

CALIFORNIA
Lawmakers increase dam safeguards
Local » AZ

OLYMPICS
Chloe Kim wins haltpipe gold for US
Sports » BI

OLYMPICS
Chloe Kim wins haltpipe gold for US
Sports » BI

ALLSAIL
Educators get a lesson from local peers
Local » AZ

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Educators get a lesson from local peers
Local » AZ

Through 18 of 102 medal events

Nation	G	S	B	Tot
Norway	2	4	3	9
Germany	4	1	2	7
Netherlands	3	2	2	7
Canada	2	4	1	7
United States	2	1	4	4
France	2	0	1	3
Japan	0	1	2	3

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WEATHER

HANGING AROUND



VERN FISHER - MONTEREY HERALD

People parasail in the wind on the coast in Seaside Monday. Trace amounts of rain fell on the Monterey Peninsula Monday, but the National Weather Service forecast calls for the region to remain dry the rest of the week. Temperatures should be seasonal, with highs in the low 60s and low temperatures in the 40s.

MONTEREY COUNTY

Planning Commission could cut pot shop buffer

Could also switch setback from public parks to playgrounds

By Jim Johnson
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[@jimjohnson_MCH](https://twitter.com/jimjohnson_MCH) on Twitter

SALINAS » In a move that could eliminate setbacks between cannabis shops, potentially easing the way for Big Sur and mouth of Carmel Valley retailers, and focus cannabis operation buffers on youth-oriented parks and facilities, the county Planning Commission is set to consider changes to the county's commercial marijuana setback rules.

On Wednesday, the commission is scheduled to review a staff recommendation that would remove the 1,500-foot setback requirement between cannabis shops, and change the current 600-foot buffer between cannabis retailers and public parks so it would only apply to children's playgrounds and other youth sports venues in the unincorporated

County officials and staff have been considering potential changes to local cannabis setback rules for some time, and noted the challenges they have already presented in certain areas including Big Sur and the mouth of the Carmel Valley.

areas of the county. Cannabis operations besides retailers would still be required to adhere to a 600-foot setback from all public parks.

The recommendation also calls for eliminating the existing 600-foot setback between all cannabis operations and drug recovery facilities while adding a 600-foot setback from day care centers and youth centers, and leaving an existing 600-foot buffer from K-12 schools in place.

The commission meets at 9 a.m. at the County Government Center in Salinas. According to a staff report, the county's existing

rules had "created challenges" in processing cannabis permit applications, and the proposed changes would better align the county's requirements with current state law.

County officials and staff have been considering potential changes to local cannabis setback rules for some time, and noted the challenges they have already presented in certain areas including Big Sur and the mouth of the Carmel Valley.

In Big Sur, potential cannabis businesses were restricted due to the presence of state and national parkland within the current 600-foot setback, and at the

mouth of Carmel Valley, the 1,500-foot setback had precluded one proposed cannabis retailer — Synchronicity Holistics — from being considered for a permit because of its proximity to the Big Sur Cannabotanicals shop in the Carmel Rancho Shopping Center.

Under the staff recommendation, instead of a 1,500-foot setback between cannabis retailers, prospective dispensaries would be considered under the state's "excessive concentration" determination, similar to the criteria for considering alcohol retailers' permit bids. Under that method, cannabis retailer permits would be granted essentially regardless of proximity if the ratio of retailers to population within a certain census tract is similar to the ratio within the entire county. There would be a potential exception for cannabis retailers that exceed the ratio under a "public convenience or necessity" finding by the county.

CANNABIS » PAGE 4

Newly protected lands obtained

Caltrans transfers 167 acres of habitat to foundation

By Nicoletta Lanese
newsroom@montereyherald.com

ELKHORN SLOUGH » In a history-making partnership, Caltrans and the Elkhorn Slough Foundation have come together to permanently protect 167 acres of rare habitat. The exchange marks the first time a state agency has granted property and stewardship funds to a nonprofit in Monterey County, and it sets a precedent across the state.

