Deputies, ATF seize cache of guns, marijuana

By STEPHEN BAXTER
sbaxter@scsentinel.com

SANTA CRUZ — The county Anti-Crime Team seized Friday what authorities believe was a cache of five assault rifles, more than 300 pounds of marijuana buds, 500 marijuana plants, a speaker and 17 guns, including 11 assault rifles, in a raid of five locations in Santa Cruz County. The raid began about 6:15 a.m. Thursday, sheriff’s deputies said.

The Santa Cruz County Anti-Crime Team found several assault rifles at a home on the 18th block of Solano Avenue in the Westside. The assault rifles that were brought in included one AR-15 and one AR-15-style firearm.

Deputies and ATF agents seized a cache of weapons and cash, as well as several vehicles and clothing. The raid was the culmination of a months-long investigation into illegal gun sales and drug trafficking.

Deputies and ATF agents also seized two vehicles and a large amount of cash, as well as several vehicles and clothing. The raid was the culmination of a months-long investigation into illegal gun sales and drug trafficking.

CABRILLO COLLEGE

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Earth-moving equipment breaks ground on Thursday in Watsonville as the building of the Cabrillo College Green Technology Center on Union Street gets underway.

Green Technology Center will focus on environmentally friendly construction careers

By DONNA JONES
djones@scsentinel.com

WATSONVILLE — The heavy equipment showing itself on a vacant lot downtown Thursday marked the start of a planned $14 million project aimed at bringing educational and economic opportunities to town.

When completed in spring 2014, Cabrillo College’s 80,000-square-foot Green Technology Center will focus on preparing students for industrial jobs, initially in construction and energy management.

“Our greater commitment is to use the facility to train people who need jobs,” said Bob Pfotenhauer, chair of the college’s Business and Economic Development.

The project is part of a larger initiative to increase the number of green technology jobs in the Santa Cruz area. Pfotenhauer said the center will focus on attracting students who want to become skilled in the field of green technology.

The college will partner with the city of Watsonville, the Santa Cruz County Planning Department and the Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Board to provide training.

Pfotenhauer said the center will be a model for other community colleges in the state and the nation.

CABRILLO

Capitol man to have say in new districts

California’s political landscape hinges on decisions of new panel

By CHRISTINE ALBRIGHT
jalbright@scsentinel.com

Capitol resident Vincent Bruscia was selected Thursday to be one of 12 Californians residents — from almost 30,000 initial applicants — to serve on the state’s redistricting commission.

The panel will be responsible for redrawing the state’s political boundaries, including those for California’s 53 congressional districts and state legislatures.

Bruscia, a 53-year-old engineer, said he was surprised to be selected.

“I was just hoping to serve on the commission, but I didn’t expect to be one of the 12 picked,” Bruscia said.

The commission is chaired by California Supreme Court Justice Goodwin Liu.

The new districts will be drawn in time for the 2015 elections.

Driving under the influence

DA: Young driver critical after crashing while under influence

Twenty-year-old Sequoia also killed his two cousins in 2007 DUI crash

By CRYSTAL NELLY

crnelly@scsentinel.com

SUMMIT — A 20-year-old Sequoia man was removed from driving under the influence after he drove his pickup off Highway 156 in South Bayville on Thursday morning, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Dominic Minard, 18, was driving the red