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Santa Cruz Sentinel

Rain; cold
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TREK TO INDIA

A LEARNING JOURNEY



SHMUEL THALER — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Eleventh graders at Purkal Youth Development Society (PYDS) have courtside seats as Mount Madonna School senior Sky Weir challenges an attack at the net from one of the society's students during a volleyball match. PYDS enrolls children (predominantly girls) with potential from needy and underprivileged families, many from the remote rural villages of the state of Uttarakhand. Through partnerships with institutional, corporate and individual donors, the school near Dehradun, India, provides children with holistic care and education, by providing free nutrition, health care and high-quality academics. The Mount Madonna seniors are on a 16-day learning journey in India and return to the U.S. on March 4. The score of the match has already been forgotten, but both the Indian students and the cohort from Mount Madonna School said that the effect of the friendships and relationships made between them will last many years.

ELECTION 2024

Carter: Still a model for candidates asking 'Why not me?'

By Bill Barrow
The Associated Press

ATLANTA » As the 2024 campaign season begins, political players are looking in the mirror and deciding whether they see an American president staring back.

It was no different for Jimmy Carter in the early 1970s. And it took meeting several presidential candidates and then encouragement from an esteemed elder statesman before the young governor of Georgia, who had never met a president himself, saw himself as something bigger.

He announced his White House bid on Dec. 12, 1974, amid fallout from the Vietnam War and President Richard Nixon's resignation. Then he leveraged his unknown — and politically untainted — status to become the 39th president. That whirlwind path has been a model, explicit and otherwise, for would-be contenders ever since.

"Jimmy Carter's example absolutely created a 50-year window of people saying, 'Why not me?'" said Steve Schale, who worked on President Barack Obama's campaigns and is a longtime supporter of President Joe Biden. Carter's climb is getting new attention as the 98-year-old receives end-of-life care at home in Plains, Georgia.

David Axelrod, who helped engineer Obama's four-year ascent from state senator to the Oval Office, said Carter's model is about more than how his grassroots strategy turned the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary into his springboard.

"There was a moral stain on the country, and this was a guy of deep faith," Axelrod said. "He seemed like a fresh start, and I think he understood that he could offer something different that might be able to meet the moment."

Donna Brazile, who man-
CARTER » PAGE 3



SUZANNE VLAMIS — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

U.S. President Jimmy Carter waves to the crowd while walking with his wife, Rosalynn, and their daughter, Amy, along Pennsylvania Avenue. The Carters elected to walk the parade route from the Capitol to the White House following his inauguration in Washington, Jan. 20, 1977. Carter announced his campaign for the presidency in December 1974. At that point he had never met an American president. He later said part of what nudged him into the race was meeting several candidates ahead of the 1972 campaign and concluding that he was talented as they were.

WEATHER

Rain, wind and snow headed for region

Blizzard warning issued for northern Sierra Nevada

By Gabriel Greschler and Jakob Rodgers
MediaNews Group

A successive slashing of rain and wind is set for the Bay Area until Wednesday, with fierce snow in the Sierra Nevada expected to reach blizzard-like conditions, prompting officials to issue stark warnings to those hoping for a snow-filled escape this week.

The system is the tail end of a bout of cold air coming down from western Canada, meteorologists said, which pummeled portions of Northern California this past week with record-breaking snowfall.

The incoming Bay Area system will bring up to a quarter inch of rain on Sunday into the evening, with an uptick in winds. The stronger system will come Monday, with heavy rainfall starting in the North Bay around 7 a.m. and moving south to the Peninsula around 10 a.m. — with up to an inch of water expected to drop throughout the region into the afternoon. Gusts are expected to reach between 25 and 35 miles per hour and there's a chance of thunderstorms.

"It could be a pretty messy Monday morning commute with some water on the roadways and

WEATHER » PAGE 3

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Mayors committee draws Brown Act criticism

By PK Hattis
pkhattis@santacruzsentinel.com

SANTA CRUZ » A committee responsible for appointing and nominating city representatives in Santa Cruz County to regional boards, commissions and agencies is marred in controversy after a recent public inquiry caused the county to quickly reassess its view that the meetings could be held outside of the public eye.

For more than 20 years, the City Select Committee — composed of mayors from all four cities in the county — conducted its business in private settings, often over lunch at local restaurants, according to meeting minutes dating back to 2001 that were shared with the Sentinel. While the four mayors are the committee's only voting members, they were often joined by the four city managers, the chair of the county Board of Supervisors and the county administrative officer.

The committee has been meeting remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic and convened Jan. 27 to discuss, among other things, nominations to fill the vacant Central Coast seat on the powerful California Coastal Commission, which

COUNTY » PAGE 3

POLITICS

Election deniers focus on state GOP posts

Election deniers who were unable to succeed at the polls last year have targeted state party chair positions. **PAGE A6**



MEXICO

Mexican president claims to have seen an elf

Mexico's president posted a photo on his social media accounts showing what he says appears to be a woodland spirit. **PAGE A7**

ROUNDUP

SC's Storrer surfs to third in Morro Bay

Santa Cruz's Maddie Storrer tied for third place at the World Surf League's SLO CAL Open at Morro Bay. **PAGE B1**

SOCIAL MEDIA

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