

Former S.V. mayor appointed to bench

Marigonda replaces retiring judge Kelly

By **MATT KING**

SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Courts 12-230
✓ Scotts Valley City Councilman and Assistant District Attorney Paul Marigonda was appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger as a judge in the Santa Cruz County Superior Court.

"I'm very excited and very honored," Marigonda said Friday. "I really look forward to serving the community in the capacity as a judge."

Marigonda will earn \$158,000 a year. He replaces Judge Thomas



MARIGONDA

E. Kelly, who is retiring. "It's very special to be named as his successor," Marigonda said. "He was one of the first judges I appeared in front of."

Marigonda, 46, has been a prosecutor since 1989. He specializes in felony cases and has appeared in more than 100 jury trials. His first assignment on the bench will be in a misdemeanor court.

"People are going to get a fair hearing before me," he said. "They'll know they've had an opportunity to be heard and make their case."

Marigonda is the third local

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attorney appointed to the judiciary this year. In June, Aptos resident Denine J. Guy, a former prosecutor in Monterey County, was tapped to succeed the deceased Judge Kathleen Akao. In February, Aptos lawyer Paul Burdick replaced Judge Art Danner, who died in January.

There will soon be another vacancy: Judge Roberts Yonts is expected to retire.

Marigonda was mayor in 2005 and a member of the Scotts Valley City Council for six years.

"I think we're all sorry to see him leave, but we're all happy for him," Scotts Valley Mayor Dene Bustichi said. "He's been a great asset to the city for many years, but I think the county is much better off with him as a new Superior Court judge."

A special election to replace Marigonda on the council will be held in spring, possibly through an all-mail ballot. The City Council will decide on a date and format at its Jan. 3 meeting.

It's possible a replacement will be appointed before the election, City Clerk Tracy Ferrara said. But any appointee would still have to stand for a vote.

Contact Matt King at
mking@santacruzsentinel.com.