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Community warriors gather to clean river

Santa Cruz is a town of community warriors.

More than 75 volunteers gathered last month to clean up the bike and pedestrian path along the San Lorenzo River. Among the participants

were Santa Cruz Warriors players, coaches, front-office staff, season ticket holders, community partners and Coastal Watershed Council volunteers. The group spent two hours cleaning up.

Donning "helping hands" T-shirts and gloves, the group was armed with big buckets and garbage pickers. The volunteers walked the length of the riverwalk in groups of five or six and recovered items such as wrappers, glass and cans.

"The goal of this cleanup was to continue to reconnect a healthy San Lorenzo River to a vibrant community," Gina Antonello, director of public relations and community relations for the Santa Cruz Warriors, said in an email.

Cleaning up the river near the Kaiser Permanente Arena is next on the list of clean ups as the Warriors join forces with the Coastal Watershed Council.

Giving back with thanks

Grey Bears was recognized with a big Mahalo last month, as the staff at Hula's Island Grill donated \$2,167 to the nonprofit.

Grey Bears was the re-

ipient of Hula's Mahalo Mondays, a program in which the restaurant donates 10 percent of its proceeds each Monday for a month to an area nonprofit. Hula's donation translates to about 8,700 meals in Grey Bears' Brown Bag program, which delivers a bag of healthy groceries to 4,200 seniors throughout the county each week.

Grey Bears promotes good nutrition, activity and social connection as the perfect recipe for healthy aging — or what Hula's and Grey Bears call "Aloha in action."

Creating a sustainable future

Congratulations to Ruby Rorty, a sophomore at Pacific Collegiate School and founder of the Santa Cruz Environmental Alliance, who was recently selected to serve on EarthEcho International's Youth Leadership Council.

Rorty was selected from among dozens of applicants across the country and beyond. The council at EarthEcho International, a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to equipping youth with resources to act now for a sustainable future, is composed of 15 environmental leaders, ages 15 to 22. Their role includes providing guidance for the organization's youth-facing programs and resources, advising partner organizations and other external groups on the development of youth strategies, and serving as ambassadors for EarthEcho programs by executing environmen-



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Members of the Santa Cruz Warriors pick up trash along the San Lorenzo River path.

tal service projects in their local communities.

Each of EarthEcho's 2016 Youth Leadership Council members have demonstrated a dedication to addressing and working to solve a range of environmental problems through successful programs and organizations. Rorty founded The Santa Cruz Environmental Alliance, a local environmental organization that aims to connect Santa Cruz's youth with the natural beauty of the Monterey Bay through teen-led beach clean-ups and outreach programs.

Got a story to tell, an event to report, an award to announce? Tell Justine. Email her at sentinelnamedropping@gmail.com.



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Grey Bears staff and volunteers received some big kokua, the Hawaiian word for "mutual assistance," from Hula's Grill as the recipient organization for Mahalo Mondays. Hula's donated \$2,167 to the nonprofit.