating the county’s shelter-in-place order, according to Carmel Police Sgt. Jeff Watkins, while a contractor doing non-essential construction on Easter Sunday was told to pack up and get out.

And this week, Monterey police cited three people drinking in a car for ignoring the order, and wrote a ticket to an Alvarado Street business that stayed open even though it’s not “essential,” MPDLt. Michael Bruno said.

No “valid excuse”

On April 10 shortly before 11:30 p.m., a Carmel officer stopped a car at San Carlos and Seventh for a minor traffic violation and discovered the driver, 32-year-old Kristina Keller, was from Hayward.

“The driver was found to be from out of the county and admitted to coming to our area because she was tired of being cooped up at home,” Watkins said. “She stated she was staying at a hotel outside the city limits of Carmel.” Keller didn’t offer a “valid excuse for being out at such a late hour” and was cited for failing to adhere to the shelter-in-place order that’s been in place for more than five weeks.

violating the order, which only allows travel into and out of the county for “essential” reasons, is a misdemeanor that can carry fines up to $1,000 and jail time.

The next night, the manager at a hotel at Mission and Fourth received multiple complaints about a loud female and called police, who arrived to find 36-year-old April Dahl talking to a man outside. When they approached, the guy left, but police questioned Dahl and discovered she was intoxicated, and she admitted drinking.

“Dahl stated she was picked up by a friend and brought to Carmel,” Watkins said, and she ultimately confessed to knowing about the stay-home order but “stated she was tired of sheltering in place and wanted to go out with her girlfriend to drink.”

The Salinas resident was unwilling to call someone for a ride home, instead demanding that police take her to jail, according to Watkins.

Officers determined she was unable to take care of herself due to her intoxication and might be under the influence of drugs as well as alcohol, so they complied with her request and drove her to Monterey County Jail, where she was booked on charges of public intoxication, being under the influence of a controlled substance, and violating the shelter order.

On Easter morning, police were told someone was doing construction on a home in the area of Vizcaino and Mountain View near the Forest Theater.

Under normal circumstances, construction isn’t allowed on Sundays in town, and under the revised shelter-in-place order imposed by the county April 3, only work that’s critical for health, safety and welfare can be done.

Definitely not ‘essential’

Watkins said officers concluded the construction was in no way essential, and also discovered the contractor didn’t have a business license to operate in Carmel, another violation.

The homeowner was warned for having construction done on a Sunday and for knowingly violating the shelter order, and the contractor was told to stop work immediately. “All his business information was forwarded to the building official for follow-up,” Watkins said.

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In 1991 Carmel’s City Council appointed a 2016 Committee to “assist in dreaming” about Carmel in its centennial year.

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The CRA will soon be presenting an online panel discussion on this subject, led by the 2016 Committee chairman.

We encourage you to read the report, share your ideas, participate in our programs and play a role in shaping Carmel’s future.

Just go to: www.carmelresidents.org/reimagine
**Police, Fire & Sheriff’s Log**

**CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA**

**MONDAY, APRIL 6**

**Pacific Grove:** Subject on First Street passed away due to medical issues. Sheriff’s coroner removed the body from the residence.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 7**

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Peace disturbance at Junipero and Fifth. A 61-year-old male was cited for use of offensive words in public.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Person reported that a subject was camping on the property of a closed business at Dolores and Ninth. The person asked the subject be told to leave. Subject was contacted and complied.

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Juvenile contacted after being seen with a pellet gun at Casa-nova and 100th. Counseled on safe handling practices.

**Pacific Grove:** Subject attempted to commit suicide.

**Pacific Grove:** Subject on Lighthouse Avenue was cited for a driving on a suspended license.

**Carmel area:** Documentation of possible elderly financial abuse on Rio Road.

**Carmel area:** Victim on Highway 1 reported a vehicle burglary. Case closed.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8**

**Carmel Valley:** Person on Carmel Valley Road reported vandalism.

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**The gavel falls**

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

**Feb. 26** — Azrael Ahtiry Lopez, 23, resident of Salinas, was sentenced by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Carrie M. Panetta to felony probation for committing welfare fraud.

Between the months of January 2017 and June 2019, Lopez was receiving CalFresh benefits (food stamps) and CalWorks benefits (cash aide), claiming she needed the benefits to support her baby daughter. A subsequent investigation by the Department of Social Services and the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office revealed that Lopez did not in fact have any children and had forged several documents, including a false birth certificate, which she then submitted to DSS as part of her application for benefits. Lopez’s one-year probation resulted in $22,313 in overpayment of benefits.

Lopez was sentenced to 3 years of formal felony probation, 270 days in jail, and was ordered to pay back the loss directly to the Department of Social Services.

**Feb. 26** — Erica Posadas, 35, resident of Salinas, was convicted of felony welfare fraud.

Between the months of January 2017 and June 2019, Posadas was receiving both cash aide (CalWorks) and food stamps (CalFresh) claiming she was unemployed and needed these benefits to support her family. A subsequent investigation by the Department of Social Services and the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office revealed that Posadas was in fact employed at a local nail salon during the entire fraud period.

This resulted in her household receiving income well above the lawful income threshold. Posadas’s misrepresentations resulted in a $11,314.00 overpayment of benefits.

Posadas faces three years of formal felony probation, up to 365 days in jail, and will be ordered to pay back the loss directly to the Department of Social Services.

Monterey County Department of Social Services along with the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office has a welfare fraud tip line. If you have information regarding welfare fraud you can leave an anonymous tip at (831) 755-3224.

**Feb. 26** — Jerry Mares entered pleas of no contest to unlawful intercourse with a minor and unlawful sexual penetration with a minor.

On December 7, 2018, the defendant was found in the backseat of a vehicle, partially clothed, with a 16-year-old female. At the time, Mares was 47 years old and employed as a teacher at Vista Verde Middle School in Greenfield.

Judge Carrie Panetta will sentence the defendant to a suspended prison term of three years, three years, three years, three years, and three years, and a sexual offender treatment program.

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**Shutdown means police calls are few**

**HERE’S A look at some of the significant calls logged by the Carmel-by-the-Sea Police Department and the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office last week. This week’s log was compiled by Mary Shley.**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9**

**Carmel-by-the-Sea:** Person reported ongoing neighbor dispute at San Carlos and Camino del Monte which has been continuing to escalate. Both parties counseled and asked to contact Carmel PD in the future.

**Pacific Grove:** Package stolen from the front door area of a residence on Second Street.

**Pebble Beach:** A subject was placed on a hold for a mental health evaluation.

**Carmel Valley:** Child Protective Services referral on El Hemmornor.

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Seven-car crash closes Holman Hwy

By MARY SCHLEY

THE DRIVER of a Penske truck ran over the top of an oncoming car after passing through a construction zone on Highway 68 in Pacific Grove Wednesday morning, causing a seven-vehicle wreck that closed the highway for two hours and sent one motorist to a trauma unit after firefighters had to cut her out of her car.

The crash occurred at about 11:20 a.m. April 22. The delivery truck was heading uphill on Holman Highway toward Monterey and had just passed through a one-way traffic-controlled stretch where construction crews have been doing drainage work, according to California Highway Patrol public information officer Jessica Madueño, when it "struck six stopped vehicles in the westbound lane."

The truck driven by 41-year-old Antioch resident To Alima Sue ended up on top of the first car, and the impact caused the others to run into each other.

While most of the drivers ended up not requiring any serious attention, firefighters had to extricate 71-year-old La Selva Beach resident Shirin Dinyari from the Mercedes that was under the truck, according to Cal Fire Capt. Curtis Rhodes.

An ambulance took two patients to nearby Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, and Dinyari, who suffered major injuries, was picked up by a helicopter at Monterey airport and flown to Natividad hospital in Salinas.

This week’s “History Beat” column, by Neal Hotelling, is about the history of Holman Highway. See page 24A.

Driver finally charged in Corvette wreck

By KELLY NIX

THE MONTEREY woman who police say lost control of her Corvette and crashed into several vehicles in Pacific Grove in February has been charged with reckless driving, according to a criminal complaint filed by the Monterey County District Attorney’s office.

Authorities say Ashley Nicole Keller, 23, was speeding and weaving in and out of traffic Feb. 6 on Ocean View Boulevard in a white Chevrolet Corvette when she lost control and struck four cars. Keller and...
For Monterey County Public Works, the only "essential" construction allowed under the health officer’s strict shelter-in-place order involves roads, bridges and emergency repairs. In Carmel, it includes replacing an old boiler and an aging roof and some ADA improvements. And in Pacific Grove, officials have decided new carpet in the youth center, a new roof on the Point Pinos Grill, the city council approved a $62,270 contract with Scudder Roofing in February. The work is necessary because the existing roof “has leaked in different locations near-by every winter for years,” according to the public works department, and the repairs “will protect the interior of the house from further damage and moisture penetration, and make way for the renovation and re-use,” if those ever come to pass.

The contract with Bay City Boiler for replacing Sun- set Center’s two “outdated, leak-containing, and inefficient boilers and mechanical equipment with one new boiler, pump, tanks, pipes, controls, and appurtenances” was also approved by the council in February for $162,800, and Re- rig said that work is allowed, as well.

Finally, a small ADA project, placing railings on the stairs at Devendorf Park, will be done for $4,000.

Meanwhile, in PG.

Work on the $2.16 million “renewal” of the public li- brary continued this week, after city manager Ben Harvey said that under the order, public works maintenance crews are allowed to get their own projects completed in a timely and cost-effective manner, order to “keep the county road and bridge infrastructure drivable by the public.”

