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NBA  
**Warriors' Green makes history**  
Sports » B5

WATSONVILLE  
**Fox Theater attempts a new comeback**  
Local » A2

VIOLENCE  
**2 dead in Virginia bus station shooting**  
Nation » A5

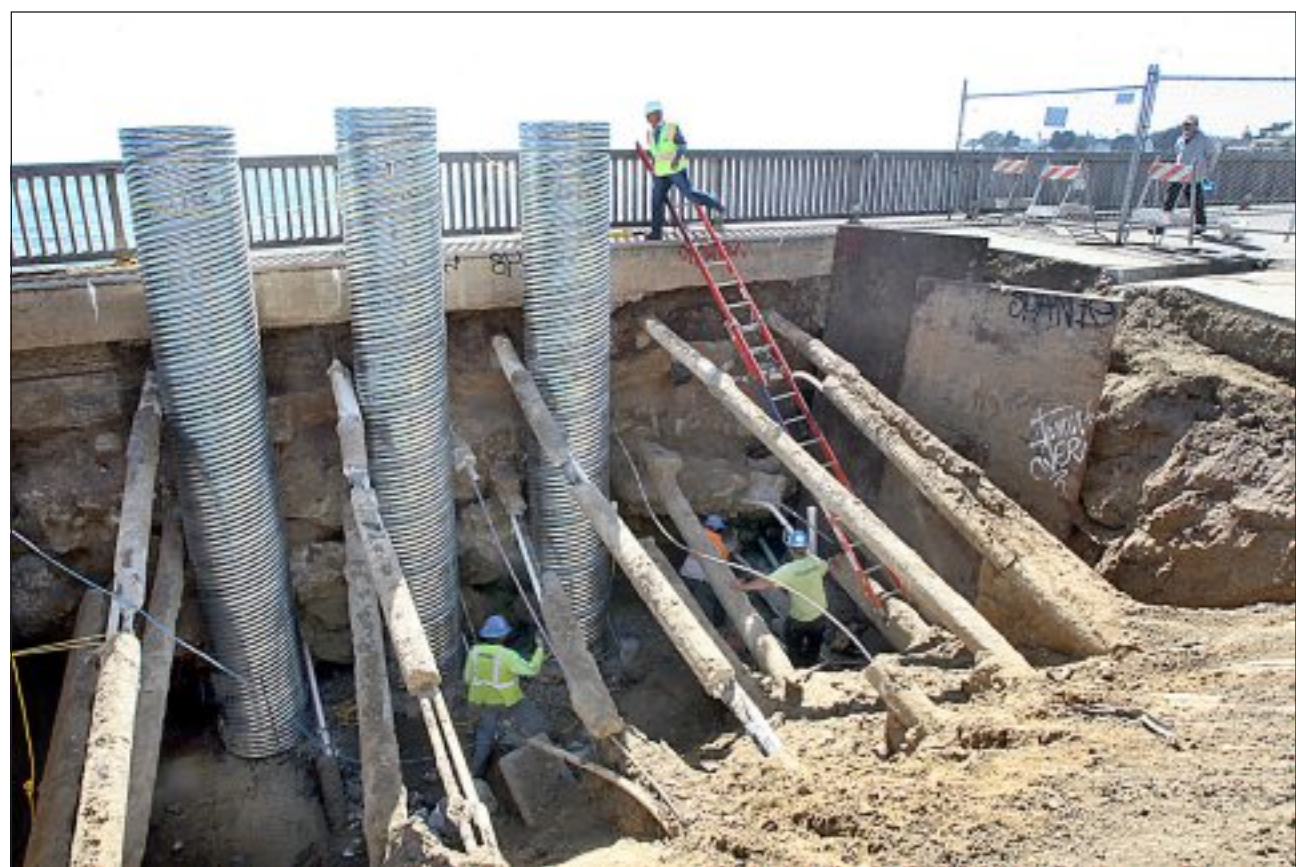
# Santa Cruz Sentinel

P.M. sun  
H: 64 L: 46  
PAGE B14

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## SANTA CRUZ ROADWORK

# CITY TACKLES 20-FOOT-DEEP SINKHOLE ON WEST CLIFF



DAN COYRO — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Repairs continue on the sinkhole that developed in the West Cliff bike path between Columbia Street and Woodrow Avenue.

### Ongoing work involves stabilizing cliff wall

By Jessica A. York  
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**SANTA CRUZ** » What began in January as one of two West Cliff Drive weather damaged sidewalk areas has expanded into a fenced-off 20-foot-deep hole east of Woodrow Avenue.

