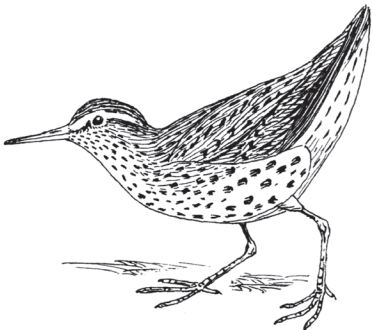


the

Carmel Sandpiper



A CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PUBLICATION

DISTRICT

CUSD’s late school start, stadium lights likely postponed till at least fall 2023

BY SHAYLA DUTTA and RILEY PALSHAW

Based upon the anticipated timeline for Carmel Unified School District’s Environmental Impact Report for Carmel High School’s stadium lights, students will be waiting at least one more year before the district shifts to a later school start time.

New timeline for stadium lights

As the Board of Education decided to withhold the decision until they had plans to mitigate community concerns regarding traffic dilemmas, limited parking spaces and light pollution, the most recent student-led push for the installation of four 70- to 80-foot-tall LED lights on the school’s turf field facility has been postponed further.

But as addressing these complaints has necessitated additional projects, such as replacing the pool lights with dark sky certified lights to reduce overall light pollution, the EIR now needs further revisions. Although the decision was originally supposed to be made in January 2022, Superintendent Ted Knight now says that the revised draft EIR won’t be ready for publication until March at the earliest. In accordance with district protocol, a 45-day comment period will follow this release, allowing the community to raise any final concerns. The board then plans to take those comments and revise the EIR for final approval, after which construction would ideally start right away.

The tricky part is the timeline.

As things stand, Knight doesn’t see the final EIR being ready for approval until September or October, well into the 2022-23 school year and fall sports season. Since it may be disruptive to install stadium lights during the school year, CHS is now likely looking at

another year without lights.

Even if lights do get approved in the fall, Knight tells Sandpiper reporters that the district would be facing a lawsuit from a vocally unsatisfied group of community members regardless.

“I absolutely believe we’re still going to get sued,” the superintendent reiterates, “but what I’m doing is trying to make sure we don’t lose.”

What these community members are attempting is an injunction or temporary restraining order on the project, which could mean up to three years of this lawsuit sitting in court while construction would be paused. However, Knight believes if the board backs up the EIR a few months to try to address all community complaints beforehand, then the district could be looking at only a six- to seven-month delay.

“If we do things the way we’re doing them now,” says Knight, “this slower pace, really addressing every part, our legal counsel and our consultant have said that they believe that the community would not be successful at an injunction or a temporary constraining order.”

Impacts to start time

Due to the impact of a later start time on winter sports practices, CUSD’s late start and implementation of stadium lights have merged into almost one issue. The discussion of a later start time was revived by a statewide bill passed in 2019 by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

“I can’t, in good conscience, recommend late start if we don’t have lights,” says the superintendent, going on to explain that winter sports will be put in jeopardy

LATE START
CONT. ON 3

DISTRICT

District mask mandate set to lift Saturday

BY EMMA BROWN

Pursuant to recent changes in California’s Department of Public Health Guidelines, Carmel Unified School District will lift its mask mandate March 12.

“As we begin to transition from pandemic response into a new chapter where we can use more routine disease control tactics, we will not only be ready for if and when something changes, but we have built stronger and more flexible systems for the future,” CUSD superintendent Ted Knight wrote in a Feb. 28 email to community members.

Though mask use remains strongly recommended by the CDPH and the Center for Disease Control, face coverings will be optional for students and staff.



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photo by PEYTON KELLY

STAFF

Following administrative leave due to mask-mandate violations, CHS math teacher to retire in June

BY EMMA BROWN

Following violations of Carmel Unified School District’s mask policies and student outcry for the instructor to return to his classroom, 14-year Carmel High School math teacher Mike Deckelmann will remain on paid administrative leave until June when he will retire from three decades of teaching.



After two months on administrative leave, former CHS math instructor Mike Deckelmann (right) has retired.

Though Deckelmann has been absent from the classroom for nearly two months, the circumstances surrounding his leave were initially subject to change. Originally placed on paid administrative leave Jan. 12, the teacher was sent a 79-page statement of charges from CUSD on Feb. 8. The document laid out the charges brought against Deckelmann, as well as the evidence gathered to support the claim and the reasons for the district’s decision to move forward with further disciplinary action.

Following negotiations with Deckelmann and his lawyer from California Teachers Association, CUSD ultimately agreed to allow the instructor to retire with full benefits in June, though he will remain out of the classroom for the remainder of the school year.

“I could continue to fight it but even if I did, I wouldn’t get what I wanted, which is to go back to the classroom this year,” Deckelmann says. “So I guess it’s all good.”

Despite an amicable resolution, the path toward Deckelmann’s retirement was not always clear. The mat teacher was sitting in the CHS weight training room during fifth period on Jan. 12 when he was told to report to the office, where he was met by district human resources officer Craig Chavez, who declined to comment on the specific situation due to confidentiality concerns.

“[Chavez] told me, ‘This is not disciplinary and you don’t need to record this and you don’t need union representation,’” alleges Deckelmann. “And then 15 minutes later he tells me I gotta leave. Just out of the blue, saying, ‘Well you’re on leave of absence now.’”

Prior to that meeting, Deckelmann met with CUSD superintendent Ted Knight regarding the teacher’s mask use, reportedly to try to reach an understanding with the administrator. In the days leading up to his leave, Deckelmann received a letter from the district notifying the teacher that administrators had been made aware of another instance in which his mask was down

during class. The math instructor maintains that he was unaware of a parent complaint made earlier in the school year, which alleged that Deckelmann did not enforce mask use among students and that he wore his mask on his chin to allow for quick access if someone walked into the classroom.

“It’s the district’s responsibility to communicate with someone so they can correct an error,” Chavez explains. “But at some point, if it’s not corrected, the district has to make a decision about its responsibility as the employer to protect the other individuals and has to make the decision to move forward with that suspension or dismissal.”

Prior to leaving campus Jan. 12, Deckelmann wrote a message to his students on his whiteboard, explaining why he would be absent from his seventh period AP Calculus BC class: “I am on administrative leave because I am accused of not wearing a mask in class. It may be permanent....”

As calculus students filed into Room 8, confusion and questions spread through the room and across campus as pictures were promptly posted to social media.

“It was bizarre,” says CHS senior LJ Parker, an AP Calculus BC student who was in

Deckelmann’s seventh period and among the first to receive news of his leave. “None of us expected it. My immediate reaction was just to laugh because it was such a hyperbolic and silly response to someone not wearing their mask that I thought, ‘Oh, this is ridiculous.’”

Following Deckelmann’s leave, administrators visited the teacher’s classes to explain to students the reason for his absence, as well as the plan moving forward. In those discussions, administrators told students that it was Deckelmann’s choice whether to return to campus.

CHS administrators declined to comment further to The Sandpiper.

“That’s a total lie,” Deckelmann says of the message his students received from the CHS administration. “They told all the students that it was up to me, and they told teachers too, and that was a complete lie. It was such a lie that when I heard, I thought it was true. So I wrote the district and said, ‘Well, it sounds like it’s up to me, and I just wanna let you know I’ll be in tomorrow.’”

Shortly after Deckelmann’s leave from campus, senior Oliver Whittaker began the “Bring Back Mr. Deckelmann” petition, which, by last week, had approximately 550 signatures. The petition was shared among students, alumni and parents in the community, leading to a flood of praise for the teacher, as well as appeals to the administration asking for Deckelmann’s to return to the classroom.

“I made the petition because I felt like the decision wasn’t correctly made,” Whittaker explains. “They weren’t considering how it affected the students’ lives at the moment and in the future.”

For many students, the looming AP Calculus exams in May seem more daunting with the loss of their teacher.

“The calculus AP tests are some of the hardest tests, and [the administration] got rid of the one teacher who knows how to teach calculus and has been for years,”

THE SANDPIPER STAFF

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The editors and adviser of the Carmel Sandpiper can be contacted at sandpiper@carmelunified.org.

says junior Simona Matievsky, an AP Calculus AB student. “If they care about us passing and our scores, why are they firing the one person who can teach us?”

In Deckelmann’s absence, Brant Wilkinson, a teacher of 25 years, was hired to step in Jan. 31 as a long-term substitute for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year.

While many students have expressed disappointment and frustration over Deckelmann’s absence, some understand the administration’s decision.

“It’s wrong that he wasn’t wearing his mask properly or not at all because that’s something that all teachers are supposed to do,” says senior Nina Robertson, a Calculus BC student. “But by punishing him, they were also punishing us. Not wearing your mask is against the rules, and he broke the rules and there’s consequences for that, but maybe he could have just taught online instead of getting rid of a beloved teacher.”

As an adviser for the school’s Singer-Songwriters’ Club and a founding member of faculty music group The Bubba Pickens Band, Deckelmann was recognized around campus for his booming laugh and upbeat attitude. His colleagues remember his 14 years at CHS fondly and miss his presence.

“He’s a phenomenal teacher,” says Jason Maas-Baldwin, AP Environmental Science teacher and Bubba Pickens Band member. “He’s somebody who teaches by getting students interested in a topic. I can’t tell you how many students I’ve heard say, ‘I never enjoyed math class until I had Mr. Deckelmann as a teacher.’”

Though Mike Deckelmann remains absent from campus, the teacher wishes his students and colleagues well, both in math and in their futures.

Late start
cont. 1

without stadium lights already in place. Either they will become dangerous when conducted in the dark, need to be cut or moved to before school in a manner he says is counterproductive to a later start time.

California’s 2019 bill, which mandates a high school start time after 8:30 a.m. and a middle school start time after 8:00 a.m. beginning July 1, 2022, provides an exemption for rural schools as transportation can be an issue. According to Knight, CUSD falls under this exemption.

“The law doesn’t say we ever have to move to a late start,” Knight says. “But we know from talking with students and with our health and wellness community that our community wants a late start.”

The current timeline for the stadium lights would definitely postpone installation to after the 2022-23 winter sports season, which would become a major issue for the programs happening at that time. Even though this means a later start will not be implemented next year, the district still intends to pursue it in light of research which shows benefits for teens’ health.

“It doesn’t mean no, for me it means ‘not yet,’” Knight says, but notes, “it will be one more year of you guys not getting what science says you need, which is a different sleep schedule.”

In addition to stadium lights, the district has several additional hurdles to contend with when considering a switch to late start, including the question of transportation. Like the rest of California, CUSD is struggling to find bus drivers and lacks the drivers needed for all the schools to start late. When the middle and high school times get pushed later, elementary schools will in turn have to begin earlier.

“The way the bus routes are set up right now, they do a first run for the secondary schools, and then they go and pick up the elementary schools,” explains Dan Paul, CUSD’s director of facilities and transportation. “Now we have to reverse that.”

Despite the challenging nature of rearranging the transportation schedule, Paul and the transportation department already have draft bus routes ready. The initial need for two more buses to accommodate the shift has also been resolved.

“Once they finalize the bell schedules, we’ll figure out a way to work with it,” Paul says. “That’s what we’ve always done in the past.”

Knight also addressed the issue of creating a new bell schedule, stating he would be relying on his newly-created student advisory council to gather data from students.

