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LEO'S HAVEN

COUNTY'S FIRST INCLUSIVE PARK NOW SET TO OPEN

Project models power of community effort, public-private partnerships



PHOTOS BY DAN COYRO — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Oliver Potts wheels around LEO's Haven in Chanticleer Park, the inclusive playground named for him and his two sisters, Lauren and Evelyn. The state-of-the-art park for all kids, including those with disabilities, opens this weekend.

By Nicholas Ibarra
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LIVE OAK » LEO's Haven is many things.

It's a park that almost wasn't. It's Santa Cruz County's first inclusive playground, the jewel of Live Oak's Chanticleer Park. It's a story of two women rallying a community. And it's a model that is already serving as the foundation for public-private partnerships to support parks across Santa Cruz County.

For Oliver Potts, 9, and his sisters Evelyn, 13, and Lauren, 13, it's also a really great place to play. Which is good, because "LEO" is an acronym for the three sibling's names.

"I just like this park now," said Oliver, speaking from the park's play structure on a recent afternoon. "It's in order, and it's perfectly fit right here."

"And I like the slide," he added with a shrug.

Oliver is mobility impaired and uses a wheelchair. The wood chips and sand that commonly sur-



Oliver Potts leaves his wheelchair behind as he makes his way around the handicap-friendly playground named for him and his two sisters.

round play structures are barriers that limit his ability to play with his siblings and friends.

From its rubberized surfacing, adapted swings, and tactile features to its wheelchair accessible play structure and quiet entryways for those with sensory difficulties, LEO's Haven was designed from the ground up — below the ground, in fact — to be accessible and enjoyable for children of all abilities.

Other Chanticleer Park

improvements made as part of the project include off-leash dog areas, a bike pump track, a community garden, a new parking area, fencing, drainage and a restroom building

On Saturday, the park that has been more than six years and \$4 million in the making celebrates its grand opening. Speakers include accessibility advocate Haben Girma, the first deaf-blind person to graduate from Harvard Law School, and Tiffany Harris, co-

founder of nonprofit park-designer Inclusion Matters.

The celebration is a moment Oliver's parents have worked toward for most of his life. His mother, Tricia Potts, was among two women that led a campaign raising \$2 million in private funds to support the park.

Because of access issues, the Potts family rarely went to parks before attending the 2013 grand opening of Tatum's Garden, an inclusive park in Monterey.

"We were just having a really hard time being able to play together with a family," Potts said.

Potts resolved herself to bring the same thing to Santa Cruz County. "It was such a powerful experience," she said. "I ended up promising my children that day that we would build something like this in our community."

Park that almost wasn't

A decade ago, the 4.5 acre lot at 1975 Chanticleer Ave. was slated for a \$5 million

PARK » PAGE 2

WASHINGTON

House marches articles to Senate

By Lisa Mascaro
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » In a dramatic procession across the U.S. Capitol, Democratic House leaders marched the formal articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump to the Senate late Wednesday, setting the stage for only the third trial to remove a president in American history.

Trump complained anew it was all a "hoax," even as fresh details emerged about his efforts in Ukraine.

The ceremonial pomp and protocol by lawmakers who will be prosecuting the case against Trump moved the impeachment out of Speaker Nancy Pelosi's Democratic-run House to the Republican-majority Senate, where the president's team is mounting a defense aiming for swift acquittal.

"Today we will make history," Pelosi said as she signed the documents, using multiple pens to hand out and mark the moment. "This president will be held accountable."

Earlier Wednesday, the House voted 228-193, almost entirely along party lines to deliver the

IMPEACH » PAGE 2

SPILLING OVER

New 25-cent fee set for Santa Cruz to-go cups

City follows in footsteps of county's, Watsonville's new laws

By Jessica A. York
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SANTA CRUZ » By Labor Day, those triple-mocha lattes to go will come with a little something extra on the side: a 25-cent surcharge.

The Santa Cruz City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to update its existing food-packaging ordinance to further encourage environmentally sustainable business practices. The move puts the city in line with similar legislative updates made last year by the city of Watsonville and Santa Cruz County.

CUPS » PAGE 2

ENVIRONMENT

Fever chart: Earth had its hottest decade on record in 2010s

By Seth Borenstein
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » The decade that just ended was by far the hottest ever measured on Earth, capped off by the second-warmest year on record, two U.S. agencies reported Wednesday. And scientists said they see no end to the way man-made climate change keeps shattering records.