The engineering department is still working on con- struction plans for parts of River Road and other roads in the county slated for work, and bridge repairs are continu- ing on Jolon Road and on Nacimiento Lake Drive, both in southern Monterey County.

“They are also performing emergency road repairs,” she said, including work slated for Carmel Valley and San Juan roads.

Critical Carmel work

City administrator Chip Rerg said he’s allowing Avila Construction to continue working on the new conference room in Harrison Memorial Library, a $275,800 project that got underway several weeks ago and is expected to take about four months to complete. The council OK’d the contract with Avila in January.

Reroofing the Scout House, which was constructed in the early 1930s and has been closed to the public due to ADA access issues since 2003, hasn’t yet begun, but the city council approved a $62,270 contract with Scudder Roofing in February. The work is necessary because the existing roof “has leaked in different locations near- by every winter for years,” according to the public works department, and the repairs “will protect the interior of the house from further damage and moisture penetration, and make way for the renovation and re-use,” if those ever come to pass.

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Sinkholes force shutdown of reclamation project well in Seaside

By KELLY NIX

The WASTEWATER reclamation project that will provide a new water supply for the Monterey Peninsula hit a snag when a pair of sinkholes was discovered at one of the wells that pumps the reclaimed water into an underground aquifer, according to officials with the agencies behind the project. The plant began operating in February and is expected to start delivering water to Monterey Peninsula residents sometime in the summer.

Crews with Monterey One Water — which operates the Peninsula’s sewage treatment plant and is sponsoring the reclamation project — found the sinkholes at the base of one of project’s two shallow wells in the dunes east of General Jim Moore Boulevard. One of the holes was about 3 feet deep and 3 feet across.

“On March 25, we discovered two sinkholes near the well pad of one of two shallow wells,” Monterey One Water spokesman Mike McCullough told The Pine Cone. “The surrounding terrain is sand and was filled in and compacted immediately.”

McCullough said the agency shut down both of the wells and hired a geotechnical engineering company to conduct a “cone penetrometer test,” which will assess the soil and earth to determine how severe the problem is.

The engineers should have the results in about 10 days. Once they are in, the agency will decide on the best course of action, which could include re-drilling the well or relocating it entirely.

“No delays”

The deep wells for the reclamation project, where 70 percent of storage will take place, have not been affected and continue to work, McCullough said. As of last week, about 100 million gallons of purified water had been put into the ground. The project must have a reserve of 1,000 acre-feet of water, or about 326 million gallons, before California American Water can start delivering the purified wastewater to its customers.

He estimates it will be summer when that happens and doesn’t believe there will be any delays because of the sinkholes.

While the issue has “created a challenge,” McCullough said it’s nothing the agency “can’t overcome.”

Dave Stoldt, general manager of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District — the other public agency behind the project — said “of course there are concerns” with the holes.

“We will see what measures the geotechnical experts recommend on a path to bring them back online slowly,” Stoldt said. The project will subject wastewater to an advanced purification process that includes treating it with ozone, which destroys bacteria and other pathogens. The water is then pushed through a filter with pores the size of a human hair — the same process used in food production for products such as baby food and bottled water. A third step involves reverse osmosis. The highly purified water is then adjusted and conveyed to aquifers in Seaside, where it will be mixed with groundwater and pumped out and delivered to customers six months later.
If you don’t have a grandma with a sewing machine, don’t worry

A FAMILY in Pacific Grove is playing matchmaker. Not with starry-eyed young lovers, but with those who make face masks and those who need them.

The Hubbards — Toula (Mom) and Chris (Dad), daughter Thalia (16) and son Niko (15) — created a clear-house called Masks for Monterey County (masksformontereycounty.org). The site, courtesy of Niko’s computer skills, went live at the end of March and has already seen hundreds of requests, which are given to local seamstresses who donate their time and skills to fulfill them.

It all began when Toula opened a package of homemade masks from her mother, causing her two teens to wonder, “What do people without a grandmother do?”

“I haven’t touched my sewing machine in at least 10 years,” Toula laughed. “I’m at better project management and logistics. She’s helping coordinate and communicate with family friends from the Junior League and other groups where she volunteers to get the word out. Chris, who’s been with the Monterey County Search & Rescue team for more than 25 years, also helps.

Thalia, in addition to using her mom’s formerly neglected sewing machine to make masks, set up Instagram and Facebook pages for the venture, even though that was new territory for her. “I’ve never been on social media before,” she said, but Masks for Monterey County seemed like a good reason to learn about it. Her Girl Scout troop is also part of the project.

Simple concept

The website’s concept is simple. People can click on the mask registration link at the top of the page and then either register as someone who can sew, or fill out a short request, generally describing what kinds of masks are needed. The Hubbards and other volunteers take care of the rest.

“That way, you don’t have to call 10 different people trying to figure it out,” said Toula.

One batch of masks went to the Carmel Police Department, where they’ll be given to officers to cover N95 respirators they wear when meeting the public. The VNA, where several family friends work, ordered 300 masks, which they’ll receive in installments of 30 each week. The website has patterns and instructions for various types of masks, some suitable for running everyday errands, others sophisticated enough to work with filters and N95 respirators. They come with tips on wearing them properly and how to sanitize them between uses (hot water, soap and a little bleach).

The demand is mind-boggling, despite the fact that the wearing a mask is (for now) optional for most folks. A family friend is doing pickup and delivery for those who can’t get the masks themselves, and to protect the people making them. The masks are all donated, but the materials aren’t free, so those who wish to support the effort can make a donation on the website.

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By ELAINE HESSER
These times are extraordinary. Fortunately, so are our heroes.

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

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Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System

svmh.com/coronavirus | #HeroesWorkHere
An open letter to Dr. Ed Moreno and District Attorney Jeannine Pacioni:

April 20, 2020

Dear Dr. Moreno and District Attorney Pacioni:

It seems to make no sense.

What are we trying to accomplish? It would seem we have met the enemy and he/she is us!!!

1. Presumably a property owner and his/her family can work in their home garden, but a single hired gardener cannot unless it is for health and safety.

2. Denying gardeners work means their loss of income. Alternatively couldn’t they be restricted to one gardener per small residential property (4,000 sq.ft.) to maintain some income flow and more than one on larger properties if working separate distinct sections (e.g. front or back). No matter which, all workers must wear gloves and face masks.

3. Before shutting down such small enterprises, thought should be given to “Mom and Pop” businesses which could also be permitted to function with constraints—a.g. hair salons, barbershops, small specialty stores (one customer and one store employee at a time and those working inside need to be masked and gloved)

4. Putting people out of work not surprisingly often causes a huge financial hardship which in turn causes unfortunate emotional strain. Small new construction projects/repairs should be permitted for the same reasons as stated in para 3 above.

5. This area has many second home owners. Once the property looks ill-maintained it is an open invitation to break-ins as its condition screams absentee ownership.

AFP an earlier effort by ARCpoint Labs in Monterey to test people for coronavirus antibodies was detailed by changing FDA regulations and supply-chain concerns, the lab rolled out a new test Monday that confirmed that at least some Monterey County residents are carrying the antibodies:

By Thursday, the lab had received tests results from 120 people, and found that seven of them are carrying coronavirus antibodies, meaning that they’ve previously been exposed to the virus and either recovered or were asymptomatic.

While the sample size is small, it does suggest that the virus hasn’t penetrated deeply into the population here like it has in New York City, where antibody testing this week revealed that as many as 1 in 5 residents have been exposed.

The sample suggests that 6 percent of the local population has been exposed to the virus, but laboratory director Spencer Smith thinks the number is probably lower.

“This was a group of people who thought they had it,” he told The Pine Cone. Smith estimated that the true number is probably “in line with what Santa Clara has reported 2.5 to 4 percent.”

The tests are important, because if someone can be proved to possess the antibody, it means there’s a very good chance — based on the behavior of other viruses — he or she won’t catch it again anytime soon, or pass it on to someone else. For medical professionals, that could mean they could go back to treating patients. For anyone else, it could mean going back to work sooner, which could prove invaluable during the effort to restart the economy.

Beyond simply identifying who has had the virus, the medical director of ARCpoint Labs, Dr. Chris Cherubino, said the tests could represent “a major development in our understanding of how widespread” the virus has been.

“Because we currently have no idea how many people may have recovered from and are immune to the virus, everyone is forced to take the strictest precautions; as a result, much of the country has been shut down,” Cherubino explained. “By providing antibody tests, we can begin to build a body of evidence and hopefully restore some measure of normalcy for people and businesses as the fight to contain the coronavirus continues.”

ARCpoint Labs CEO John Constantine said the tests could provide valuable data in the fight against the virus.

“As a country, we don’t have access to good statistical information about how widespread the virus is,” Constantine said. “The more tests that can be conducted, the better that data will be. The better the data, the better the decision-making that can happen at a local and federal level.”

FDA’s concerns

Three weeks ago, ARCpoint Labs began testing people for coronavirus antibodies. Done through a fingerprick, the tests were made in China. Not only did the tests identify at least some residents with antibodies — they wouldn’t say how many tested positive, citing privacy concerns — but they were cheap ($68) and the results came by the end of the day.

More than 1,700 people, mostly workers at risk, were tested. Smith said “only a few” tested positive for antibodies, but he wouldn’t give a specific number.

But by April 8, the FDA had tightened up its guidelines, and as a result, ARCpoint Labs teamed with another lab, Access Medical, to offer a new test, which is done...
By DENNIS TAYLOR

RESPIRATORY THERAPISTs at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula say dealing with the sickest of the sick is the career choice they made, and insist that there’s nowhere they’d rather be at this moment in history than on the front lines of medical care.

