

# Recount starts of election with 5-vote margin

BY EMILY MIBACH  
Daily Post Staff Writer

A recount of the Woodside election that was decided by just five votes begins today after a resident requested it.

Woodside residents voted last month whether zoning rules in Woodside ought to be changed to bring more parking and outside dining behind Buck's Restaurant and an outdoor amphitheater [See RECOUNT, page 18]

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# Carjacking reported downtown

BY BRADEN CARTWRIGHT  
Daily Post Staff Writer

A man was arrested after trying to carjack a woman in the parking lot at the corner of Waverley Street and Hamilton Avenue, police said yesterday.

The woman and her husband managed to thwart the carjacking as police

arrived and arrested the suspect shortly after 5 p.m. on Friday.

Tito Cordero Vialau, 26, of San Francisco, was arrested for felony carjacking. He is in the Elmwood Correctional Facility in Milpitas with a \$100,000 bail and a court appearance scheduled for today.

The couple, in their 60s, parked their 2017 Honda Civic and walked to a nearby business with the car unlocked. After thinking more about the situation, the woman returned to the car to lock it, when she saw Vialau sitting in the driver's seat, police said.

The woman screamed for help,

which caused Vialau to get out of the car and approach her, police said. He demanded the car key from her hand, and then forcibly took it from her, causing a small cut on her hand, police said.

Vialau then tried to start the car but was unsuccessful. When the woman's [See CARJACKING, page 18]

**THE UPDATE**

Dow <b>-652.22</b>	Nasdaq <b>-245.14</b>	Oil <b>-3.77</b>
34,483.72	15,537.69	66.18

Gold 1,776.50 **-8.70** NY COMEX close  
courtesy of Mish Int'l (650) 324-9110

**INFLATION PANIC:** For months, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell has insisted that inflation was merely "transitory." Yesterday, Powell took a sharp and unexpected turn and will tighten credit for consumers and businesses. The change puts the Fed on a path to begin raising its key short-term interest rate. A higher Fed rate would, in turn, raise borrowing costs for mortgages, credit cards and some business loans.

**TOUGH ON CRIME:** Atlanta City Councilman Andre Dickens, who argued he would be tougher on crime than incumbent Felicia Moore, won a runoff election yesterday to become Atlanta's next mayor in the heavily Democratic city.

**DR. OZ GOES POLITICAL:** Dr. Mehmet Oz, the celebrity heart surgeon best known as the host of TV's "Dr. Oz Show" after rocketing to fame on Oprah Winfrey's show, announced yesterday that he is running for Pennsylvania's open U.S. Senate seat as a Republican.

**POT TAX REVENUES DOWN:** Cannabis tax revenues are down 6.6% from the second quarter of the year, according to the California [See THE UPDATE, page 4]

## Cop's nickname: 'The fuse'

Former sergeant could be explosive, prosecutors claim

BY BRADEN CARTWRIGHT  
Daily Post Staff Writer

Former Palo Alto Police Sgt. Wayne Benitez — who is charged with assault and lying on a police report for slamming a man into a car windshield during an arrest — was nicknamed "the fuse" by his fellow officers, according to court documents filed by District Attorney Jeff Rosen.

Two officers celebrated Benitez's use of force the night of Feb. 17, 2018, which led to the charges against Benitez and a lawsuit against the city.

"The fuse was lit tonight!" Agent Thomas DeStefano wrote in a message to another officer, according to documents. [See FUSE, page 18]

**DeStefano:** "You missed out — the fuse was lit tonight!"

**Mullarkey:** "That's my favorite thing ever ... I saw it go off before when I was brand new and I was like this is what it's like in Los Angeles."

**DeStefano:** "Yup ... it happened tonight."

**Mullarkey:** "Amazing ... I love it ... that's a 100% real cop right there."

# Omicron called 'extremely mild'

Covid symptoms linked to the new Omicron variant are "extremely mild," says the South African doctor who first raised the alarm over the new strain.

Dr. Angelique Coetzee, chair of the South African Medical Association, told the BBC that she started to see patients around Nov. 18 presenting

with "unusual symptoms" that differed slightly from those associated with the Delta variant, which is the most virulent strain of the virus.

"It actually started with a male patient who's around the age of 33 ... and he said to me that he's just (been) extremely tired for the past few days and

he's got these body aches and pains with a bit of a headache," she told the BBC.

Dr. Coetzee said the patient didn't have a sore throat but more of a "scratchy throat" and wasn't suffering from a cough or loss of taste or smell [SeeOMICRON, page 18]

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