“We have community members who don’t want it, we have community members and parents who do want it,” the superintendent says. “But this is about making sure that the students have their voice heard and that we are making decisions based on their best interests and not the comfortability of the adults.”

CHS principal Jon Lyons expresses a similar sentiment: A late start is not required, but it remains a pressing and important goal.

“While there may be hurdles that are unique to our school district, I think it’s stuff we have to figure out how to do,” Lyons says. “Because it’s what’s best for the students.”

The district’s current outlook is that a late start, without stadium lights, should not move forward.

Student response

Promised a late start and the prospect of stadium lights multiple times throughout their academic career, the CHS Class of 2023 will no longer have a chance to see that change happen in CUSD, prompting widespread disappointment.

“It’s really too bad that our administration is continuing to let this slip through our fingers again when we were so close,” says junior student-athlete Maddie Gallagher. “It’s unfortunate that the juniors and seniors this year who put in all the work [to build momentum] won’t get the benefit, but hopefully the school will get it together soon.”

This sentiment is echoed by a large portion of the junior class, who, due to this pushback, will not get to see a later start or stadium lights while still attending CHS. Still, some find satisfaction in the fact that these

How do you feel about the delay of stadium lights and late start?



Nikki Benak, junior

“I am honestly upset about the whole situation. We have been fighting for lights since before I was a freshman and I, along with other students, have changed parking spots and done a lot to help persuade the community.”



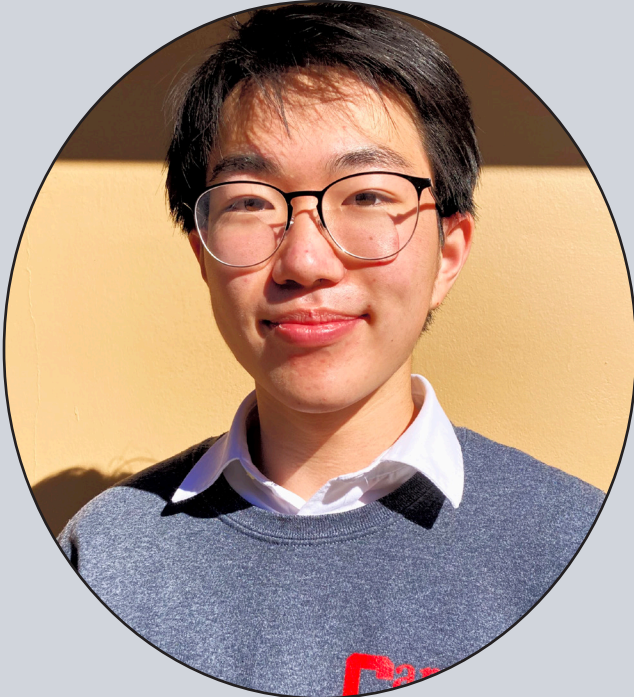
Maddie Gallagher, junior

“I think their decision to take their time once again is going to be the downfall of the entire project. Carmel High School has been pushing for lights as long as anyone can remember, and backing off and putting it off now seems like a mistake.”



Mya Schnader, junior

“I understand why there’s a delay, but it’s upsetting to know. It also sucks because why couldn’t we just do it right the first time, get the late start done and get the lights?”



Grant Xu, sophomore

“I personally don’t have a preference one way or another, since I don’t do track sports. But I do know enough people that would appreciate the lights.”

changes are underway, if not in time for their own graduating class.

“The idea of Friday night lights would have been really fun for our senior year,” says junior Audrey Glaser, a sports commissioner for the CHS student body. “But we’ve also received a lot of support from this year’s seniors, who knew that the lights would not affect them directly. So I’m just happy we could help the future Carmel High students.”

A point of confusion remains in CUSD’s exemption from California’s mandated late start, as many members of the CUSD community have previously been unaware that this was an option. For this reason, even the possibility of no late start next fall comes as a surprise to some.

“Honestly, I know some people aren’t that big of a fan of the late start, since that means everything else is pushed back,” sophomore Grant Xu says. “But I was so looking forward to it.”

Frustration over the delay of stadium lights is also aimed towards members of the community who have been actively working to prevent stadium lights for rea-

sons including noise, light pollution and parking issues.

“The community isn’t even trying to be team players, that’s my whole thing,” explains junior Jim Moreau, fellow sports commissioner. “I really wish the community could back the students up on our want for stadium lights.”

CUSD’s exemption from California’s mandate prompts yet another question: What will the next school year look like when surrounding districts do move to a late start? Interdistrict sporting events and games will be impacted by the disparity in school dismissal times, but it remains uncertain how that will play out.

It is also possible that this timeline shifts in the future, given the anticipated lawsuit. For now, current freshmen and sophomores can only hope to see these major changes take place before they graduate.

ELEMENTARY

River School’s Father-Daughter Family Dance and Mother-Son Family Carnival canceled amid controversy

BY EMMA BROWN

Following complaints from students and community members about a lack of inclusivity, as well as Carmel Unified School District’s decision that the events were in violation of Title IX, River School’s Parent-Teacher Association has opted to cancel the Father-Daughter Family Dance and Mother-Son Family Carnival.

“We will be re-evaluating the events we had planned for the rest of the year based on the concerns expressed directly to the PTA board by a small, but vocal number of families,” wrote the PTA board in their February email.

The River School PTA board could not be reached for further comment.

The controversy surrounding the events originally began when a group of fifth grade students created a petition to change the names of the functions in an effort to be more inclusive to those who are gender non-conforming, as well as those with

non-traditional family dynamics. In the weeks following the petition, the students and parents spoke at a PTA board meeting, expressing their concerns with the event titles.

Despite efforts of some community members, the PTA board sent an email to the River School community Nov. 20 explaining that there would be no change to the event titles.

“The Board appreciates the sensitivity of the issue, but it is inevitably up to each family to navigate their particular set of circumstances to decide whether it will attend the optional events (e.g. bring a family member, family friend, etc.),” wrote the PTA board. “The word ‘family’ is also included in the event names to convey that all are welcome at the events.”

CAMPUS

To mixed reviews, CHS administration attempts to get student drivers parked on campus

BY FLINT NACHBAR

After complaints from neighbors about student drivers parking on the streets surrounding Carmel High School, there has been a recent push to get all students parked on campus, which has led to administrators giving the junior class 40 additional parking spots, some previously designated for CHS faculty.

“We are trying to find a spot for everyone,” assistant principal Criag Tuana says. “We’re trying to make it work as best as possible until we are able to create more spots.”

The recent parking changes are an attempt to get students off Flanders Drive, which has long been popular for students who park off campus. Following a series of complaints, parking there is now prohibited.

“There were about 15 staff spots that were taken from staff,” campus supervisor Josh Leigh explains. “Those staff members now have to park down by the pool, where prior they were only a few steps from their offices.”

The parking changes have left many seniors frustrated, as other students sometimes take spots in the up-

per lot.

“The parking is horrible,” senior Alex Harrison says. “Juniors frequently take spots assigned to seniors because there’s just not enough parking spots.”

Many juniors are also upset about sophomores parking in the baseball field parking lot, which was originally meant for juniors only.

“It’s really really bad,” junior Audrey Glaser says. “Now that the sophomores are parking on campus, it is just not working.”

Fellow junior Mya Schnader explains that to find a good parking spot the key is to get on campus early: “I don’t really have a problem with it. I always get a spot in the mornings, but getting out of the parking lot after school sucks.”

An unusually large junior and senior class has posed greater parking issues than in the past, but recent parking changes have also led to an increase in overflow to handicap, visitor and fire lane spots.

Although CHS administrators are discussing the possibility of additional spots being added over the summer, when and where new spots will go are uncertain.

DISTRICT

Shortage of CUSD bus drivers leads to route cancellations

BY CLAIRE PETERSON

Bus driver absences due to COVID-19 have led to a CUSD driver shortage, resulting in multiple problems, including canceled bus routes and difficulty finding replacement drivers.

“We don’t have a whole system like the classroom subs, so there’s no specific person we call if one of our drivers is out for whatever reason,” explains Dan Paul, CUSD’s director of facilities and transportation. “We’ve put out some requests for drivers, and we’re just hoping we can get replacements that way.”

The district has put out multiple requests for drivers, sometimes having to ask the bus mechanics to sub. Paul explains that having the mechanic out also creates technical problems if a bus is not functioning. On multiple occasions, more this year than in previous years, routes have had to be canceled temporarily because the district cannot find a driver to take students to and from school.

“[In February] we had to cancel a Pebble Beach and Big Sur route,” Paul says. “The students found other ways to get to school but more and more drivers are being out, and there could potentially be a problem with students not being able to get to school.”

Students have had to find various ways to get to school and back home when their bus routes are canceled, the most common being catching a ride with a friend.

“When the route was canceled a few weeks ago one of my friend’s mom just gave me a ride to school,” sophomore Daisy Duenas Paz says. “I live in Big Sur so I can’t ride my bike or walk so that’s normally what I do when the route is canceled.”

Paul also explains that while they have had to cancel certain routes for periods of time, the transportation department is trying to avoid permanently canceling a route because of the major issues that could cause.

When a route is temporarily canceled, it’s always one that is in closer proximity to the schools and has fewer students riding the bus.

“Obviously we’re not going to cancel a route out in Cachagua if a driver is absent,” the director adds. “If it’s necessary to temporarily cancel a route, we try our best to do the ones closer to the schools with less students riding.”

The district has also found that finding substitute drivers is a difficult process because of the specific license someone has to have in order to drive a school

bus transporting students. CUSD has put out multiple requests for more bus drivers and has gotten several responses from retirees.

Paul explains that the hours are convenient for many people because it’s just the mornings and an hour or so in the afternoon, which leaves most of their day free. The district has also hired some younger drivers recently, some as young as their twenties, to drive because the hours align with their schedules.



photo by WTHR

CUSD bus routes have been canceled as a result of driver absences.

COMMUNITY

Carmel Valley through the years

BY FLINT NACHBAR

To new residents, Carmel Valley has always been an 11-mile stretch full of upper-class housing and boujee wineries. With its beautiful scenery and extensive opportunities for hiking, fishing and biking, it is not surprising to long-time residents that Carmel Valley has become a desirable destination to live.

That desirability leads to higher property values and more money in the area, but some of Carmel Valley’s residents have experienced the valley before any money came to the area.

Local valley resident Cody West gives an understanding of what it was like growing up in the valley in the early 1980s.

“It was definitely more blue collar back then,” West remembers. “It was full of artists and hippies; definitely more lowkey.”

Cody West tells stories of him and his friends riding their dirt bikes along the Carmel River, or as he refers to it, “our super-highway, back then, before we had cars.” Roaming the valley clearly played a large role in his childhood as West would leave his home in the morning and often not come home until dark. West claims that the increase of wealth within Carmel Valley comes from the popularity of Carmel.

“I’m sure a lot of people got exposed to the valley after planning trips to Carmel,” West says. “Carmel has always been wealthy.”

With Carmel getting more exposure, Carmel Valley started to get more attention from people with money, causing, in his words, “the valley to lose its edge.”

“Carmel Valley was pretty sleepy when I was a kid,” West says. “Nothing but a bunch of old pickup trucks, and I guess I miss it that way.”