The global pandemic that has infected at least 2.7 million people, including about 870,000 Americans, hasn’t yet overwhelmed — or even filled — the emergency room and intensive care units at CHOMP. The Monterey County Health Department is reporting 154 positive tests, but fewer than two dozen county residents have been hospitalized, and four have died. CHOMP has reported one death.

But Elisabeth Gerrity, an assistant director of respiratory therapy at CHOMP and Ryan Croft, a night-shift respiratory care supervisor, have seen the ferocious potential of the Covid-19 virus.

“Our more critical patients develop a lot of difficulty breathing, along with high fever,” said Gerrity, a 21-year veteran of respiratory care, the last eight at CHOMP. “They have a difficult time getting oxygen into their circulatory systems, so their blood-oxygen levels are quite low, which compounds the difficulty breathing.”

The patient may be intubated (a breathing tube is inserted through the mouth into the trachea), sedated, and placed on a ventilator.

“We keep them sedated and comfortable, and the ventilator essentially takes over the work of breathing,” she said. “The respiratory therapist controls their breathing, how much oxygen they need, the size of the breaths they take, and makes adjustments for each individual.”

Triage

Croft, a five-year respiratory therapist who joined the CHOMP staff in December, said procedures are well-established, but dealing with the novel coronavirus is an ongoing education.

“We’re looking at New York and some of the other places that have been hit hard. We’re watching what they’re doing, and we’re basically picking and choosing what seems to be working,” Croft said.

“We’re actually separating patients before they even walk in the door. If they have respiratory symptoms, they go to tents we’ve set up in a separate area, where they can be examined and monitored,” he said. “If they’re healthy enough, they can be sent home, where they can quarantine and self-isolate. If not, we’ll isolate them.”

Croft and Gerrity also read voraciously about Covid-19 treatments, but say they avoid much of the 24/7 barrage of daily news coverage.

The mandate of isolation for people in
Kramer said he worked with the Maryland Health Department to predict how many hospital beds that state needed to prepare for AIDS patients when the disease was in the early stages, and wrote a 1990 model analysis on the survivability of the disease. He’s had numerous other studies and models published, including those addressing schizophrenia, Alzheimer’s and cancer.

However, Moreno told reporters Wednesday that he has no intention of easing the shelter-in-place order on the Peninsula and warned of “consequences” including a “false sense of security” among citizens if he did that.

“The stay-home order, which is punishable with a fine or jail if violated, expires May 3, but will almost certainly be extended. Moreno, who said the order has been effective jail if violated, expires May 3, but will almost certainly be extended. Moreno, who said the order has been effective

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Moreno also said the “concern” with farm-workers is that some of them may struggle to be able to isolate themselves and not infect their family members or coworkers, if they are living with them.”

District 3 Monterey County Supervisor Chris Lopez responded to reports that about a dozen farmworkers who migrated to Monterey County for seasonal agricultural work caused the virus to spread quickly throughout the Salinas Valley.

“I’ve heard rumors about that, but I have not heard that directly from a reliable source,” Lopez told The Pine Cone.

The supervisor, who sits on Natividad Medical Center’s board of trustees, said that hospital has issued public service announcements about the virus and shelter-in-place orders in native languages Trique and Mixteco. The county health department, he said, has also made public announcements in Spanish.

Asked about Moreno’s performance during the coronavirus crisis, Lopez said this of the pediatrician, who, according to Transparent California, made $347,485.89 in salary and benefits in 2019 in the government job.

“Ed’s been put in a real hot seat and I think he’s doing a great job, considering everything that is coming at him,” Lopez said.

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April 3 by top county health official Edward Moreno. The regulations say showings “must only occur virtually,” although if that is not feasible, then an onsite showing is possible. But first, the house can’t have anyone living in it and must be cleared of furniture. An agent can also only show a home to two people at a time, and they have to be from the same family.

While the order didn’t specifically address furniture, a memo sent out last week from the Monterey Association of Realtors to its members clarified it, based on a conversation with Moreno.

According to the memo, for a property to be shown, it must be vacant, the previous residents must have left with no intention of returning, and all furniture must be moved. It also notes that filling homes with rented furniture to make them more attractive — a practice known as “staging” — is not allowed.

“Vacant properties must be empty of all furnishings,” it reads. “Staging the property is forbidden.”

But Allen said he believes the restrictions are unreasonable.

“A surface is a surface, and surface-transfer is possible with Covid-19, but the most likely surfaces are to touch are switches and door handles, not necessarily furniture,” he explained. “We wipe surfaces down before and after, and we provide masks. The protocol we use is as safe as it can get.”

Do new restrictions go too far? Carmel Realty CEO Dan Lynch told The Pine Cone he agreed with early guidelines imposed on his industry by the county, and he said he’s thankful selling homes has been deemed an essential part of the economy. But Lynch said additional restrictions imposed by the revised order have gone too far.

The realtor said it’s common to find local homes on the market that are packed with furniture. To move it all out at a time like this — and find a place to store it — creates many challenges.

Lynch said his company won’t schedule showings less than 72 hours apart. He also noted that a home will be cleaned and aired out after each showing, and clients will be reminded not to touch anything. Everybody present will wear masks and gloves.

Michael Canning of Canning Property Group and Sotheby’s International Realty said he doesn’t believe the requirement to clear homes before showings is warranted.

“No not being able to show houses with furniture is a huge problem,” Canning told The Pine Cone. “We feel there’s an inconsistency in the regulations that’s not tied to fact or science — we don’t see them making a significant impact on our ability to protect agents and clients.”

Homes still selling Despite the restrictions on showings, Canning said his company has found buyers for local properties in recent weeks.

“We’ve been able to sell a few properties,” Canning said. “We sold a fully vacant new home — it had never been occupied. We also have sold three pieces of vacant land in recent weeks.”

Realtor Mark Bruno of Keller Williams Coastal Estates reported that his company recently used online conferencing software to bring together a buyer and a seller. The house in question is now under contract, he said.

While home sales might be more difficult to complete during the shutdown, it’s not because of lack of interest. Cooped up in their homes, it’s not surprising so many people are surfing the real estate listings on the internet.

“We’re seeing an increase of interest from the San Francisco Bay area,” Canning reported. “It’s almost more than it was pre-coronavirus.”

Canning noted that while there are still huge logistical constraints to doing “virtual open houses,” interest in virtual homes tours “is sky high.”

And perhaps more important, people from near and far are thinking about buying a home here. “We’re watching the increased demand and we’re looking at it as a silver lining,” he added.

From page 1A

We are very diligent when we show homes, they go to considerable lengths to ensure they’re doing it safely. He also noted that showings are scheduled at least 48 hours apart.

“We are very diligent when we show these homes,” he explained. “We wipe surfaces down before and after, and we provide masks. The protocol we use is as safe as it can get.”

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And perhaps more important, people from near and far are thinking about buying a home here. “We’re watching the increased demand and we’re looking at it as a silver lining,” he added.
Phyllis Eaton Holt
Aug. 30, 1920 - March 9, 2020

Phyllis Eaton Holt, 99 years old, died peacefully in her home, surrounded by her loving family on March 9th, 2020. Phyl was born on August 30, 1920, in Yakima, WA, the daughter of James and Marion Eaton. She attended Central Washington College in Ellensburg, where she earned a teaching degree. After college she married her childhood sweetheart, Robert Bandy Holt. Together they had many adventures in the military while raising their two boys, Robert and James. They lived all over the United States, as well as in France and Germany. After the premature death of her husband, Colonel Robert Holt, she relocated to Carmel where her parents had retired. Carmel always held a special place in her heart — the rocky coastline and the ocean were some of her favorite sights in all the world. She also spent many wonderful days at her cabin in White Rock. She managed the Wharf Crafts Gallery and Gift Shop on Wharf No. 1, a position she held for over 15 years. She was also a member of the Carmel Art Association, Yes for Carmel, and the Carmel Foundation, where she worked as a librarian.

During her life she enjoyed many rich friendships, hosted fabulous cocktail and dinner parties, and cherished her time with her friends and family. She continued to have lunch with her girlfriends and exercise regularly well into her 90s. Throughout her life, she also enjoyed traveling, reading, and cooking. She had a passion for nature and animals and always had a companion pet by her side. As a talented painter and photographer, her adventures around the world and locally gave her endless subjects and inspiration.

To know Phyl was to be inspired. She taught us all how to live in the present and enjoy life’s simple gifts. She had a curious and open mind, a sharp wit, and a wonderful sense of humor. Phyl is survived by her children Robert and James Holt (Leslie); grandchildren Megan Sherman (Jason), Matt Murphy (Kristina) and Brittany Holt; and great grandchildren Alex Johnston, Isaac, Aden and Danielle Sherman.

She will be cherished and remembered by all of us who loved her. At her request no services will be held.

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Hildegunn Hawley
1943 - 2020

Hildegunn Hawley passed away on February 17, 2020, with loved ones at her side. She fought a protracted and courageous battle against cancer, due in large part to her order for life.

Hildegunn was born in Oslo, Norway on December 18, 1943. From childhood, Hildegunn embraced adventure. In her early 20s, she held various positions in Germany, France and the United States, including as a translator; before accepting a job with Pan Am as a flight attendant in 1968. She travelled extensively throughout her life to Europe and, often under challenging circumstances, to countries including Afghanistan, China, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Nepal, and Vietnam.

Hildegunn’s life is perhaps best defined by a disregard of limitations. This was apparent throughout her life, including her final year, in which she spent Christmas and New Year’s Eve with her daughters in Cambodia and Laos, travelled to her second home in France, and kept the door of her store open at every opportunity she was afforded.

