

Coast Lines: Aug. 2, 2011: Public forum on SmartMeters Wednesday at Louden Nelson

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Coast lines

SANTA CRUZ

Public forum on SmartMeters Wednesday at Louden Nelson

There will be a community meeting from 7-9 p. m. Wednesday at Louden Nelson Community Center, 301 Center St., to discuss the controversial electronic meters being installed statewide by Pacific Gas and Electric.

The forum on SmartMeters will be moderated by Michael Zwerling of KSCO radio. Speakers include Joshua Hart, director of StopSmartMeters.org, and Karl Maret, a doctor and electrical engineer.

SANTA CRUZ

Anti-violence commission meeting Wednesday at SC Council Chamber

The Santa Cruz Commission on the Prevention of Violence Against Women will host its regular monthly meeting Wednesday to discuss the recent annual report presentation to the City Council.

The commission will also discuss plans for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. The meeting will begin at 6:45 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 809 Center St.

SANTA CRUZ

DogJam! to be held this Saturday at the SC Small Craft Harbor

The second annual DogJam! at the Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor will feature what organizers are calling "the world's first and only standup paddleboard dog show."

The event, from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Aldo's side of the harbor at the UCSC dock, will benefit the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter.

Categories include a paddleboard

and pooch race, best trick, best dog and owner costume and most dogs on a standup paddle. To enter any of the contests, there is a \$40 cost. But admission is free, and there will be a raffle.

Dogs also will be available for adoption. Send an email to jedmew@gmail.com to sign up.

WATSONVILLE

Walk at City Plaza Friday will promote breastfeeding

Mothers, babies and their supporters will celebrate International Breastfeeding Month on

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Friday with a walk and celebration at the City Plaza downtown.

The event will be from 3-6 p.m., with the walk at 5 p.m. Walkers will receive a free T-shirt.

County Supervisor Greg Caput will welcome participants at 4:30 p.m., and the United Way of Santa Cruz County and the Santa Cruz County Breastfeeding Coalition will present Family Friendly Workplace Awards. The Community Bridges Women, Infants and Children program is organizing the event.

For information, call Amy Moran at 722-7121 ext. 151.

SALINAS

Alejo honors Salinas resident for promoting peace

Assemblyman Luis A. Alejo, D-Salinas, has honored Salinas resident Deborah Aguilar as the 28th Assembly District's 2011 Peace Promoter of the Year in conjunction with National Night Out.

The annual crime prevention effort bringing together police and the communities they serve is being celebrated across the country today. Aguilar, along with runners-up Gina Castaneda of Watsonville and Jose Gil of Salinas, will be recognized at the Salinas National Night Out at 3 p.m. at 1440 Constitution Blvd.

The founder of a support group called A Time for Grieving, Aguilar turned the murder of her son Stephen in 2002 into an opportunity to help and comfort other parents who have suffered the loss of a child to violence.

Castaneda, the founder of the youth soccer team Aztecas, is using team sports to end gang activity. Gil, Alisal High School's athletic director, is fighting violence and gangs using his basketball coaching skills at the state prison in Soledad.

WATSONVILLE

Check keeps water project flowing

The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency has received a \$110,000 payment from the California Department of Water Resources as reimbursement for three monitoring wells drilled at Harkins Slough in 2010. The payment was part of a \$227,154 grant awarded in 2008, but delayed due to the state's budget crisis.

The wells are designed to help the agency better understand recharge of the groundwater basin and improve the effectiveness of the agency's project at Harkins Slough.

The project, constructed in 2000, diverts water from the slough during the winter months and pumps it to a pond off San Andreas Road, where it percolates into the basin. Water is then extracted during the summer months and mixed with recycled water from the city's wastewater treatment plant for use in irrigation.

WATSONVILLE

Dinner to benefit food pantry

El Altano Restaurant will host a benefit dinner for Pajaro Valley Loaves and Fishes Aug. 18.



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The dinner will showcase the culinary arts of chef Jesse Plasencia. Former Police Chief Terry Medina will serve as maitre d.

Seatings will be 5:30-6:30 p.m. and 7:30-8:30 p.m., or dinners can be picked up, starting at 5 p.m.

Dinner tickets are \$30 each, and appetizers and dessert will be available for an additional fee.

Loaves and Fishes, a nonprofit food pantry and lunch program, served more than 7,500 people in 2010.

For information, call 722-4144 and visit www.pvloavesandfishes.org/community.htm.

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