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WASHINGTON Sarah Sanders to leave White House News » A6



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PORT COMMISSION

HARBOR SEAWALL **REPLACEMENT BEGINS**

Former Aldo's restaurant demolition, rebuilding on the horizon



PHOTOS BY SHMUEL THALER - SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Aldo's Harbor Restaurant has been closed since June 2016. The vacant facility is due for demolition as construction to strengthen the seawall beneath it launches this month.

By Jessica A. York jyork@santacruzsentinel.com @reporterjess on Twitter

SANTA CRUZ » The Santa Aldo's is an anchor institu-Cruz Port Commission this week celebrated the beginning of a new construction said Port Commissioner project that will shore up a Toby Goddard. "Of course, failing harbor seawall.

1977, has operated out of a food trailer in front of a nearby dock.

"It is a big deal, because tion in this town. They've been there a long time,' the seawall needs to be built Replacement of about 100 first, and then we'll work on feet of the Santa Cruz Small the restaurant, the tenant Craft Harbor's western sea- will be doing the building. Port Director Marian Olin said the harbor project has a limited permitted construction window and will need to conclude demoli-Santa Cruz Port Commis- tion of the former Aldo's Since its closure, the harbor ect were approved in June restaurant, first opened in 2018, but the project had to



AFFORDABLE HOMES County targets ag worker housing

Lack of affordable homes impacting region's agricultural industry

By Nicholas Ibarra nibarra@santacruzsentinel.com @nickmibarra on Twitter

SANTA CRUZ » Santa Cruz County is working to help build hundreds of affordable homes for farmworkers in an effort to keep a lid on a mounting housing crisis facing the workers who form the backbone of the agricultural industry.

Under a plan unanimously adopted by the county supervisors this week, the local government is hoping to pave the way for the development of at least 500 units of housing for farmworkers and their families in the next five years.

"The industry is suffering dramatic impacts as a result of the shortage and expense of housing, making it difficult for farmers to find workers," said county Housing Manager Julie Conway on Tuesday.

The plan calls for the county to help identify a handful of sites where a nonprofit developer could build 200 units of affordable housing that would be deed-restricted for farmworkers and their families

Santa Cruz County is also looking at updating regulations to make it easier for farmers to build worker housing on their farmland, aiming to incentivizing development of at least 300 units of on-farm housing.

The focus on farmworker housing emerged

wall, with a new sheet pile wall built in front of the old, heralds the subsequent revival of a beloved local restaurant in its wake

sion members ceremonially building and have contrac-"broke ground" on the sea- tor Granite Construction wall replacement project, Co. build the new seawall some three years after Al- before the end of Novemdo's Harbor Restaurant was ber. Granite Construction forced to close due to haz- was an original contractor ardous conditions underly- when the harbor was built ing the long-time tenant's in 1964. Design plans for the building off Atlantic Avenue. \$2.4 million seawall proj-

After a ceremonial groundbreaking event Wednesday, a new seawall will be created at the harbor.

wait a year in order to have the former location.

time to go out to bid and conclude within the permit timeframe, Olin said. Once the new seawall is built, Olin got to get their financing, said she expects Aldo's will they've got to get their perneed another two to three mits, they've got to do all years to complete construc- that," Olin said of Aldo's tion of its new building at

"They've got to go through the same process that we went through, where they've SEAWALL » PAGE 2

WASHINGTON White House aide Conway recommended to be fired

By Kevin Freking and **Darlene Superville** The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » A federal watchdog agency recommended Thursday that Pres-

of his most ardent defend- lated to special counsel Rob- during television interviews ers, counselor Kellyanne ert Mueller's office, said in a Conway, for repeatedly violating a law that limits polit- has been a "repeat offender" ical activity by government workers.

The U.S. Office of Speident Donald Trump fire one cial Counsel, which is unre- ing in her official capacity

letter to Trump that Conway of the Hatch Act by disparaging Democratic presiden- ficial authority or influence tial candidates while speak- to affect the result of an elec-

and on social media.

Federal law prohibits employees of the executive branch from using their of-**CONWAY » PAGE 2**

MIDDLE EAST

Tankers struck near Strait of Hormuz; US points blame at Iran

By Jon Gambrell

The Associated P ress

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES » Two oil tankers came under a suspected attack Thursday near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, with one of them set ablaze, and the U.S. blamed Iran in what it called a campaign of "escalating tensions" in a region crucial to global energy supplies.