Above all, she was a fabulous listener and keenly interested in others’ lives and stories — she often referred to the Buddhist parable of the mustard seed — we are never alone in our grief. Hildegunn was a wonderful man, sister and friend. She will be remembered for her strength, generosity, spunk, intelligence, quiet wit and laughter.

She is survived by her two daughters: Inge-Elisabeth and Kristine Hawley, brothers Godmund, Hans Anton, and Tom Frode Hansen, extended family in Norway, and a circle of wonderful friends in Carmel and around the world who brought tremendous meaning to her life. She will live on in the hearts of those who loved her and whom she inspired — there were many.
Elaine Walker Rankin passed away peacefully on December 23, 2019. A resident of Carmel Valley for 41 years, Elaine was born in Hollywood, California, on May 25, 1927. She graduated from South Pasadena High School, and in the late 1940s attended Stanford University and UCLA, where she obtained a degree in Early Childhood Education. In Carmel, she was director of Carmel Preschool, and also managed The Pro Shop at Carmel Valley Athletic Club. It was here she met her husband, James Rankin. They were married for 34 years until Jim’s passing in 2006.

Elaine volunteered for several charitable organizations, including the Carmel Bach Festival and Monterey Museum of Art. She had an adventurer’s spirit, traveling to over 43 countries and to such unique destinations as India, Malaysia, Morocco, Iran, Syria, and even China while still in the midst of the cultural revolution in the 1970s. To the amazement of family and friends, she was still physically active into her 90s, playing tennis regularly and participating in her walking club. An avid reader, Elaine also enjoyed meeting with her book club.

Elaine is survived by her children: Cynthia Wilford of Los Angeles, CA, Eric Wilford (Mary) of Sunnyvale, CA, Jon Rankin of Pacific Grove, CA, her grandchildren Iggy Wilford of St. John, USVI, John Hughes (Terra) of Los Angeles, CA, Devon Hughes of Los Angeles, CA and two great-grandchildren, Elia and Olivia. She is preceded in death by her husband, James Rankin Sr., daughter Lorrie and grandson Scott. She is further survived by her stepchildren Gina Riddiford, James Rankin Jr., Katie Parkes, 6 step-grandchildren and 13 step-great-grandchildren.

The show’s theme this year, Ford vs. Ferrari, has already generated a lot of excitement, he said, and with car enthusiasts’ options now very limited for August, he expects the field will be impressive.

“The most important thing, from our standpoint, is to maintain social distancing and other requirements that would be handed down to us by the county and city and anyone else,” he said. “Any security measures we would need to take, we will. All of that can be done with an event like ours.”

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Elaine Walker Rankin
May 25, 1927 - December 23, 2019

We would like to thank Drs. Zach Koontz and John Hausdorff and the staff of Pacific Cancer Care for their professional expertise and loving care, the interventional radiology department staff at CHOMP and Hospice of the Central Coast for their end of life care.

A memorial service at St. Dunstan’s will be scheduled when conditions allow. Those wishing to make a remembrance contribution can give to the Haiti Fund at St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church, 2805 Robinson Canyon.
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**Superior Court of the County of Monterey**

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at or after the hour of 4:30 p.m., the City Council of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will hold a Public Hearing at the Carmel City Chambers located on the east side of Monte Verde Street between Ocean and Seventh Avenues, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, for the following purpose:

**Proposed Action:** Consideration of a Resolution establishing the value of parking in-lieu fees at $105,044 based on the recently adopted 2019-2020 Building Codes.

Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20 has allowed local legislative bodies to hold public meetings via teleconference and to make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public seeking to observe and address the local legislative body. Also, see the Order by the Monterey County Public Health Officer issued March 17, 2020. The health and well-being of our residents is the top priority for the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea. To that end, this meeting will be held via teleconference and web-streamed on the City’s Website.

All interested persons are invited to attend and their comments are encouraged. Written comments may be submitted to the City Clerk at the following email address: cityclerk@cityofcarmel.org. Deadline for written comments is 2 hours before the meeting in order to ensure they are provided to the legislative body and made part of the record. Comments received after that time and up to the end of the public hearing may be considered a part of the record but may not be provided to the legislative body prior to the meeting.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 69601 a copy of the draft report and proposed fees will be available for inspection on the City’s website www.ci.carmel.ca.us 10 days in advance of the meeting.

The staff report and relevant documents will be available at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting on the City’s website at http://www.ci.carmel.ca.us. The Council meeting will be televiewed live on the City’s website and archived after the meeting. For more information regarding City Council meetings, please contact the City Clerk at 831.236.3900.

**NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:**

The Carmel Pine Cone will pay up to $50 for photos of newsworthy events around the Monterey Peninsula. Submit yours to news@carmelpinecone.com.
Drummer calls survival ‘a miracle’

Now THAT Monterey jazz drummer Andy Weis’s condition has improved dramatically, his ongoing battle with coronavirus offers a glimmer of good news at a time when thousands of people are reportedly dying of the pandemic around the world every day.

But now that he can communicate with his family, friends and fans again, Weis noted that he, too, came dangerously close to joining those grim statistics.

“The good Lord above is giving me a second chance at this life,” said Weis, who observed that he got sick on the nine-year anniversary of giving me a second chance—“a miracle I did not die, and my recovery is proceeding remarkably well,” he said. “The consummate professional, Weis has been hospitalized at CHOMP for nearly three weeks. He said medical staff must wear protective gear when they come into my room,” he explained.

He said medical staff must wear special protective gear when they come into his room. “I could never have imagined communicating with them...” he added. “I never thought I would be communicating again...”

The drummer praised those at CHOMP who were and are with him every step of the way, at great risk to their own health, have treated me with great dignity.”

Weis was performing regularly at Spanish Bay on Friday and Saturday nights.

Long road back

Despite his improved condition, Weis still faces challenges getting back on his feet. “Now I have to rehabilitate for several weeks,” he added. “I never thought I would have to relearn how to stand and walk.”

Weis’ daughter, Audrey, who has provided updates of her father’s battle against the virus, is encouraged by his improved health, and they have to suit up before they can come into my room,” he explained.

“She is doing so much better. She is having a great time with the nurses,” he said.

Before the coronavirus shutdown, Weis was performing regularly at Spanish Bay on Friday and Saturday nights.

Photographers rally to support Seaside nonprofit’s auction

Facing financial challenges during the coronavirus shutdown, a photography group — the Weston Collective in Seaside — is launching an online fund-raising auction April 29.

“To help address our mounting losses during this difficult time, the Weston Collective is hosting an online auction of collectible photographs by nationally known local artists and talented educators,” executive director Zach Weston announced this week. “We applaud the generosity of our local artists and we are confident that with your ongoing support, the Weston Collective will continue to provide valuable services to our community youth.” Besides work by the late Jerry Takigawa, Brian Taylor, Kim Weston, Heidi Kulp, Manuello Paganelli and others.

Like so many other arts-related nonprofits, the Weston Collective has had to suspend most of its operations.

With schools and colleges closed for the remainder of the school year, we closed our doors to community darkroom rentals, workshops, and our vital youth photography programs at Marin Luther King Jr. School of the Arts, and canceled the 2020 Weston Scholarship Competition Exhibition and Awards Ceremony at the Monterey Museum of Art.” Weston added.

Founded in 2004, the Weston Collective has awarded $126,000 in scholarships since. The auction closes June 15. For more details, visit theweston-collective.org/covid19.

Small art, big fundraiser

Wynn Bullock and Cole Weston, the auction will include images by an array of contemporary photographers, including Jerry Takigawa, Brian Taylor, Kim Weston, Heidi Kulp, Manuello Paganelli and others.

With their usual operations grounded until the shutdown passes, the Pacific Library Corner

It’s National Library Week, and there’s no better time to reflect on the power of libraries. While most of our doors are physically closed right now, libraries, including yours, are working hard to meet the needs of today and tomorrow.

Our ability to strengthen community resilience has been demonstrated through times of economic disruption and natural disaster. In person or online, via a building or a website, libraries are critically important organizations as we grapple with what comes next.

Libraries strengthen local economies, acting as catalysts for job creation and workforce development, bringing resources directly where they are needed, and serving as hubs for access, navigation, and success.

Libraries are key education partners; whether students are in or out of school, we assist with learning in all formats. As students learn online, schools expand their teaching paths, and families expand their roles, libraries are by their side.

Libraries build communities, improving quality of life, acting as safe spaces, and providing technology access, including during these difficult times, virtual meeting rooms, 24/7 wireless connectivity, and more.

Libraries are a refuge in times of crisis and continue to be so even under our current health guidance. Providing resources to cope with the mental health challenges isolation brings, and enabling everyone to connect in this new world are all part of the mission.

Dear readers, this has always been our role, and always will be.

— Ashley Wright, Library and Community Activities Director

Levar Burton Reads Podcast. Levar Burton of Reading Rainbow fame (an amazing 80’s kids TV show about books!) has a podcast where he reads short stories for teens and adults. One of my favorite things to listen to... www.levarburtonpodcast.com/

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Carmel Library
De Tierra white helps animal groups, Scheid steps up to help clean up

SCHIED FAMILY Wines has been taking the ethanol that’s a byproduct of winemaking and making it available to Mee Memorial Hospital in King City to use for sanitizing, according to Kurt Gollnick, who oversees daily operations at the company’s winery in Greenfield.

“As part of our winemaking process, we extract alcohol from some wines to make them more approachable,” he explained. “When we do that, we produce high-proof ethanol.”

Folks are needed.

“King City Police Department and King City PD. are always in constant contact with,” he said. King City P.D. also contacted Gollnick to request some.

“We are happy to help our local agencies in supplying needed ethanol for sanitation purposes,” he said, but Scheid has no plans for getting into the business of manufacturing sanitation products.