"If you think you've heard this story before, you haven't seen

anything yet," Gavin Schmidt, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, said at the close of a decade plagued by raging wildfires, melting ice and extreme weather that researchers have repeatedly tied to human activity.

Schmidt said Earth as a whole is probably the hottest it has been during the Holocene — the past 11,500 years or so — meaning this could be the warmest period since the dawn of civilization. But scien-

tists' estimates of ancient global temperatures, based on tree rings, ice cores and other telltale signs, are not precise enough to say that with certainty.

The 2010s averaged 58.4 degrees Fahrenheit (14.7 degrees Celsius) worldwide, or 1.4 degrees (0.8 C) higher than the 20th century average and more than one-third of a degree (one-fifth of a degree C) warmer than the previous decade, which had been the hot-

FEVER » PAGE 2



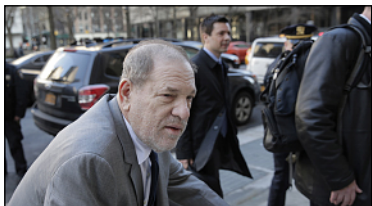
Flames from a backfire consume a hillside as firefighters battle the Maria Fire in Santa Paula.

NOAH BERGER — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

COURTS

Weinstein judge warns the jury pool

Some potential jurors have been posting on social media about their involvement in the New York City case. **PAGE A8**






ELECTION 2020

Warren-Sanders rift worries progressives

The Dems most liberal wing is nervous that the rift between Warren and Sanders could torpedo progressive ideals. **PAGE A6**

BUSINESS

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TODAY IN HISTORY

1865

Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman decreed that 400,000 acres of land in the South would be divided into 40-acre lots and given to former slaves.

1920

Prohibition began in the United States as the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution took effect, one year to the day after its ratification.

1969

Two manned Soviet Soyuz spaceships became the first vehicles to dock in space and transfer personnel.

1978

NASA named 35 candidates to fly on the space shuttle, including Sally K. Ride, who became America's first woman in space, and Guion S. Bluford Jr., who became America's first black astronaut in space.

1989

Three days of rioting began in Miami when a police officer fatally shot Clement Lloyd, a black motorcyclist, causing a crash that also claimed the life of Lloyd's passenger, Allan Blanchard.

2007

Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., launched his successful bid for the White House.

Birthdays

Author William Kennedy is 92. Author-editor Norman Podhoretz is 90. Country singer Ronnie Milsap is 77. Rock musician Paul Webb is 58. Model Kate Moss is 46. Actor-playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda is 40. NFL quarterback Joe Flacco is 35.

Star report

Gerber, Davidson end romance

The fledgling relationship between Pete Davidson and Kaia Gerber has ended, reportedly after the 18-year-old model realized that the "Saturday Night Live" comic was a bit too old for her and after his self-described mental health issues became "overwhelming," Page Six reported.

"It looks like Pete and Kaia are over. Pete has a certain M.O. and he's very intense to his girlfriends. Kaia is only 18, and it's a lot to deal with," a source told Page Six. Gerber's parents, Cindy Crawford and tequila magnate Rande Gerber, had hoped the romance would "fizzle out." — Martha Ross, Bay Area News Group

LOTTERY

TUESDAY'S WINNING NUMBERS

Daily 3 Afternoon:

3, 4, 7

Daily 3 Evening: 8, 3, 1

Daily 4: 1, 8, 4, 2

Fantasy 5:

2, 7, 15, 18, 28

Daily Derby

1st: 8, Gorgeous George

2nd: 2, Lucky Star

3rd: 4, Big Ben

Race Time: 1:44.54

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

Saturday's drawing:

4, 9, 13, 18, 34

Mega Number: 22

Wednesday's estimated jackpot: \$13 million

MEGA MILLIONS

Tuesday's drawing:

9, 11, 13, 31, 47

Mega Number: 11

Friday's estimated jackpot: \$103 million

POWERBALL

Saturday's drawing:

3, 21, 23, 31, 59

Mega number: 3

Wednesday's estimated jackpot: \$296 million

Park

FROM PAGE 1

park funded by Santa Cruz County's Redevelopment Agency.

Those plans were dashed in 2012, redevelopment agencies shuttered across California on the tail-end of the Great Recession. The land was nearly auctioned off before neighbors rallied to save it.

"Live Oak is a community that doesn't have enough parks, and the loss of redevelopment was a terrible hit for our ability to build parks," said county Supervisor John Leopold, whose 1st District includes Live Oak.

Live Oak neighbors rallied to save the park, forming the Chanticleer Park Neighbors Association.

