

# JELLIES ABOUND AT AQUARIUM, HARBOR



PHOTOS BY VERN FISHER — MONTEREY HERALD

Thousands of moon jellies have been sighted in the Monterey Harbor this week.

**By Nicoletta Lanese**  
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**MONTEREY »** This week, the Monterey Bay Aquarium celebrated all things jellyfish as a swarm of shimmering moon jellies washed into Monterey Harbor just down the way.

While a great number of the blobby creatures bobbed near Wharf II, the aquarium's jelly team announced they were the first in the world to successfully breed a delicate jelly genus known as *Leucothea pulchra*, or the "Beautiful Sea Goddess."

More commonly called the spotted comb jelly, *Leucothea pulchra* is an incredibly delicate animal and consequently challenging to raise.

"They are so delicate that if you're in the water with them snorkeling and you wave your hands at them, the water currents that you create would rip them apart," said George Matsu moto, a senior education and research specialist at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute. Matsu moto published the first official description of the fragile animal in the *Journal of Plankton Research* in 1988.



Monterey Harbor saw the influx of moon jellies last weekend, just in time for Jelly Week.

"The fact that the jelly team has been able to keep them in captivity, and not only that, but actually raise them ... is just remarkable."

Senior aquarist Wyatt Pastry led the jelly team in this venture, starting with four adult spotted comb jellies found by the aquarium's collector Kevin Lewand back in December.

The spotted comb jelly sports orange "knobs" along its football-shaped body. Racing stripes of rainbow electricity run down its length. Though they resemble jellies, they are technically ctenophores because their tentacles lack the

stinging cells found in true jellyfish. The aquarium's *Leucothea pulchra* are about two months old and about four inches in length, and can now be seen on display.

### The moon jellies

Meanwhile, a more familiar species of jelly floats just around the bend. Moon jellies washed into Monterey Harbor sometime over last weekend, according to Monterey harbormaster John Haynes — just in time for Jelly Week. The translucent white jellies have a purple sheen and an iconic four-leaf clover pattern atop their bells. They swapped places

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—George Matsu moto, senior education and research specialist at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute

with an abundance of Pacific sea nettles, golden-brown jellies with 15 foot-long tentacles in tow, that just left harbor a few weeks ago, said Haynes.

"From what I hear talking to people, I don't think anyone remembers as many jellies as we've had this year," he said. "People have been really excited walking along the waterfront and seeing the jellies. They're really spectacular-looking."

This year's jelly numbers weren't groundbreaking in Monterey Bay, said Matsu moto, but it may be that more made it into the harbor this year. Jellies tend to collect at certain spots, said

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# Ex-Trump aide pleads guilty, will cooperate

**By Chad Day, Tom Lobianco and Eric Tucker**  
The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON »** A former senior adviser to President Donald Trump's election campaign pleaded guilty Friday to federal conspiracy and false statements charges, saying he will now cooperate in the special counsel's Russia investigation.

The plea by Rick Gates revealed that he will help special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation in "any and all matters" as prosecutors continue to probe the Trump campaign, Russian election interference and Gates' longtime business associate, Paul Manafort.

With his cooperation, Gates gives Mueller a witness willing to provide information on Manafort about his finances and political consulting work in Ukraine, and also someone who had access at the highest levels of Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.

Gates, 45, of Richmond, Virginia, made the plea at the federal courthouse in Washington. He admitted to charges accusing him of conspiring against the U.S. government related to fraud and unregistered foreign lobbying as well as lying to federal authorities in a recent interview.

The plea came a day after a federal grand jury in Virginia returned a 32-count indictment against Gates and Manafort. Trump's former campaign chairman, accusing them of tax evasion and bank fraud.

PROBE » PAGE 3

# EDUCATION Dream Act applicants drop by 50 percent

**By Juan Reyes**  
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**SEASIDE »** There's an alarming drop of California Dream Act applicants as the March 2 deadline approaches. But Maria Lopez Cabrera, CSU Monterey Bay undocumented student success resource specialist, is trying to spread the word to students that it's not too late and not to be afraid.

The California Dream Act is a financial aid program for students, including undocumented immigrants, who qualify for a non-resident tuition exemption.

