**Tank battery struck by lightning**

By SHERRY KNOCH

Despite warnings to stay indoors during severe weather, some county employees were out in their vehicles during a thunderstorm on Saturday, July 9. The storm caused a total of three lightning strikes in the county, resulting in damage to several vehicles.

According to County Administrator Tanya Rock, the first strike occurred at the courthouse, causing damage to a parking lot light. The second strike occurred at the county courthouse, injuring a deputy sheriff who was inside the building. The third strike occurred at the county fairgrounds, damaging a trailer and a pickup truck.

In addition, a transformer at the county’s wastewater treatment plant was damaged, leading to a temporary shutdown of the facility. The county has since begun work to repair the damage, but a timeline for completion is not yet available.

The incidents highlight the importance of staying indoors during severe weather and following safety guidelines to prevent injuries and property damage.

**Insurance premiums down**

**County employees benefit from fewer claims**

By SHERRY KNOCH

The county has seen a decrease in insurance premiums for the first quarter of the fiscal year, which has resulted in lower costs for the county.

According to County Administrator Tanya Rock, the insurance company has reduced rates by 5 percent due to a decrease in claims. The reduction is expected to save the county approximately $10,000 for the quarter.

"This is a great example of how our employees’ commitment to safety and good judgment can result in financial savings for the county," Rock said.

The county has implemented a number of safety programs to reduce claims, including training programs, safety incentives, and a comprehensive risk management plan.

"These programs have helped to reduce our rate of claims, which is reflected in the insurance rates," Rock said.

The county is continuing to work with the insurance company to identify additional ways to further reduce insurance costs and improve safety for employees.

**Grants totaling $10,000 awarded**

By SHERRY KNOCH

The county has awarded $10,000 in grants to local organizations to support their programs.

The grants were awarded through the County’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which funds projects that benefit low- and moderate-income residents.

The grants were awarded to the following organizations:

- The local food bank for $3,000 to purchase new refrigeration equipment
- The local community center for $2,000 to purchase new furniture
- The local school district for $2,000 to upgrade the technology in the classroom
- The local health clinic for $1,000 to purchase new medical equipment
- The local senior center for $1,000 to purchase new entertainment equipment
- The local animal shelter for $1,000 to purchase new animal food

"These grants will help to support important programs in our community," said County Administrator Tanya Rock.

The county will continue to look for opportunities to provide grants to support community programs in the future.

**Timber theft increasing**

By SHERRY KNOCH

The county has seen an increase in timber theft in recent months. The county is working with the local sheriffs department to investigate the cases and bring the perpetrators to justice.

According to County Administrator Tanya Rock, the county has received several reports of timber theft in the past few months. The thefts have been reported in various locations around the county, including the county’s forest preserves and the county’s parks.

"We are working with the sheriffs department to investigate these cases and bring the perpetrators to justice," Rock said.

The county is also working with the local timber companies to prevent future thefts. The county is considering implementing additional security measures, such as cameras and increased patrols, to prevent future thefts.

"We are committed to protecting our timber resources and deterring future thefts," Rock said.

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Lost lives remembered at ceremony
Candles lit for child abuse victims

By LAURA NICE
The last thing she knew, she was alive. Her parents were alive. She was just another 11-year-old girl living in a small town. Then, just as suddenly as she had appeared, she disappeared, lying dead in a field behind a grassy hill, a piece of evidence found at the scene of the crime. It felt like a nightmare, but it was all too real.

"I was just a child," she said. "I didn't know what was happening. My parents were killed. I didn't know what to do."

The family was shattered. They didn't know how to move forward. The town was in shock. No one knew what to do. They couldn't believe it had happened to them. It was too much to bear.

Emu burgers to be sampled Saturday

Enjoy burgers and other treats at the annual fundraiser for the Emu. The event will take place on Saturday, April 15th, 2023, from 11 am to 5 pm. Admission is free, and all proceeds will be donated to the local animal rescue center.

Child care conference offered

The 10th annual Child Care Conference will be held on Saturday, May 6th, 2023, at the local community center. The conference will feature guest speakers, workshops, and networking opportunities for child care professionals. Registration is required, and space is limited. For more information, visit the conference website or call the child care association.

Goodson celebrates ten year anniversary with present from grateful

Goodson was overjoyed to receive a gift from her family on her ten year anniversary. They surprised her with a beautiful necklace that she had been eyeing for months. She was so touched by their thoughtfulness and grateful for their support.

