



OUTSIDE | SPORTS, C1

## ULTRARUNNER

ASHLEY LINDSEY RUNS PAST HEART AILMENT

HAUNTED HISTORY | EXTRA, B3

## SC GHOST HUNTERS SEEK SCARY TALES

DEAL OF THE DAY

Landmark  
Dental Group  
**76% Off**  
X-Rays, Exam & Cleaning  
for \$89 (Reg. \$366)  
See it. Share it. Buy it.  
gotdailydeals.com/santa-cruz

PLEASURE POINT

# SURF LEGEND'S HOME THREATENED BY THE SEA

Wetsuit pioneer Jack O'Neill set to armor bluff along East Cliff Drive



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL

Work begins soon to construct a seawall beneath Jack O'Neill's Pleasure Point home.

By JASON HOPPIN

jhoppin@santacruzsentinel.com

PLEASURE POINT — The man who made it possible for so many to enjoy the sea is going to armor himself against it.

Jack O'Neill popularized wetsuits to brace surfers for cold waters, helping turn the sport into a year-round pursuit. He is still bracing for the sea, but this time on land: to keep the Pacific Ocean at bay, the surf icon is about to start building a seawall around his Pleasure Point home.



O'NEILL

"We'll have it done in a few months," said O'Neill, who believes a new county seawall that runs along much the cliff is contributing to what is literally a deteriorating situation. "I wouldn't have this problem if they didn't build that wall."

Workers were recently spotted going over plans

SEE SEAWALL ON A2



SHIMUEL THALER/SENTINEL

A group involved with extending the East Cliff Parkway Seawall to protect surf legend Jack O'Neill's property meets at the site to discuss the plans.

MOBILE HOME PARKS

# Capitola ends rent control

In 3-2 vote, City Council  
finalizes repeal

By TOVIN LAPAN

tlapan@santacruzsentinel.com

CAPITOLA — After 32 years on the books, rent control for mobile home parks met its demise Thursday night as the City Council voted 3-2 to repeal the ordinance.

Mayor Dennis Norton and Councilmen Kirby Nicol and Sam Storey voted for repeal, while Councilman Mike Termini and Councilwoman Stephanie Harlan voted against.

The council must vote twice to repeal, and the first vote came in August. The repeal will take effect in 30 days.

The repeal was the culmination of a process that started in March, when the City Council first voted to amend the ordinance to settle two lawsuits.

"The city has been bullied, we've been litigated and beaten down," Storey said. "I'd like to point out that the council and staff have an obligation to the entire city and have to look out for the well-being of the entire city. When faced with a half-million dollars in legal expenses year after year, you are forced to look for solutions."

Residents pleaded with the council to wait until the next meeting in two weeks to make a decision so the residents would have more time to secure leases before the repeal took effect.

Harlan was in favor of a delay, while Termini said he would not vote for repeal because, while he thought it might be the best thing for the city, his principles would not allow it.

"Things are moving too quickly," said Margaret Dixon, who owns a home in Surf and Sand Mobile Home Park. "We can't get a good number on who has leases. [Surf and Sand owner] Ron Reed does not respond

SEE RENT ON A13

WALL STREET

# Hedge fund exec gets 11 years for insider trading

By LARRY NEUMEISTER  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Raj Rajaratnam, the hedge fund billionaire at the center of the biggest insider-trading case in U.S. history, was sentenced Thursday to 11 years behind bars — the stiffest punishment ever handed out for the crime.

"His crimes and the scope of his crimes reflect a virus in our business culture that needs to be eradicated," U.S. District Judge Richard J. Holwell said. "Simple justice requires a lengthy sentence."

The 54-year-old founder of the Galleon Group hedge fund was also fined \$10 million and ordered to forfeit \$53.8 million in what the judge said were illicit profits from trading on confidential corporate information.

Prosecutors said Rajaratnam made as much as \$75 million in all by cultivating a network of friends, for-



JIN LEE/AP

Raj Rajaratnam, co-founder of Galleon Group LLC, leaves federal court after his sentencing on Thursday in New York.

mer classmates and other tipsters at various companies and investment

SEE TRADING ON A2

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

# Small graduation change will have big impact

By SHARON NOGUCHI  
San Jose Mercury News

It's hailed by some as a way to cut California's 18 percent dropout rate, and condemned by others as the beginning of a two-tier education system that will limit poor students' futures and decimate art, music and foreign-language studies.

A new law that enacts a seemingly small change, allowing students to count one vocational class as credit toward graduation, has both supporters and detractors predicting a major shift in high school education.

Backers depict AB1330 as a start toward teaching students job-market skills, through courses such as keyboarding, medical assisting and metal shop. The law goes into effect for the 2012-13 school year.

"This really starts moving us away from the one-size-fits-all approach," said supporter Paul Hay, superintendent of the Metro-



BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

Mt. Diablo High School seniors Fabian Guerra and Margarita Ramirez serve fettuccine marinara Wednesday at the Serendipity Culinary Arts Program at Mt. Diablo High School in Concord.

politan Education District, which offers career training and adult education in San Jose. "I think it's going to help more students to graduate."

State schools Superintendent

Tom Torlakson supports the law as a move toward "restoring relevancy," said Erin Gabel, of the state Department of Education.

SEE GRADUATION ON A2





## SEAWALL, continued from front cover

outside O'Neill's home, and O'Neill said the project could cost "a couple million dollars." It will wrap the bluff directly in front of his home, one of the very few on the seaward side of East Cliff Drive.



Though covering just a short distance, the project will extend an existing project. The county recently built 1,400 feet of artificial bluffs through Pleasure Point, protecting East Cliff Drive Parkway Seawall from sliding to the sea. But several blocks remain unprotected, including O'Neill's house.

Measured against O'Neill's stature - he started a multimillion-dollar business, has been in the International Surfing Hall of Fame for 20 years and was recently featured in a state tourism campaign - the house is modest. But its location makes it enviable by any standard. The entry is on the top floor with the lower floors cascading down the bluff. Other East Cliff homes dwarf it in size and majesty, but O'Neill's house easily has the best view, offering an unobstructed window onto the Point's famed surf breaks.



Since he bought the home in the 1970s, O'Neill has worked to protect it. Rip rap was first laid down in the late 70s, and has been expanded over the years. But pounding surf forced the giant boulders to settle and spread out. The wall will armor only O'Neill's home, with the cliffs along what locals lovingly call the "dirt farm" remaining natural. As part of Coastal Commission approval for the project, O'Neill, who owns the dirt farm property at the end of 37th Avenue, offered deed restrictions that preserve it as open space. "That ensures that it will never get sold or developed," said Susan Craig, a Coastal Commission planner. The wall will look like the county's project, complete with a "goat trail" pressed into the artificial rock allowing surfers and others to traverse the shore in front of O'Neill's house.

But O'Neill is not using the same contractor, Drill Tech Drilling & Shoring, which negotiated \$800,000 in cost overruns from the county after the company found working at the base of a cliff more time-consuming than expected. O'Neill still laughs at that, having watched the company's sometimes comedic efforts to manage the sea to accomplish its work.

"They should have asked a surfer!" he said.