

Coast Lines

SANTA CRUZ

Community workshop slated for Nov. 17

The final Resilient Coast Santa Cruz virtual community workshop is scheduled for 5:50-7 p.m. Nov. 17 via Zoom. Resilient Coast Santa Cruz is a grant-funded initiative to develop a plan and policies for resilient future coastal management in the context of climate change.

Participants will meet city and consultant teams, learn how previous community feedback has been integrated over the two-year initiative and provide input on the recommended strategies to address coastal erosion, flooding and sea level rise.

This workshop will be available both in Spanish and English and is followed by an extended Q&A session from 7-7:30 p.m.

To learn about progress to date on this initiative, including links to virtual reality tools, and complete location-by-location adaptation option preference surveys, visit cityofsantacruz.com.

To register, visit zoom.us.

SANTA CRUZ

Lights distributed to cyclists in need

The City of Santa Cruz Street Smarts program teamed up with Bike Santa Cruz County to distribute free front and rear bike lights to Santa Cruz bicyclists in need. They will host four pop-up bike light giveaways in November to help make cycling safer by providing more visibility to bicyclists at night.

The events will occur after dusk at undisclosed high traffic bike commute locations in the City of Santa Cruz.

Following COVID-19 county protocol, city and Bike Santa Cruz County staff aided by community volunteers will outfit bicyclists riding without lights with free sets of bright 5-LED flat chip front lights and 5-LED red rear lights with 180-degree visibility. All cyclists must wear a mask to participate.

Bike Santa Cruz County is a Street Smarts partner that promotes bicycling through advocacy, education, and community building. For information, visit bikesantacruzcounty.org.

SANTA CRUZ

Volunteer center opens adoption hotline

Community members are invited to make a meaningful connection this winter and share the spirit of the holiday season by adopting a family in need, according to a release from The Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County.

The center partners with 25 fellow nonprofits to invite individuals, families, businesses, clubs, or churches to "adopt" one of the more than 400 families in need.

Additionally, community members can make individual contributions of items, gift certificates or cash that will be blended with others to fulfill the wishes of a family. Donations can be made online at scvolunteercenter.org or can be mailed to the Volunteer Center at 1740 17th Ave., Santa Cruz.

Volunteers will staff the Adopt a Family phone line from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Dec 9. For information on how to bring joy to a family in need this holiday season, call 831-457-9834.

SANTA CRUZ

Stewart's Floral hosts holiday open house

Stewart's Floral will host its 21st annual Holiday Open House from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at the store, 1658 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz.

The event features decorated Christmas trees, holiday gifts and home décor items.

Covid requirements will be enforced including masks and social distancing. Only six people in at a time. For information, call 831-479-0999.

SANTA CRUZ

Weinermobile pays visit to the county

The Oscar Mayer Weinermobile will be in Santa Cruz County from Wednesday through Sunday according to a release from Oscar Mayer.

The Weinermobile, which promotes Oscar Mayer, has scheduled the following free events in the county.

- Boardwalk Community Blood Drive: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday at Boardwalk, 400 Beach St., Santa Cruz.

- Childish Toy Shop: 1:30-3:30 p.m. Wednesday at Childish Toy Shop Santa Cruz, 1127 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz.

- Weenie Wednesday: 4-5 p.m. Wednesday at Ben Lomond Skate Park, 8668 Highway 9, Ben Lomond.

- Senior women's softball practice: 7-7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Anna Jean Cummings Park, 461 Old San Jose Road, Soquel.

- Tritons All Star Fundraiser: 3-5 p.m. Thursday, 1715 Freedom Blvd.

- Davenport Fire and Rescue Fundraiser: 11:30 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. Sunday at Davenport Main Beach. Hot dogs will be sold with all proceeds benefiting the Davenport volunteer Fire Department.

- Aromas Sports Park Fundraiser: 4-6 p.m. Sunday, 300 Aromas Road, Aromas.

Send us your Coast Lines

If you have a news event or announcement for Coast Lines, email newsroom@santacruzsentinel.com and place "Coast Lines" in the email subject line. Coast Lines items are run at no charge. Please include contact information for questions. Information: 831-706-3252 Tuesdays to Saturdays. To view previous Coast Lines items, visit SantaCruzSentinel.com/tag/coast-lines.