Lopez said it's heartbreaking to know that undocumented immigrant students feel afraid about having their information like address, income or parents background put into a database that they don't feel safe with. Lopez said the number of applicants dropped by 50 percent compared to last year.

DROP » PAGE 4

Nation	G	S	B	Tot
Norway	13	14	10	37
Canada	11	8	9	28
Germany	13	7	6	26
United States	8	8	6	22
Netherlands	8	6	4	18
France	5	4	6	15



Cunningham team struggles in bobslid competition and place in 20th. PAGE B1

# LAW AND ORDER Murder suspect makes court appearance

Charles Holfield charged with 1998 murder of Christina Williams enters not guilty plea in an arraignment. PAGE A2

BUSINESS	
Dow Jones	↘ 25,309.99 (+347.51)
S&P 500	↘ 2747.30 (+43.34)
Nasdaq	↘ 7337.39 (+127.30)

# COLLECTIVE BARGAINING Protest coincides with Supreme Court case

Monday's "Rise Up Day of Action" rally in Salinas to focus on the importance of unions, collective bargaining. PAGE A2

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On Friday, many moon jellies could be seen nestled between the harbor docks and seawall by the Monterey Harbor Office.

## Jellies

FROM PAGE 1

Haynes, and you can sometimes see about 50 sharing one square meter of water. These dense patches of jellies are notorious for clogging boats' cooling systems,

he said, so boaters would be wise to avoid them if possible. According to Matsunoto at the aquarium, they may soon have to watch for a resurgence of nettles, too.

"These moon jellies are usually the first ones we see when we start to see blooming jellies, and then their predators start to

come in," Matsunoto said. "It might be that we get another bloom of sea nettles now because sea nettles like to eat moon jellies."

For now, moon jellies continue to wave beneath the waters of Monterey Harbor. On Friday, many could be seen nestled between the harbor docks and seawall

by the Monterey Harbor Office. They'll hang around until the winds or currents flush them out, or until sea nettles descend from the bay beyond. The tissue-paper tough *Leucothea pulchra* will stay safe at the aquarium, a truly unique addition to the institution's jelly collection.

## Probe

FROM PAGE 1

The indictment in Virginia was the second round of charges against Gates and against Manafort, who has denied any wrongdoing. The two men were initially charged last October with unregistered lobbying and conspiring to launder millions of dollars they earned while working on behalf of a pro-Russian Ukrainian political party.

Gates' decision marks the fifth publicly known guilty plea in the special counsel probe into possible collusion between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin during the 2016 campaign.

The plea also comes quickly on the heels of a stunning indictment last week that laid out a broad operation of election meddling by Russia, which began in 2014, and employed fake social media accounts and on-the-ground politicking to promote Trump's campaign, disparage Hillary Clinton and sow division and discord widely among the U.S. electorate.

The charges to which Gates is pleading guilty don't involve any conduct connected to the Trump campaign. They largely relate to a conspiracy of unregistered lobbying, money laundering and fraud laid out in his indictments.

But his plea does newly reveal that Gates spoke with the FBI earlier this month and lied during the interview. That same day, his attorneys filed a motion to withdraw from representing him for "irreconcilable difference."

The court papers accuse Gates of lying about a March 19, 2013, meeting involving Manafort, a lobbyist and a member of Congress. Gates said the meeting did not include discussion of Ukraine, when in fact prosecutors say it did.

The charges don't name the lobbyist or the lawmaker but filings with the Justice Department show Manafort and lobbyist Vin Weber of Mercury Public Affairs met with Rep. Dana



Rick Gates arrives at federal court in Washington Friday. Gates, a former top adviser to President Donald Trump's campaign is scheduled to plead guilty in the special counsel's Russia investigation to federal conspiracy and false statements charges.

SUSAN WALSH — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rohrabacher, R-Calif., on that date as part of a lobbying campaign on behalf of Ukrainian interests.

On Friday, Manafort said in a statement that he maintains his innocence.

"I had hoped and expected my business colleague would have had the strength to continue the battle to prove our innocence. For reasons yet to surface he chose to do otherwise," Manafort said.

"This does not alter my commitment to defend myself against the untrue piled-up charges contained in the indictments against me."

