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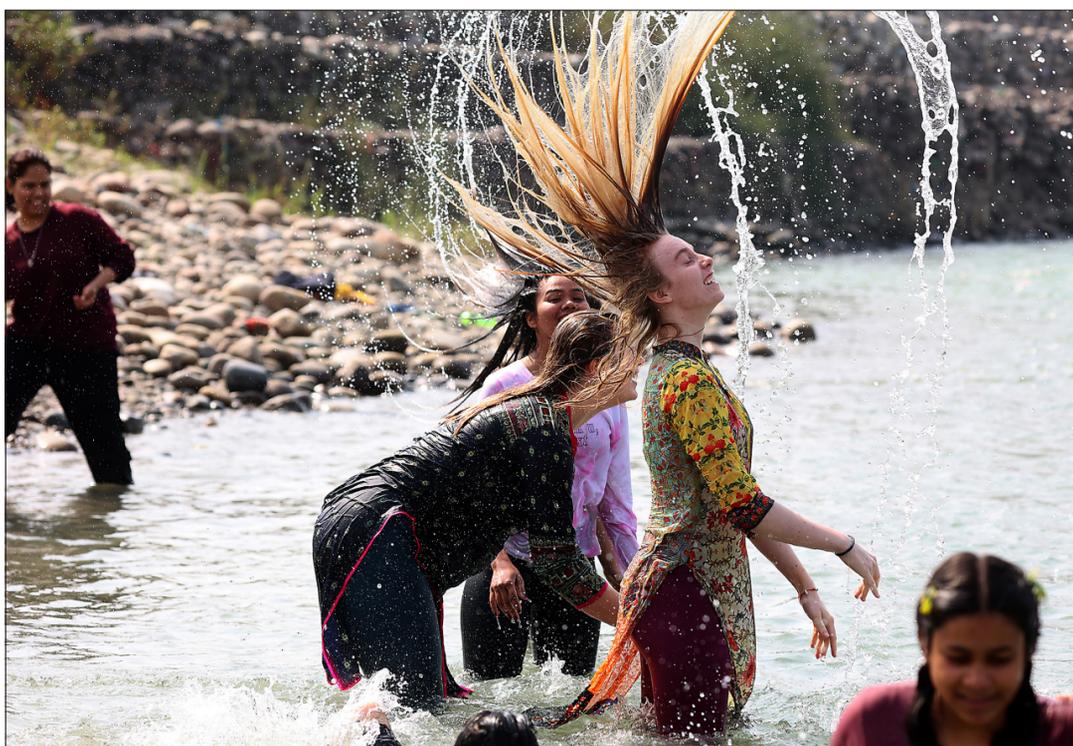
# Santa Cruz Sentinel



Wednesday, February 22, 2023 \$1.50 FACEBOOK.COM/SCSENTINEL TWITTER.COM/SCSENTINEL [santacruzsentinel.com](http://santacruzsentinel.com)

**TREK TO INDIA**

## SOQUEL STUDENT TAKES DIP IN THE RIVER GANGES



SHMUEL THALER — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Soquel resident Bella Cambell exults as she takes a dip in Ganges River on Tuesday near Sri Ram Ashram in Shyampur Village in India. Cambell and her seven 12th grade classmates from Mount Madonna School in Watsonville are on a learning journey to India through March 4. The students began their trip to India in Delhi and will travel to Dharamsala in the Himalayan foothills before returning home. The seniors have named their 2023 trip to India, "Sambandh," the Hindi word for connection or relationship. The class members chose this name because they feel it represents the formation of new relationships with people that they have never met before. Sri Ram Ashram is a home for abandoned children founded by the Mount Madonna community to further the philosophy of caring and love that was the foundation of their spiritual guide Baba Hari Dass. Winding 1,560 miles across northern India, from the Himalaya to the Indian Ocean, the Ganges River is not a sacred place, rather it is a sacred entity. Known as Ganga Ma — Mother Ganges — the river is revered as a goddess whose purity cleanses the sins of the faithful and aids the dead on their path toward heaven.

**\$30 MILLION GRANT**

## Leaders tout multimodal funding win

By PK Hattis  
[pkhattis@santacruzsentinel.com](mailto:pkhattis@santacruzsentinel.com)

**APTOS** » Local leaders gathered in Aptos Tuesday to celebrate a federal grant win to the tune of \$30 million that will go to development of a multimodal transportation project in Santa Cruz County.

The federal investment will partially fund design, right-of-way and construction components for auxiliary lane and bus-on-shoulder facilities along Highway 1 from Freedom Boulevard

to State Park Drive. Additionally, progress will continue with a 1.25-mile segment of the bicycle and pedestrian-friendly Coastal Rail Trail including construction of four dedicated bicycle and pedestrian overcrossings.

Santa Cruz METRO, which is a collaborator in the project along with the California Department of Transportation, will add four new zero-emission buses to its fleet using \$4.8 million from total grant funds. METRO previously pledged to



PK HATTIS — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Rep. Jimmy Panetta helped secure \$30 million to advance development for a southern section of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor Program. He and other local transportation leaders spoke at a Tuesday press conference to share details about the project.

GRANT » PAGE 2

**WAR IN EUROPE**

## Biden: US, allies 'have Ukraine's back'

By Aamer Madhani, Zeke Miller and Chris Megerian  
 The Associated Press

**WARSAW, POLAND** » President Joe Biden on Tuesday warned of "hard and bitter days ahead" as Russia's invasion of Ukraine nears the one-year mark, but vowed that no matter what, the United States and allies "will not waver" in supporting the Ukrainians.

A day after his surprise visit to Kyiv, Biden used a strongly worded address in neighboring Poland to praise allies in Europe for stepping up over the past year and to send a clear message to Russian President Vladimir Putin that "NATO will not be divided, and we will not tire."

"One year ago, the world was bracing for the fall of Kyiv," Biden said before a crowd of thousands outside Warsaw's Royal Castle. "I can report: Kyiv stands strong. Kyiv stands proud. It stands tall and, most important, it stands free."

With Russia and Ukraine each preparing spring offensives, Biden insisted there will be no backing down from what he's portrayed as a global struggle between democracy and autocracy — though polling suggests American support for ongoing military assistance appears to be softening.

"Democracies of the world will stand guard over freedom today, tomorrow and forever," Biden declared. The U.S. and allies will "have Ukraine's back."

UKRAINE » PAGE 2

**INSIDE**

▪ Year of war is felt beyond Russia, Ukraine borders/A9

**WEATHER**

## PG&E prepares for cold, windy storm

By Austin Turner and Rick Hurd  
 MediaNews Group

Agencies across the Bay Area were bracing for the weather system approaching the region this week, a storm expected to bring rain, heavy winds and perhaps even snow to some of the region's peaks.

National Weather Service meteorologist Brayden Murdock said the first indicators of the system arrived Tuesday, with a not-so-subtle increase in the winds. Gusts were forecast to increase from 20 to 40 mph on Tuesday.

The Santa Cruz Mountains will be under a winter storm watch 10 a.m. Wednesday through

STORM » PAGE 2

**DISASTER**  
**EPA orders Norfolk Southern to clean up**  
 The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ordered Norfolk Southern to pay for the cleanup of the Ohio, train wreck. PAGE A6



**POLITICS**  
**California US Senate race gets new entrant**  
 Bay Area U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee is the latest Democrat to jump into the race to succeed Dianne Feinstein. PAGE A3

**BUSINESS**  
 Dow Jones 33,129.59 (-697.10)  
 S&P 500 3,997.34 (-81.75)  
 Nasdaq 11,492.30 (-294.97)

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