West says that life was simpler when he was growing up. During his childhood he found a community out in the valley, and although he still has a strong connection with his family and a few close friends, he says that the wealth causes people to become more isolated.

“I’ll be driving and I’ll see some of the old boys in their 4x4 trucks going out to Cachagua,” West reflects, “and I appreciate that they are still here, and it makes me reminisce about when I was a kid.”

Long-time resident Aram Stoney notes the changes he has seen in Carmel Valley.

“The biggest thing that I noticed was a decrease in affordability,” Stoney says. “You definitely weren’t seeing Mercades and BMWs rolling around town.”

According to Stoney the increase in wealth has not necessarily affected the rustic feel of the valley, but he



courtesy of CODY WEST

Cody West (far right) showing how the Valley started with farmers and ranchers.

claims that may change.

“There haven’t been a lot of visual changes to the valley,” Stoney says. “Luckily not a lot of building growth.”

But Stoney points to the recently approved development plans to put housing units on Rancho Quinata as a change brought about by the wealth in the area.

Another Local resident Kristan Roth has a different take on things.

“There is a lot more wealth in the area now,” Roth says, “but the type of people that Carmel Valley attracts are people that want to connect with nature and experience nature.”

Roth says that this has kept Carmel Valley’s population very down to Earth, but because Carmel Valley attracts many nature lovers it leads to the overcrowding of spots like Garland State Park and other hiking and river spots. She feels that the overcrowding should not be viewed as something that is entirely negative.

“The draw to be in beautiful spots in nature is wonderful,” Roth says. “It’s just how you stay in alignment with being a good human and taking care of nature.”

She also says that despite the wealth that is now present in the area, the valley still has some of its rustic charm, just in a different way, claiming that the wealthy people in the area are attracted to the rustic feel of the valley.

“When I was a kid I’d see horses tied to the post at the village market,” Roth says. “And just the other day I spotted a couple horses going down the road, so it’s here but it’s just different.”

Roth does admit after spending her childhood in the valley it’s strange to see people going to the new vineyards and “rolling in their expensive cars.”

“But they’re just living their lives,” Roth says. “And checking out our country life-style.”

Jerry Kurz, a community member who grew up in Carmel Valley Village, also has stories of how Carmel Valley has changed since his childhood, growing up by the river and at the baseball park out in the village. He tells stories about his free reign over the Carmel Valley River.

“Everybody fished,” Kurz explains. “I would go down to the river and see 10 pickup trucks, and to this day I can still remember steelhead trout flopping in the beds of peoples trucks, you just don’t see that anymore.”

Besides the scarcity of trout in the Carmel River, Jerry Kurz mentioned other things that had changed since he was a kid.

“You don’t have as much agriculture out here,” Kurz says. “And you have a different class of people working here now than you did 30 years ago.”

Kurz also argues that the wealth has not affected his ability to find a community out in the valley.

“I’m pretty lucky because I do have a lot of close friends that are still in the area,” Kurz says, “so there is definitely a community here.”

Carmel Valley is a perfect example of a community that transitioned from the middle class to upper class, and ethier people see that as a beneficial or negative thing, it has not seemed to put too much strain on the valley community itself.

As Kurz says, “Carmel Valley is always going to be Carmel Valley.”



courtesy of ARAM STONEY

At the mouth of the valley, Aram Stoney at a less developed Carmel High School campus.

STUDENTS

Seniors given dates to make up swim test, while sophomores on hold

BY MARCUS MICHIE

After missing Carmel High School’s swim lessons and mandatory test their freshman year, sophomores are being placed on hold for the graduation-required swim test, as emphasis is directed toward members of the senior class who still need to satisfy the graduation requirement before June.

Not required by the California Department of Education, CHS’ obligatory swim test assesses students’ ability to swim 200 meters with their preferred stroke and tread water for 15 minutes. As physical education was taught remotely during the 2020-21 academic year, sophomores did not undergo the traditional swim units taught during in-person instruction. Following their return to campus, sophomores were not evaluated on their swimming proficiency and not informed when, or if, the test would take place.

“Swimming is required by the state as a unit of instruction for freshmen,” explains CHS PE instructor Debbie French, “but the swim test is only a CHS requirement.”

Accompanying the swim test, freshmen are required to meet five of the six requirements of the state-ordained physical fitness test and the mile run to be waived from enrolling in physical education for an additional year.

“The physical fitness test wasn’t difficult, and we were prepared before returning,” sophomore Timmy Marnell says, “although many students likely would’ve had trouble passing the swim test.”

“If you can’t swim, don’t go in water.”

The risk of COVID-19 and the absence of swim education cautioned administration against plunging freshmen into the Bob Walthour Aquatic Center in the 2020-21 academic year. Walthour, a legendary CHS swim coach, persuaded the principal to establish the examination in the 1960s, believing students should graduate high school capable of swimming.

Traditionally, when students don’t take or pass the test in early their freshman year, there are dates in the spring offered for them to do so, according to CHS as-



The California Department of Education requires that high school students are given aquatic education, regardless of access to a swimming pool.

sistant principal Craig Tuana. But the PE department’s attention is presently toward seniors, who are being offered frequent dates to take the test before they graduate.

Recently transferring from Illinois, senior Josh Rasmussen made use of one of the available makeup dates.

“I took the school’s test in late February, and I had no trouble passing,” Rasmussen says.

With the administration’s focus on seniors, sophomores are unsure if they will be tested on their swimming ability.

“That’s my next step,” says CHS academic counselor Jeff Rogers, “to talk with administration and see how we’re going to get sophomores through the test.”

The PE department is in conversations with CHS administration to devise a plan for the sophomore class.

“Some, if not all of them, did not get swim practice,” Rogers explains. “We’re looking to come up with a solution, but that solution has not been made yet.”

Worried if they would pass, some sophomores emphasize the significance of having the swimming lessons that they missed their freshman year.

“I’m not ready, and many others likely aren’t either,” sophomore Kaitlyn Myrick says. “Many of us haven’t swam for a while and need practice.”

Other students find testing their ability to swim unnecessary.

“If you can’t swim, don’t go in water,” sophomore Bobo Iandoli says.

While CHS is ensuring the senior class passes the swim test, sophomores are left to question whether they will face the same requirement.

STUDENTS

Talented voices ride wave to Hawaii in Honor Choir trip

BY CLAIRE PETERSON

Four Carmel High School students involved in the California All State Choir will accompany high school and college students from across the United States to Hawaii from June 14 to 22 to perform as a member of the Honor Choir USA and explore the island of O’ahu.

“Even though we’re in a pandemic, this is a really great opportunity for these students,” CHS chorus teacher Tom Lehmkuhl says. “I’m excited for them to have this experience and be able to meet people from across the country who share their same talent and passion for music.”

Sophomores Sophia Alexakos and Grayden Miller and juniors Jack Norman and Colin Dowse will perform at multiple locations around the island, including the USS Missouri Pearl Harbor memorial, malls and churches. Every time the Honor Choir hosts the trip, the performance locations are changed so that the students get to perform all around the island and experience different parts of O’ahu.

“I’m really excited,” Alexakos says. “It’s a once in a lifetime opportunity, and I’m really lucky to have been invited to go.”

Norman, Dowse and Miller share excitement about the trip as well.

“It’s a great opportunity,” Dowse says. “I’m looking forward to meeting the students from other schools and getting to perform with them. This is something not a lot of people get to experience so I’m really excited.”

This is the 19th consecutive year that the Honor Choir has held the Hawaii trip, but only the second year any students from CHS have been invited.

Outside of a \$300 student fee, the trip is funded by Honor Choir USA, and parents and family members are invited to share the experience with their child.



CHS students will perform at locations across the island of O’ahu during the June choir trip.

STUDENTS

From teaching aqua therapy to tutoring Hebrew, Padres take on COVID-adjusted community service requirement

BY BROOKE MILLER

With a prorated community service hour requirement, Carmel High School students have found innovative and creative ways to complete community service during an ongoing pandemic.

Typically, students of all grade levels at CHS must complete 60 hours of community service in order to graduate (recommended 15 hours per year). Yet due to distance learning in 2020 and 2021, the school has revised its requirements for seniors, juniors, and sophomores. Freshmen currently have to abide by the 60-hour requirement and sophomores have a new 45-hour requirement, while juniors and seniors have a 37.5-hour requirement.

“My criteria is if it’s doing the community good and benefiting more than just yourself, you’re doing service to the community,” says ASB Secretary Diana Vita, who tracks all student community service hours.

Due to the pandemic, spots for volunteers in non-profits and organizations have significantly decreased.

“It’s not that there’s a lack of nonprofits,” Vita explains. “There are just fewer nonprofits taking strangers in.”

In an effort to combat this, CHS students have been finding unique organizations where they can offer service in the local community, such as junior Reygan Bethea, who has been volunteering to teach aqua therapy in her free time.

“I give swim lessons to kids on the autism spectrum,” Bethea explains. “It’s also a rehabilitation practice for those who have been through severe incidents and have cognitive disabilities.”

In addition to helping her complete hours during the pandemic, it also aids Bethea in obtaining hours for CHS’ Sports Medicine class.



Emily Kamler completed a service project in the Dominican Republic for community service hours.

“I feel like for most people it is hard for students to get community service hours during the pandemic, but I am so grateful I found this program,” Bethea says. “It sounds cheesy, but it doesn’t even feel like community service.”

Keeping students above the water is senior Dante Fiala, who has been volunteering at a local nonprofit yacht club teaching water safety.

“The focus is to help outreach and teach the community about water safety,” Fiala says, “and by extension, how to sail, which is pretty important since we live so close to the water.”

Along with Fiala’s work at the yacht club, the senior student also volunteers his time at the Experimental Aircraft Association at the Salinas Municipal Airport, which has helped him achieve over 200 hours of service despite the pandemic.

Students teaching others is a popular trend for community service hours at CHS. Freshman twin sisters Ava and Sara Martin have gotten community service hours for teaching Hebrew every Sunday morning at the Congregation Beth Israel.

“For the younger kids, we read them Jewish stories and slowly move into the alphabet and the vowels,” Ava explains. “We were still teaching during the pandemic but it was much harder to teach digitally.”

With the pandemic and the limited spots for volunteers in organizations the school used to work with, Vita is expanding her outreach in order to supply opportunities to students—especially seniors, who must meet the minimum requirement in order to receive their diplomas.

“Organizations like the hospital that used to take a lot of our kids, especially ones interested in the medical field, are no longer accepting our students,” Vita says. “But now we have a lot of community service-based clubs like Environmental Club, Interact Club, This Club Saves Lives and Full Belly Brazil.”

These clubs have all created an everlasting impact on community service at the school. The CHS Environmental Club has long hosted events that focus on service concerning restoring local soil and waters.

Senior Environmental Club member Stevie Dean has participated in the array of events the club offers for hours, including beach clean-ups and golf ball dives. The club has retrieved almost 400 golf balls from the ocean in only one session.

Among service-based organizations is also Full Belly Brazil, a club focused on fighting food insecurity in Brazil. The club’s senior president, Ema Kamler, created the club when she saw a need for students to meet their service requirements.

“I realized so many of my peers were not even close to reaching their community service minimum,” Kamler says. “I wanted to create a club where members could participate in helping these communities and in return get some of their hours done.”

