FLY-IN POSTER WINNER

WHS student's design is selected

LOCAL, A2

MBL MOST VALUABLE

Watsonville junior pitcher Rivera earns honor

SPORTS, B1

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WATSONVILLE PAJARO FREEDOM AROMAS CORRALITOS CASTROVILLE APTOS LA SELVA BEACH ROYAL OAKS ELKHORN MOSS LANDING

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2014 — 146TH YEAR — NO. 38 NEWS LEADER OF THE PAJARO VALLEY ONE DOLLAR

ALMOST TIME

CRIME

Man shot multiple times

By TARMO HANNULA
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

WATSONVILLE — A man was shot multiple times Friday in front of his Grant Street home. Watsonville police got several calls of a fight in progress with shots fired at 4:40 p.m.

Emergency workers found a 31-year-old man collapsed on the front porch of a home on the 100 block of Grant Street, about a block from Watsonville Police Department. He had been struck three times with large caliber bullets in his pelvic area.

Police recovered shell casings in the middle of Grant Street. They sealed

See SHOOTING, page A12

EDUCATION

PVUSD looking at

Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Charlie Kieffer, a descendant of the Castro family, talks about progress on preserving the Castro Adobe home on Old Adobe Road in Watsonville Thursday.

A historic milestone

Castro Adobe to hold open house on June 7

Contributed

The Castro Adobe is shown in a photo from around 1895.

By TODD GUILD
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

WATSONVILLE — Some seven years after a team of volunteers began restoring the Castro Adobe, and 165 years after Juan José Castro built it, the historic structure will open June 7 to the public, but anyone who wants to see it should hurry.

The one-day open house will highlight the renovation work that has been going on in earnest since 2007, with tours of the cocina-style kitchen and restored garden.

Visitors will also be able to witness the unveiling of "The Adobe Series," art prints featuring the Castro Adobe and Santa Cruz Mission by artist Michael Schwab, who is credited with prints of several other county state parks.

After the open house, visits will be for school groups and other tours by appointment only, until it opens sometime in 2015.

The Castro Adobe, which was built in 1849, lies on a patch of land that has throughout its 165-year history been variously used for cattle grazing and farming.

The building is located on Old Adobe Road in Larkin Valley, which is itself an old horse cart path dating back to the 1800s.

Most of the original 13,000-acre Rancho San Andreas, which once stretched from the Pajaro River to Seascape, has been sold off.

The last resident, Edna Kimbro, moved out in 1989 after the Loma Prieta Earthquake rendered it untenable.

But the historic structure has never

See CASTRO, page A12

New chapter for Watsonville/Aptos adult school grads

Graduation took place Thursday at Mello Center

By TODD GUILD
and TARMO HANNULA
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

WATSONVILLE — Like many at Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education, Aimee Ramirez took a divergent path to completing her education.

Ramirez, 24, said she dropped out in 2007 — her senior year — citing increasing difficulty of her classes and the hubris of youth.

"As an adolescent you're confused," she said. "You think you know it all but you don't."

What followed was two years of working two entry-level jobs, with days that often ran from 8 a.m. until 11 p.m.

The lifestyle left her no time for friends or family.

"I was thinking, 'I'm slowly killing myself,'" she said.

She said her revelation came one morning when she arose to begin another day of work.

"I did that for a couple years and I said, enough is enough, I can't do this any more," she said. "My body was so tired, but in my mind I had all these things I wanted to do."

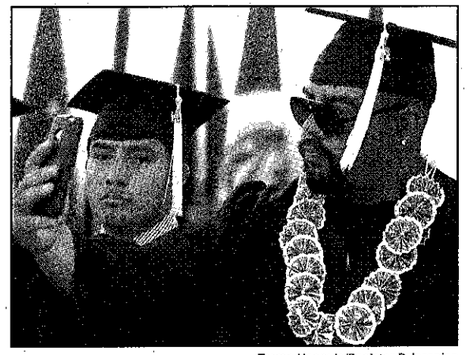
And so, after seeing other people with careers furthered by their education, she decided to return to school in 2009.

"I wanted to break the cycle of poverty living paycheck to paycheck," she said. "I told myself that if I didn't do it then I wasn't going to do it at all."

Ramirez said she currently works with ALCANCE, a program of Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County that helps at-risk youth and adults with work skills development and employment services.

That experience has inspired

See ADULT, page A12



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Jesus Arenas takes a selfie prior to filing into the commencement ceremony from Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education Thursday at the Mello Center.

background check policy

Teachers: Shrinking parent volunteer pool

By TODD GUILD
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

WATSONVILLE — Pajaro Valley Unified School District administrators are considering revising their policy requiring background checks for parent volunteers by the California Department of Justice after a group of teachers Wednesday told the Board of Trustees that it has seriously reduced participation in the classroom and field trips.

Tami Stolzenthaler, environmental education coordinator with the City of Watsonville, said the requirements have forced her to cancel nine field trips this year, which is approximately 20 percent of the trips the city offers.

See PVUSD, page A8

BUSINESS

Gluten-free bakery set for national spotlight

By ERIK CHALHOUB
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

CAPITOLA — While Melinda's Gluten Free Bakery will be celebrated on a local level Sunday, it could soon receive national exposure.