The U.S. Navy rushed to assist the stricken vessels in the Gulf of Oman off the coast of Iran. The ships' operators offered no immediate explanation on who or what caused the damage against the Norwegian-owned MT Front Altair and the Japanese-owned Kokuka Courageous. Each was loaded with petroleum products, and the Front Altair burned for hours, sending up a column of thick, black smoke.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the **TANKERS » PAGE 2**

ONLINE POLL COURTS BUSINESS SOCIAL MEDIA YES **Dow Jones** Congressman's wife Santa Cruz Sentinel Today's question: 86% 26,106.77 (+101.94) pleads guilty to corruption videos on YouTube Do you like the idea of the Capitola Mall being convert-S&P 500 The wife of U.S. Rep. Duncan Follow the Sentinel's YouTube ed to an outdoor, mixed-use 2891.64 (+11.80) Hunter pleaded guilty to a single channel for videos from our center? staff. www.youtube.com/user/ santacruzsentinel corruption count, agreed to tes-Nasdaq VISIT SANTACRUZSENTINEL.COM TO TAKE THIS AND OTHER ONLINE POLLS tify against her husband. PAGE A4 7837.13 (+44.41)



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TODAY IN HISTORY 1940

German troops entered Paris during World War II; the same day, the Nazis began transporting prisoners to the Auschwitz concentration camp in Germanoccupied Poland.

1943

The U.S. Supreme Court, in West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette, ruled 6-3 that public school students could not be forced to salute the flag of the United States.

1954

President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure adding the phrase "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

1990

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld, 6-3, police checkpoints that examined drivers for signs of intoxication

1993

President Bill Clinton nominated Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

2017

A rifle-wielding gunman opened fire on Republican lawmakers at a congressional baseball practice in Alexandria, Virginia, wounding House Whip Steve Scalise and several others; the assailant died in a battle with police.

Birthdays

President Donald Trump is 73. Jazz musician Marcus Miller is 60. Singer Boy George is 58. International Tennis Hall of Famer Steffi Graf is 50. Actor-singer Kevin McHale is 31. Actress Lucy Hale is 30.

Star report

Taylor Swift and Katy Perry confirm end of long feud

Katy Perry baked some cookies and shipped them off to Taylor Swift, and all is well in the

Conway

FROM PAGE 1

tion. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence are exempt from the Hatch Act, but there are no exceptions for White House employees.

The agency does not have the authority to fire Conway, who was appointed by Trump, so it would be up to the president to follow its recommendation and dismiss one of his most unwavering defenders. The recommendation to fire Conway is the first time the watchdog office has recommended the removal of a White House official over Hatch Act violations.

Special Counsel Henry Kerner's letter to Trump states: "Ms. Conway's violations, if left unpunished, send a message to all federal employees that they need not abide by the Hatch Act's restrictions. Her actions erode the principal foundation of our democratic system — the rule of law."

Conway told reporters her ethnicity and "appropri-

Tankers

FROM PAGE 1

U.S. assessment of Iran's involvement was based in part on intelligence as well as the expertise needed for the operation. It was also based on recent incidents in the region that the U.S. also blamed on Iran, including the use of limpet mines to attack four oil tankers off the nearby Emirati port of Fujairah and the bombing of an oil pipeline in Saudi Arabia by Iranian-backed fighters in May, he said.

Taken as a whole these unprovoked attacks present a clear threat to international peace and security, a blatant assault on the freedom of navigation and an unacceptable campaign of escalating tension ers in 1987 and 1988 in the by Iran," Pompeo said. He provided no evidence, gave no specifics about any plans and took no questions.

At the United Nations, the United States asked for closed Security Council consultations on the tanker incidents later Thursday.

Iran denied being involved in the attacks last month and its foreign minister called the timing of views this as an escalation Thursday's incidents suspicious, given that Jap- just about as close to a conanese Prime Minister flict without there being an Shinzo Abe was meeting actual armed conflict, so Supreme Leader Ayatollah the tensions are very high," sel, it said. Ali Khamenei in Tehran.

who encountered her in the White House press office, "I have no reaction."

White House spokesman Steven Groves called the agency's decision "unprecedented" and "deeply flawed" and said it violated Conway's constitutional rights to free speech and due process.

"Its decisions seem to be influenced by media pressure and liberal organizations – and perhaps OSC should be mindful of its own mandate to act in a fair, impartial, non-political manner, and not misinterpret or weaponize the Hatch Act," Groves said in a statement.

A summary of the investigation into Conway stated that beginning in February, Conway engaged in a pattern of partisan attacks on Democratic presidential candidates. She called Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey "sexist" and a "tinny" motivational speaker. In another interview, she accused Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts of "lying" about

former U.S. Rep. Beto thorough and impartial O'Rourke of Texas for not investigations of alleged thinking the women run- Hatch Act violations by sening "are good enough to nior officials in administrabe president." It also cited tions from both parties. her description of former Vice President Joe Biden as sue multiple reports to the lacking "vision."