“We are very good at making wine,” he said. We are happy to share the results of that skill with all the local folks as well.

Free beer at farmers market

Although everyone is being asked to stay home as much as possible, shopping for fresh produce is still considered “essential,” and on Monday afternoon at the Pacific Grove farmers market, customers will be able to cross another item off their lists. Beer. And they’ll be able to do it for free — with a donation to Meals on Wheels.

Kim and Charles Tope, owners of Pacific Grove Brewing Co., are hosting the beer giveaway in collaboration with the P.G. Chamber of Commerce April 27 from 3 to 6 p.m. Shoppers need to bring their own refillable bottles to take advantage of the offer and will be encouraged to donate money in return, with Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula receiving 100 percent of the proceeds. The nonprofit has seen a significant uptick in requests for help since the coronavirus shutdown started more than five weeks ago.

The market, organized by Everyone’s Harvest, is held at the intersection of Grand and Central avenues on Monday afternoons from 3 to 7 p.m. In order to fulfill their mission of “bringing people and healthy food together,” organizers are asking shoppers to honor social-distancing requirements, wear gloves and masks, and keep their market trips brief.

La Balena’s Sunday experiment

After more than a month of being closed, La Balena on Junipero between Fifth and Sixth opened for takeout during lunch and dinner Sunday, with owners Anna and Emanuele Bartolini busy at work. Obviously, there was some pent-up demand — they reported taking 42 orders alone for their famous fried chicken. The menu also included meat lasagna, spaghetti, porchetta, pork belly, fried cauliflower and other popular dishes from the regular menu.

No word on when they’ll do it again. Keep an eye on labalenacarmel.com for details. Wine and pantry items are also available to go.

Frannin for the animals

De Tierra Vineyards owners Alix Bosch and Dan McDonnell have released their latest wine, a white blend, and are offering it for a short time at a discount, with part of the proceeds benefiting local animal welfare groups. The Frannin white wine follows last year’s debut of the Frannin red, a blend named for their two dogs, who are depicted on the label.

The new wine is 65 percent chardonnay and 35 percent sauvignon blanc, and in a deal that ends April 24, Bosch and McDonnell are selling the Frannin white and red blends for 20 percent off and donating 20 percent of the proceeds to Max’s Helping Paws Foundation, which helps pet owners cover veterinary costs.

Order online at de-tiera.com and enter the code, FRANN- HNP, at checkout. Shipping is free on purchases of three or more bottles, and free local delivery and curbside pickup are also available, with the latter offered on weekends from noon to 4 p.m. at the tasting room at Mission and Fifth.

Parker Lusseau dinner boxes

Parker Lusseau bakery in Monterey has kept two of its outlets open for takeout during the coronavirus-induced shutdown and last week announced it is selling dinner boxes for four, with four quiches — choices of Lorraine, spinach, asparagus, or tomato and goat cheese — a quart of vegetarian soup, mixed green salad with balsamic vinegar, and four individual desserts — choices of berry tart, lemon tart, three-chocolate cake or passion coconut cake.

The cost is $75 plus tax. Order by calling (831) 643-0300 by noon the day prior to pickup.

Sazón reopens for takeout

Sazón Express Cocina Mexicana at 431 Tyler St. recently reopened for takeout, making every day Taco Tuesday. For food options, as well as the lineup of available draft beers from Alvarado Street Brewery, visit sazonmonterey.com. The restaurant is open Tuesday to Sunday from noon to 7 p.m.

Rancho Cielo needs help

The hands-on teaching at Drummond Culinary Academy at Rancho Cielo Youth Campus in Salinas has been sidelined by Covid-19, but the nonprofit is seeking donations so it can “continue to feed, house and educate Monterey County young people.”

Staff members are calling to check on students, who are continuing to study so they can get their high school diplomas, and employees are also delivering weekly food bags to Rancho Cielo families in need.

The ranch’s transitional housing program is full of students who are receiving physical, mental and emotional support from workers onsite. The nonprofit is hoping people will contribute toward its efforts to help at-risk kids learn trades, including how to work in any position in a restaurant, at ranchocieло-oye.org.

Soup to Nuts

By MARY SCHLEY

ethanol and diluted it to 70 percent before handing over 5-gallon containers of it to the hospital “so they could fill spray bottles and use the material for sanitizing surfaces such as door handles, countertops and other surfaces people come in constant contact with,” he said. King City P.D.

“We are happy to help our local agencies in supplying needed ethanol for sanitation purposes,” he said, but Scheid has no plans for getting into the business of manufacturing sanitation products.

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the hospital who are afflicted with Covid-19, an unrivaled contagion, is among the most difficult aspects of treat- ment for caregivers, Gerrity said. Loved ones are not permitted to be near the af- flicted patients. “Family and friends are typically very much part of any healing plan. At a hos- pital, visitors tend to fill the void and can give the patient comfort while caregivers are off dealing with other things,” she said. “For a lot of us, it’s very hard to feel like we’re giving our patients enough attention, and filling that void. That can be very sad.”

Something profound

Gerrity and Croft work in the emer- gency room, the intensive-care units, and throughout the rest of the hospital, de- pending on where they’re needed most at the time. Some shifts are much busier than others. Some cases leave a lasting impres- sion.

“We’re at every emergency at the hospi- tal, and at some point, you’re going to see something that impacts you in a profound way. Some things are harder to move past than others,” said Gerrity, who worked through the 2009 H1N1 global pandemic, which lasted 19 months and infected 60.8 million people, killing 12,469 in this coun- try, alone.

“I think it’s fair to say that most of us in healthcare — or, at least, a large number of us — probably have some PTSD (post-trau- matic stress disorder),” she said. “In the moment, you can’t process it — you’re too busy, too focused. And afterward, it can come back up to keep pushing it down and not address it. Then, five or ten years later, maybe it pops up again as something you can’t work through on your own.”

CHOMP offers programs that help em- ployees connect with a crisis counselor, or find a therapist, Gerrity said.

Co-workers also can be a therapeutic outlet.

“One of the things I’ll do after a stress- ful shift is call one of my buddies, who is a respiratory therapist in my home town,” Croft said. “We talk about what we’re do- ing, vent a little bit about stressful situa- tions … we try to get it out, as opposed to holding it in, and help each other relax a little bit more.”

Croft, 32, is married, with two 5-year- old twin daughters. Gerrity, 46, has a hus- band at home, and in-laws in their 80s. Both say they worry very little about their own safety. They’re thankful that CHOMP has ade- quate personal protective equip- ment for them to wear. They have confi- dence in their training, and the protocols that are in place.

They also try to keep their concerns about contracting the highly contagious vi- rus in logical perspective. But no system is fail-safe “For people in healthcare, I think our biggest fear is that we might unknowingly infect one of our loved ones. That would be dreadful,” Gerrity said.

It’s important to be safe but unhealthy to obsess, Croft says.

“If you start thinking in terms of how many people touched that cereal box at the grocery store before you did, I think you can work yourself into a frenzy,” he said. “There’s only so much you can do, and I feel like I’m doing as much as I can rea- sonably do. Beyond that, I try not to let it worry me.”

The intensity and stress of treating the sickest people in our society, while main- taining a happy and safe home life, are challenges few people have to endure. For Gerrity and Croft, the rewards of the job make it worthwhile. They view their cho- ice as a career occupation as a daily privilege.

“I can’t think of anywhere else I’d be,” Gerrity said. “We’re here to help. This is where we are. This is where we should be.”

Dennis Taylor is a freelance writer in Monterey County. Contact him at scri- balavatore@gmail.com!

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CHOMP urges people to go to ER

By KELLY NOX

A MONTEREY Peninsula senior who put off seeking treatment for a serious heart condition because he was afraid of being infected with coronavirus died be- fore he could be adequately treated accord- ing to officials at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula who are urging people to seek emergency medical care at the hospital if they need it.

The tragedy highlights what Com- munity Hospital emergency department medical director Casey Grover said is an unfortunate trend on the Peninsula, in which patients are hesitant to seek treatment for fear of contracting Covid-19. The hesitancy among some pa- tients to seek emergency care is having devastating repercussions.

“What we are seeing now is an increase in the number of people waiting, and then showing up with more advanced presen- tations of their illnesses,” Grover told The Pine Cone.

Though fear of getting the virus is cer- tainly understandable, hospital spokes- woman Monica Sciuto said Community Hospital separates coronavirus patients from the rest of its patients.

“People with chronic or other condi- tions that need acute medical care should not be afraid to come to the hospital and should not delay getting the treatments they need,” Sciuto said.

Grover said the physician who treated the unidentified man with the heart condi- tion said the patient was experiencing severe chest pains at home for a whole 12 hours before getting help because of “coro- navirus concerns.”

“The person was in the process of hav- ing a major heart attack and came in with ventricular fibrillation, which is a lethal cardiac rhythm associated with heart at- tack,” Grover explained.

While it’s not known for certain if the man would have survived if he had sought help earlier, Grover said doctors would have tried to clear his blocked artery to stop the heart attack.

Emergency room doctors and nurses have also seen several other patients who have delayed getting treatment, only to have more complications and extended hospital stays, Grover said. For example, patients who delayed going to the hospital for severe abdominal pain had to be treated for ruptured appendixes.

The hesitancy by Peninsula residents to use the ER these days is apparent in the hospital’s data.

“In the pre-coronavirus time, we were seeing about 155 patients a day,” Grover said. “Our most recent numbers show we are seeing about 70 to 90 patients a day.”