Unlike some struggling seniors, Kamler found multiple ways of community service before her club’s creation, including service work in the Dominican Republic and CHOMP. At the hospital, Kamler worked in the vaccination clinics during the heat of the pandemic. Since its entrance, Full Belly Brazil has hosted many different events open to its members and students at the school, including a tie-dye fundraiser, a food drive, and a beach clean-up.

Needless to say, there is no shortage of community service opportunities both at CHS and in the local community. For help with ideas for obtaining hours, students can attend the upcoming Community Service Fair on March 15 on campus, check the CHS Daily Bulletin and contact Diana Vita.



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CARMEL CLUBS

Rockin' Bots gear up for first in-person competition since 2020

BY AINSLEY HENDERSON

The members of Carmel's Team 2035, officially dubbed the Rockin' Bots, are revving up for their first post-pandemic robotics competitions, the Sacramento Regional, which will take place on March 23-26 at the University of California, Davis, and the Silicon Valley Regional, which spans April 7-10 and will be held at San Jose State University.

"I think we have a robust robot," the club's adviser Tom Clifford says. "It isn't going to break terribly, but you go to these competitions and you see really creative ideas and wish you had thought of that."

This year's competition, organized and overseen by FIRST Robotics, is titled Rapid React and prompts teams to explore the future of automated transportation through their robot. During the competition, there are two challenges that robots must complete: shooting large tennis balls called cargo into a ring elevated eight feet off the ground, followed by attempting to climb and then swing across a series of monkey bars.

At the regional, the team will set up their "pit," the place where their robot and the tools needed to maintain it will be stored. When the time to compete comes, Team 2035 will take their bot to the arena to perform. In a typical year, spectators are allowed to tour the pits to catch a glimpse of the robots. This year, they are invited to view the pits and competition online to minimize the spread of coronavirus.

"I went on the trip to Fresno in 2020," club president Zack Seifert says, "which unfortunately got cut short because of COVID, but I think the competitions this

year will be the same as before."

Team 2035 is set to go against teams from the Bay Area, some of which are taught by mentors in technol-

their robot before the first regional competition takes place. As they raced to keep up with the schedule, the Rockin' Bots fell behind for a brief spell while trying to attach the robot's body piece to the rest of the machine.

"This process is always slower than one likes," Clifford says. "You'd think it would be really great to be driving at a point so you can test and break but that's not always how it goes."

Most of the more experienced members were a part of the Class of 2021, leaving behind a smaller group of returning members and gaps in the team's skill levels as new people joined.

"We were able to handle this problem by focusing on training our new members during the off-season," Siefert says. "I am confident that our team will perform this year."

With no seniors in the club, Seifert was elected the president as a junior, a task that he feels he is handling well due to the support of the club's mentors, Clifford, Carmel's computer science teacher, and "Big Rory" Buchanwald, the team's coder, who helps the team to program their robot.

In 2017, the team were regional finalists, and in 2018 they won a Gracious Professionalism Award at the Silicon Valley Regional, setting a precedent for this year's competition.

After their robot finishes its tasks, the Rockin' Bots are scored by a panel of judges.

The score is summative, meaning that if the team scores low during the monkey bars and high during the shooting portion, they can still hope to secure a



The Rockin' Bots are on track, despite construction falling behind for a brief spell.

ogy and engineering and supported by agencies like NASA. Students have been given six weeks to build

Tutoring Club provides free, accessible tutoring to students at Carmel High School

BY RYAN JALILI

Aimed at providing tutoring for Carmel students looking for help, two students at Carmel High School founded a new club that provides free and accessible tutoring to fellow students.

The tutoring club was created by students Jovanna Martinez, Lusila Martinez Ribera and support teacher Bridget Randazzo.

"Jovanna and I thought it would be a great way to help students who do not have access to private tutors or other help," Lusila says. "We, along with Mrs. Randazzo and other students, came up with a schedule that would allow for students to have access to a tutor every day."

Jovanna focuses on tutoring students with math and organizational skills, as well as dedicating her seventh period to being a Spanish tutor for an English Language Development class.

"I help my tutees with math and organizational skills," Jovanna says. "Also, I tutor in Spanish daily. I tutor three new students who transferred from Mexico this school year. I felt like it was my duty to help in any way possible as a fluent Spanish speaker."

And Jovanna isn't alone in wanting to help.

"Some people have a hard time learning and I wanted to make it a little easier," math and science tutor Abigail Kim says. "I wanted to help people who aren't good at subjects at school and help other students with the subjects I'm most comfortable with."

With Randazzo's aid, the founding students were able to find additional tutors and gave them a space to

work. Randazzo hoped to model the club after her own high school and college experience, which she found incredibly helpful.

"When I was a student I always valued study groups," Randazzo says. "I was a person who learned from other people so getting through high school and college for me was a lot of going to office hours, talking to professors and forming study groups with people in my class."

Despite being a free resource and being widely available the club has been slow to find tutees.

"We always have tutors here, but sometimes no one is coming in to get tutored," Randazzo says. "I understand students need their lunchtime to relax. Giving up a lunch period is hard. After school has been busier."

The Tutoring Club mainly sees a peak of student activity and teens asking for help typically right before a large exam, during finals week or before small tests, not regularly.

"We have very few people come in for tutoring during lunch and office hours, and a couple people after school. We would love to see more people come in," Jovanna says. "We

would love for more people to take advantage of this amazing resource."

A previous push to allow student tutors to be paid for their efforts has been pushed back by administrators.

"We were working hard on it, and we had the proposal," CHS assistant principal Debbi Puente says. "But we have since heard back that it needs to be put on hold because we need to look at a larger, more comprehensive plan."

For now, tutors who agree to help their peers are eligible for community service hours, providing an incentive for students to volunteer as tutors.

The Tutoring Club has students available to help in the CHS library during office hours, at lunch and after school.



Sophomore Chase Lander getting extra help in preparation for a chemistry test with the help tutor Grace Wang.

PREP SPORTS

Padres springing, swinging, swimming into 2022 spring athletics season

BY AINSLEY HENDERSON

With the second semester underway, Padre athletes have begun playing games for the first full spring season since 2019, consisting of boys’ golf, boys’ volleyball, track and field, lacrosse, boys’ tennis, dive, swim, baseball and softball.

Baseball

The varsity program, stacked with a number of skillful players like sophomore JJ Sanchez and seniors Rocco Melicia and Jack Cassady, aspires to make the playoffs this year after a 2021 league record of 9-5.

“Talent may get you on the field,” Sanchez says, “but it’s effort and attitude that will keep us there.”

During the 2021 season, the boys advanced to playoffs but lost in the first round, giving this year’s varsity team something to reach for.

Baseball won 11-4 against Arroyo Grande on March 4. They will play Monterey this Friday.

Dive

After a mini season last spring, the team is full of fresh faces, including head coach Bryan Dunmire, who is diving into his first full season at Carmel High School.

“Carmel has a long history in the diving department, having some large and talented teams in the past,” Dunmire says. “I’m looking to bring this excellence back to the Padres.”

As a diver, Dunmire won CCS three times, attended All American Diving competitions four times and was recruited to Harvard University for their swim and dive program.

Since the team is composed of almost all first-year divers, practices have consisted of learning the ropes and strengthening fundamental skills.

Due to a lack of divers on the Stevenson team, dive did not complete in the March 4 meet. They will have their first meet March 18.

Boys’ Golf

The golf team’s numbers have dwindled this season after the graduation of many seniors. Despite the loss, they’ve gained players and have settled on a team goal: absolutely crush the competition.

“We want to get attendance up,” sophomore Marcus Michie says. “We want to be able to go to as many tournaments as possible.”

Golf won their match against Hollister and will be playing against League on Thursday.



The boys’ lacrosse team huddles up during practice to discuss a play.

Boys’ Lacrosse

Unlike the four games played last season, the boys’ team anticipates a full and robust season this year despite the small turnout in participants.

“It’s kind of a rebuild year for us,” junior Brady Kasper says. “We’ve lost a lot of players due to them graduating and also the interest in the sport declining a little bit.”

Last year, games were played with seven players on the field at a time, but lifted restrictions have allowed a return to the usual eleven this season.

The team won their March 4 game against Hollister and will be playing Salinas High on Friday.

Girls’ Lacrosse

This season, the GLAX team is on the come-up as many new players join.

“We were thrilled for what that means for the growth of the program,” coach Joy Smith says. “However, we had some concern about the ability to help develop the skills of newbies with only two members of the coaching staff.”

In response, the program enlisted assistant coaches Kaley Kinoshita and Reed Walter, who both played lacrosse during college, to help.

The girls won against Monterey on March 4 and will be playing Stevenson on Friday.

Softball

Like the other spring sports at CHS, softball’s 2021 season was shorter than normal, with a league record of 4-8, damaged by COVID-19 restrictions and hindered by the graduation of core players.

This year things are beginning to look up for the program, due to an influx in both returning athletes and new players.

“Our team definitely has a goal of being together and bonding more,” sophomore pitcher Allison Hacker says. “Last year we didn’t have any bonding experiences.”

Softball lost to Westmont 0-12 and Christopher 4-5 on March 5. They will be playing in the Live Oak Tournament on Saturday.

Boys’ Swimming

Like the girls’ team, the numbers of boys in swimming dwindled during the pandemic, with the 2022 team mostly composed of underclassmen.

“Last season had a strong set of seniors and juniors,” junior McCartney Hong says. “This upcoming season will be great, regardless of if any swimmers make CCS or not.”

The team’s goal for the season is to push their swimming capabilities to the maximum, possibly leading to CCS.

Boys’ swim lost to Stevenson on March 4. Their next meet is on March 18 against Christopher.

Girls’ Swimming

Girls’ swimming is experiencing a drop in the number of players coming out to participate this season, but remains excited for what it holds.

“This season is going to be a lot better,” says junior Athena Wilson. “We don’t have to deal with COVID as much and there aren’t that many restrictions.”

Last season, CHS’ COVID-19 regulations only permitted two people in a lane, versus the typical three or four per lane. The distance, which added an extra layer of complication to practices and meets, has been lifted for the 2022 season.

Girls’ swim won 108-60 against Stevenson on March 4. Their next meet is March 18 against Christopher.



During practices, runners utilize both the track and the rim road around the school.



WOMEN’S HIS

Shining stars of the Monterey Peninsula

BY EMMA BROWN

During Women’s History Month, the importance of honoring the women in the Monterey Bay community cannot be overstated. On the Central Coast alone, thousands of women strive every day to improve the lives of the people around them, working tirelessly to elevate their craft and inspire others. Here’s a peek into the lives of three of those thousands.

LT. AMY TOMLINSON

For Lt. Amy Tomlinson, her path to the sky was not always clear. Originally from Carlsbad, California, Tomlinson attended the University of Southern California in 1996, but after joining the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps her sophomore year, she knew her future was flying. Though her father was also a naval

aviator, Tomlinson’s journey to the Navy was paved by friendship.

“My freshman year of college, in some of my favorite classes, the people I was working on projects with and the people I found myself hanging out with and becoming friends with were in ROTC,” explains Tomlinson. “They were fun, they were like-minded, and I was drawn to them.”

After receiving her bachelor’s degree in public relations, Tomlinson reported for flight training at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida, in 2000, beginning her journey among the clouds. After two years, she transitioned to the Naval Air Station in Oceana, Virginia, for fleet aircraft training.

