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SANTA MARIA TIMES

Special night out
Old Town Orcutt set for First Friday. CENTRAL COAST, A3

Area teams try to advance
Knights and Warriors host CIF basketball games. SPORTS, B1

PARTLY CLOUDY 63 • 49 FORECAST, B10 | FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020 | santamariatimes.com

CORONAVIRUS

County health dept tracking asymptomatic travelers

Travel regulations and psychological health addressed by county

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Santa Barbara County's Public Health Department is monitoring travelers at risk for COVID-19 and establishing health regulations at places of travel following the first death in California from the virus on Wednesday.

While the county has no confirmed cases of the coronavirus, five asymptomatic travelers who

have recently been to China, where the virus originally broke out in Wuhan City, are being monitored for symptoms, according to Joe Ruiz, a spokesperson for the county Public Health Department.

According to Ruiz, the travelers have not tested positive for the virus, but are instructed to stay in their homes and keep in touch with the department by reporting their temperature twice a day and tracking symptoms.

"These persons are under self-isolation, not under quarantine, and are asked to check in with the Public Health Department on their health status," Ruiz said.

If no symptoms develop during the 14-day monitoring period, they are no longer considered a potential risk. According to Ruiz, more than 10 other people have been monitored by the county and filtered through after showing no symptoms.

"If someone were to develop symptoms, we would arrange with them to receive the appropriate medical care, which could include testing," Ruiz said.

A suspected case of the coronavirus was reported in San Luis Obispo County Thursday, with

county health officials screening the patient and sending samples taken from the individual to be tested at a state laboratory, according to the San Luis Obispo Tribune.

On Feb. 28, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sent testing kits for 1,200 people to 11 laboratories throughout the state, according to the California Department of Public Health.

"The availability to test at California's public health laboratories is a significant step forward in our ability to respond rapidly to this evolving situation," said Dr. Sonja Angeli, director of the California

Department of Public Health and state infectious disease director. "We face the likelihood of community transmission here in California, having this resource where we need it."

PHOTO BY CORONAVIRUS, PAGE A9

■ For more on COVID-19: The Senate passes an \$8.1 billion measure Thursday to help tackle the outbreak. See, A9. A cruise ship is held off the California coast for virus testing. See, A2. Federal, state and local governments have legal tools to help contain the spread of the virus. See, A8



Righetti and St. Joseph high school students cross Bradley Road between the two campuses to hold a sportsmanship summit in the Knights library on Thursday afternoon.

Righetti, St. Joseph students gather for sportsmanship summit

Administrators call talk to set respectful guidelines success

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Students from Righetti and St. Joseph high schools gathered Thursday morning for a sportsmanship summit to establish guidelines for maintaining a respectful rivalry following a high-profile incident of trash-chanting at a recent men's basketball game.

A Feb. 11 video taken by the Santa Maria Times of Righetti students chanting "where's your passport?" at St. Joseph students sparked heated conversation on lines regarding the history of trash-chanting between the two schools,

as well as demands from parents and community members for administrators to respond to the incident.

Multiple students and parents from Righetti stated that the video only showed one side of the story, and that they had often been the receiving end of chants like "where's your green card" from St. Joseph, referring to the high percentage of Latinos

who attend Righetti.

Following the video post on Twitter which illustrated hundreds of angry comments from community members from both schools, staff members from Righetti and St. Joseph held a meeting in February to discuss the culture of intense rivalry between the schools.

PHOTO BY SPORTSMANSHIP, PAGE A9

Warren ends her campaign

WILL WEISBERG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Elizabeth Warren ended her once-promising presidential campaign on Thursday after failing to finish higher than third place in any of the 18 states that have voted so far. While the Massachusetts senator said she was proud of her bid, she was also candid in expressing disappointment that a formerly diverse field is essentially now down to two men.

"All those little girls who are going to have to wait four more years, Warren told reporters outside her home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, as her voice cracked. "That's going to be hard."

Known for having "a plan for that," Warren electrified progressives for much of the past year by releasing a series of policy proposals that addressed such issues as maternal health care, college debt, criminal justice reform and the new coronavirus.

She planned to pay for many of her ambitious proposals with a 2-cent tax on fortunes worth more than \$50 million, an idea that energized chunks of "two cents" "two cents" at her rallies.

But that energy — and an inspiring organization — didn't translate into support once she started making their decisions last month. She failed to capture any of the 24 states that voted on Super Tuesday and finished an embarrassing third in Massachusetts.

The Democratic combat now centers on Vermont Sen. Bernie

PHOTO BY WARREN, PAGE A9

State agency hears public on oil, gas



Audience members without seats listen during an oil and gas safety hearing Thursday evening at the Santa Maria Veterans Memorial Community Center. Public comment on health and safety protections for communities near oil and gas production operations was heard by the new California Geologic Energy Management Division, or CalGEM.

CalGEM hearing in Santa Maria draws crowd of about 150

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Approximately 150 people turned out and chose a half of them spoke Wednesday night at a revamped state agency's hearing in Santa Maria on the impacts of oil and gas development in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.

Three members of the California Department of Conservation's Geologic Energy Management Division, or CalGEM, held the workshop-style meeting as

part of the agency's new focus on public health, safety and the environment.

The three were taking public comment as part of a series of early input meetings throughout the state to prepare for updating and strengthening public health and safety protections near oil and gas extraction facilities, a CalGEM spokesman said.

Comments addressed by the public will be used in a formal rulemaking effort.

Public comments at the meeting reflected those expressed at most hearings on oil and gas development in Santa Barbara County.

Speakers calling for increased regulation of oil and gas ex-

traction, calling for a halt to permits for new projects or asking for shorter oil and gas development outnumbers those advocating for the same or less regulation by about two to one.

But it was obvious that some of the more than 50 people calling for more regulation were part of an organized campaign, as many of them quoted the statements on a flyer with the heading "PROPELLING FORWARD WITH THE TRANSITION TO CLEAN ENERGY" that openly advocated a "just transition for workers and communities."

The flyer directed speakers to introduce themselves and the organization they were speaking for.

PHOTO BY CALGEM, PAGE A9

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Sportsmanship

From A1

On Thursday, about 20 students from both schools gathered first at Righetti before crossing the street to St. Joseph to participate in Thursday's discussion, along with administrators from both campuses.

At the Thursday summit, students discussed how to restore the relationship between their two schools and establish norms for future games to create a safe environment.

The conversation was facilitated by Edwin Weaver, executive director of Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley, an organization which focuses on promoting safe environments for youths and families.

The discussion focused on restoring the relationship between the two schools and students setting up norms for future games and activities, Weaver said.

Both sides also agreed to con-

tinue the healthy rivalry on the court and foster healthy relationships off the court, Weaver added.

In a press release from Santa Maria Joint Union High School spokesman Kenny Klein, principals from the two schools called the summit a success.

"We feel very blessed to have the opportunity to bring our wonderful students from both schools together to continue to work and learn as a unified community," said St. Joseph Principal Erinn Dougherty. "We are thankful to the students and administration of Righetti for joining us in a great, collaborative learning experience."

Righetti Principal Karen Rotondi voiced similar sentiments.

"I was impressed with the Righetti and St. Joe students' level of maturity and willingness to be part of a solution that benefits both schools and the community. Our students set an example that we all can learn from and I couldn't be prouder," said Rotondi.