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The newspaper of Silicon Valley

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## SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES



COURTESY OF PRINCESA SOFÍA MALLORCA — SAILING ENERGY

Lafayette kiteboarder Daniela Moroz, a 23-year-old Summer Olympic Games qualifier, is the daughter of a pair of immigrants who independently escaped from former Czechoslovakia during the communist revolution in 1983.

# Kiteboarder chasing gold and the 'American dream'

Lafayette's Daniela Moroz wants to make country and immigrant parents proud

By Jason Mastrodonato  
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Three months before she was set to compete in the first Olympic kiteboarding event at this summer's Paris Games, Daniela Moroz sat in her rented room in France, reflecting on how she got there.

Moroz, a 23-year-old Lafayette native who is a six-time world champion in the sport and a favorite to win gold in August, thought about her immigrant parents.

In the early 1980s, they independently escaped former Czechoslovakia and started over in the Bay Area. They stumbled upon the Cal Sailing Club at Berkeley Marina, where they fell in love with windsurfing, then, each other.

"They were the ones that got me into the sport," Daniela said. "They left their lives and left everything behind to chase the American dream and completely started new lives when they came to America."

"For me, to be going to the Olympics now, it feels like a culmination of that American dream."

Daniela's mother, Linda, was 19 when she and some friends put their most valuable possessions into a backpack, told their families and friends they were going on vacation and then hopped on a bus to Yugoslavia.

They didn't plan on returning home. Tired of living under communist rule, Linda and her friends sought asylum in Yugoslavia, where they were soon transferred to Austria and held in a refugee camp for six months.

"Nobody knew if it would even work," Linda said. "It was scary because you left with the feeling like you might never be able to go back once you leave. But there was just something that I really wanted to experience, the freedom that other parts of the world experienced."

She learned English in the refugee camp until she and her friends were put on a plane to San Francisco, where they lived in the house of MOROZ » PAGE 5



COURTESY OF ALLISON CHENARD — US SAILING TEAM

Moroz holds the American flag over her head while wearing her gold medal at the Pan Am Games in Algarrobo, Chile, in November 2023.



COURTESY OF THE MOROZ FAMILY

Vlad Moroz, the father of Olympic-bound kiteboarder Daniela Moroz, gets in some windsurfing in the San Francisco Bay.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

# Another COVID-19 vaccine is on way

Last year's shot isn't holding up, so this fall's offering will boost benefits

By Lisa M. Krieger  
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This fall, prepare for the latest round of COVID-19 vaccine Whac-a-Mole. Like the old arcade game, no matter how many shots we get, the enemy always pops back up.

But here's why the new shot, recommended by FDA advisers last week, makes sense: It targets a new version of the virus, the FDA panel said. It bolsters your body's ever-growing defense system. And it's a lot better than getting very sick or hospitalized.

Last year's shot isn't holding up. Protection against both infection and severe illness is waning.

"Effectiveness has decreased, as the time since vaccination has increased — and as new SARS-CoV-2 variants emerge," said biostatistician Danyu Lin of the University of North Carolina School of Global Public Health, who presented worrisome new data to the FDA advisory panel.

The old vaccine's effectiveness peaked one month after the shot, Lin's team found. After four weeks, the vaccines were 52.2% effective at preventing infection and 66.8% effective at preventing hospitalization. After ten weeks, effective VACCINE » PAGE 5

## MOST POSITIONS RESTORED

# County officials ease proposed budget cuts for offices of the DA and public defenders

By Robert Salonga  
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SAN JOSE » Santa Clara County is reducing prospective budget cuts for the district attorney's and public defender's offices after their top leaders forewarned of severe public safety impacts in the South Bay.

In the county's newest budget revision released last week, administrators are walking back the elimination of 20 criminal investigators in the DA's office, restoring all but two positions in the division. The public defender's office would see three criminal-investigator positions restored from a budget proposal released at the beginning of May.

Even then, both agencies will have to shoulder layoffs and attrition — making total cuts in the area of five to seven percent of each office's budget — to help the county fill an estimated \$250 million deficit for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. But after the last update, only one of the offices' leaders said they CUTS » PAGE 5

## WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

# Blinken returns as Israel-Hamas cease-fire deal hangs in balance after hostage rescue

It's his eighth visit to region on a peace-seeking mission since beginning of conflict

By Matthew Lee  
The Associated Press

CAIRO » U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken returned to the Middle East on Monday as a proposed Israel-Hamas cease-fire deal hangs in the balance after the dramatic rescue of four Israeli hostages held in

Gaza in a major military raid and turmoil in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

With no firm public response yet from Hamas or Israel to the proposal they received 10 days ago, Blinken started his eighth visit to the region since the conflict began in October by meeting with President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi of Egypt, a key mediator with Hamas.

Blinken once again called on Hamas to accept the plan, which he said has wide international support.

"If you want a cease-fire, press Hamas to say 'yes,'" he told reporters before leaving Cairo on the trip that will take him to Israel, Jordan and Qatar. Blinken said Israel has accepted the proposal, though Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has not said so directly.

He said the plan on the table is the "single best way" to get to a cease-fire, release the remaining hostages and improve regional security.

While President Joe Biden, BLINKEN » PAGE 5



AMR NABIL — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, POOL PHOTO

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks to reporters at the airport in Cairo on Monday after his meeting with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi about the Middle East war.

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