The sinkhole opened up after winter storms pushed heavy swells against the bluff, eroding the sandstone wall and protective boulders. The city project to repair the 34-by-20-foot hole has involved intermittent rerouting of West Cliff traffic around the site as it entered its second phase last week. Work is expected to continue for another two



SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC WORKS — CONTRIBUTED

A large boulder is placed inside a West Cliff Drive sinkhole in early March to armor the adjacent retaining wall.

weeks, including final paving.

"We have had to close the roadway surrounding the project a handful of times,

like today, however, the detour is an easy one and we are not aware of complaints from neighbors," city Public Works Department spokes-

woman Janice Bisgaard said Thursday.

Sinkholes are not a new occurrence for the bedrock bluff along West Cliff Drive, which is particularly vulnerable to the natural process of erosion and is why there are so many caves in this area, Bisgaard said. West Cliff has eroded at an estimated rate of up to 6 inches a year in recent decades, according to Gary Griggs, a coastal geologist and director of the Institute of Marine Sciences at UC Santa Cruz.

The area's last major sinkhole, about 150 feet east of the current one and deep enough to fit a small car, opened in 2014 next to the bike path and revealed a cave to the ocean, as it has done about every 10 years in the same location.

**SINKHOLE** » PAGE 5

## CALIFORNIA

# Legislature OKs raising minimum wage to \$15

Gov. Brown expected to sign off on bill

By Jessica Calefati  
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**SACRAMENTO** » A first-in-the-nation plan to gradually boost California's minimum wage to \$15 an hour over the next six years won the Legislature's approval today after rancorous floor debates on whether the move would strengthen or harm families and the economy.

Senate Bill 3, authored by Sen. Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, passed the Assembly on a 48-26 vote and cleared the Senate 26-12. The measure now heads to Gov. Jerry Brown, who quickly announced after the Senate vote that he would sign the legislation Monday in Los Angeles.

The governor had resisted a more modest wage hike proposed last year before deciding to work with labor leaders to craft the framework of the historic compromise measure.

Echoing the enthusiasm Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders shared earlier this week, legislative Democrats who support the measure said low-wage workers need a pay hike to stay out of poverty and keep up with California's high cost of living. "I cannot afford a single-family home in the community that I live in," said Assemblyman Evan Low, D-San Jose, who urged his colleagues to vote yes on the bill. "What kind of California do we want to have when someone making six figures can't even afford to put a roof over his head?"

As soon as the Assembly this morning passed the measure, the word quickly landed in San Jose, where a rally crowd of more than 200 janitors, blue-collar workers and their families put up a loud cheer in response.

**WAGE** » PAGE 5

## MEMORABLE PRANKS

# Silicon Valley has long enjoyed April Fools' Day jokes

By Patrick May  
[pmay@mercurynews.com](mailto:pmay@mercurynews.com)

When it comes to pulling April Fools' Day jokes, Silicon Valley and tech companies in general are proven masters. Their employees often possess the creative juices. They apparently have the blessings of bosses always looking for ways to keep the troops entertained while they work unspeakably long hours coding. And they often have immediate access to clever software engineers and things like video tools to produce high-quality shenanigans.

Over the years, here are some of the more memorable April pranks from the high-tech gang in Silicon Valley and across the country:

▪ Google: The search giant stunned (a few gullible) readers when it announced on April 1, 2012, that it was shutting down YouTube, the company's wildly successful video platform. Why? Google said the feature had simply been a temporary effort aimed at finding the best video uploads in the world. YouTube, of course, went on to live another day.

▪ Microsoft: It once announced "Palm Search technology" on Bing, which allegedly gave users the ability to search online telepathically by scanning their handprint on the screen of a computer.

▪ Tesla: In 2015, the electric carmaker pulled out the Model W watch, offering the nonexistent piece of wearable tech even in platinum. "As many in the media predicted, it's a watch," Tesla wrote on its blog. "That's what the 'W' stands for."

**JOKES** » PAGE 5

## EDUCATION AND JOBS

# County ranks one of most educated areas in US

By Kara Guzman  
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**SANTA CRUZ** » Santa Cruz County has quality schools and educated residents, but degrees have less impact on income level and employment in this region, according to a recent report.

According to Value Penguin, a New York-based consumer data website, Santa Cruz County is ranked the No. 11 most educated region in the nation this year, largely due to the quality of its schools, colleges and universities.

Researchers compared school quality and numbers of adults with college and advanced degrees among the 200 most populous metropolitan areas. The report used data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. News and World Report and the rating website GreatSchools.

