



Areas of low clouds, then some sun  
70/53

# Santa Cruz Sentinel

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DIY | HOME & GARDEN, B6

## ARBORDAYS

NOW'S THE TIME FOR BACKYARD MAKEOVER

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS | SPORTS, C1

## ROCKHOLD GETS SHOT AT TITLE FIGHT

DEAL OF THE DAY

Heavenly Cafe  
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COUNTY JAIL

# Garden Behind Bars

GROWTH ALL AROUND IN JAIL'S PUMPKIN PATCH



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL

Cole White checks on one of the larger pumpkins in the Rountree Detention Center pumpkin patch on Friday.

TERROR THREAT

# New York, Washington, not afraid of threat

Counterterrorism working hard to determine value of intel

By EILEEN SULLIVAN and LOLITA C. BALDOR  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Undaunted by talk of a new terror threat, New Yorkers and Washingtonians wove among police armed with assault rifles and waited with varying degrees of patience at security checkpoints Friday while intelligence officials scrambled to nail down information on a possible al-Qaida strike timed to coincide with the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

Counterterrorism officials have been working around the clock to determine whether the threat is accurate, and extra security was put in place to protect the people in the two cities that took the brunt of the jetliner attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon a decade ago. It was the worst terror assault in the nation's history, and al-Qaida has long dreamed of striking again to mark the anniversary. But it could be weeks before the intelligence community can say whether this particular threat is real.

Security worker Eric Martinez wore a pin depicting the twin towers on his lapel as he head-

SEE TERROR ON A2



MARY ALTAFFER/AP

A heavily armed Port Authority police officer stands guard Friday next to the North Pool at the World Trade Center memorial site in New York City.

## First harvest marks season of change for convicts

By STEPHEN BAXTER  
sbaxter@santacruzsentinel.com

WATSONVILLE — Looking around what was once a field of dead grass and dirt at the Rountree Detention Center in Watsonville on Friday, correctional officer Ryan Fulton seemed as amazed as anyone to see more than 1,000 pumpkins growing strong.

Harvest has begun for the jail inmates who volunteer in the Rountree pumpkin patch, and Fulton said he and the men he supervises knew little about farming when they started tilling soil in January with an aging mini tractor.

But Fulton knew one thing for sure.

"I'm just always thinking about ways to keep these guys busy," Fulton said.

The Rountree facility, which is surrounded by farms and long known as the Jail Farm, houses nearly 100 medium- and minimum-security inmates convicted in Santa Cruz County.

The inmates typically have been

convicted of nonviolent offenses such as car thefts, drug crimes and probation violations.

A lot of the inmates don't just mope all day. They work in the kitchen, learn auto-body repair and take classes in computers and a GED program.

Late last year Fulton realized that the commissary in the jail sells soft drinks in cans and that they could be sold to a recycler for cash. They made \$170 in the first round, and with that seed money they bought seed and other materials.

Rakes and other equipment were already on hand for inmates' landscaping duties. He devised a planting plan for about an acre of dead grass beyond a playing field, and from January to April the inmates tilled the soil.

The tractor broke. The inmates welded it back together in the body shop.

Fulton printed out dozens of pages of gardening information from the Internet and gave it to inmates who

SEE JAIL ON A2



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL

Inmates show off their pumpkin harvest at the Rountree Detention Center in Watsonville on Friday.

POWER OUTAGE

# Blackout a reminder of power grid vulnerabilities

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD and ELLIOT SPAGAT  
*Associated Press*

SAN DIEGO — A blackout that swept across parts of the Southwest and Mexico apparently began with a single utility worker and a minor repair job.

How it then rippled from that worker in the Arizona desert, to Southern California and across the border, plunging millions of people into darkness, has authorities and experts puzzled, especially since the power grid is built to withstand such mishaps.

However it spread, Thursday's outage was a reminder that the nation's transmission lines remain all too vulnerable to cascading power failures.

"There are a lot of critical pieces

of equipment on the system and we have less defense than we think," said Rich Sedano at the Regulatory Assistance Project, a utility industry think tank based in Montpelier, Vt.

There have been several similar failures in recent years. In 2003, a blackout knocked out power to 50 million people in the Midwest and the Northeast. And in 2005, a major outage struck the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

That same year, Congress required utilities to comply with federal reliability standards for the electricity grid, instead of self-regulation. Layers of safeguards and backups were intended to isolate problems and make sure the power keeps flowing.

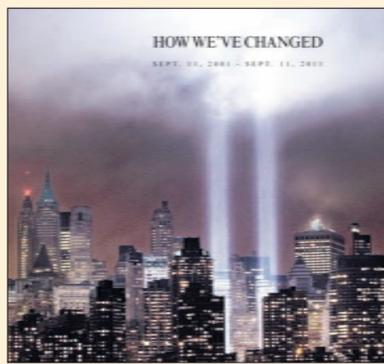
But that didn't happen on Thursday.

SEE POWER ON A11

COMING SUNDAY

9-11 10 YEARS LATER

While America again pauses and reflects on the day that changed everything, we look back on the confusion, fear and resolve that transformed our nation. We talk to survivors from that day and local mental health officials who have helped first responders deal with the aftermath. Sentinel readers also share their memories and we look into how Sept. 11, 2001, is taught in classrooms in the county and around the world.



JOBS PLAN

# Small businesses mildly hopeful on Obama jobs plan

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Small businesses, the focus of President Barack Obama's job-creation plan, say they wouldn't suddenly boost hiring if his proposed tax cuts took effect. But they say his sweeteners could spur companies that were considering hiring to take the plunge — if their sales picked up.

The White House wants to cut Social Security taxes in half next year for the first \$5 million of a company's payroll. Obama's plan would also eliminate the 6.2 percent Social Security tax on any increase in a company's payroll, whether from hires or pay raises, up to \$50 million.

All companies would benefit. But the caps ensure that small businesses would benefit the most.

"That kind of thing...would definitely be an incentive for us to pull the trigger," said Tom

SEE JOBS ON A11

OBITUARIES:  
Galan, Kerr, Long, Sherinian, Wyatt, A11

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