Mayor greets new class of firefighters

Predators like bobcats, owls, hawks ingesting pesticides from rodents

By Nala Rogers
Sante Cruz Sentinel

When bobcat mother and her kittens were killed on the UC Santa Cruz campus in early September, the kitten couldn’t have known its mother was dying of rat poison. But Duane Tutor noticed her lethargy and mangled fur, so he suspected that anti-coagulants were making her bleed inside.

“It’s really hard to look at that and feel OK as a human knowing that we’ve probably had a hand in it,” said Tutor, a wildlife capture specialist with Wildlife Emergency Services, a nonprofit based in Moss Landing.

The bobcat kittens ran off when Tutor approached, and the mother died that night. Tests revealed three kinds of rat poison in her body, two of which were “second-generation anticoagulants” — poisons recently deemed too dangerous for public sale by the state of California and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The new restrictions are the result of a lengthy battle among environmental groups, poison companies and regulatory agencies.

See POISON, Page 8

A bobcat kitten nuzzles its dying mother on the UC Santa Cruz campus in September. A necropsy found internal bleeding and three kinds of rat poison in the mother bobcat’s body.

MUSIC EDUCATION

Progressions in learning

San Jose Jazz finds improvements in attention, memory, speech after specialized instruction

Oscar Pangilinan teaches clarinet to, from left, Francisco Tovar, 11, Maribel Cardenas, 10, and Israel Alvarado, 11, as part of the Progressions program at Santee Elementary. The nonprofit San Jose Jazz group teaches basic music at three schools.

By Joe Rodriguez
joe@mercurynews.com

SAN JOSE — Not long ago, Jaime Garcia and Ayoko Aiyarwe walked into a school assembly that would change their young lives. Music teachers from San Jose Jazz wanted the kids to calm down, then played some tunes on a flute, clarinet, trombone and other wind instruments. When they asked who wanted to learn music, the two boys jumped at the chance.

“I liked the way the trombone sounded,” said Ayoko, who is now 12. His friend Jaime, 11, had hoped for a saxophone but settled for a clarinet.

“They said it was free, so why not?”

The musical notes that day in Santee Element-

By Julie Rinard

PROGRESSIONS

For more information or how to donate, http://santejazz.org/education/progressions.

Progressions, director, leads a singing class as part of the Progressions program at Santee Elementary.

See MUSIC, Page 18
commitment to improve our quality and affordability and to be a national model for the delivery of health care.

Adams is group president and regional president of Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and Health Plan in Northern California.

Roemer insisted that safety and quality of care were the union's paramount concerns.

"We feel like we've put some real good patient protections," she said. "We were really concerned because of staff.

The settlement calls for nurses to participate in a committee to work with Kaiser management to address nurses' concerns about care standards, according to the union.

Although striking nurses last fall accused Kaiser of maintaining insufficient protections against the Ebola virus, the proposed contract language does not add new provisions to specifically protect하기 위해IsEmptyNurse spread of infectious diseases.

If ratified by the union membership, the contract will be retroactive to Sept. 30 and will extend through August 2017.

The proposed agreement does not affect a contract dispute involving Kaiser Permanente and its mental health staff.

Contact Sharon Noguchi at 510-208-6770. Follow her at Twitter.com/meghann2.

Music

Continued from Page 1

sive gray areas through music.

It has long been suspected that music instruc-

tion helps students learn other subjects. Plato said as

much 24 centuries ago, but a stream of new research

bears out the Greek phi-

losopher and then some.

There may even cross the academic gap between rich and poor students.

"My grades are better than ever," said Jaime, who has become a straight-A student.

While some kids' success doesn't prove a theory.

"People were always ask-

ing, 'Do you know how it works?'" said Brenda Rawson, executive direc-

tor of the center. "It's

well known for its summer jazz

program, and "in the past,

quietly pumped $220,000 into the '43 Progressions' music program at Santee and

two other schools in the

Franklin-McKinley School

District.

As if one can, a recent study of a similar music pro-

gram in Los Angeles shows that music training changes the brain in ways that make it easier for youngsters to process sounds. That in-

creased ability improves their attention and memory in subjects as reading and speech, according to research at San Francisco's University of Audi-

tory School's echo-contrived cafeitura and au-

dioformat penetrated deep

enough to capture the inter-


to the professional talents of the band's Western Nicholson, the

Flora Quest, which was a model for Progressions.

The researchers published their findings in the Journal of Neuroscience in September.

"That's a plus," Rawson said.

"That was very cool."

Rather than give stu-

dents instruments right away, Progressions follows the so-called Kodaly Method to give young students an instrument free of charge.

During a recent session, Julie Rand, the program's director, led a group of gigg-

ling second- and third-grade students through a series of kiddie songs like "Plato, Fido, and "Little Rhinofreest," in English. Rand, who is fluent in Spanish, actually was teaching them how to set up a musical rhythm, follow a beat and sing together at the same pitch.

"We're learning to be part of a team and, if the tune succeeds, I hope to build confidence and self-esteem," she said. "It also opens up the pathways in the brain."

The kids will be ready for instruments in fourth grade. Meanwhile, across the cam-

 crus, San Jose Jazz instruc-

tor Oscar Pangilinan led a group of beginning flute players. Most of the young-

McGowan.

Julie Rand, Progressions director, has students do a rhythm exercise as part of the Progressions program at San Jose Elementary in East San Jose. The exercise teaches students to follow a beat and be part of a team.

"Very often in the past we're at an 'out of the chair,'" she said. "This is all coming together." Her

has improved. For Progressions students, the district still offers music instruc-


tion in middle school.

But there's a catch: the students are asked to help play an instrument to get smarter, and instruments aren't cheap. A new tromb-

bone can cost $840. Still, Rand, who is a member of the district's music committee with help from businesses, charities and the Mayor's Young People in Spor-

t Task Force.

"There's no way I could afford it," said Cecilia Aguirre, 15, her mother and a middle school in her CAT.

"Very beautiful," Jaime Garcia said his new ability to read music as a result of his

in math. His mother, Paula Garcia, said he's become more respectful in his speech at the same time.

"It helps me with my French homework," said Rand, "enabling me to read an eighth note and progress to the whole measure." I can divide notes into fractions and count them in measures. Like most of the kids in Pro-

gressions, Walker has no plans on becoming a professional musician.

However, Gigante, Jaime's younger sister, might have what it takes after just one year playing the flute. Rand said the 9-

year-old is an "outliner" who never has to go home and do my homework," she said, "because after that I can just print out music and read the next lesson."

Contact Joe Rodriguez at 408-208-0575, Follow him at Twitter.com/joerodermay.