Holiday closings

Some area offices will be closed Wednesday to observe Veterans Day.

- County: County offices are closed.
- Santa Cruz: City offices are closed.
- Capitola: City offices are closed.
- Scotts Valley: City offices are closed.
- Watsonville: City offices are closed.
- Libraries: The Santa Cruz library curbside service is closed Wednesday at the Downtown branch, Aptos branch and Live Oak branch. All branches of the Santa Cruz library system are closed to the public per shelter-in-place orders. The Watsonville Public Library's curbside pickup service is closed Wednesday. The library is closed to public per shelter-in-place orders.

- Schools: There will be no student instruction in Pajaro Valley schools. There will be no student instruction in Santa Cruz City Schools.

- Post office: Post offices are closed.
- Santa Cruz Metro: Local bus service on weekday schedule. Metro Paracruc service on weekday schedule. Amtrak Highway 17 on weekday schedule.

- The Sentinel: The Sentinel will publish and our office remains closed due to shelter-in-place orders. Automated customer service options are available by phone and online. Our 24/7 auto attendant can be reached at 831-706-3201. Online service is just one click away at myaccount.santacruzsentinel.com.

VETERANS DAY

A vital sense of patriotism

We are approaching Veterans Day in a time overwhelmed with bitter partisanship, a slow and halted economy, and fear of losing loved ones from unfamiliar forces.

Although the circumstances are different, the roots of the struggles are much the same from past experiences in this country. Our nation's veterans should be looked up to in these challenging times as our country's force of bravery and heroism. They are a reminder that, even in the worst of times, there is a fortitude within our people to selflessly sacrifice everything for a cause greater than ourselves.

Something I found especially admirable upon speaking with World War II veterans, was the strong sense of duty these men felt more than 75 years ago. One cannot undermine the patriotism that this great struggle was backed by. Not only did this sense of patriotism accompany the soldiers overseas to Europe and the Pacific, it was overwhelmingly true at home, as well. Patriotism was within the school teachers, factory workers, mothers, postal workers, farmers, shop owners, and more.

It seems to me that the statement "veterans sacrificed to preserve your liberties," may be overused to the point that people no longer recognize the value within such statements. With this in mind, I would like to emphasize what statements like this truly mean; at least to me:

The U.S. was built off of ideas; ideas that had not been implemented within government prior to its construction. Perhaps most important is the idea of the sovereign individual. Men and women are sovereign; each with divine value.

Along with this sovereignty and divine value, comes rights. However, these rights do not come from the government; rather, individuals are born with rights. Rights are God-given; or natural. To encroach upon these rights, is to limit the spirit within individuals.

These ideas manifested throughout the West, and throughout time, made countries increasingly free. It is important to recognize the fragility of these fundamental principles, and the necessity for brave men and women to preserve them. Thomas Paine once said that "the cause of America is in a great measure the cause of all mankind."

In closing, I would like to share a message from a local World War II veteran, James "JP" Peterson, who I have known for a few years. I asked JP the following question, intending to incorporate his answer within this column: "If you could say anything that you wish future generations to take away and remember from your generation on this Veterans Day and beyond, what would it be?" His answer truly moved me.

Dear Cyrus,
If my father, an immigrant from Greece, did not survive the trenches in France in WWI after being blown up, I would not be here.

The fact that I am here indicates who I am. You



James 'JP' Peterson at a 2018 Veterans Panel at Mount Madonna School.

know the "order of priorities." God, country, family, friends, myself.

We take care of business in that order. I have done something that I am leaving behind after I

am gone. Started the Greek Orthodox Church in Santa Cruz for God, Served my country

in World War II in the U.S. Navy, adopted two children from Greece while taking care of my family,

developed long-term friendships and finally tried to take care of myself in order to take care of others. I will await my harvest.

In the meantime, I am a veteran of World War II and still around. It is very humbling to see my comrades falling all around me. I will await my judgment.