“I did a whole other year of training to learn about fleet aircraft and be able to fully function in that airplane, from take-off to landing to the tactics to being in the air, weaponry and all the advanced tech-

niques that come with a fleet aircraft.”

Three months after finishing training in 2003, Tomlinson was deployed on the USS Roosevelt to Iraq to fly in combat. The lieutenant joined the Navy Fighter Squadron, ultimately flying 33 combat missions in the Persian Gulf. After returning home, Tomlinson moved back to California to become an instructional aviator, teaching pilots how to fly F-18s.

And in 2008, Tomlinson became the first woman ever to join the Blue Angels, the elite aviation squadron.

“Typically the Blue Angels had been mostly male, and so it was really cool to get to be a girl in uniform,” says Tomlinson. “I’d be in Omaha, Nebraska, and have a little 7-year-old girl come up to me at the crowd line and say, ‘Mommy, look, there’s a girl. I didn’t know girls could be in the military.’”

After leaving the Blue Angels, Tomlinson joined the Navy Reserves before retiring one year ago. During that time, she attended Santa Clara University and earned her MBA.

Today, Tomlinson lives in Pacific Grove with her husband, Lt. Cmdr. Warren Tomlinson, and her children, Alex and Katie. She now works as a Project Development Director for Concentric Power Inc., while also serving as a city council member for the city of Pacific Grove.

“I like to help people,” Tomlinson says. “I want to be involved and make things go well for others. I love to help our community and serve our community and help my kids’ school and serve the school through volunteerism.”



courtesy of AMY TOMLINSON

After nearly a decade of service, Lt. Amy Tomlinson retired from the Blue Angels as the first female team member.

HON. CARRIE PANETTA

Growing up in North Dakota, Carrie Panetta always had an interest in the law, even when the extent of her legal expertise was arguing with her parents.

“I grew up in a small town where there weren’t a lot of attorney role models,” Panetta says. “In fact, I don’t think they’ve had a woman attorney in that town yet. Wow. But my family still always encouraged me to be a lawyer.”

Her passion led her to the University of North Dakota, where she obtained bachelor’s degrees in political science and English, before attending the University of Virginia’s law school, where she obtained her judicial degree. That was when she realized California was calling her name. After law school, Panetta entered private practice, working at a San Francisco law firm in business litigation for six years before ultimately becoming a deputy district attorney in Alameda. While working at the DA’s office, Panetta met her future husband, Jimmy, another prosecutor for the county. After years at the council’s table, Panetta turned her attention to the judge’s bench.

“Once I became a prosecutor I started thinking about being a judge,” Panetta explains. “When I practiced civil litigation, it never really occurred to me because we’re not in court all that much. But then as a prosecutor, I was in court almost every day, and having that added exposure to judges made me think, ‘Oh yeah, I’d like to do that.’”

Judge Panetta was appointed to the bench in Alameda in 2007 by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, where she served for six years before transferring to Monterey County, going on to preside over felony trials for nine years before switching to civil trials in January 2022.

On top of her impressive career, Panetta has raised two daughters, Siri and Gia, with her husband, who is now the congressional representative for the 20th district. In her free time, Panetta plays the piano, avidly runs and enjoys time with friends and family.



courtesy of CARRIE PANETTA

Hon. Carrie Panetta (left) enjoys spending time with husband Jimmy, daughters Siri and Gia and dog, Copper.

STORY MONTH



Jeweler Kate Rider works to create thoughtful pieces of jewelry with an eco-conscious focus.

KATE RIDER

A Central Coast local, jeweler Kate Rider has always been inspired by the beauty of her home. After going to the University of California, Santa Barbara for sociology, Rider returned to the Carmel area to work in graphic design at an advertising agency. In 1992, Rider and her husband, Kevin, moved to Big Sur, where they would raise their three daughters, Amelia, Gweneth and Hannah.

Beginning in 2007, Rider began working with gems as a hobby, taking a metal-working course at Monterey Peninsula College to hone her skills. After years of refining her craft, the artist began to sell her work at local shops before eventually going global and retailing her pieces in Japan.

“The outdoors definitely inspire me,” Rider says. “I just look around and the organic aesthetic inspires me. I’ll just look at a batch of stones I have and they kind of speak to me on how I want to make them and what shape I want to make.”

Rider’s work focuses on delicacy and natural beauty, with metals and jewels entwined harmoniously to form jewelry anyone can love. For the jeweler, thoughtfulness is a key element of her business. All of her gems are ethically sourced and her recyclable packaging is handmade locally.

Even as her business has grown, the jewelry maker insists on crafting each piece by hand.

“The most important quality of a piece of jewelry is the intention that goes into it that comes from the artist,” explains Rider. That’s super, super important and makes it a little extra special.”

When she’s not pounding out metal to create the perfect pair of earrings, Rider enjoys going on runs in Carmel Valley and horseback riding.

Feminists represent new goals of empowerment, activism at CHS

BY AVA CAMARGO

Topics of intersectional feminism, menstrual equity, women education and empowerment are openly discussed in the new Feminist Club at Carmel High School.

“The main idea of the club is to provide a space for students to discuss feminist ideas and explore their activism,” says CHS librarian and club adviser Phil Crawford. “And in a way that it hasn’t yet been explored in other clubs or in the curriculum.”

The student-based approach to the club brings a sense of support to the members and is also what first made CHS English teacher Carli Barnett want to co-advise the club.

“Girls often feel powerless or unrepresented in high school,” Barnett explains, “so when I was asked to be a part of this club, I was thrilled to help girls stand up and advocate for themselves.”

In mid-January, due to their participation in the sexual harrassment/sexual assault task force, Crawford approached CHS junior Mya Schnader about starting the club. With about 15 consistent members, they gear each meeting towards a different feminist topic alongside a worldwide organization that helps start high school feminism clubs called Girls Learn International.

“We will work with GLI on the events they put on,” says Schnader, the club’s president, “but my goal is to eventually get into more philanthropy work. Towards the end of the year we will help the Young Women’s Christian Association of the USA and other local nonprofits.”

As of now, Crawford and Schnader are planning a fundraiser with GLI which will donate meals and

menstrual packets, as well as a march on campus in honor of Women’s History Month. The group also set up displays around campus, depicting Wonder Woman and empowered females in history.

“The biggest thing we did for Women’s History Month is have teachers educate information about women in history to bring awareness to the month,” Schnader says, “because it isn’t really discussed in

the actions they can take to support women.

“Feminism is one of my biggest political views,” freshman club member Stella Nuñez says, “and I want to inform students to have a more positive perspective around campus because I feel like some people think that feminists can be annoying or self-centered.”

Currently, the group consists of only girls, but is open to anyone and everyone who are interested in gender equality and want to make a change. Many discovered the club through a friend or even a sister, such as freshman Emma Shin, who found the club through her older sister Katie.

“My favorite thing that we do so far is learn about specific women in history and past reformers,” Emma says, “as well as take action in current events.”

In order to unify students, Crawford proposes club officer meetings to inspire new ideas into the political groups offered on campus.

“One thing that I am trying to put together is have the club officers of the Be Yourself Club, the Feminist Club, This Club Saves Lives and the Ethnic Awareness Club come together,” Crawford says. “Since there is a lot of overlap with what is taught in our meetings, I think we could put something together for students as one united group.”

The Feminist Club comes together every Friday at lunch in Room 33 and welcomes anyone to contact Schnader or Crawford to join.

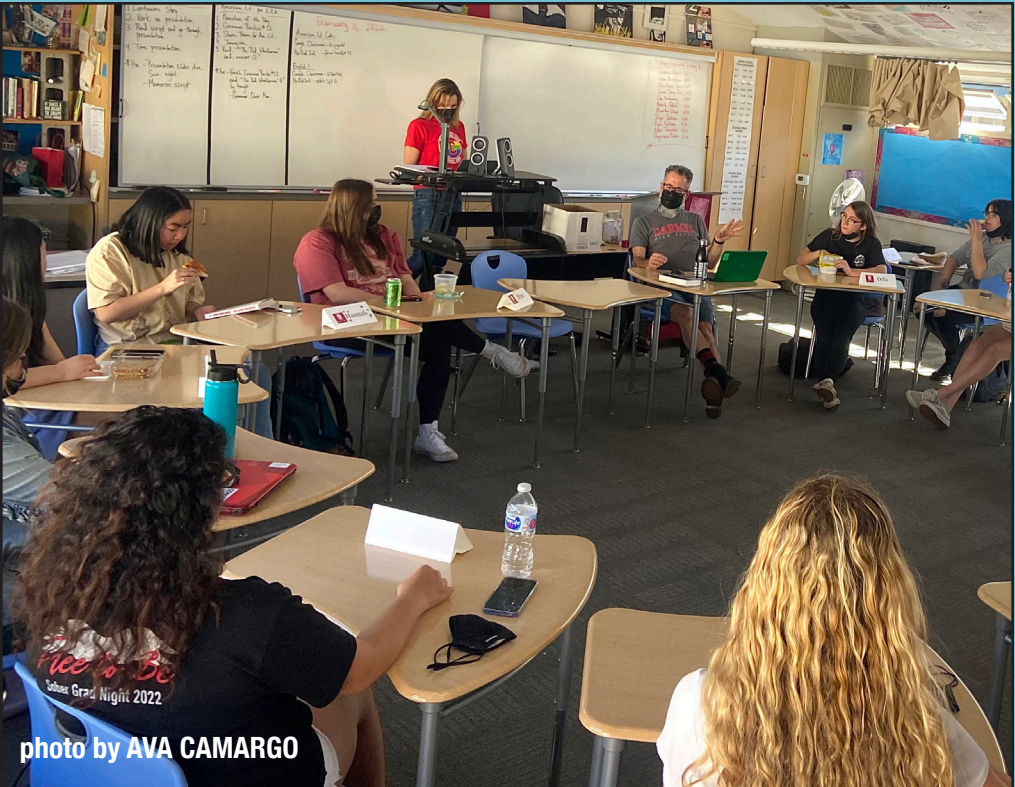


photo by AVA CAMARGO

Members gather as club adviser Phil Crawford addresses a multitude of feminism issues and discusses plans for the club’s upcoming women’s march.

our curriculum.”

Members of the club voice their personal opinions around how they want to benefit the school and themselves through informing other CHS students about

COMMUNITY

Limited applicants for open positions leave Carmel businesses short-staffed

BY RILEY PALSHAW

Coming off a year of government-issued stimulus checks and a plethora of people working from home, Carmel’s businesses were optimistic when casting out their lines and trying to reel in new staff as they looked to fill open vacancies post-pandemic.

Unfortunately, they can’t get anyone to bite. Despite a continued desire for employees, retail and services in Carmel have had difficulty filling those vacancies over the past six months due in large part to what they speculate as the benefits of staying on unemployment or the cost of daily commute.

“Originally I would have thought it was because of the stimulus checks,” says Alesia Moreno, Carmel Lucky California’s store manager, “but now that’s mostly stopped and we still haven’t seen any applicants. I think a lot of people just found they enjoyed being off and found some other means of work or moved out of the area because they couldn’t afford it anymore.”