The summary also noted that she used her Twitter individual," Kerner wrote. account to conduct political activity. For example, she retweeted a March 31 message that referred to Biden compliance promised by as "Creepy Uncle Joe" and "took it upon herself to outline other faults she found to create and enforce such in Mr. Biden's candidacy," the report said.

Counsel also noted that, the significance of the law as applied to her.

interview about the Hatch Act, Conway replied: "If you're trying to silence me of Special Counsel found through the Hatch Act, it's not going to work," and "Let law during two television me know when the jail sentence starts.

ating somebody else's her- letter that career staff in his itage." And she attacked office have long conducted

'Never has OSC had to is-President concerning Hatch Act violations by the same "Ms. Conway's actions and statements stand in stark contrast to the culture of your White House Counsel and undermine your efforts a culture.'

Kerner said he there-The Office of Special fore would "respectfully request" that Conway be during a May 29 media in- held to the same standards terview, Conway minimized as other federal employees and that "you find removal from federal service to be When asked during the the appropriate disciplinary action.'

In March 2018, the Office that Conway violated the interviews in which she advocated for and against Kerner told Trump in his candidates in the 2017 Al-

abama special election for U.S. Senate .

The Office of Special Counsel is an independent agency that protects federal employees from prohibited personnel practices, especially reprisal for whistleblowing.

Career government officials found to have violated the Hatch Act can be fired, suspended or demoted, and fined up to \$1,000. The 1939 law allows government officials to personally donate money to political committees or engage in a variety of partisan activities, so long as they do so during their personal time and don't use government resources.

Conway has been a fiery defender of Trump, doing so during frequent appearances on cable TV news programs and in answering questions from reporters at the White House. Trump has praised her for her "success" in her career.

Conway is a former pollster who helped Trump win election in 2016 as his campaign manager.

Like in Fujairah, dozens

of ships ranging from mas-

sive oil tankers to smaller

pleasure boats, traditional

dhows and cargo vessels

ply the waters of the strait

and the Gulf of Oman. The

discrepancy could not be immediately reconciled.

The Front Altair had been bound for Taiwan, the Kokuka Courageous for Singapore, according to the data firm Refinitiv.

The fact that both vessels remained afloat suggested mines may have damaged them, Larsen said.

Judging from the damage, it doesn't look like a torpedo, it looks like something smaller, whether that is a vessel-borne imor even a limpet mine," he told the AP.

According to a U.S. official, initial evidence suggested the attack against the Kokuka Courageous was conducted by Iran with a mine similar to what was used against oil tankers off the UAE last month. The official, who declined to provide additional details or evidence, spoke on condition discuss initial findings that don't offer it new terms to have not been made public. the deal by July 7.

navies of Iran, Oman, the UAE and the U.S. regularly patrol, but the waters are vast and lit only by the moonlight at night, allowing small vessels to approach without warning Tensions have escalated provised explosive device in the Mideast as Iran appears poised to break the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, an accord that President Donald Trump repudiated last year. The deal saw Tehran agree to limit its enrichment of uranium in

exchange for the lifting of crippling sanctions. Now, Iran is threatening to resume enriching uranium closer to weapons-grade levels if European nations



Two oil tankers near the strategic Strait of Hormuz were reportedly attacked on Thursday June 13, 2019 International Tanker Management, which operates the MT Front Altair, said an explosion caused fire aboard but that the incident is still being investigated.

"Tanker War," which saw the U.S. Navy escort ships through the region. Regardless of who is responsible, the price of a barrel of benchmark Brent crude spiked as much as 4% immediately after the attack, showing how critical the region remains to the global economy

"The shipping industry of the situation, and we are said Jakob P. Larsen, head

Qatar, also called for help. The U.S. Navy sent a destroyer, the USS Bainbridge, to assist, said Cmdr. of anonymity in order to Joshua Frey, a 5th Fleet spokesman. He described the ships as being hit in a "reported attack," without elaborating.

Frontline, the firm that operates the Front Altair, told The Associated Press that an explosion was the cause of the fire. Its crew of 23 -from Russia, the Philippines and Georgia – was safely evacuated to the nearby Hyundai Dubai ves-

BSM Ship Management

PATRICK VEREECKE - MARINE TRAFFIC

world again. Whew! Perry posted an Instagram image of a plate of cookies, and her former rival Swift responded kindly. The years-long cold war between Perry and Swift began to thaw last year when Perry gifted Swift with an actual olive branch. The feud reportedly began over backup dancers. According to Perry, some of her regular dancers got a gig with Swift, but when they expressed an interest in touring again with Perry, Swift supposedly fired them.