The collaboration between Caltrans and the Elkhorn Slough Foundation has been 17 years in the making. It finally came to a head on Monday at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, where representatives from both organizations gathered to officially sign the property over to the foundation and take a leisurely hike through the newly protected lands. The preserved area, dubbed the Elkhorn Highlands Reserve, is intended to offset environmental impacts from a Highway 101 construction project completed back in 2014. Many diverse species of plants and animals call the **HABITAT » PAGE 4**

WASHINGTON

Trump's budget balloons deficits, cuts social safety net

By Andrew Taylor and Martin Crutstinger

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » President Donald Trump unveiled a \$4.4 trillion budget plan Monday that envisions steep cuts to America's social safety net but mounting spending on the military, formally retreating from last year's promises to balance the federal budget.

The president's spending outline for the first time acknowledges that the Republican tax overhaul passed last year would add billions to the deficit and not "pay for itself" as Trump and his Republican allies asserted. If enacted as proposed, though no presidential budget ever is, the plan would establish an era of \$1 trillion-plus yearly deficits.

The open embrace of red ink is a remarkable **TRUMP » PAGE 5**

VIETNAM

How an AP photo showed the cost of war



ROAD REPORT

Work begins on Highway 1 climbing lane

BUSINESS

Dow Jones 24,601.27 (+410.37)

WINTER GAMES

Wind and ice make

TODAY IN HISTORY

1542

The fifth wife of English King Henry VIII, Catherine Howard, was executed for adultery.

1633

Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei arrived in Rome for trial before the Inquisition, accused of defending Copernican theory that the Earth revolved around the sun instead of the other way around.

1933

The Warsaw Convention, governing airlines' liability for international carriage of persons, luggage and goods, went into effect.

1935

A jury in Flemington, New Jersey, found Bruno Richard Hauptmann guilty of first-degree murder in the kidnap-slaying of Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh.

2016

Justice Antonin Scalia, the influential conservative and most provocative member of the U.S. Supreme Court, was found dead at a private residence in the Big Bend area of West Texas; he was 79.

Birthdays

Talk show host Jerry Springer is 74. Actor George Segal is 84. Actor Bo Svenson is 77. Rock musician Todd Harrell (3 Doors Down) is 46. Country musician Scott Thomas is 45. Michael Joseph Jackson Jr. is 21 U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager (ret.) is 95. Singer-musician Peter Dinklage is 76. Singer Peter Gabriel is 68.

Star report

Iggy Azalea reveals best part about being single

An age-old mystery has finally been answered. We now know that the best thing about being single is, of course, pizza. This revelation comes courtesy of pop star Iggy Azalea. "Best thing about being single & living alone? I don't gotta share MY pizza with nooooooobooooody. I can pick out all the best, most cheesy slices and eat them in order of deliciousness," she tweeted. Fans responded to her tweet and chimed in their agreement to Iggy's pizza proclamation. — Jim Harrington, Bay Area News Group

LOTTERY

WINNING NUMBERS

Daily 3 Afternoon: 9, 2, 1
Daily 3 Evening: 8, 6, 0
Daily 4: 8, 6, 9, 6
Fantasy 5: 1, 5, 7, 20, 25
Daily Derby
1st: 7, Eureka,
2nd: 2, Lucky Star,
3rd: 6, Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:45.17
SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Saturday's drawing: 27, 32, 33, 41, 42
Mega number: 7
Wednesday's estimated jackpot: \$9 million
MEGA MILLIONS
Friday's drawing: 28, 34, 41, 46, 47
Mega number: 14
Today's estimated jackpot: \$153 million
POWERBALL
Saturday's drawing: 1, 13, 27, 41, 59
Powerball: 20
Wednesday's estimated jackpot: \$203 million

Habitat

FROM PAGE 1

habitat home, and rely on its unique characteristics for survival. This includes the federally endangered California tiger salamander. The spottedly amphibian lays its eggs in low-lying wetlands and makes its way to higher, drier woodlands in adulthood.