For the past six months, Moreno has had difficulty filling vacancies in almost all departments of her store from the service deli to night crews and baggers. And while she’s been trying to hand out time off for her overscheduled and overwhelmed staff, zero applicants have applied for positions that have been open since summer.

“It’s normally more difficult for us to hire in Carmel than at other locations,” Moreno says, “but usually we get two or three applicants a month, and we’ve just gone down to nothing. There’s just a lack of workers out there.”

According to the Employment Development Department of the State of California, 14,900 of California’s

1.2 million unemployed civilians reside in Monterey County, making the unemployment rate in the county 7.2% as of December. A year prior, the unemployment rate was up to 10.3%, leaving 20,700 civilians unemployed in Monterey County.

Although unemployment rates have improved, that hasn’t necessarily been reflected in Carmel’s businesses. At a minimum, those on unemployment receive \$167 a week for each week they’re unemployed due to

mostly because they were collecting unemployment and there wasn’t a need to,” says Robert Slaybers, front office manager for La Playa Hotel. “Probably a certain percent were just worried about working in the hospitality industry around a lot of people, but not as much. [Unemployment] was just more of a convenience.”

Christy O’Connors, who’s tried various avenues to find a sales associate for her business, Diggidy Dog LLC, notes that getting people to apply for positions has been a serious challenge. But the question remains as to why.

“I feel like people don’t want to work,” the store owner says. “I don’t think it’s the wages because the wages are super competitive here and great for the high school and college-age students.”

Since most of the candidates that apply for jobs in Carmel aren’t Carmel residents themselves, some applicants have inevitably turned down positions after deciding that the daily commute wouldn’t be worth the paying wage, especially if they could be making more seeking unemployment.

“We have a couple of candidates who live in Prunedale or Watsonville where the drive was maybe not worth their time,” says Maria Villagómez, the store manager at Cole Hann. “It’s not a good enough reason for them to commute.”

In order to widen her pool of applicants, Villagómez resorted to paying job-posting sites to keep her store’s open position at the top of the list of businesses hiring in Carmel. Now when people search for a job in Carmel on a website like Indeed, the open position at Cole Haan will be among the first to

show up.

“I had an influx of only two or three candidates applying in a two week period to having over 20 to 30 applicants in a couple of days,” Villagómez says.

This course of action is something other Carmel businesses have considered. Although O’Connor has only been looking to fill a position for a couple weeks now, she’s considered using a portion of the company’s funds for hiring purposes like this just to get somewhat of a steady stream of applicants.

All in all, the message read on Carmel’s businesses is clear: HELP WANTED.



photo by RILEY PALSHAW

Finding applicants to apply for open positions has proven to be a real challenge for Carmel’s businesses.

COVID-19, with an additional \$300 added each week between Dec. 27, 2020, and Sep. 4, 2021, due to continued federal assistance. For the state’s higher income earners that are currently unemployed, they’re looking at closer to \$450 a week, plus the additional \$300. Seeing as the minimum wage in California is \$15 per hour for businesses with 26 or more employees and \$14 per hour for employers with fewer than 25 employees, some people are better off living off of unemployment.

At least, this is what some Carmel businesses have come to find.

“A lot of people weren’t applying during COVID

Late start cont. 1

Boys’ Tennis

Due to the graduation of many senior athletes, this year’s varsity team is composed of mainly underclassmen, including sophomores Hudson Silva and Jack Weston and freshman Warren Blut.

“We have double the amount of people we had last time,” Silva says. “I see a lot of friends playing it, so I’m happy about that.”

A shift in the league will also impact the team. “Unfortunately a couple of the Salinas schools had to drop out of the Gabilan Division,” coach Brian Cory says, “so the schedule will change.”

Cory also explains that Monterey and Stevenson are the teams that Carmel must beat in order to return the Padres to their former spot as league champions.

Tennis won against York on March 3 and will be playing Stevenson on March 14.

Track and Field

The track and field team is anticipating a great season, with returning players hoping to break records and new players looking to get stronger.

“We get better and better every year,” says Oscar Weigel, who participates in shot put. “Hopefully, the team makes it to PCAL.”

Since the team has a high number of both new and returning participants, they have high hopes that the

team will be able to send one, if not more people to CCS.

The first meet will be held March 17 against King City.

Boys’ Volleyball

As boys’ club volleyball seasons come to a close, many of their dedicated players are filtering onto the CHS team, raising expectations for the upcoming season.

Last year, the boys played two games, winning both.

“We have a much better team this year and I think we can go much further,” says sophomore Sebastian Daste. “There’s more experienced people on the team this year.”

Despite the team’s skill level, Daste believes

that in order to truly excel and create the environment necessary for playoffs the team must bond more.

The boys won their March 2 game against Harbor High and will play Salinas on March 15.



photo by AINSLEY HENDERSON

Because of the influx of new swimmers, the first part of the season has been spent learning fundamental skills.

ATHLETICS

Talented teen ultramarathoner runs farther with determination

BY HEATHER ALBIOL

It's 85 degrees in New River, Arizona, as 16-year-old CHS junior Marina Hobson, the only person in her age bracket, finishes a 62-mile ultramarathon with a time of 14 hours and 47 minutes.

With five ultramarathons under her belt and more to come, Hobson continues to strive for more distance and push herself to be the best both individually and on Carmel's cross-country and track and field teams.

Joining the cross-country team for the first time in seventh grade, Hobson has now managed to help her team qualify for state championships for the first time in 13 years in the fall of 2021, frequently placing top five in most of her races. The high school junior is first in the 5k race, with a time of 21 minutes and 46 seconds, second for the 2-mile race at 12:31.0, fourth for both the 2.95-mile race at 21:13.9 and 3-mile race at 20:39.0, and 24th overall at the CCS Championship 2.95-mile race at 21:25.06.

"In terms of her experience, running experience and racing experience, she's been a great mentor to her teammates, who are almost all younger," cross-country coach Whit Rambach says.

Though cross-country is long over because it takes place in the fall, Hobson continues to plan her own runs and train rigorously.

"I just try to appreciate the beauty of the racecourse and the people there so I enjoy myself as much as possible," Hobson explains. "But it's definitely mentally challenging to keep going for 15 hours or so and just stay focused and to not convince myself to drop just because it's hard."

Hobson was first introduced to running when she started with her mom, but quickly continued on her own, and nearly a year later found herself competing in the first of many ultramarathons and training al-

most daily at local spots like Garland Park and Big Sur Coastal Road.

Although the enthusiastic runner enjoys her own training and races, more than anything she loves to be part of a team. She has enjoyed the start of track and field and is looking forward to competing in one and two-mile races, which she usually does in track and field.

"It's really fun to be on a team with so many talented and amazing people, I really like our team spirit and community," Hobson says.

Hobson's cross-country and track and field teammate CHS junior Ryleigh Teague agrees and enjoys working alongside her.

"I've spent four years running alongside Marina, and it's always been a pleasure," Teague says. "The thing about us is that our speeds are very close, despite how we specialize in different distances, we manage to really push and build off each other."

Recently diagnosed with exercise-induced asthma, Hobson has had to overcome this challenge and learn new

ways to treat her body, but the spirited runner says that while it was difficult at first, she has grown as a runner because of it.

As she continues her journey, Marina Hobson works towards completing a 100-mile race in the near future to prepare herself for when she hopes to be competing in college.



Sixteen-year-old CHS junior Marina Hobson competes in Canyons 100k ultramarathon last April.

STAFF

Dedicated CHS health teacher honored through California education association

BY ALEXIS PINE

For her teachings and support of both the Carmel community and its students, Leigh Cambra works diligently in health classes and across the CHS campus, and in January, the health teacher was named the California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Teacher of the Year.



photo by ALEXIS PINE

Health instructor Leigh Cambra has transformed the CHS campus in more ways than one, highlighting her extensive work done for the community.

As club adviser for This Club Saves Lives, Cambra helps get the club involved in various community service projects for the times when Carmel faces disaster, as well as spreading awareness for more sensitive subjects, partnering with The Monterey County Rape Crisis Center and working on projects like Tampon Tuesday.

"She does so much beyond just teaching her classes," CHS social studies teacher Bill Schier says. "Her influence in the community and the things she's done, like the pop-up food bank during the early part of the pandemic to ferrying supplies to stranded families in Big Sur—she's as good as it comes."

Schier, who has seen Cambra's transformations on campus through Link Crew and community service, and Bridget Randazzo, who has worked closely with This Club Saves Lives, recommended Cambra for the CAHPERD Teacher of the Year award for her efforts in transforming the community and CHS campus.

Many of the projects and clubs that Cambra has connections to, such as Tampon Tuesday which brings awareness to period poverty and collects tampons to donate to shelters, have originated from students' passions.

"Around the school, everything is attached to her name: This Club Saves Lives, Link Crew, Health," This Club Saves Lives president Olivia Hansen says. "She'll give up her lunch or her room just to support students around the school that need someone in their corner to help them."

The heavy involvement with many projects on campus show the advisor's efforts in foster-

ing the success of student projects. The endless support enables students to stay connected with her throughout their years in high school and beyond.

"She's been like my lifeline at this school, and she took me under her wing as a freshman," Hansen says. "She's been someone to support me with school, extra-curriculars and life endeavors."

Being the only health teacher in the Carmel Unified School District, the award recipient also works at Carmel Middle School and with freshmen at CHS to provide the state-required health curriculum, as well as featuring social justice issues and projects that, with the help of clubs, bring more awareness to the community.

"I love how she brings in a lot of outside resources to her class, like being partnered with the Monterey County Rape Crisis Center and starting the Our Voices Club," CHS teacher Bridget Randazzo says. "She's really trying to expand health education in the district."

Approaching teaching health from a social justice aspect also sets Cambra aside from other health teachers, allowing students to apply what they learn in class to problems that occur in the real world everyday.

"With the nutrition unit, we're not just teaching what a calorie is," the health adviser explains, "but you can talk about social justice issues like hunger. Everything we talk about can become some sort of social justice or community service or awareness aspect."

With projects hosted on the CHS campus like the Water Walk, which helped raise money to donate to the Thirst Project in order to enable access to clean water in developing countries, global issues come to light and are emphasized in the Carmel community. Allowing students to become aware of global issues and supporting them in how to spread awareness is a constant practice.

Through the transformation on campus and the constant efforts to improve the essential health curriculum in Carmel Unified School District, Cambra stands out as an educator to fellow colleagues and students.

STUDENTS

Behind the scenes of the CHS Friday Show

BY SAFIA BOUHAJA

Every week, a group of Video Production students create an entertaining show that includes information from the bulletin, skits, issues on campus, as well as many other topics, which keeps the Carmel High community up to date on all exciting news and events.

It all began in 2015 with Brian Granbery, Carmel High’s Video Production teacher. Video 1 students were doing a video bulletin once a day on camera, and the teacher wanted his Video 2 students to have something more entertaining.

“We came up with this idea of a magazine show, where it has a variety of topics, from news packages and skits up to community and school issues,” Granbery explains.

There are a total of four groups from all three classes that rotate to do the Friday Show. Each class is assigned a certain week to begin the production process for the Friday Show, and classes that aren’t tasked with that work on assignments about the film industry.

Each group has an editor, anchor, producer and cinematographer.

“My role is very interchangeable,” senior Christopher Chase says. “I usually edit the whole Friday Show together. We have different segments, and so it depends if you’re doing a segment then you edit your own project, but I put them all together.”