Living in this world is like being in a very strange place. What happened to "MY World"?

Where did all the honest hand shakers who committed themselves to others go? The silence

makes me feel lonesome not to relate.

I am very optimistic that there are enough young leaders out there like yourself, that you will be

able to steer the ship in the right direction. God bless you and God speed!" JP

Cyrus Kamkar is a Mount Madonna School graduate and currently a political science major and pre-law student at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

COURTS

DA: Couple forced man to work every day at liquor store

The Associated Press

GILROY » A husband and wife have been charged with human trafficking for allegedly locking a man from India in a liquor store, where prosecutors said he worked 15-hour shifts seven days a week, slept in a storage room, bathed in a mop bucket and was never paid.

Amarjit and Balwinder Mann, both 66 and of Gilroy, are accused of threatening the alleged victim with deportation if he told the truth to law enforcement, Santa Clara County District Attorney's office said

in a statement Monday.

An investigation estimated that the couple, who own M&M Liquors in Gilroy and a nearby market, stole more than \$150,000 in wages from the victim and three other employees. Officials said in the statement that they believe the Manns engaged in predatory recruitment of their workers from India and lured them with promises of travel and financial independence, KGO-TV reported.

The Manns are charged with labor human trafficking, witness intimidation,

and wage theft involving a total of four victims. If convicted of the felonies, they could be sentenced to prison time.

If wasn't immediately known if they have an attorney who could speak on their behalf. A phone number for the liquor store was disconnected.

An Alcoholic Beverage Control inspector discovered the alleged victim in February apparently living in a small storage room in the back area of the store, the prosecutors' statement said.

The investigation con-

cluded that the man had flown to the U.S. from India in 2019. The couple took his money and passport and put him to work without pay or a key that would have allowed him to leave the liquor store at night, the statement said.

Three other men — two who worked at the liquor store and one who worked at the market across the street — told agents that they worked marathon hours and were paid little, prosecutors said.

One said he did not understand the concept of a minimum wage, the statement said.

ELECTION 2020

Republican wins back US House seat in Southern California

By Michael R. Blood

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES » Republican Michelle Steel defeated first-term Rep. Harley Rouda on Tuesday in a Southern California district, only the second time in more than two decades that a GOP candidate in the state has defeated an incumbent Democrat.

Rouda captured Orange County's 48th District in 2018 from longtime Republican Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, part of a Democratic sweep of seven House seats in California that year.

Steel said the vote this year showed the American dream "is alive and well in Orange County." She vowed to fight for lower taxes, small businesses and their workers, and to defeat the coronavirus.

"I stand ready to work with both parties," she said in a statement.

Steel joins Washington



PAUL BERSEBACH — THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Orange County Supervisor Michelle Steel participates in a press conference in Santa Ana announcing the Stigma Free OC campaign to promote mental health and suicide prevention services on Nov. 5.

state's Marilyn Strickland as the first Korean American woman elected to Congress. Strickland, a Democrat, last week won the open 10th Congressional District southwest of Seattle.

Steel won about 51% of the votes in a year when Joe Biden trounced President Donald Trump in the state. Trump was backed by about

33% of California voters.

Steel, who heads the Orange County Board of Supervisors, benefited from the district's Republican registration edge and also surmounted widespread distaste for Trump in the strongly Democratic state.

In addition to Steel's victory, Republican candidates are leading in two other

undecided races in Democratic-held districts:

Young Kim is running ahead of Democratic Rep. Gil Cisneros in the 39th District anchored in Orange County, and Republican former Rep. David Valadao is leading Democratic Rep. TJ Cox in the Central Valley's the 21st District.

In the 25th District north of Los Angeles, Republican Rep. Mike Garcia is narrowly trailing Democrat Christy Smith. And Republican former Rep. Darrell Issa captured the conservative-leaning 50th District, which was vacated earlier this year by GOP Congressman Duncan Hunter after he pleaded guilty to a federal corruption charge.

The campaign involving Steel and Rouda was marked by nasty campaign ads and finger-pointing. Steel argued that Rouda would raise taxes, while the incumbent depicted Steel as a corrupt politician.

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