– Bay Area News Group

LOTTERY

WEDNESDAY'S WINNING NUMBERS

Daily 3 Afternoon: 4, 3, 6 Daily 3 Evening: 1, 2, 2 Daily 4: 9, 5, 6, 1

Fantasy 5:

5, 13, 15, 16, 39

Daily Derby

1st: 10, Solid Gold 2nd: 3, Hot Shot 3rd: 5, California Classic

Race Time: 1:40.31

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

Wednesday's drawing: 10, 16, 23, 24, 34

Mega Number: 3

Saturday's estimated jackpot: \$53 million

MEGA MILLIONS

Tuesday's drawing: 20, 34, 39, 43, 57

Mega Number: 13

Today's estimated jackpot: \$45 million

POWERBALL

Wednesday's drawing: 5, 35, 38, 42, 57

Powerball: 13

Saturday's estimated jackpot: \$79 million

talks with Washington but national association repre-Tehran "rejected" the overture.

"The supreme leader's government then insulted Japan by attacking a Japanese-owned oil tanker just outside Iranian waters, threatening the lives of the from the United Arab Emirentire crew, creating a maritime emergency," Pompeo added.

Iran previously used mines against oil tank-

Seawall

FROM PAGE 1

next steps. "It's not quick or easy getting something built in a marine environment. There's a lot of regulatory oversight, but we've gotten to a point where we're doing the seawall, so we're very very excited to have this fresh start."

Prior to Aldo's closure from the fact that it lives in three years ago, harbor of-

Housing

FROM PAGE 1

from a 2018 regional study that interviewed hundreds of farmworkers in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties.

Led by the California Institute for Rural Housing, the study found more than 45,000 new units of farmworker housing are needed to alleviate "critical overcrowding."

The region's average farmworker family is cramped into a home shared by seven people, according to the study – more than double Santa Cruz County's average occupancy of fewer direction." than three people per home.

At least 5,300 new farm- rector of the nonprofit Cenworker homes are needed in ter for Farmworker Famthe region within the next ilies, said farmworkers in their land.

Pompeo noted that Abe of maritime security for said the Kokuka Courahad asked Iran to enter into BIMCO, the largest intersenting ship owners.

> The suspected attacks occurred at dawn Thursday about 40 kilometers (25 miles) off the southern coast of Iran. The Front Altair, loaded with naphtha ates, radioed for help as it caught fire. A short time later, the Kokuka Courageous, loaded with methanol from Saudi Arabia and

ficials worked to make tem-

porary fixes to the seawall,

but eventually, the sea-

wall's rapid deterioration outpaced repair efforts, of-

everything."

found.

saltwater," Reed said.

the status quo, the study

closely linked to a labor

shortage that is widely

seen as the agricultural in-

dustry's biggest challenge,

according to Santa Cruz

County Farm Bureau Presi-

income levels to farmwork-

ers and farmworker fam-

ilies, when you compare

that to your average tech

worker there's just no abil-

ity for those population to

compete in a supply and de-

mand market," Miele said.

said, is "a step in the right

The county plan, Miele

Ann Lopez, executive di-

"When you look at the

dent Brendan Miele.

The lack of housing is

geous sustained hull damage and its 21 Filipino sailors had been evacuated, with one suffering minor injuries. All 21 were placed aboard the Bainbridge, according to Lt. Col. Earl Brown, a spokesman for the U.S. Central Command. Earlier, Iranian state

television said 44 sailors from the two tankers were transferred to an Iranian port in the southern province of Hormozgan. The

Once the new seawall is built, Olin said, district officials can resume discussions on the second phase of the West Jetty walkway replacement project, connecting the jetty down to the docks. In addition to the restaurant's closure, a public pier that has been Circulation Director shuttered for the past several years will be able to re-

Contact reporter Jessica A. York at 831-706-3264.

five years just to maintain the Pajaro Valley are living in "horrendous" conditions due to the high demand for housing.

"From what I've seen, how farmworkers live in just the worst poverty and squalor – I am for anything that will build decent, affordable housing for farmworkers and their families," Lopez said.

A related push for farmworker housing is taking place at the state level in the form of Assembly Bill 1783, which passed the state Assembly in May.

Authored by Assemblyman Robert Rivas, D-Hollister, the legislation would create a path for farmers to cut through regulatory redtape if they are willing to partner with nonprofit developers to build housing on



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ficials said at the time. The wall has outlasted its original 50-year projected lifespan, but eventually, said commission Vice Chairman Steve Reed, "the ocean eats

"Every harbor, every ship, open, as well. every boat basically suffers