"Here is this estuary, this place where fresh water comes down and meets the sea, perched at the head of the largest undeveloped canyon in North America," said Mark Silberstein, executive director of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation. "There are very few places on Earth where you can find that juxtaposition."

Caltrans acquired the \$4.5 million property back in 2008. At the time, the agency was preparing to renovate a dangerous stretch of Highway 101 through Prunedale known as "blood alley." The Prunedale Improvement Project made the high-traffic road much safer by removing left-turn traffic onto and off of the stretch, introducing two new interchanges and building an overcrossing at Blackie Road.

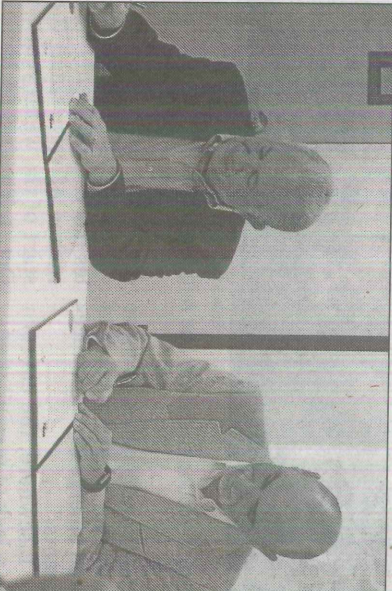
"The (Prunedale Improvement Project) was a welcome improvement for the community of Prunedale, and that was years in the making," said Richard Rosales, Caltrans' District 5 deputy director of project management.

But highway improvements can come at a cost. Large-scale construction projects take their toll on the surrounding environment, and it takes major planning to minimize their impact. Before breaking ground on a project, Caltrans must assess its potential environmental effects and make moves to mitigate them, Rosales explained.

"There are always going to be impacts as we improve our transportation infrastructure," said Silberstein. Drivers need safer roads, but meanwhile, the environment must be conserved, he said. "We somehow have to figure out how



PHOTOS BY NICOLETTA LANESE — MONTEREY HERALD
 Mark Silberstein, executive director of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation, walked alongside Monterey County Supervisor Luis Alejo through the new Elkhorn Highland Reserve.



Mark Silberstein of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation and Richard Rosales of Caltrans sign off to permanently protect the Elkhorn Highland Reserve through a \$6.5 million exchange of land and endowments.

to balance this equation."

In the past, District 5 had few resources to sustain this balancing act, said Rosales. Senate Bill 436, which became law in 2011, was key to striking that equilibrium. It allowed Caltrans to transfer the new land to the Elkhorn Slough Foundation along with an additional \$2 million in endowment and additional funds. That money will be put toward the land's long-term management and restoration.

"We believe we are the first (example) of this kind of partnership in the entire state of California," said Monterey County Supervisor Luis Alejo, who was instrumental in passing Senate Bill 436 during his time in the state Assembly. The legislation was passed with the Elkhorn Slough Foundation in mind, he said, and provides an example for similar partnerships in the future.

"They know this area better than anybody, they've been doing it for



tion easement manager for the foundation. "They're really putting gas in our tank, in a way."

The foundation has already removed 800 tons of refuse from the reserve. Historically, the land had once housed an orchard and an abandoned air strip, as evidenced by lingering agricultural trash and concrete slabs. The next step will be to remove invasive plants like eucalyptus trees and the tufted jubata grass from the property, said Contreras. Down the line, the foundation may excavate the extra sediment hanging around from the reserve's agricultural past. This might allow the ecosystem to revert back into the wet meadow it likely was, he explained.

But the goal is not to restore the reserve to its "pristine, original state," Contreras clarified. To preserve the environment, the foundation actually has to disturb it — to an extent. For instance, there is a need to orchestrate controlled burns in the property's oak woodlands, where invasive trees grow up among corpses of the natives. Maintaining walking trails is also critical to maintaining a variety of plant life.

