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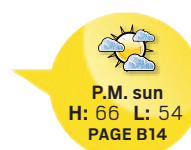
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# Santa Cruz Sentinel



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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**  
[jjork@santacruzsentinel.com](mailto:jjork@santacruzsentinel.com)  
[@reporterjess](https://twitter.com/reporterjess) on Twitter

**SANTA CRUZ** » The Santa Cruz Port Commission this week celebrated the beginning of a new construction project that will shore up a failing harbor seawall.

Replacement of about 100 feet of the Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor's western seawall, with a new sheet pile wall built in front of the old, heralds the subsequent revival of a beloved local restaurant in its wake.

Santa Cruz Port Commission members ceremonially "broke ground" on the seawall replacement project, some three years after Aldo's Harbor Restaurant was forced to close due to hazardous conditions underlying the long-time tenant's building off Atlantic Avenue. Since its closure, the harbor restaurant, first opened in

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

"It is a big deal, because Aldo's is an anchor institution in this town. They've been there a long time," said Port Commissioner Toby Goddard. "Of course, the seawall needs to be built first, and then we'll work on the restaurant, the tenant will be doing the building."

Port Director Marian Olin said the harbor project has a limited permitted construction window and will need to conclude demolition of the former Aldo's building and have contractor Granite Construction Co. build the new seawall before the end of November. Granite Construction was an original contractor when the harbor was built in 1964. Design plans for the \$2.4 million seawall project were approved in June 2018, but the project had to



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

wait a year in order to have time to go out to bid and conclude within the permit timeframe, Olin said. Once the new seawall is built, Olin said she expects Aldo's will need another two to three years to complete construction of its new building at

the former location. "They've got to go through the same process that we went through, where they've got to get their financing, they've got to get their permits, they've got to do all that," Olin said of Aldo's

**SEAWALL** » PAGE 2

**AFFORDABLE HOMES**

## County targets ag worker housing

Lack of affordable homes impacting region's agricultural industry

**By Nicholas Ibarra**  
[nibarra@santacruzsentinel.com](mailto:nibarra@santacruzsentinel.com)  
[@nickmibarra](https://twitter.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 incentivize development of at least 300 units of on-farm housing.

The focus on farmworker housing emerged

**HOUSING** » PAGE 2

**MIDDLE EAST**

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

**By Jon Gambrell**  
*The Associated Press*

**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

**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 President Donald Trump fire one

of his most ardent defenders, counselor Kellyanne Conway, for repeatedly violating a law that limits political activity by government workers.

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel, which is unre-

lated to special counsel Robert Mueller's office, said in a letter to Trump that Conway has been a "repeat offender" of the Hatch Act by disparaging Democratic presidential candidates while speaking in her official capacity

during television interviews and on social media.

Federal law prohibits employees of the executive branch from using their official authority or influence to affect the result of an elec-

**CONWAY** » PAGE 2

**ONLINE POLL**

**Today's question:**

Do you like the idea of the Capitola Mall being converted to an outdoor, mixed-use center?

VISIT [SANTACRUZSENTINEL.COM](http://SANTACRUZSENTINEL.COM) TO TAKE THIS AND OTHER ONLINE POLLS

YES

**86%**

NO

**14%**

**COURTS**

**Congressman's wife pleads guilty to corruption**

The wife of U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter pleaded guilty to a single corruption count, agreed to testify against her husband. **PAGE A4**

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