COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Archaeological Society welcomes guest speaker

APTOS — The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society will meet Thursday at Cabrillo College, 6500 Soquel Drive, Room 432, in Aptos, at 7:30 p.m.

The program will be “Ugly Duckling and Work Horse: A Mid-19th Century Lighter from San Francisco Bay’s Yerba Buena Cove” by John Schlagueck, MA, RPA. The presentation will describe the Gold Rush, and how ships from all over the world were delivering people and cargo in overwhelming quantities to Yerba Buena Cove, the maritime center of early San Francisco. One such group was the lightermen, entrepreneurs that moved cargo using flat-bottom barges, or lighters, so called because they “lighten” the loads of ships off shore. This presentation discusses the lighter’s construction and how these boats fit into the transformative period of San Francisco’s Gold Rush waterfront.