

MONDAY, May 12, 2025

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Who is to blame for fallen tree?

When this tree fell, it killed a man

BY BRADEN CARTWRIGHT
Daily Post Staff Writer

Stanford is attempting to shift blame onto San Mateo County for a eucalyptus tree that fell on a van and killed a driver on Alpine Road in Portola Valley. The university filed a claim against the county on March 11 alleging that a

county project around Stanford's property damaged the soil and destabilized a creek bank, causing a tree to fall on Jesus Ivan Cruz-Diaz, 29, of San Jose, during a storm in March 2023.

Stanford didn't get into specifics about the county's project, saying that lawyers would need to go through discovery first.

"The impacts of the work ... con-

tributed to the failure and the incident itself," attorney Ashley Meyers said in the claim, which the Post obtained using the California Public Records Act.

The county in 2017 approved a two-mile path and stabilized a creek bank in three areas between Woodside Drive and

(See TREE, page 18)

THE UPDATE

In the past five sessions

Down +68.05 Monday +68.81 CR +2.68
41,248.38 17,926.02 61.56
Cash 3,529.10 +48.39 in interest from
county of Nash Int'l (650) 324-9110
National Debt: 435,827,460,370,456

HOSTAGE TO BE FREED: Hamas said yesterday that the last living American hostage in Gaza, Eilat Alexander, will be released as part of efforts to establish a ceasefire. Negotiations into the Israeli-blockaded territory and resume the delivery of aid as President Trump plans to visit the Mideast later this week.

PROGRESS WITH CHINA: Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the U.S. has made "substantial progress" in the weekend negotiating sessions over tariffs on China, but he offered few details. Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng said both sides had agreed to "establishing a communication mechanism" for more talks.

AIR FORCE ONE: The Qatari government has shot down media reports that it is giving President Trump a luxury Boeing 747-8 jumbo jet as a gift. Qatari officials admitted talks over the jet had taken place, but no offer has been made. Trump is frustrated that Boeing is late in delivering a new set of Air Force Ones.

LISBENA OUTBREAK: Federal officials say at least 10 people in

(See THE UPDATE, page 4)

Lucky ducklings rescued



PLUCKY DUCKIES — These four ducklings were saved by a Midtown Palo Alto resident. Photo from Palo Alto Animal Control.

A Midtown Palo Alto resident spotted four ducklings crossing Middlefield Road, corralled them into a carport and called Animal Control Officer Cindy Macartney for help. The rest of the family was nowhere to be found in a nearby creek, so Macartney brought the ducklings on April 22 to the Peninsula Humane Society's wildlife center in Sausalito, where they were fed duck crumble and fresh greens three times a day, spokeswoman Colleen Crowley said.

The ducklings were weighed and examined every day for a week. They swam in a pool and had good appetites, so they were brought to an animal sanctuary outside of Chico, where they'll grow up and be released, Crowley said.

3 more charged in fatal jail beating

BY BRADEN CARTWRIGHT
Daily Post Staff Writer

Three more inmates have been charged in a fatal beating of a Mountain View man at a Santa Clara County jail, court records show.

The attack was allegedly motivated by Nortesio gang leaders, Detec-

tive David Carroll said in his police report.

Cameras at the Elmerwood Jail in Milpitas picked up a beating where the words "Santos" and "he can't be here," were said at 11:38 a.m. on Jan. 27, Carroll said.

Oscar Usual Xicay, 25, of Mount-

ain View, walked out of the showers at 11:45 a.m., and two inmates walked up to him and blocked him from walking down the aisle to his bunk bed, police said.

A third inmate joined them, and they pulled Usual Xicay back into the show-

(See BEATING, page 18)

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Blossom Birth & Family Fair
Saturday, May 17
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
FREE ADMISSION
Oshman Family JCC

Palo Alto Chapter of Commerce
3rd Thursday
2ND ANNIVERSARY
May 15th
6 - 9 PM
2025THURSDAYPLAN

MIFA
Menlo Park International Film Festival
FRIDAY MAY 16TH
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS

Lucky ducklings resc



PLUCKY DUCKIES — These four ducklings were saved by a Midtown Palo Alto resident. Photo from Palo Alto Animal Control.

A Midtown Palo Alto resident spotted four ducklings crossing a street, corralled them with a net and called Palo Alto Animal Control Officer Cody.

The resident took the ducklings to a nearby creek where they were safely released. The ducklings were brought to the Palo Alto Animal Society's duck farm in Saratoga, where they were fed duck crumbles three times a day and given an Colleen.

The ducklings weighed about 100 grams each and were kept for a day for a video and a pool and then released so they would be safe in a natural sanctuary where they were released, C.