"Most of the biodiversity is on the edges," said Contreras. "Maritime chaparral looks a shrubby ocean, and only three (plant) species are dominant there." But a variety of rarer plants crop up along trails at the ocean's edges, he said. The federally endangered Yador's rein orchid and the federally threatened Monterey spineflower are two examples of interesting native plant species at the reserve.

Walking through the Elkhorn Highlands Reserve, it becomes clear what a unique environment it really is. "We're going to go from these rocky, chaparral-covered ridgelines to the deep sea in the span of 5 or 6 miles," said Silberstein. The partnership between Caltrans and the Elkhorn Slough Foundation ensures the land will be preserved for generations to come, he said. "This land is protected forever."

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Education

FROM PAGE 2

teachers in the school district with plenty of expertise in different areas, which is the main reason the conference is set up.

Toby Ritenour, a sixth-grade teacher at Monte Bella Elementary School in Salinas, said he's been going to conferences for a long time where all they do is sit all day inside of a large ballroom.

"It's theory, it's not applicable," Ritenour said. Ritenour said he thinks the tech-based curriculum is appropriate and gives his students the California Standards for social study and science. The students are able to learn right from the standards and create interactive videos they share with the class, he said.

"It's a peer learning, peer learning's huge," Ritenour said. "You learn from your peers. This is an in-practice product. It's not like a book at a bookstore that you look at and hope it works. This is people that have actually proven elements and things that they've used in class-

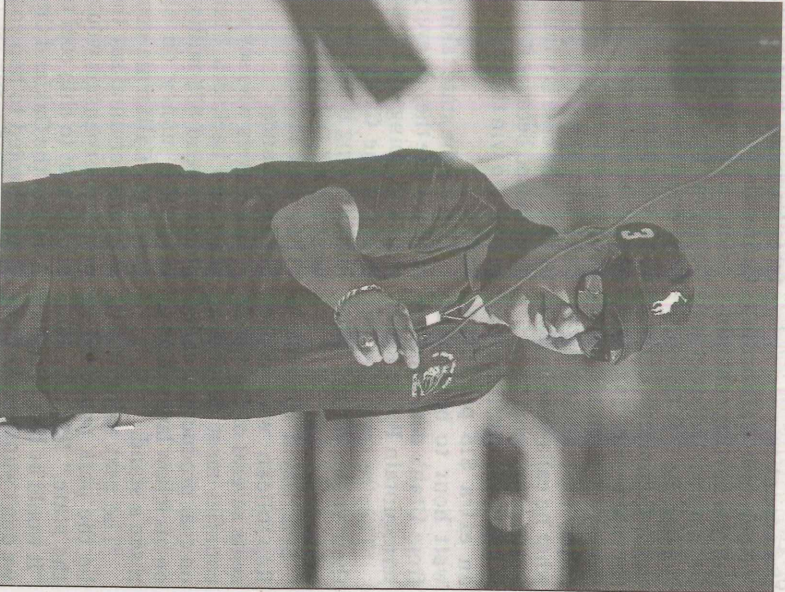
As for Cardenas, she said she thinks it's important to have training sessions like the one Cogswell taught on BookShaps because a lot of schools are incorporating technology into the classroom.

It's the first time Cardenas is having her students use Google Chromebooks so they can sign onto Google Classroom, which uses class stream where they can share information like assignments, announcements and questions.

"But this, it just opens the window to do more stuff with (the students)," she said. It's very exciting for me and for the kids too because we're in a new era where they're all exposed to technology."

Cardenas added that it's also about teaching students that technology is not just for Facebook but it can be used to make learning fun. All of this is still new to Cardenas, however, she's ready to start using the new tools she learned during the event.

As far as setbacks go, Cardenas said she couldn't tell if there were any by using tech in the classrooms. For her, right now it's



JUAN REYES — MONTEREY HERALD
 A teacher from Martin Luther King Jr. Academy uses a jump rope to show a group of local educators the different ways to teach physical education at school.

students focused on tasks. "Sometimes reading can be a little boring for the students, but if they get to see

they're going to be very engaged," Cardenas said.