Santa Cruz County ranked No. 4 in the nation for school quality and No. 21 for attainment, a measure of how many adults have degrees, according to the report.

However, the report also evaluated the impact of degrees on income potential and employment. On a list of 200, the county ranked No. 128 for education/poverty and No. 127 for education/employment — meaning that degrees are less likely to lift adults above the poverty line and degrees are less likely to lead to employment, compared to other areas.

For example, in Santa Cruz County, 7.2 percent of adults older than 25 with bachelor's degrees are below the poverty line, compared to 4.7 percent nationwide, according to 2014 U.S. Census Bureau data.

The simple explanation is that there's just less money in Santa Cruz County's job

market, said state labor analyst Jorge Villalobos. Around 20,000 people — out of a local labor force of 143,000 — commute over the hill for higher-paying jobs. According to the latest U.S. Census Bureau data from 2014, average weekly pay in Santa Cruz County was \$811, compared to \$2,090 in Santa Clara County.

That's partly due to differences in the types of jobs in each county, said Villalobos. In Santa Cruz County, the public sector, which includes government and public education, employs the most people, followed by the health sector.

Santa Cruz County ranks No. 11 in the country when it comes to the most educated.



DAN COYRO — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL FILE

**EDUCATION** » PAGE 5

**BRUSSELS ATTACKS**  
**Violent times encourage a step to the far right**  
The Brussels attacks have given a boost to the far right in Belgium and some other countries. **PAGE A10**



**DROWNING**  
**California diver dies in New Mexico cave**  
Authorities say a California diver has died in a cave beneath a well-known swimming hole in New Mexico. **PAGE A6**

**BUSINESS**

- Dow Jones Industrial 17,685.09 (+31.57)
- Standard & Poor's 2059.74 (-4.21)
- Nasdaq 4869.85 (+0.56)

**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
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TODAY IN HISTORY  
1976

Apple Computer was founded by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne. The federally created Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail for short) began operations in the northeastern U.S. (it was taken over in 1999 by CSX and Norfolk Southern).

1789

The U.S. House of Representatives held its first full meeting in New York; Frederick Muhlenberg of Pennsylvania was elected the first House speaker.

1924

Adolf Hitler was sentenced to five years in prison for his role in the Beer Hall Putsch in Munich. (Hitler was released in December 1924; during his time behind bars, he wrote his autobiographical screed, "Mein Kampf.")

1945

American forces launched the amphibious invasion of Okinawa during World War II. (U.S. forces succeeded in capturing the Japanese island on June 22.)

1984

Recording star Marvin Gaye was shot to death by his father, Marvin Gay (cq), Sr. in Los Angeles, the day before his 45th birthday. (The elder Gay pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter, and received probation.)

Birthdays

Actress Jane Powell is 87. Actress Debbie Reynolds is 84. Actor Don Hastings is 82. Baseball Hall of Famer Phil Niekro is 77. Actress Ali MacGraw is 77. Rhythm-and-blues singer Rudolph Isley is 77.

Star report

Ewan McGregor: Obi-Wan Kenobi movie possible

Maybe the last thing some "Star Wars" fans want to hear is that there are plans to return to the "Phantom Menace" era. But others seem eager for a new movie just focusing on Obi-Wan Kenobi and starring Ewan McGregor.

And, McGregor wetted their appetite in a new interview with Collider by hinting that such a standalone feature is a possibility.

When told that an Obi-Wan movie would be palatable to many fans, McGregor said he'd very much like to do one, too."

Martha Ross — Bay Area News Group

LOTTERY

WINNING NUMBERS  
Daily 3 Afternoon: 1, 6, 4  
Daily 3 Evening: 8, 8, 5  
Daily 4: 4, 5, 2, 3  
Fantasy 5: 6, 12, 27, 29, 31  
Daily Derby  
1st: 5, California Classic  
2nd: 9, Winning Spirit  
3rd: 2, Lucky Star  
Race Time: 1:41.42  
SUPER LOTTO PLUS  
Wednesday's drawing: 22, 24, 28, 33, 39  
Mega number: 24  
Saturday's estimated jackpot: \$11 million  
MEGA MILLIONS  
Tuesday's drawing: 33, 38, 40, 46, 49  
Mega number: 15  
Today's estimated jackpot: \$50 million  
POWERBALL  
Wednesday's drawing: 24, 44, 53, 55, 63  
Powerball: 19  
Saturday's estimated jackpot: \$135 million

VIRGINIA

Police: Trooper, suspect die in bus station shooting; 2 hurt

By Larry O'dell  
The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — A gunman fatally shot a Virginia state trooper Thursday at a busy bus terminal in the capital city of Richmond before he was shot dead by two other troopers, police said. Two civilians were also shot but were expected to recover.