"We found each other, and we partnered with the county and we started workdays — we started showing with our bodies and presence that this public space was needed," said Mariah Roberts, who led the association and now

serves as executive director for the nonprofit Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks. "We kept that park from being put on a list and sold."

Roberts and Potts soon joined forces, and the vision of LEO's Haven was born. In 2015, the pair put together a plan to form a public-private partnership with the Santa Cruz County Parks Department and set out to raise \$2 million.

Over the next three years, scores of residents, Chanticleer Park neighbors and community groups rallied around the cause.

"Between the two of them, they became this force of nature that wasn't going to be stopped," said Santa Cruz County Parks Director Jeff Gaffney.

And in October 2018, Potts and Roberts announced they had raised the \$2 million — the most private funds ever raised to support a Santa Cruz County park, officials said at the time.

"They did an amazing job to make our dreams a reality," Leopold said. "This is the largest DIY-park in the



DAN COYRO — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Oliver Potts test-rides one of the slides at LEO's Haven.

entire county."

The county, meanwhile, had secured \$1 million in matching funds, with an additional \$1 million to support the park coming as a marquee commitment for Measure G, a sales tax increase approved by county voters in 2018.

Ending and a beginning

While Saturday's grand opening represents the end to one journey for Potts and Roberts, it is also the begin-

ning of another. Both women are now employed by the revitalized Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks. Roberts is the nonprofit's executive director, and Potts its program director.

Potts is planning inclusive programming at LEO's Haven aiming to break down barriers and stereotypes surrounding disabilities.

And the nonprofit, under their leadership, is providing exactly the kind of support for community-driven

That's far shorter than the last presidential impeachment trail, of Bill Clinton, in 1999, or the first one, of Andrew Johnson, in 1868.

As Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell sets the rules for the trial, Trump has given mixed messages about whether he prefers lengthy or swift proceeding, and senators are under pressure with the emerging new evidence to call more witnesses for testimony.

The seven-member prosecution team will be led by the chairmen of the House impeachment proceedings, Reps. Adam Schiff of the

parks projects that Potts and Roberts wish they had.

"We wanted that desperately, we needed a partner that knew how to do this," Roberts said. "We didn't have that partner. So we had to create it ourselves and kind of learn the hard way."

The model that made LEO's Haven possible is now serving as the foundation for Aptos' Seaciff Village Neighborhood Park.

Ground was broken on a skateable feature at the Aptos park in December, thanks to a joint effort between a coalition including local philanthropists, Dreamland Skateparks, and Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks.

"I really do hope that this will serve as an inspiration," Potts said. "Maybe it's not an inclusive playground, maybe it's something else. But we all have these moments where we want to do something for our community or for ourselves. And you really just have to take that step in faith that you can do it, and you just have to get started."

Impeach

FROM PAGE 1

charges. The split reflected the deeply divided nation at the start of this presidential election year. It came one month after the House impeached Trump alleging he abused his presidential power by pressuring Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden, using military aid to the country as leverage. Trump was also charged with obstructing Congress' ensuing probe.

Trump's political campaign dismissed the House effort as "just a failed attempt to politically damage President Trump leading up to his reelection."

The Senate will transform itself into an impeachment court on Thursday. The Constitution calls for Chief Justice John Roberts to preside at the trial, administering the oath to senators who will serve as jurors and swear to deliver "impartial justice."

Technically, the House was simply notifying the Senate of its delivery of the articles, with a more for-

mal presentation Thursday. Opening arguments are to begin next Tuesday after the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

The top Republican in the House, Kevin McCarthy of California, said Americans will look back on this "sad saga" that tried to remove the president from office with the "weakest case."

The president's team expects acquittal with a Senate trial lasting no more than two weeks, according to senior administration officials unauthorized to discuss the matter and granted anonymity.

Fever

FROM PAGE 1

test on record, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The decade had eight of the 10 hottest years on record. The only other years in the top 10 were 2005 and 1998.

NASA and NOAA also calculated that 2019 was the second-hottest year in the 140 years of record-keeping. Five other global teams of monitoring scientists agreed, based on temperature readings taken on Earth's surface, while various satellite-based measurements said it was anywhere from the hottest year on record to the third-hottest.

Several scientists said the coming years will be even hotter, knocking these years

out of the record books.

"This is going to be part of what we see every year until we stabilize greenhouse gases" from the burning of coal, oil and gas, Schmidt said.