The hospital also offers eVisits, which allow patients (with phones, tablets or computers) to fill out a short online ques- tionnaire, which is reviewed by a medical professional, who will make a diagnosis and “create a personalized care plan.” The service is free for those with mild respira- tory symptoms, including the, hany fever, allergies and suspected coronavirus. For other common symptoms, eVisits cost $25 and can be paid with a credit card. Go to montagemedical.org for information.

“Tiny Treasures is one of our most play- ful and lively annual fundraisers, and gen- erates income to help us continue to serve the community,” art center president Adri- anne Jenison explained.

Paintings can be no larger than 8 inch- es by 10 inches, including a frame, and no deeper than 7 inches. Each piece must be ready to hang, with hooks or wires at- tached.

Raffle tickets will be sold for $5 each, and people can place as many as they’d like in the boxes placed under each paint- ing. Tickets will go on sale when the show opens July 3. The winners will be chosen after the show ends Aug. 28, and need not be present. For more information, call (831) 375-2208.
Local alumni are forced to leave it all on the field way too soon

By DENNIS TAYLOR

The NCAA’s council left it up to each university to determine which scholarship aid to offer athletes who were participating in what would otherwise have been their final season of intercollegiate eligibility.

Here’s a rundown of how some of our local alumni were doing as college athletes when the 2020 season ended due to Covid-19 dangers.

Marissa Bruno (Santa Catalina, 2016) was the best softball player at Portland State University this season with a .384 batting average, a 1.135 on-base plus slugging percentage, and led the team with six walks in her senior year. She started all of the team’s 24 games in her senior year, during which she committed just one error in 32 chances in the outfield.

Carter Hayes (Carmel, 2016) started all 17 games this year for the Team USA Legion baseball team, batting .321 with 17 hits (fourth best on the squad), seven RBIs, 14 runs, and a .528 slugging percentage (fifth on the team). Hayes was a senior infielder for the Tigers.

Jensen Main (Stevenson, 2016) led the Sacramento State softball team with 13 appearances (and nine starts) when her senior year was suspended. Main was second on the team in innings pitched (51) and earned-run average (2.75).

Mikayla Rivera (Santa Catalina, 2017), another Sacramento State athlete, won the Big Sky Indoor Track Championship in the 400 meters (time 54.11 seconds), finished second in the 200 (24.11, third-fastest in school history), and ran a leg on the team’s victorious 1,600-meter relay team.

Brad Powers (Stevenson, 2016) was the starting first baseman in his senior year at Towson University in Maryland, led the team and ranked third in his league with 16 RBIs when his season ended after 15 games.

Ellie Yamashita (Stevenson, 2019) appeared in 15 games during her freshman season at Cal Poly, where she was listed as an infielder. Yamashita was mostly used as a designated runner, scoring five runs. She had one plate appearance for the Mustangs.

Laurel Wong (Santa Catalina, 2019), who won the California state championship in the pole vault in 2018 as a high school junior, had a season-best vault of 12 feet, 8 inches for Stanford at the Don Koby Invitational in Albuquerque on Feb. 13. Wong was in her freshman season with the Cardinal and competed in only four meets this year (all indoor).

Dominique Seva’etasi (Stevenson, 2016) was in her senior year at Academy of Art University, where she batted .262 in 15 games (all starts), with a .381 slugging percentage, and a team-best 10 runs scored. She also stole six bases in seven attempts.

Lauren Salvati (Carmel, 2016) had a .350 on-base percentage and led the team with six walks in her senior year at Cal Lutheran, where the softball team played 12 games before the season was suspended. She had a .964 fielding percentage in the outfield.

Taylor Balestriere-Jennings (Stevenson, 2017) appeared in three games at Westminster College in Santa Barbara. She had two official at-bats and got one hit, during which she knocked in a run, and subsequently scored. She was hit by a pitch in another plate appearance.

Christian Stapleton (Carmel, 2018), a first baseman and outfielder, played 19 games at the College of San Mateo, batting .256, with three doubles, two home runs, and 10 RBIs. He had a .417 on-base percentage in his sophomore season.

Martin Gutierrez (Stevenson, 2019) played in two varsity tournaments this spring for Cornell University, recording rounds of 75-77-74 in a home meet at Cornell’s Robert Trent Jones Golf Course, and shooting 71-78 at the other site.

See SPORTS page 24A

The SPCA for Monterey County

Kitties of the Week

Vella 8 years old
Vella is a sweet 8-year-old feline with lots of love to give. She is a bit shy and would prefer to take it slow, so we are hoping her new forever home has patience and treats to spare!

Mirri 2 years old
Mirri is a sweet kitty that would love to snuggle and cuddle all day long! She is a bit shy and would prefer to go home with owners who do not have small children or dogs.

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Editorial

MORE MONTEREY COUNTY Health Officer Edward Moreno makes $350,000 a year, so, pardon us, but we don’t think it’s too much to ask that he should work long hours, pay a lot of attention to detail, be an expert in public health and do an exemplary job in every way — including explaining to the people of the county what he’s up to.

One thing he’s really good at is issuing orders. Among other things, he has shut down most restaurants, retail stores, offices and service businesses, prohibited use of playgrounds and golf courses, sent all the kids home from school, made it almost impossible to sell a home, told everyone they can’t go out except for “essential purposes,” brought in medical procedures that amount to a halt, banned “public and private” gatherings, and required gardeners and construction workers to put down their tools. He’s also good at copying authentic-sounding boilerplate about “mitigating the rate of transmission of Covid-19,” “imposing social distancing requirements” and “preventing the health care system from being overwhelmed.”

But Moreno just isn’t good at explaining to the public why it’s necessary for them to sacrifice so much — especially when the facts on the ground are proving that his oft-repeated dire predictions about sickness, hospitalizations and deaths in Monterey County on a massive scale have not even come close to being true.

You may recall our editorial last week in which we recounted Moreno’s April 14 prediction to the board of supervisors that coronavirus cases in the county would peak in early June at the colossal number of 33,000, and that more than 900 of those people would be in the hospital at the same time, overwhelming our hospitals’ capacity to care for them. Absent some utterly unknown force majeure, those predictions are obviously not going to come anywhere close to being true. Yet the steps to mitigate them are in full force, which means driving tens of thousands of Monterey County residents off their jobs, putting many thousands of local businesses in dire financial straits, forcing the cancellation of beloved and longstanding cultural events, causing a collapse of government tax revenues, and curtailing everyone’s constitutional rights to free speech and association to too much an extent that such drastic steps be taken only for extremely urgent reasons?

Moreno insists he has such reasons but does not explain — except by using the most bureaucratic platitudes — what they are.

The public deserves to know specifically why they are being asked to live under such draconian measures. If more than 30,000 people in Monterey County will get the virus in the next six weeks, how will they get it? What’s the evidence that support the conclusion that the peak will still be weeks away? How many lives will be saved by the shelter-in-place order? Where are new infections occurring right now, and what’s being done to keep them from spreading? What long-term damage is being done to the local economy? How many lives will be lost? How many businesses will close for good? What are the health consequences of an extended shuttered order? None of those questions have even come close to being answered.

When he speaks to the media, Moreno comes across as awkward and un- comfortable. Too often answering questions by saying, “I don’t have that data in front of me.” Sometimes even extremely clever people have trouble responding to questions on their feet. If that is his problem, he needs a very capable deputy — an epidemiologist — whose full-time job is to respond to inquiries from the media and the public.

Otherwise, the extreme dearth of information that the people of Mon- terey County are suffering under will only lead to dissention and even civil disobedience. Living in a state of ignorance is harder to manage than what’s going on in their communities, will be unable to protect themselves from even the slightest threats on the streets around them.

Dr. Deborah Birx said it best this week at one of the White House brief- ings. As parts of the country move from mitigating widespread coronavirus outbreaks to containing isolated ones, Birx first observed that “an informed decision carefully, informed by local, state and national data. The weight of this pan- demic rests on all our shoulders and it is incumbent upon everyone to take our share of responsibility. This will be absolutely critical.

Dr. Moreno’s responsibilities are described in California Health and Safety Code, Division 105, Communicable Disease Control and Prevention and Control, Part 1, Chapter 3, 120175, the Functions and Duties of Local Health Officers. It states that the County Health Officer “knowing or hav- ing reason to believe that any case of the diseases made reportable by regulation of the department, or any other contagious, infectious or communicable disease exists, or has recently existed, within the territo- ry under his or her jurisdiction, shall take measures as may be necessary to prevent the spread of the disease or occurrence of additional cases.”

As far as the Board of Supervisors being “clueless,” we are working in unchar- ted territory. However, in this instance the Board is both following the law and doing its job. Tough questions are asked every day of Dr. Moreno, the head of the Office of Emergency Services, the head of Na- tional Health, the Budget Director, the Director of Health, the County Adminis- trative Officer and every other person in county leadership who has a role in this pandemic nightmare we are all experienc- ing. In addition, Dr. Moreno is working with other Health Officers around the state daily to find consistent ways to navigate. To a person, the primary focus is the health and safety of the residents of Monterey County.

Dr. Moreno has the heavy responsibil- ity for navigating the 435,000 residents of Monterey County through this storm. While we may not agree with every aspect of the Shelter In Place Order he is charged with developing and implementing, I know he and the Board of Supervisors take this responsibility seriously. We weigh every decision carefully, informed by local, state and national data. The weight of this pan- demic rests on all our shoulders and it is not an easy burden to carry.

Mary L. Adams, Board of Supervisors, 5th District
Author published first kids’ book at 62 — and is not stopping

WHERE ARE the books for dis-abled children?” asked Linda Kurtz Kingsley. She’s a special needs teacher, more than 10 years ago. When she couldn’t find any, she decided to write them herself. In 2008, her first children’s book was published. “Signs of Jays” tells the true story of a group of her deaf students who helped rehabilitate a nest of motherless chicks in their Philadelphia classroom. Kingsley was 62 years old when the book was printed.