Many students get to experience multiple different roles during the production process.

“I manage everyone else and make sure everything is being done on time,” junior Jerry Marnell says. “I

manage every single aspect of the show and the segments because it alternates between every show. For the most part I am an editor, cinematographer or producer.”

Some students end up trying new things outside of their comfort zone and find the variety fun.

The script is mostly taken from the school’s daily bulletin. Then, students put content all into a document, edit it and put their own twist to it, so whoever’s the anchor that week is in charge of the script. Then the script is projected onto a TV screen, so when students are looking at the camera they can also read the words going.

“I do a lot of anchoring,” CHS senior Ashley Davidson says. “We write a script and send it to the studio, and they put it on the teleprompters, which are connected to the camera. Everyone in the studio is controlling how fast it goes and the different camera shot angles.”

Senior Ruby Carr is typically a producer. However, every group switches off anchors or editors and everyone is in charge of creating their own segments to deliver for the Friday Show.

“I felt it was a positive creative outlet for me and especially the instructor, Mr. Granbery, really helps me,” Carr says. “I have this opportunity to create whatever I want using media and photography, as well as cinematography, and put it all together to create something really special.”

The students that arrange the Friday Show are still busy working and learning new things about the film industry. In Video 2 they are currently working

on writing their own screenplays.

“I think it’s a nice mix because we get to do this show, but at the same time we also get to cover stuff about film, documentary films, coloring and masking,” Granbery says.

The Friday Show brings happiness, laughter and awareness to the CHS community.



photo by BRIAN GRANBERY

Video Production students use the studio space to produce another Friday Show.

“I usually volunteer to edit and shoot the birthday and clubs segment,” senior Sydney Hill says. “One of the last Friday Shows my group had, I also anchored, which I would say I don’t normally do, but that ended up being pretty fun. I really love editing because even the shorter segments, like birthdays or news, I can come up with new ideas to incorporate into the segment.”

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Get Philosophized Clifford's ship on vaccine accountability

BY EMMA BROWN

Co-editor-in-chief Emma Brown comments on philosophy and current events in *The Sandpiper's* newest section.

In the age of misinformation, unfounded conspiracy theories seem to run rampant across the internet, spreading slanderous and dangerous claims, infecting those lying in wait for a morsel of fear to cling to. Recently, the spread of misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine seems to be nearly as contagious as the virus itself, with blasphemous claims protected by the notion that everyone is entitled to their own belief.

But you're not.

In 1896, philosopher William Clifford posed a hypothetical: A man owns a broken down boat and, despite its state of disrepair, sells tickets to take passengers across the sea, convinced that it will float. Yet when the people board the vessel, it sinks, killing all of its passengers. Clifford explains that because the man believed that the boat was safe without any evidence to support his claim, he is responsible for the deaths of the passengers, thus claiming that it is inherently unethical to believe in anything without sufficient evidence.

Following Clifford's logic, those refusing the COVID-19 vaccination on the basis of unfounded conspiracies are acting unethically. In the era of the internet, information backed by science is available at all times,

leaving no room for people to argue on the basis of ignorance.

For example, some believe that vaccines can infect the recipient with the disease that it is trying to prevent, despite evidence to the contrary. The Center for Disease Control explains that the administration of a vaccine causes the immune system to create antibodies, proteins that identify and eliminate foreign contaminants in the body, imitating the infection and sometimes causing minor symptoms while the body learns how to defend itself against the virus.

People who choose to believe the claim that vaccines cause COVID-19 despite a lack of evidence to support their statement are acting unethically.

Willful ignorance, like that of the ship's captain, is just as dangerous as malicious intent. While those who choose not to receive the vaccine do not do so with the intent to harm others, their decisions have consequences for

those who have chosen to act ethically and those who are too young to make medical decisions for themselves. Unvaccinated people are three to five times more likely to contract the omicron variant, according to the American Hospital Association. Those infected with the variant typically spread the virus to 10 people, creating an infection ripple effect.

Though vaccinations have become a highly po-

liticized topic, the decision of whether to receive the vaccine must be based upon reliable medical research, not formed from overused rhetoric and baseless claims.

When making a medical decision that impacts a population larger than just the individual, consider an ethically sound, rational approach to the issue, and value evidence and logic above all else.

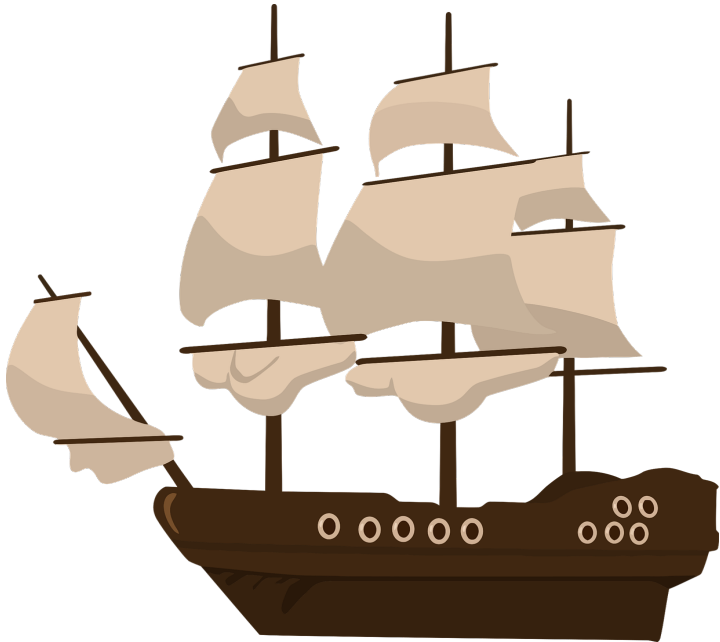


photo by SOPHIA BONE

Emma Brown is a utilitarian humanist and a self-described rationalist.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors,

I happened to be at Safeway in Carmel on Friday where I pick up the Pine Cone occasionally when I saw a new stack there with *The Weekly* too. As an affordable housing and renter rights volunteer advocate, what caught my eye was "Homelessness" in red on the front, so I picked it up to read later.

I must say I'm very impressed with this publication. The level of writing and journalistic approach taken by these students is refreshing. The homelessness article was excellent and well thought out, especially making a number of points unique to Carmel as well as including the broader issues like housing unaffordability. I believe the best homelessness *prevention* is affordable rents in addition to increasing supply, which takes much too much time to create as rents continue to rise especially now with this level of inflation. I'm glad to see this is a topic on the radar of young people because it does affect us all directly or indirectly in various ways many don't acknowledge.

In a time when unbiased and accurate journalism is under attack as "fake" and while publications are losing financial support, I'm hopeful that these young journalists can inspire their generation to support and value this profession that is so critical to our democracy.

Keep up the good work!

Esther Malkin
Monterey County Renters United founder
Housing Resource Center of Monterey
County board member

Dear Editors,

I am a parent of a seventh-grader and an eighth-grader moving up to CHS in the fall. Based on the board meeting on Feb. 16, Dr. Knight stated that he is disregarding the State Law regarding starting high school no earlier than 8:30 for the 2022-23 academic year. This is despite the fact that the American Academy of Pediatrics and CDC strongly recommend this for the academic success and the well-being of students.

He appears willing to sacrifice the academics and well-being of 100% of the student body due to concerns about athletics that affect a small portion of the student body. I personally disagree with this trade-off.

I would be interested in seeing the response of the students and the student newspaper to this decision.

Are you planning on doing a story about this?

Jeanne Phillips
Concerned Parent



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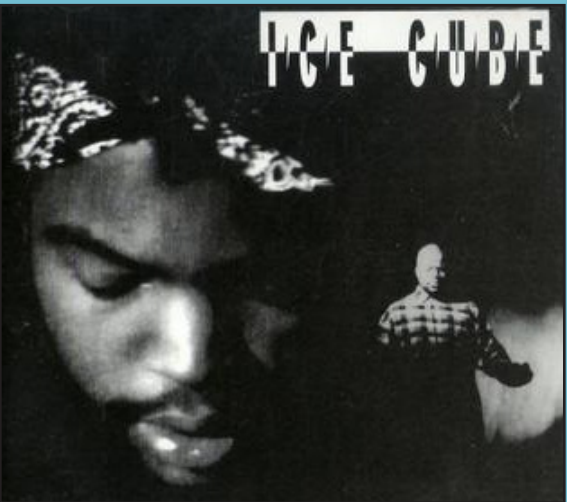
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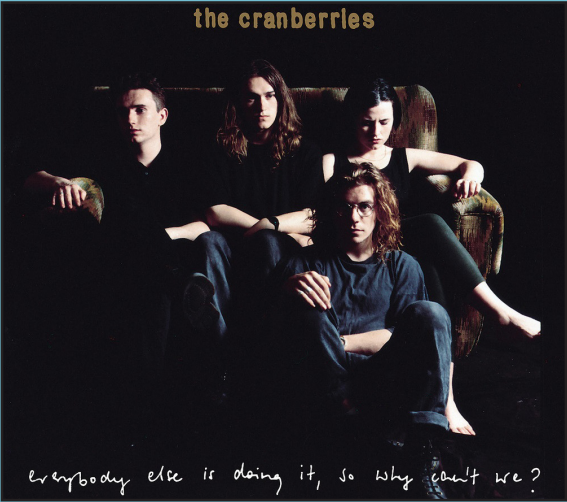
Playlist of the Month



“Cowboy Take Me Away” by The Chicks



“It Was A Good Day” by Ice Cube



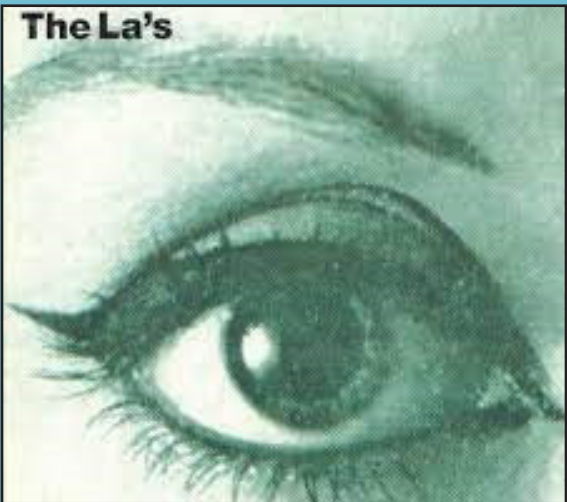
“Linger” by The Cranberries



“Right Down The Line” by Gerry Rafferty



“Talk It Up” by Sammy Rae & The Friends



“There She Goes” by The La’s

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REVIEW

‘Peacemaker’ James Gunn’s latest hilarious D-list superhero hit

BY RYAN JALILI

James Gunn has certainly created a name for himself by taking D-List superheroes and creating modern fan favorites with films such as “Guardians of the Galaxy” and “The Suicide Squad” (2021). With no exception is his latest project “Peacemaker,” a HBO max exclusive that follows Peacemaker, a hero that not even die-hard comic book nerds have ever heard of before. Yet the show provides a hilarious, welcome take on modern superhero television.