Trooper Chad P. Dermeyer, 37, died after being shot multiple times, according to Virginia State Police Superintendent Col. Steven Flaherty. The civilians, both women, sustained injuries that were not life-threatening, State Police spokeswoman Corinne Geller said. Flaherty said investigators don't know what sparked the shooting. Dermeyer had been participating with about a dozen other troopers in a training exercise at the bus station when a brief encounter with the gunman quickly turned violent, he said.

Dermeyer was dressed in a fatigue-style uniform and was not wearing a protective vest, the superintendent said.

"We've got a lot of evidence to sift through," Flaherty said. The evidence, he said, included bags that could have belonged to the gunman.

The gunman's identity was being withheld until his family could be notified.

A small army of law enforcement officers in tactical gear and dozens of cruisers and emergency response vehicles flooded to the station, in an area that



Police and rescue officials mingle with bus patrons outside the Greyhound Bus Station on Thursday in Richmond, Va. STEVE HELBER — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

includes a minor league baseball stadium and a variety of commercial establishments and restaurants.

Najee Wilson, 18, of Newark, New Jersey, said his bus was pulling up to the station when he heard three gunshots and saw people running out of the building.

"We heard a lot of people screaming," Wilson said. "It definitely was a scary experience."

Wilson, who was en route to Atlanta, was among about 200 travelers waiting to board buses at a staging area set up a few blocks from the bus station after the shooting.

Leigha Schilling, who was between stops on her bus trip from New York to South Carolina, said she was smoking a cigarette outside the station Thursday when she heard banging. She went back inside briefly and saw people lying on the ground and what appeared to be blood on the floor. A security guard ordered her to get on the floor, but she ran back outside, and then heard several

shots, she said. "I was terrified," she said. "I didn't know what was going on."

Vincent Smith was working at the U-Haul Moving and Storage facility next door to the Greyhound station when he heard sirens and saw police cars buzzing by.

An officer stopped in and ordered him and his co-workers to stay inside and lock the doors until told it was safe again, Smith said. By late afternoon, he said he had been locked inside for about an hour and a half.

City Councilwoman Reva Trammell called it "the saddest day in the city of Richmond."

"State troopers doing their job and innocent people shot," she said. "Why? This was a senseless act."

About 50 officers from the Richmond Police Department went to the bus station to assist state police, Chief Alfred Durham said.

He said law enforcement officers have become the target of "folks out there with evil intentions."

Sinkhole

FROM PAGE 1

In the process of plugging the latest sinkhole, Salinas-based contractor Don Chapin Co. needed to shore up the retaining wall to protect the area from further damage, said Bisgaard. In the project's first phase, coming with about a \$100,000 price tag, some 3 to 5 tons of boulders were brought in to act as armor for the exterior cliff, she said.

Last week, construction work began on the second phase, concentrating on ensuring the long-term viability of the area. Josh Spangrud, a city senior civil engineer, said the work involves creating a retaining wall separate from the existing structure to plug the sinkhole's bottom. The void



A large sinkhole developed in January on the West Cliff bike path between Woodrow Avenue and Columbia Street due to pounding surf. DAN COYRO — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL FILE

will be filled with 90 cubic yards of concrete and an unknown amount of drainage rock to prevent further erosion. The new infill will reinforce existing underground retaining wall and other supports, he said.

The total cost of phase two, for which the city hired

Santa Cruz's Mesiti-Miller Engineering and Watsonville-based geotechnical engineers Haro Kasunich & Associates, is not yet clear, said Bisgaard. The third phase will place more rock in the cove around the outside of the area for greater stabilization.

Wage

FROM PAGE 1

"Today...we are in the right place, at the right time, with the right people," said San Jose city Councilman Ash Kalra to the crowd, which held hand-scrawled political signs and wore colorful tee shirts. "The passage of the minimum wage would not have happened without all of you fighting for fifteen. You deserve the credit for this."

Not all agree

Back in Sacramento, however, Republican lawmakers and two moderate Assembly Democrats were not so content. They insisted the shift would tank small businesses, hurt seniors on fixed incomes and send the state budget back into free fall.

"What this will do is impose almost impossible choices" for small businesses, said Assemblyman Jim Patterson, R-Fresno. "These choices would be to cut hours to stay open, cut employees to stay open, raise prices to stay open or perhaps go out of business."