Today, at 73, the Monterey resident — enounced in a quaint Spanish home overlooking the bay — has penned and illus-trated three children’s books and doesn’t plan to stop there. “I’ve got three projects in the works,” she said, sipping a cup of herbal tea in her office. “Each one of them is different, but most touch on the lives of disabled children.”

Writing about the disabled, Kingsley mused, might be something that her life is different, but most touch on the lives of disabled children. “To achieve what they did was inspiring for anyone, let alone if you happened to be disabled,” she said.

Inspirational
Her interest in the “differently abled” began in 1970 after she completed her bachelor’s degree in illustration (and later a master’s degree in art education) from the Philadelphia College of Art and took a job with the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf as a middle-school teacher. For three years, she taught art using various mediums, including clay, watercolor, and charcoal. And she took the opportunity to learn sign language, while using art as a vehicle to help her students learn and exercise their own language skills.

By 1971, Kingsley was married to her husband of nearly 49 years, Montgomery, and was raising three children. “Life changed, though, in 1982, when Montgomery accepted a job in Monterey. The family moved west, and Kingsley began working at Alisal High School as a resource special-ist, assisting special needs students. That’s when she noticed that she was having some special challenges of her own. “I was getting tired and having difficulties picking up and carrying things between classes. I really needed more time.” Kingsley was diagnosed with inflammatory arthritis. She tried to work out the issues with the school, but ultimately chose to retire at 62.

It was a difficult time, Kingsley re-called, but it wasn’t without its lessons. She said battling inflammatory arthritis deepened her empathy with the physical-ly challenged, allowing her to experience what it’s like not to be able to do things that most people take for granted, such as lifting something off the ground or running up a flight of stairs. “Having a disability See KINGSLEY page 25A

Locked doors no barrier to creativity

THE DOORS of the Carmel Art Association were locked on March 16 for the first time in the history of one of the oldest operating nonprofit artist co-ops in the United States. Didn’t happen during the Great Depression. Didn’t happen during World War II. It took a lethal pandemic and an international “shelter-in-place” strategy to close the place down.

All but two employees have been laid off. Those still on the job are limited to 10 hours a week, and they aren’t allowed to be in the gallery at the same time.

‘Progressive path’

Such bleak circumstances might inspire some dark paintings from the CAA’s 95 artist members, but the outlook is remark-ably sunny among the association’s 15 board members (all working artists, themselves), who see an opportunity to map a progressive path forward for the 93-year-old gallery.

“This pandemic has pushed us to ex-pand our thinking, our marketing practices, our imaginations, and our connections with our community and the world at large,” said Sally Abegh, who spent much of her professional career in the nonprofit world before becoming CAA’s gallery manager eight years ago. “We’re greatly enriching our website with new artwork, and we’re reaching out through social media avenues more than ever before.”

The new social media push is the dream of 2019 board president Jennifer Anderson, who in recent weeks has collaborated with newly seated president Lilli-ann Price to form the association’s first-ever social media and website committee, which also includes artists Chloe Wilson and Gelson Donovan.

“As president last year, I really wanted to increase the online presence of our organization, and now we are going full steam,” Anderson said. “When this health crisis shut everything down, the only way to connect with the public was virtually. It just makes sense to up our game and increase our online presence, make it more engaging. This is our time to act.”

The future

Wilson, just 32, is the second-youngest member of the Carmel Art Associa-tion, and one of the few who aren’t yet, at the very least, AARP-eligible. “There are just so many things we can do with social media and the internet, and it’s exciting to brainstorm and come up with ways to put those things to the best use,” Wilson said.

“We already have a very big following, and right now everybody’s stuck at home, living vicariously through the internet,” she added. “It’s kind of the perfect moment to grow that.” The new initiatives are in their early stages, but the committee already has tak-en multiple proactive steps.

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

GRAND PIANO (WANTED)
Requirements: Black, 6’9” or longer
Helpful information: make, approx age, photo, price
Contact info: westhompsonlaw@yahoo.com
And you thought the Hatton Canyon freeway was an uphill climb

READER ADAM Weiland of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society sent me a photo of a vintage poster that had been posted to a website. It advertised a Mass Meeting at Manzanita Hall at Eight O’Clock, January 4th, 1924. “The subject was ‘A Road between Pacific Grove and Carmel-by-the-Sea.’ Attendees were encouraged to ‘Come and Listen to the Plan, The Arguments – Then Speak Your Mind.’”

Weiland asked if I could clarify what Manzanita Hall was, as well as the “road.” He may have known Holman Highway did not open until 1930. In short, Manzanita Hall, located on the southwest corner of Mission and Ocean, was the main meeting hall in Carmel for the first quarter of the 20th century. I’ll tell its story in a later column. Here we will deal with the “road.”

Wilford Remser Holman (1884-1981) came to Pacific Grove when he was just 4. His father opened a dry goods store in 1891, and W.R. and his brother, Clarence, took it over in 1905. Clarence, who moved to Aromas in 1909, gave W.R. his share in the business. Holman expanded it with outlets in Monterey and on Ocean Avenue in Carmel.

Brass band

When the Pacific Grove Hotel was razed in 1917, Holman saw an opportunity, and, before the block where it has stood could be subdivided, he bought it. In 1924, he opened a two-story department store that was the largest store between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

To reach Holman’s new store in Pacific Grove, however, the growing communities in Carmel, the Highlands, and Del Monte had to go over the hill into Monterey, then take Lighthouse Avenue around to PG. So, while his new store was under construction, he began circulating a petition for the county to build a direct road from Carmel to Pacific Grove through the still mostly unpopulated Del Monte Forest.

The idea was more popular in Pacific Grove than Carmel. Pine Cone publisher W.L. Overstreet was president of Carmel’s chamber of commerce, which unanimously passed a resolution to the county opposed to the road. He published it on the front page of the Nov. 24, 1923, paper. But he also gave Holman more than two columns on the second page to make his best case.

The county board of supervisors was scheduled to meet Jan. 7 on the matter. At the Jan. 2, 1924, meeting of Carmel’s town trustees, Mayor Perry Newberry, in defense of the chamber, moved to endorse the new road as “a good thing for Carmel.” The measure passed 3-1, with Helen Parkes abstaining, and a “No” vote from C.O. Gould, who argued the road was unneeded, and the money that this road would cost (estimated at $30,000 to $35,000) might better be spent to maintain and restore the present road between Carmel and Monterey.

That was the background for the Jan. 4 meeting at Manzanita Hall, which was called to order by Newberry. The Jan. 12 Pine Cone reported the meeting was “attended by about 50 Grovites and 50 Carmelites, developed plenty of enthusiasm for the project from a Pacific Grove standpoint but very little on the part of Carmel, and adjourned without the passing of a resolution for or against the proposal.”

Of the supervisors’ meeting later that month, Overstreet reported, “Three hundred and fifty Grove residents, led by a brass band, enthusiastically invaded the courthouse. There were four Carmel residents present and a handful of Monterey and Del Monte people.” The supervisors indicated they favored Holman’s road, but because the county’s budget was fully allotted, it would have to be considered for next year’s. A committee was assigned to research the matter.

The matter came back to the county board in July 1924 and was defeated by a vote of 3-2. The Pine Cone reported, that the majority of the board “did not care to assume the responsibility and expense in establishing and maintaining a right of way.”

Morse was opposed

Holman did not give up, however. In 1928, California passed a law providing for bonds to fund road improvements. In Carmel, at Holman’s urging, the Pacific Grove council unanimously voted for a direct road through Del Monte Forest to Carmel. S.F.B. Morse vowed to fight it, but if it was rerouted through the upper forest, and without access to Del Monte, he would support it with donated land. After meeting with the county, it was agreed, and the new road was included in the $22 million highway bond measure that went to the county electorate in November. Also included were improvements to highways between Monterey and Salinas and Monterey and Castroville.

Again, Newberry supported the road and the bond measure, this time as editor of The Pine Cone. The bond passed with more than a thousand votes over the required two-thirds majority. Once approved, engineers had to negotiate several challenges on the Carmel-Pacific Grove route. In addition to the steep grade, Carmel did not want it coming to the city, and the Army did not want it taking any of its Presidio property.

Newberry liked that the road would stop at the crest of Carmel hill. He was less concerned with the decision to lower the crest by 30 feet. He bemoaned the loss of the “Devil’s Elbow,” as the steep grade was known, “over which Junipero Serra plodded many a time.”

Construction on the Carmel-Pacific Grove road began in June 1929 and opened for traffic, albeit with a gravel surface, in November 1930. A bus route between the two cities also began that month. The road was paved a year later. As for the naming, on January 19, 1972, a resolution approved by the state Legislature named “that portion of State Highway Route 68 from Pacific Grove to the top of Carmel Hill, the W.R. Holman Highway.”

History Beat

By NEAL HOTELLING

And you thought the Hatton Canyon freeway was an uphill climb

Please don’t flush wipes or paper towels!

- Despite package claims, wipes are not flushable.
- Paper towels/wipes/rag cause sewage spills and home backups—please put them in the trash.
- Did you know: at your treatment plant, staff spends 24-32 labor hours every week dismantling pumps to remove entangled wipes, so they can be transported to the landfill where they belong?
- To protect your home, the environment, and our community’s sewage treatment system, please flush nothing but human waste and toilet paper.