Set five months after the events of the film “The Suicide Squad” (2021), the series follows Christopher Smith as he is enlisted by a black ops squad “Project Butterfly,” whose mission is to take out parasitic butterfly-like creatures. The series stars John Cena in the role of Peacemaker who is a satirized, violent, American hero. As the series progresses, we see his character reflect upon his ideology, as well as deal with his broken relationship with his supervillain white nationalist father the White Dragon.

The show opens with quite possibly the most hilarious and beautiful openings in all of television history where each member of the cast dances to Wig Wams’s “Do You Really Wanna Taste it” in one of the most random dance sequences that instantly hooks and intrigues the audience.

Cena does a great job at turning one of the most hated characters from “The Suicide Squad” (2021) into a character the viewer can’t help but feel sympathetic for. Cena’s performance is stellar and nailsevery comedic beat, but surprisingly gives powerful emotion when needed.

Vigilante, a sociopathic murderer played by Freddie Stroma, has become a fan favorite for his hilarious comedic and un-self-aware murderous antics. While the best way to describe his character is as a Deadpool knock-off, as an outgoing, sincere and hilarious character he brings a great level of humor into this show. Yet,

as the audience, it’s hard not to feel bad when he feels outcast or ignored by Peacemaker when all he wants is to be his best friend.

The show juggles two main antagonists, the butterflies and Peacemaker’s father, the White Dragon. While the butterflies act as a classic superhero threat, Peacemaker’s father, who has access to technology that allows him to be a fearful Iron Man-type villain, gives the show an emotional connection to Peacemaker. Intertwining the villainous arcs and the interesting connections to both Peacemaker’s emotional and moral compass does a good job at making it so that the viewer doesn’t seem bored with one or the other.

With a show like “Peacemaker” mainly focusing on how the Black Ops team first resented each other, it falls too short. At a mere eight episodes, the transition from deep hatred from one another to good friends is a little too fast—the show easily could have double the episodes and still flesh out the connections between the characters even more.

Visually, “Peacemaker” does not really uphold the stan-

dard of cinematography of Gunn’s previous work, but it’s not to the show’s dismay, just a little disappointing when alluded to Gunn’s cinematic prowess.

8/10





photo by KATIE YU_HBO MAX

John Cena transforms into the broken and hated Peacemaker, but gives a performance that leaves the audience sympathetic.

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ROTTEN POTATOES

HBO Max film ‘The Fallout’ beautifully tackles tragedy alongside grief

BY SAFIA BOUHAJA

Get your tissues ready because the HBO Max film “The Fallout” is an emotional rollercoaster, but in the best way possible.

High schoolers Vada (Jenna Ortega) and Mia (Maddie Ziegler) navigate their emotions in the aftermath of a school tragedy. Vada’s view of her relationships, friends and family are forever shifted after the school shooting that occurs. This film deals with such a dark topic, but still has subtle humor and loveable characters.

Ortega and Ziegler tackle the heavy and triggering topic of school shootings, unfortunately very relevant in today’s society. Ortega and Ziegler do a fantastic job conveying their emotions in a realistic and relatable way.

Writer and director Megan Park perfectly delivers this topic in a simple, but effective way that feels like the audience isn’t watching a movie anymore because of the scenarios and characters that people can relate to.

Being from Canada, a country that has stricter gun laws, Park stated in multiple press interviews that she was hesitant to make a film about gun violence and school shootings. However, this movie has been made considering that there has been a high number of school shootings in the past few years that have affected the lives of many and traumatized numerous teenagers.

The film makes a great effort on getting the audience to empathize with Vada when she distances herself from the ones closest to her, like her parents and sister, as it shows how severely a life-altering traumatic



event like this can affect someone.

Ortega and Ziegler are phenomenal when capturing the sorrow and trauma that Vada and Mia carry while trying to go on with their daily life and how they both turn to drugs and alcohol as a coping mechanism.

This film is exceptionally realistic when it comes to teenagers in this day and age and how they deal with tragedies. For example, there are many scenes where

Vada is texting other characters, and it implements the loneliness she is feeling and how she seeks connections with others during these desperate times.

Overall the suspenseful film has a powerful message and is definitely worth watching.

8/10

Kristen Bell shines in darkly comedic Netflix miniseries

BY SHAYLA DUTTA

“The Woman in the House Across the Street from the Girl in the Window,” a new and short Netflix show with a much longer title, plays on Kristen Bell’s stunning performance to highlight the intrigue and frustration that accompanies this mysterious twist on the classic unreliable narrator.

Bell portrays Anna, a woman grief-stricken and traumatized from the horrific murder of her 8-year-old daughter three years before. Now divorced, alone and drinking heavily, the lines between reality and imagination blur through eerie and devastating hallucinations.

One such hallucination includes a gruesome murder Anna sees from her window. Anna soon learns the murder didn’t actually occur and was actually the product of mixing pills and alcohol one too many times....

Right?

Creators Rachel Ramras, Hugh Davidson and Larry Dorf, alongside Bell doubling as executive producer, succeed in creating a vivid but untrustworthy world, leaving viewers bewildered yet captivated. Despite the rather slow beginning, in which Anna’s unhinged nature makes her difficult to connect to, the show picks up and viewers are given no choice but to root for the broken protagonist.

Bell’s show also bears a striking resemblance to “The Woman in the Window,” starring Amy Adams (2021), and “The Girl on the Train,” starring Emily Blunt (2016), both of which this show is said to parody. Without this understanding, the show can be confusing and a little muddled. Although it remains enjoyable to watch, it has a hard time aligning with a genre or offering a defining characteristic.

The mystery continues to build right into the final

episode, resolved by a sweet conclusion with a small, bitter twist. The twists and turns along the way—small, large and startling—are in big part what make the show worth watching. Viewers will be left guessing until the very last second.

“The Woman in the House” also offers some comedic respite from its eerie nature, most often by Bell, a comedy veteran, and Mary Holland as Sloane, Anna’s best friend. The laughs aren’t distinct or defining, but suffice to lighten the mood.

The rest of the cast, while primarily less well-known, contribute funny and appealing characters who all eventually reveal relevance to the plot, despite often seeming wild and quirky. This strength, led by Bell, helps support a plot easily mixed up with an oddly fluctuating pace.

While not the viewing experience of a lifetime, this show with one mouth-

ful of a name will both give viewers a good laugh and the chills in its short but action-packed eight episodes.

6.5/10



Although the show itself is not outstanding, The Woman in the House provides the perfect stage for Kristen Bell to demonstrate her versatility as an actor through a mixture of comedy and mystery.

Ore-you surprised by these strange Oreos?

BY AVA CAMARGO AND HEATHER ALBIOL

As we contemplated the meaning of life, we figured we could find some clarity by creating order in one of the most chaotic areas of our life: Oreos. Considering that it's America's favorite cookie, we ranked some of the strangest flavors so that you don't have to.



Carrot Cake

After eating this cookie, it's easy to say that carrot cake is meant to stay a cake. With a dense cinnamon-flavored cookie and an artificial whipped cream cheese filling, this duo does not live up to its expectations. Stick to the basics when enjoying Oreos.

3/10



Java Chip

As exciting as a coffee and chocolate-flavored Oreo sounds, Java Chip leaves a stale and overly sweet flavor in the mouth that lingers for hours. Although the idea is no less than brilliant, the execution creates only a powdered sugar taste with awkward, flavorless chocolate chips.

4/10



Birthday Cake

Immediately our noses burned with the stench of artificial cake batter after opening the package. Upon tasting, this Funfetti-flavored-explosion is a bit overwhelming mixed with the chocolate, but if partnered with a vanilla cookie it would leave a much better experience.

5.5/10



Peanut Butter

Perfectly stated by the 2014 Reese's Puffs Rap Commercial: "Peanut butter, chocolate, great when separate. But when they combine they make the mornin' time epic." We agree.

9/10



Mint

The classic mint-and-chocolate combo never fails to disappoint. Similar to a thin mint, the refreshing duo is by far the best Oreo flavor created. The personality this cookie brings is discrete and leaves you wanting more, unlike some other flavors...ahem...Carrot Cake.

10/10



Regular/Double Stuf/Mega Stuf

While the original Oreo cookie still holds a sentimental place in our hearts, we are disappointed by the ratio of cookie to creme. However, Double Stuf and Mega Stuf pull through with an abundance of filling that satisfies our sweet tooth.

10/10

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Advice Column

from our resident love expert



What is the nice respectful thing to do if you have been friend-zoned? Ignore them? Still talk with them often? Talk with them every once in a while?

It really depends on the situation. If you want to keep a strong relationship with them as friends, then by no means should you distance yourself from them. If you are not interested in having a friendship with them, then make that clear. Flat out ignoring them is never a good idea. That can make things awkward and uncomfortable.

OK, so I like this boy, but he’s super confusing and always lags on Snapchat. Sometimes he responds super quickly and other times he takes hours to respond. What should I do?

If he is lagging on Snapchat, it usually means that he is not interested in you. A quick response from a guy means that you are on their mind. If you want to start a conversation, take that on yourself. Don’t just wait around to see if he talks to you. Take initiative.

Can I tell a girl a “deez nuts” joke as a friendly joke?

Like: Do you want to go to Wendy’s? When deez nuts!

Humor is a good way to get someone’s attention, and it shows that you are confident, but this kind of humor is highly inappropriate. Try to keep the jokes lighthearted and relatable (nothing about dead pets or relatives).

How do I ask a girl for her number?

It’s pretty simple. Be straightforward and confidence is key. The more confident you come across, the easier it will be for her to feel comfortable giving you her number. Remember, we are literally on a floating rock and nothing matters, so be confident and go for it.



*Send in your questions for our resident love expert on our website, **THESANDPIPER.ORG!***

HOROSCOPES

Aries

Opportunities just keep coming your way! Keep your eyes peeled for any sinkholes that you can dive into. Spoiler alert: You’ll find yourself in an alternate dimension, ruling over a kingdom of hedgehogs.

Taurus

Life is limitless. So run to the edge of the Earth and jump. And then fall. Life is also full of lies. Get used to it.

Gemini

Uh oh, the leprechauns are coming this month. Watch out for your ankles: I hear they’ve been sharpening their teeth all year long in preparation for their reign of terror.

Cancer

Watch out! Your ego has expanded the size of your skull. Any bigger and you might pop!

Leo

Little lion, life is a gazelle running away from you. Perhaps good things just aren’t meant to be yours. Too bad.

Virgo

Ah, my favorite people. Unlike your evil counterparts, Libras, you shine a light on the darkest black holes of the universe. Your heart is just that golden.

Libra

Libras, I totally wasn’t just talking bad about you. Don’t worry, we all love you. Until you explode under the weight of your insecurities and shatter those around you. Wow, that got heavy.

Scorpio

Your frigid heart has frozen those around you. They stand like statues in your chilly garden. Perhaps a true love’s kiss will set them free? Unlikely.

Sagittarius

Hey, Sagittarius. Take a hint. As the wittiest of all of the signs, you’d think that you’d understand when someone is letting you down easily. Stop sugar coating things.

Capricorn

Some philosophers argue that the beauty of art transcends culture. Capricorn, no matter where you go, your beauty will be known.

Aquarius

A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down. You have a nice face. But you’re also blind to the beauty right in front of you. You have good nail beds. That’s a compliment sandwich.

Pisces

You are like a ballerina in a jewelry box: delicate and complacent. Break out of your cage and break dance.