In court filings over the past few months, Gates gradually began to show the strain the case was placing on him and his family.

As Gates was kept on house arrest, he frequently pleaded with U.S. District Court Judge Amy Berman Jackson for leniency to attend sporting events with his four children. Even on Friday, ahead of his plea, Gates had asked the judge to let him take his children to Boston for spring break so they could "learn about American history in general, and the Revolutionary War in particular."

On Thursday night, Gates emailed a brief letter to friends and family, telling them of his decision to plead guilty, Republican lobbyist Jack Burkman said. "It's sad," said Burkman, who had hosted a fundraiser for Gates' legal defense fund.

Under the terms of the

plea, Gates is estimated to face between 57 and 71 months behind bars. Prosecutors may seek a shortened sentence depending on his cooperation.

Gates served on the Trump campaign at the same time that Manafort, Donald Trump Jr. and Jared Kushner met with a team of Russians in Trump Tower in June 2016. He was also in the top ranks of the campaign when then-Sen. Jeff Sessions held a pair of undisclosed meetings with Russian ambassador to the U.S. Sergey Kislyak.

For a few months in 2016, Gates was indispensable to Trump, leading the ground effort to help Trump win the Republican nomination and flying from state to state to secure Republican delegates in a scramble that lasted all the way until the Republican National Convention in Cleveland.

But his power and influence waned once Trump fired Manafort in August 2016 after The Associated Press disclosed how Gates and Manafort covertly directed a Washington lobbying campaign on behalf of Ukrainian interests.

Gates survived his mentor's ouster and worked through the election on Trump's inaugural committee — but among Trump aides he earned the nickname "the walking dead." Gates also worked briefly with the outside political groups supporting Trump's agenda, America First Politics and America First Action, but was pushed out of

## WEATHER

# Cold front blasts California but still not much moisture

The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** » Cold and blustery weather blew through California on Friday, scattering snow showers in the mountains and making travel on icy roads potentially hazardous but still failing to deliver winter's normal measure of precipitation.

A new coat of white in the San Bernardino Mountains east of Los Angeles led to a snow day for kids in the Rim of the World school district, and classes were also canceled in Amador and El Dorado counties after up to 3 inches fell in parts of the Sierra Nevada.

Various levels of chain controls were in effect on sections of U.S. 395 in Mono and Inyo counties along the Eastern Sierra and on eight state routes in the region, the California Department of Transportation said.

Vital Interstate 5 received flurries in towering Tejon Pass north of Los Angeles, but authorities did not have to shut it down.

High wind advisories, however, were posted for sections of I-5 in the pass and in the San Joaquin Valley, and Caltrans said travel was not recommended for vehicles with trailers and campers. The same advisory was posted for Interstate 80 at the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.

Gale warnings and small craft advisories were issued all along the coast.

After a warm start to February, temperatures plunged this week with the arrival of a very cold air mass from Canada that triggered crop-threatening freezes. Numerous low temperature records were set or tied, but despite the turnaround, the system didn't bring typical winter rains.

The minimal moisture was emphasized when the National Weather Service noted that downtown San Francisco's 28-day mid-winter dry spell had finally been snapped when 0.01 inch fell Thursday.

For growers who have been defending crops against the cold all week, Saturday was expected to bring another challenge. Forecasters said a freeze warning would be in effect in the agriculturally rich San Joaquin Valley from 2 a.m. to 8 a.m.

The almond crop was particularly at risk. "With almonds being the first flowering crop and extremely susceptible to frost, we are deeply concerned for our growers and all California farmers who are affected by these freeze conditions," Mark Jansen, president and CEO of Blue Diamond Growers, said in a statement this week. The cooperative represents more than 3,000 of California's almond growers.

More cold low pressure systems are expected to drop down the West Coast next week, but forecasters aren't optimistic about rain.

## Attention Herald Readers:

An ad for Legacy Real Estate Group ran in error today in the February 24, 2018 Real Estate Guide. Please be advised the two homes shown in the ad are no longer on the market.

Our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause. If you are interested in viewing Legacy Real Estate Group's current inventory of properties, please call 831-647-2447.

Thank you,  
Monterey Herald advertising staff

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