City approves ordinances

City Council unanimously approved two new ordinances that will affect the city's code enforcement and water rates. The ordinances will go into effect on July 1, 2023. For more information, visit the city's website or call the code enforcement department.

Making the most of time

Hospice Longview helps terminally ill patients

By LAURA NICE
As Hospice Longview helps its patients manage their illness, it becomes more apparent how much we value the time we have. We often take time for granted and don't realize how precious it is until it's too late.

Hospice Longview provides end-of-life care for patients with terminal illnesses. Through a team of doctors, nurses, social workers, and volunteers, they help patients and their families manage the physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of their illness.

Hospice Longview, like many hospice services, provides patients with a range of services, including pain management, symptom control, support for the patient and their family, and education. They work to ensure that patients can live as comfortably and as actively as possible during their remaining time.

The staff at Hospice Longview is dedicated to providing the best possible care to their patients and their families. They understand how important it is to spend time with loved ones and help families make the most of their remaining time.

With the right support, hospice care can provide comfort and a sense of peace. Hospice Longview, like many hospice services, is here to help patients and their families make the most of the time they have. For more information, visit the Hospice Longview website or call the hospice agency.
**Police Beat**

Lawn equipment reported stolen

Palo Alto Police Department issued a reminder to residents to secure their lawnmowers and other equipment after several incidents of theft were reported.

**Tools, equipment reported stolen**

Several incidents of lawn equipment theft were reported in the city. Residents were advised to keep their equipment locked and secured.

**CORRECTION**

In the April 19 issue of The Palo Alto Weekly, the story regarding the mayor's email was initially reported. It has been corrected to reflect the accurate details.

**Dawgs avenge loss by beating Kilgore**

The Dawgs defeated Kilgore in a hard-fought game, securing their victory with a strong offensive performance.

**Sports Midweek**

Darnell, Duckworth combine on three-hit, 6-1 victory to retain top spot

Kiligore played a tough game, but the Dawgs' strong pitching and fielding helped them secure the win.

**Drop's Warden into tie for third**

Beckville retains second on 12-2 win

Dawgs' 95 scores, school's record

Dawgs' 95 score in the game against Beckville, securing their second place in the standings.

**Texas Pride citrus deal:**

Texas Pride citrus is offering a deal to local residents, providing a chance to buy ripe and juicy fruits at a discounted price.

**15-Month 6.20% APY**

Guaranty Federal Bank is offering a 15-month certificate of deposit with a 6.20% APY.

**Get a Handle On Early Retirement**

Horses horse racing. The game is on early!

**Horse Racing**

Horses horse racing. The game is on early!

**15-Month 6.60% APY**

Guaranty Federal Bank is offering a 15-month certificate of deposit with a 6.60% APY.

**Horse Racing**

Horses horse racing. The game is on early!
### Calendar of events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 27</td>
<td>The Panda Watchman Open house scheduled for Northside Christian Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 28</td>
<td>Carthage students to take national qualifying exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### The Panda Watchman

**Open house scheduled for Northside Christian Academy**

Sundays, Apr 27, 9-10:30 am, Northside Christian Academy, 601 S. Main St., Carthage. Meet the staff, learn about our program, tour the campus, and enjoy refreshments. All are welcome to attend.

**Carthage students to take national qualifying exam**

Only 1,000 students nationwide were chosen to take the instrumentals test in the National Qualifying Exam for the 2023-2024 school year. Carthage students will join this select group of students who will receive top honors on America's National Emblem Oil Painting Competition. Congratulations to all the Carthage students who have been selected for this prestigious honor.

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### No Grass Can Stand In Its Way

**Price:** $1,999

- Powerful 6.5 Hp OHV engine
- 3-speed shift on the go transmission
- 2-gallon gas tank
- Exchange deck with automatically reverse
- Variable speed control
- Fully adjustable

**COMING EVENTS**

- **May 31:** Carthage High School Spring Band Festival
- **June 1:** Regional Band Festival
- **June 2:** State Band Festival

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### Classified Ads

**REAL ESTATE**

- Homes for sale
- Apartments for rent
- Commercial properties

**EVERYTHING**

- Furniture
- Electronics
- Clothing
- Books

**YOU NEED TO MOVE**

- To the next chapter
- To a new adventure

**FEATURES**

- We can BEAT ANY Other Ford Dealer's Price... EVERYDAY!
- Our prices are lower than the Ford Store!
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