

CABINET
Biden heaps praise on Labor pick Julie Su
 Business » A10

BASKETBALL
Cardinals post rout in first round of D-V
 Sports » B3

MUSIC
Punk rock act PUP releases two albums
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STUDENTS LEARNING OTHER CULTURES

WEDDING IN INDIA



SHMUEL THALER — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Santa Cruz County residents Zoey Ocampo-Sobkoviak and Mariah Cohen cover their heads out of respect as they arrive at Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, a Sikh temple in Haridwar, India, last week to attend the wedding between Babita Sharan and Inderjeet Singh. Ocampo-Sobkoviak and Cohen are on a 16-day learning journey in India with their Mount Madonna School 12th grade classmates. One of the stops for the students was at Sri Ram Ashram, a home for abandoned children founded by silent monk Baba Hari Dass and the Mount Madonna Community. Babita Sharan is one of the children raised at the ashram and welcomed the California students to her wedding ceremony and celebration. To see more photographs, go to Sentinel staff photographer Shmuel Thaler's Weekly Photographer's Eye feature/A3.

WEATHER

Staggering snowfall in California mountains

By John Antczak, Amy Taxin and Ben Finley
 The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES » Emergency crews in California scrambled Wednesday to shuttle food and medicine to mountain communities stranded by back-to-back winter storms that have dumped so much snow some residents can barely see out their windows.

In San Bernardino County east of Los Angeles, around-the-clock plowing is underway but it could take more than a week to reach some areas, said Dawn Rowe, chair of the county's board of supervisors. Residents are dealing with as much as 7 feet (2 meters) of snow, and sheriffs' authorities have conducted 17 rescue operations to help off-roaders and skiers. Emergency crews are trying to reach residents who need assistance.

In Crestline, the entire roof of Goodwin and Sons Market collapsed Wednesday even as safety inspectors were onsite checking up on reported damage. Officials raced to salvage food residents sorely need from its shelves.

Rowe said no one was injured. "We know that roofs are starting to collapse," she said. "There are other businesses that will likely be affected by the weight of the snow."

The county has set up a hotline for residents dealing with issues like frozen pipes, roof problems, and food shortages.

The San Bernardino Mountains are a major tourism and recreation destination but also home to a large year-round population in small cities and communities around lakes and scattered along winding roads. About 80,000 people live

STORMS » PAGE 2

SANTA CRUZ

One-way pilot study on West Cliff Drive moves forward

\$700,000 will be allotted for project

By Aric Sleeper
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SANTA CRUZ » Weeks after winter storms took chunks out of scenic West Cliff Drive, the city of Santa Cruz will move forward with a study of a one-way pilot program on the scenic street and seek out ways to dampen traffic concerns in nearby neighborhoods.

During the West Cliff Drive update at the Santa Cruz City Council meeting Tuesday, city residents who live near the storm-damaged street spoke during public comment to voice concerns



ARIC SLEEPER/SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

One way, westbound traffic begins at Columbia Street and West Cliff Drive due to recent collapses.

about the increased car traffic in the Westside neighborhoods. Residents at the meeting

complained that many drivers ignore the detour signage posted around Almar Avenue, Delaware Avenue

and Woodrow Avenue, and roll through stop signs undaunted.

WEST CLIFF » PAGE 2

POWERFUL BOARD

County submits three names for open seat on Coastal Commission

By PK Hattis
pkhattis@santacruzsentinel.com

SANTA CRUZ » The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors have nominated three local elected representatives to an open seat on the highly influential California Coastal Commission.

At its Tuesday meeting, the supervisors unanimously approved self-nominations of Justin Cummings and Manu Koenig and reaffirmed a selection of Capitola City Council member Yvette Brooks who was previously chosen in late February by the City Select Committee — the other body of local representatives with authority to put forward nominations.

BOARD » PAGE 2

FLORIDA
Propane-filled car flips over in train derailment
 Officials in Florida are keeping a watchful eye on a train car carrying 30,000 gallons of propane that tipped over. PAGE A6



CRIME
Sirhan Sirhan denied parole by state board
 California panel turns down parole request for 78-year-old assassin of presidential candidate Robert Kennedy. PAGE A4

BUSINESS
 Dow Jones 32,661.84 (+5.14)
 S&P 500 3,951.39 (-18.76)
 Nasdaq 11,379.48 (-76.06)

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PHOTOGRAPHER'S EYE



Zoey Ocampo-Sobkoviak blesses bride-to-be Babita Sharan during a turmeric ceremony called "Haldi" held at Sri Ram Ashram a day before Sharan's wedding.



Mariah Cohen attends the Sikh wedding ceremony at Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha of Babita Sharan and Inderjeet Singh.

Nuptials in India

Mount Madonna School 12th grade students attend a wedding ceremony as part of their learning journey in India



Cecily Kelly, of Capitola, and Mariah Cohen, of Corralitos, join the celebration at Sri Ram Ashram during the wedding party for Babita Sharan and Inderjeet. Sharan grew up at Sri Ram, a home for abandoned children near Haridwar, India. Kelly and Cohen, who are on a learning journey in India with their Mount Madonna School 12th grade classmates, are dancing with a group of children who currently live at Sri Ram Ashram or have begun college after growing up there. Although many marriages in India are still arranged, Sharan and Singh met as high school classmates and knew each other for many years. The wedding rituals consisted of Haldi (turmeric) and Mehndi (henna) ceremonies for Sharan, the traditional Sikh marriage ceremony in the Gurudwara (Sikh Temple) in Haridwar and was followed a celebratory party with dancing at the ashram. During the celebration the bride and groom were surrounded by Babita's ashram brothers and sisters, ashram staff and supporters as well as the groom's family and friends. Sri Ram Ashram was founded by the Mount Madonna community as the actualization of the philosophy of silent monk Baba Hari Dass. The ashram adopts abandoned children and surrounds them with love and support and raises strong and successful girls and boys. If not for the love of the ashram their fate would likely be one of destitution. All the kids go to college, one is a dentist, and both the boys and girls field hockey teams from the ashram's school have been Indian National Champions. It's a place where love and compassion change the world one child at a time.



LEFT: Bella Cambell and Zoey Ocampo-Sobkoviak enjoy the celebration at the wedding at Sri Ram Ashram. ABOVE: Mount Madonna School students and their teachers and chaperones pose for a photo with bride and groom Babita Sharan and Inderjeet Singh. Top row, from left, Carson Kelly, Cecily Kelly, Sandy Astone, Mariah Cohen, Jacob Sirk-Traugh, Nicole Silva, Sky Weir, Bella Cambell, Robert Culbertson. Bottom row, from left, Sam Kaplan, Inderjeet Singh, Babita Singh, Zoey Ocampo-Sobkoviak and Shannon Kelly.

This photo page features the work of award-winning Sentinel photographer Shmuel Thaler. 'Photographer's eye' showcases Thaler's photos from around Santa Cruz County.