The bakery, which will hold a grand opening celebration Sunday, was also one of 30 across the nation that was chosen to bake for the "Swag Bags" that will be presented at the Daytime Emmy Awards on June 22.

But first, Melinda's Gluten Free needs donations from the community in order to pay for the more than 1,100 treats that will be in the bags and to ship them.

"I believe we can do it," said Hannah

See BAKERY, page A12

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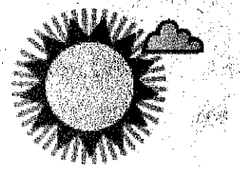
WEATHER

Partly cloudy

Tonight partly cloudy
Sunday partly cloudy
Tonight's low: 49
Sunday's high: 71
Details on page A12.



make up many of his credits.

When he returned to AHS, however, he ran into the same problems and never completed his studies.

"You'd be surprised at the kind of things that happen (at Aptos High School)," he said.

the doors to future success. This is just the beginning."

Rhea DeHart, who sits on the board and chairs the school's advisory committee, said the school's success lies in its responsiveness to the needs of the community.

very proud of me."

Raquel Zavala said it was a "big day" for her.

"I am here to complete my GED," she said. "I am very happy. This institution has been good for me. I plan to go to Cabrillo College to study in their medical program."

vehicle. The man was listed in critical condition and flown by air ambulance to a San Jose area trauma center.

Bonny Hawley, executive director of Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks, talks about a fully restored brasero inside the cocina at the Castro adobe.

Tarmo Hannula/ Register-Pajaronian

CASTRO

From page A1

been forgotten.

That's thanks in part to Kimbro, whose restoration efforts continued until she sold it to Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks in 2002.

The organization also purchased the old Kimbro house, which will serve as the interpretive center.

The efforts haven't been easy. The adobe has been besieged by years of wet winters and scorching summers and hammered by the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake.

Before the work began the walls were cracked and crumbling, the garden unkempt and overgrown. The upper floor, moreover, was unsafe.

Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks and a group of volunteers began to restore the adobe in 2007, making 2,500 adobe bricks by hand over a three-week period. These now replace several aging bricks that were placed there well over a century ago.

The house is now a National Historic Site and a California State Landmark.

The building was once part of a network of haciendas throughout the state that served as waypoints and rest stops for people traveling through California.

Charlie Kieffer, whose great-great grandmother, Maria de los Angels, once lived in the house, described the places as the Hyatt Hotels of their day, where travelers could rest from the rigors of the trail.

"You couldn't survive on the trail without stopping at the places," he said.

There, visitors could borrow a horse, stay for free as long as they needed and take from a basket of pesos left outside, Kieffer said.

Unique because it had two floors, the Castro Adobe boasted the only fandango room — a large dance hall — for hundreds of miles.

It was there that the owners would host dances, weddings and other events that would draw visitors for miles. After the parties, the revelers would simply lay their bedrolls on the floor.

Visitors would also stand on the balcony and watch the goings-on below, which famously included fights between bulls and grizzly bears.

Perhaps most importantly, the adobe has one of five Mexican-style cocinas left in the state.

If all goes according to plan, school groups and other visitors will watch as workers make food on the brasero, a Mexican-style wood-burning stove made from brick.

To get it ready for the tours, which are slated to begin in the upcoming academic year, workers repaired walls and fixed the roof.

They also restored the garden, which was designed by landscape architect Thomas Church and managed by Elizabeth Potter, who once lived in the house.

"We're really excited about it," said Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks director Bonny Hawley. "We think it's going to make a lovely event space."

But still to come were the structural upgrades that would hold up the building during an earthquake. This included a series of steel beams, rods, essentially creating a giant rib cage around the building.

When it opens on June 7, the Castro Adobe will be the second historic state park in Santa Cruz County, and the only state park in South County that isn't a beach, Hawley said.

"This has been a labor of love," she said.

•••

The Castro Adobe open house is from noon until 2 p.m. on June 7 at the Castro Adobe at 184 Old Adobe Road in Watsonville. Parking is limited and carpooling is encouraged.

For information, visit www.thatsmypark.org/projects/castro-adobe. To schedule a tour, call Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks at 429-1840.

Watsonville Today

• Partly Cloudy
Precip Chance: 10%
High 69 / Low 49

Extended Forecast

SUNDAY
Partly Cloudy
Precip Chance: 10%
High 71 / Low 50

MONDAY
Mostly Sunny
Precip Chance: 5%
High 69 / Low 51

TUESDAY
Mostly Sunny
Precip Chance: 5%
High 70 / Low 51

WEDNESDAY
Mostly Sunny
Precip Chance: 5%
High 71 / Low 50

THURSDAY
Mostly Sunny
Precip Chance: 5%
High 74 / Low 52

FRIDAY
Sunny
Precip Chance: 0%
High 72 / Low 48

Monterey Bay Tides

	High	High	+/- feet
Today	2:18 pm	none	[illegible]
Sunday	12:31 am	3:06 pm	5.0 / 3.7
Monday	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	Low	Low	+/- feet
Today	7:18 am	5:40 pm	[illegible]
Sunday	7:59 am	6:24 pm	-0.4 / 2.8
Monday	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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