In the lower house, Assemblymen Tom Daly, D-Anaheim, and Adam Gray, D-Merced, voted against the measure and Assemblyman Rudy Salas, D-Bakersfield, abstained. Members of the upper house cast a party-line vote, with all Democrats in favor and all Republicans opposed or choosing to abstain.

Brown said he felt compelled to act because of strong public support for two even more ambitious labor-backed minimum wage ballot initiatives — which proposed reaching a \$15 minimum wage sooner — that the Legislature would be unable to modify if it became law through a vote of the people.

"When employees are not stressed out over how to pay their rent or other expenses, they are more productive and can focus better on serving your customers and helping you build your business," said Gary Gerber, CEO of Sun Light & Power in Berkeley, who supports the legislation.

Linked to inflation

In addition to establishing a \$15 minimum wage by 2022, SB 3 would tie future increases to inflation, just as the unions proposed. However, the compromise plan would give the governor leeway to delay scheduled minimum wage increases for one year in the event of an economic downturn or budget shortfall.

It would also give businesses with fewer than 26 workers an extra year to comply.

UC Berkeley's Center for Labor Research and Education projects that the ripple effect of the increase could be boost wages for close to 6 million Californians by an average of 24 percent.

Latinos and workers in their 20s would benefit the most, the university researchers said, because they hold a disproportionate

number of low-wage jobs.

"We know that some who work full-time cannot put a roof over their heads or a meal on the table," said newly-minted Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, D-Lakewood. "Today, the California Legislature sent the strong message that if you work full time, your family shouldn't have to live in poverty."

Brown criticized

Speaking on the Assembly floor, many Republicans — and even a few Democrats — criticized Brown and the labor leaders for working in secret in recent weeks to craft the agreement and rushing it through the Legislature with a single committee hearing and little to no public input.

"How we got here doesn't feel right," said Assemblywoman Susan Eggman, D-Stockton, who added that she wished she had time to discuss the proposal with the Stockton City Council and local farm bureau.

"What's the rush to do this?" she asked.

But Assemblywoman Lorenna Gonzalez, D-San Diego, a leading labor ally, snapped back that an earlier version of SB 3 had been introduced last year and that even though she and other lawmakers weren't invited "to the table" to help negotiate the deal, she still sees it as transformative for low-income Californians.

"If you haven't been talking about minimum wage in your district, you haven't been talking," Gonzalez said.

Education

FROM PAGE 1

In Santa Clara County, the top industry is private professional businesses, which pays more than the public sector.

However, even within industries, the pay is still lower in Santa Cruz County, said Villalobos. For example, in Santa Cruz County, the average weekly pay in private professional businesses is \$1,130, compared to \$2,366 in Santa Clara County.

In the information sector, which includes software, motion pictures and sound recording, the average weekly pay in Santa Cruz County is \$1,254, compared to \$5,126 in Santa Clara County.

Silicon Valley is the greatest economic engine since World War II, said Jason Hoppin, Santa Cruz County communications manager.

"Comparing us to them might be apples and oranges," said Hoppin. "However, while we are a national leader when it comes to industries such as organic food and outdoor recreation, it's no secret that we have a long way to go when it comes to jobs and wages. A lot of affordability metrics, for example, rank us as one of the least affordable places in the country not only because of the housing crisis, but because of a lack of opportunity. The county and local cities recognize this and have invested significant resources toward bringing about change that benefits local residents."

Jokes

FROM PAGE 1

And with a shot over Apple's bow, the blog continued: "This is in no way a competitive response to what some other company is doing."

▪ Groupon: The coupon company came up with Gröuber, "transportation from Groupon. Right meow," featuring cats at the wheel that can even parallel park. "Don't claw your way through traffic to get a ride," said the joke's website: "Our drivers will get you there with laser precision."

▪ Genentech: It rented goats and put them out on the headquarters' front lawn. The message to employees: The company was doing away with human gardeners to cut the grass.

▪ Pebble: The wearable-tech company announced a scratch-and-sniff smartwatch, which it dubbed Fruity Pebbles.

▪ Roku: Announcing "the latest in wearable streaming," the company

used April 1, 2014, to unveil the Roku Watch. "At Roku," it wrote on its company blog, "we're all about delivering the best streaming experience to your TV. But hey, why stop there? Meet the Roku Watch®. We know that nearly everyone loves watching TV at home on a big ol' flat screen. The Roku Watch is for the rare individuals who enjoy squinting around a teenie tiny screen or like showing off their wearable tech."

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