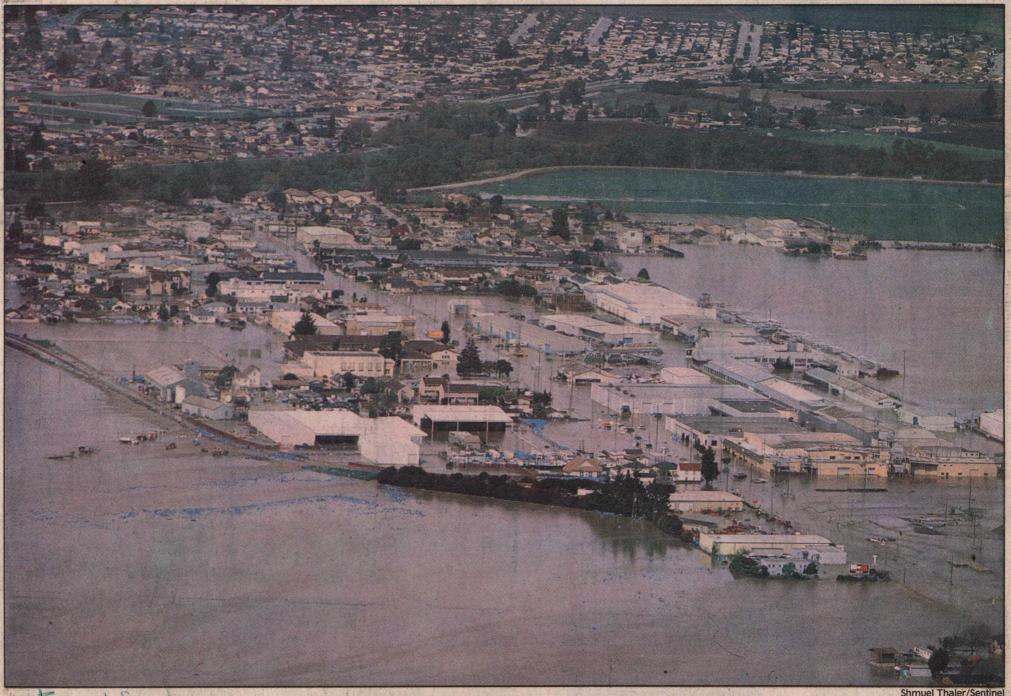


THE YEAR IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

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Today we kiss 1995 goodbye.

It was an eventful year in the county, what with the Pajaro River flood, the move to create an Aptos school district, revelations about shaky city finances in Capitola, the commercial rebirth of downtown Santa Cruz and taxpayer revolts in Soquel and Scotts Valley.

We also had our full ration of natural disasters, corporate layoffs and deaths of prominent people.

The accompanying articles and photos looking back at the year do not pretend to be an exhaustive chronicle of everything that went on. The intent is to remind our readers of some of the highlights and the low points of 1995, a quick flashback, so to speak, as we move on to the new year.

For a complete look, in photos and words, see PAGES A8 and A9.



Shmuel Thaler/Sentine

TOP LEFT PHOTO: Fans of the Grateful Dead mourn the death of Jerry Garcia in downtown Santa Cruz.

TOP RIGHT: Main Street in Watsonville is packed for a Fourth of July parade and celebration.

ABOVE: The town of Pajaro is submerged in flood waters that punctured a hole in the Pajaro River levee in March.

IMMEDIATE LEFT: Soquel High hurdler Megan Zemny floats through practice beneath a canopy of clouds.