"It's sobering to think that we might be breaking global temperature records in quick succession," said Georgia Tech climate scientist Kim Cobb. "2020 is off to a horrifying climate start, and I fear what the rest of the year will bring to our doorsteps."

NASA's Schmidt said that overall, Earth is now about 1.2 degrees C (nearly 2.2 F) hotter since the beginning of the industrial age, a number that is important because in 2015 global leaders adopted a goal of preventing 1.5 C (2.7 F) of warming since the rise of big industry in the mid-to late 1800s. He said that

Cups

FROM PAGE 1

"Imposing a fee for disposable to-go cups is a necessary step in reducing the amount of debris that's entering our landfills and our oceans," Save Our Shores program manager Emily Pomeroy told the City Council before its vote. "Imposing this fee is a way of encouraging city residents and visiting tourists to integrate environmentally responsible habits into their routine, habits which will spill over into the lives of their social networks, both within and beyond the City of Santa Cruz."

While Santa Cruz city's new rules are effective 30 days after final approval, the city will not seek mandatory compliance from its food establishments — now including takeout food delivery businesses — until after the Labor Day holiday. Watsonville's 10-cent charge on paper cups was effective Jan. 1 and Santa Cruz County's 25-cent charge will begin July 1.

Public input

Santa Cruz Food Not Bombs leader Keith McHenry encouraged the city to set up more places for public composting, while a California Restaurant Association representative said that the type of product surcharges the council was considering weigh heaviest on the city's low-income residents. Java Junction owner Michael Spadafora said that while he has been encouraging customers to bring

their own drink cups to his cafes for 25 years, new city surcharges are forcing product costs to continue escalating.

"The lowest-denomination people here in town usually don't have a recyclable cup," Spadafora said. "You're passing these recyclable charges on to people, which I don't mind doing again. Just like I said last time, everything just keeps going up. But right now, a smoothie has about 80 cents in packaging built into the cost of the product."

Enforcement of Santa Cruz's cup charge is being delayed to the end of the summer at the request of Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk parent Santa Cruz Seaside Co., according to city officials. Though the company was not opposed to the city changes, said Councilwoman Cynthia Mathews, "they did express frustration that they were not fully engaged in the discussion leading up to this." The Boardwalk is a "major provider of this disposable food ware" and is hoping to use up their summer supply stock, said city Waste Reduction Manager Leslie O'Malley, who is overseeing the effort.

Eco-friendly history

"Anyone who knows me knows I pick up these damn cups and lids and straws all the time. I mean, they're a scourge upon the earth," Mathews said, making a motion to update the city ordinance. "I think it is remarkable that the local businesses aren't opposing it — they're making some kind of practical ap-

plication comments. But obtaining public sentiment in the world is rare."

Similar to the Santa Cruz's existing plastic bag ban ordinance, the to-go cup fee cannot be waived or included in the products' price and must be charged as a separate fee that is identified on sales receipts. The law update also includes changes to which to-go compostable materials are permitted, now excluding polylactic acid-based disposables and fiber-based disposables coated with polyfluorinated alkyl chemicals.

Santa Cruz's efforts to force private industry of offering carry-out food and drink containers to become more environmentally sustainable dates to 1992, with a voluntary directive to avoid disposable polystyrene materials. In 2008, the city law was updated with a formal ban on polystyrene food service containers, accompanied by a mandate that restaurants use biodegradable, compostable or recyclable to-go materials — except for plastic cutlery and drink tops. Then, in a precursor to the latest change, in 2017 city leaders updated the law to recommend food vendors charge customers the quarter fee for disposable items and a quarter credit for bringing their own containers, and to give customers their straws, cutlery, drink lids and to-go condiment packages — all compostable — only upon request of the customer.

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ing than the year-to-year measurements, where natural variations such as El Nino, the periodic warming of the Pacific Ocean, come into play.


"Human-caused climate change is responsible for the long-term warming — it's responsible for why the

Intelligence Committee and Jerry Nadler of the Judiciary Committee, two of Pelosi's top lieutenants.

Ahead of Wednesday's session, Schiff released new records from Lev Parnas, an associate of Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani, about the Ukraine strategy, including an exchange with another man about surveilling later-fired Ambassador Maria Yovanovitch.

Schiff said the new evidence should bring more pressure on McConnell, who is reluctant to allow witnesses to testify and also prefers swift acquittal.

2010s were warmer than 2000s, which were warmer than the 1990s, etc.," Texas A&M University climate scientist Andrew Dessler said in an email. "But humans are not responsible for why 2016 was warmer than 2015 or why 2019 was warmer than 2018."



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