Green up your bathroom with a bidet

Simple bidets are inexpensive and easily attach between your existing toilet. Luxury bidet toilet seats provide heat, spray modes, and air drying. Both offer superior, hands-free cleansing:

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<td>Cost saving, one-time purchase which is healthier and leaves no chemical residue</td>
<td>Helps prevent sewage spills and backups into homes</td>
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<td>Uses far less water than the manufacture of wipes or toilet paper</td>
<td>No microplastic pollution which harms marine life</td>
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<td>Much smaller carbon footprint</td>
<td>Trees will thank you—and so do we!</td>
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For more information, please contact your local bidet retailer or visit one of the websites listed below.

Carmel Area Wastewater District (831) 624-6248 CARMOD.org
Pebble Beach Sewer District Services Area (831) 373-1274 PBSCD.org

SPORTS

From page 21A

Tournaments in his junior year at Balson College in Wellesley, Mass., with a season-best third-place overall finish at the NEIGA Championship, where she shot 73-75 (in a two-day format) and a second-place finish at the New England Invitational (75-77 for 152), the Royal Lakes-Oglethorpe Invitational (75-74 for 151), and the Saratoga National Invitational (75-77 for 152).

Nick Combs (Carmel, 2016) was a star on the tennis roster at St. Mary’s University, but was injured Feb. 29 in the opening set of his first competition, a doubles match against Santa Cruz. It was his only appearance of the season.

Henri Pratt (Stevenson, 2017) only got into one game this spring at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, where he was an infielder. Pratt did not come to the plate.

Chad Chai (Sacra, Palma, 2018) was a sophomore at the golf team at Yale University, where she only played in one spring-season event before the schedule was canceled. Chai shot 76-76-79 March 10-11 at the Donna Thompson Invitational on the par-72 Lake-Blue Golf Course near Honolulu.

High school, too

The high school sports season for the Pacific Coast Athletic League was officially canceled on April 6 (after a suspension of play in all sports on March 13) by a unanimous vote of the league’s board members, due to the COVID-19 virus and came as 26 of the 34 league schools found out they would not have students on campus for the remainder of the school year, PACL Commissioner Thomas Newberry informed the league.

The remaining eight schools have closed campuses until May 4 at the earliest, to allow their students by distance learning, he said.

“All of our league schools and the league are concerned for the well-being of their students, their families, and their school communities,” McCarthy said. “We feel very badly for the student-athletes, especially those seniors who are missing their final season of high school sports.”

15 Seconds of Fame

“Underrated” is an overused description, unless we’re talking about that one, brief, shining moment when you felt like the student-athletes in the snapshot history of the universe.

Maybe you aced Chris Evert with your cannonball serve in a junior tennis tournament… or kicked a 30-yard field goal to score the only points in a junior varsity football game… or watched your dad make a one-handed catch of a foul ball at a Giants game.

In 680 words (give or take), tell us the story of your “15 Seconds of Fame.” Name names if you want, exaggerate if you must, be descriptive (brownie points for local flair), and provide us with a photo, vintage or otherwise, if you can. Send it to Dennis Taylor at scribelaureate@gmail.com.
Those kids in the back seat, however, most likely never made it back out there. "For the first two weeks, things were very quiet," Aberg said. "But since about March 27, our sales have actually been awesome, and a lot of those sales seem to be coming from our enriched website and ramped-up social media pages. Not a day has gone by that I haven't found my mailbox full of sales inquiries."

Aberg also reminds clients that they can always make an offer on a CAA artwork, and they can avail themselves of the association's four-payment, no-interest installment plan. A method to purchase art on the website in the planning stages.

The artwork, special features, and additional information about the Carmel Art Association can be found at carmelaart.org, on Instagram via @carmelartassociation, or by searching for Carmel Art Association on your YouTube.com.

**KINGSLEY**

From page 23A

Said she pulled up the file of "Vista Verde Blues," her new young adult novel about a girl living in Salinas who's confined to a wheelchair, and the conversation turned to Kingsley's late-in-life success as a writer. Her advice for aspiring authors — of all ages — is just, write what you know.

She said that the material for her books came primarily from her teaching experience. Second, she insisted, be tenacious. Don't give up. It took me 10 years to get my first children's book published. I kept sending it out, and if I got feedback, I made changes and quickly got the book back out there.

And finally, she added, gazing once more out her office window at the live oaks and the blue sky beyond, "It's never too late to fulfill your dreams."
Competence questioned

Dear Editor,

I read with interest both the article last week on Edward Moreno’s projections as well as your paper’s editorial comment. I did note that Moreno somewhat qualified his comments by indicating that for smaller areas like Monterey County, “the information might not be as reliable.”

So, in the interests of fairness, Moreno's qualifying comments might have been under appreciated, and the supervisors and your reporter might have also overreacted.

Nonetheless, it is worrisome that a health officer should not have evaluated the model and its source better. If his presentation caused the reaction it did, his competence to hold the position he has should be questioned.

He certainly seems to be lacking in the ability to analyze public health data, as well as present it in an appropriate fashion.

I wave to home gardeners, now tagged heart in the right place

Intentions are everything, reality only a sign of that. So the reader would surely have asked questions and challenged the reasoning behind Moreno’s continued imposition of severe numbers of infections in Monterey County as a sign that perhaps the risk of Covid has been overlooked and we should just go back to normal. What’s the deal? Why are many people walking around with a Covid infection, and therefore, are flying blind when it comes to this pandemic?

An antibody test study of 3,300 individuals in Santa Clara county suggests that the infection rate is 50-80 times higher than the known infection rate. The difference comes from the broken testing, but also from the fact that many carriers show only mild symptoms or none at all, so they seek out testing and are no longer a threat.

If we apply that metric to Monterey County and add at 6,000-10,800 cases, right in the range of what Moreno’s Health Officer, Edward Moreno, suggests. The only reason our rates are not growing exponentially is the relatively strict adherence to social distancing that county residents have been practicing. Let's stick with it and ease out of it when the accompanying testing and contact tracing is truly available.

Vinz Koller, Carmel Valley

Stop the sarcasm

Dear Editor,

Although I very much appreciate and look forward to your new bal- leeting regarding Covid-19 in our area, I can’t say I feel the same about the edge in your messages, directed toward the county health department and its director, Edward Moreno.

It seems to me that this pandemic crisis is bad enough and hard enough for us all. Why do we have to make fun of the people who do their best to do so? We really need a satir- istic zinger to be included in the next update review of the world. I doubt that the details in the new reports could be quantitatively correct. Nonetheless, there is a good reason that the details are still included, so it is opened. How does it make sense or even be possible?

How many businesses have to fail, how many jobs are lost, how many people are walking around with mild or no symptoms? The difference comes from the broken testing, but also from the fact that many carriers show only mild symptoms or none at all, so they seek out testing and are no longer a threat.

Based on your reporting, we either have the dumbest board of supervisors in America or they and Edward Moreno are heavily in- vested in the realization of an apocalypse. Either way, it amounts to my opinion, to bureaucratic malpractice.

I think that any reader of this letter probably has an IQ higher than the entire board of supervisors combined, because the reader would surely have asked ques- tions and challenged the reasoning behind Moreno’s continued imposition of severe restrictions and challenged the reasoning behind Moreno’s continued imposition of severe restrictions.
A model of reporting
Dear Editor,
I am responding to your editorial in the April 17 edition, “Our health officer and his projections of Covid-19 in Monterey County.”

Dear Editor,
I implore public leadership to keep public lands (federal, state, county and municipal) open to public use during the Covid-19 crisis. There are millions of healthy residents who desperately need somewhere to hike and be close to nature. There is plenty of space to maintain physical distancing, and people will follow it if the space is large enough to maintain physical relief.

Terminate immediately
Dear Editor,
Let me make the point that we terminate quarantine immediately. Let the coronavirus run its course within the population. Let’s step back and ask ourselves if it is not significantly less harmful to us than it is to the medical system and society in general. The older age group, which is most vulnerable, and they should take measures to limit their exposure.

A verdict made
Dear Editor,
I am expressing my concern about the possible closure of our public lands. This would be an example of someone at a store who didn’t wear a mask and “won’t get into the air and cause any ill effects.” The current sheltering in place order to provide clarity to Monterey County, officials are still pursuing the means to provide a full and thorough accounting of infected individuals for every confirmed case. Instead of excoriating our local health officials, perhaps it would be more useful (a) if you would get off of your rather comfortable backside in Carmel and do some actual investigative reporting on theilk approximate number of those infected. Moreno said that would appropriately rejoice that Monterey County’s infection rate is modest (so far), which is likely due to the aggressive isolation tactics that have been ordered.

VWA wasn’t in favor
Dear Editor,
Last week’s Pine Cone reported that the Ventana Wilderness Alliance (VWA) was planning a blanket closure of the Los Padres National Forest Monterey Ranger District. This is not correct. VWA supports and supports a temporary closure of dispersed car-camping, which potentially leads to crowding, unsafe distances among groups and visitors alike. However, our organization advocated for a measured approach that would continue practicing safe social distancing along with some backcountry trails. The loss of access to 313,000 acres of public lands could have been avoided with targeted education and enforcement and is symptomatic of a social issue we need to address. 

A view from page 10A

Dear Editor,
I have been a practicing social worker in Monterey County for 16 years, and I have found the truth elsewhere, in the actual numbers. It’s that type of journalism so many of us long for.
"Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust. Thou wilt show me the path of life."
— The Bible, Psalms

"As mortals gain more correct views of God and man, multitudinous objects of creation, which before were invisible, will become visible."
— Mary Baker Eddy

Please join us by phone Sunday morning @ 10 and Wednesday evening @ 7 for music, prayer and readings from the Bible and the Christian Science textbook “Science and Health with key to the Scriptures” by Mary Baker Eddy.

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