

Upcoming Events at Michaan's!

Free Appraisal Event

Wednesday, January 7th; 9 am - 12 pm

Wednesday, January 21st; 9 am - 12 pm

January Gallery Auction

Friday, January 13th; 10 am

Preview:

Sunday, January 11th; 10 am - 5 pm

Thursday, January 15th; noon - 5 pm

Friday, January 16th; 9 am - end of auction

January Annex Auction

Mon, Jan. 12th; Tues, Jan. 13th; Wed, Jan. 14th | 9 am

Preview:

Sun., Jan. 11th; 10 am - 5 pm

Mon., Jan. 12th & Tues., Jan. 13th; 9 am - 5 pm

Wed., Jan. 14th; 9 am - end of auction



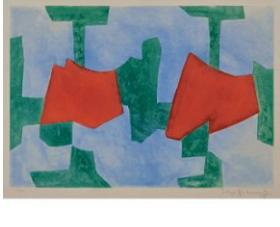
Helen Flockhart
(Scottish, born 1963)
"All That I Owe the
Fellows of the Grave"



Pair of Buccellati Ruby,
18k Yellow and White Gold
Cufflinks



Chinese Famille Rose Porcelain
Reticulated Lamp



Serge Poliakoff
(Russian/French, 1900-1969)
Composition in Green, Blue and Red



Aquamarine,
18k Yellow Gold
Drop Necklace

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MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

Auctioneers & Appraisers

Bond #713954

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San Francisco Chronicle

SFCHRONICLE.COM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

CONTAINS RECYCLED PAPER

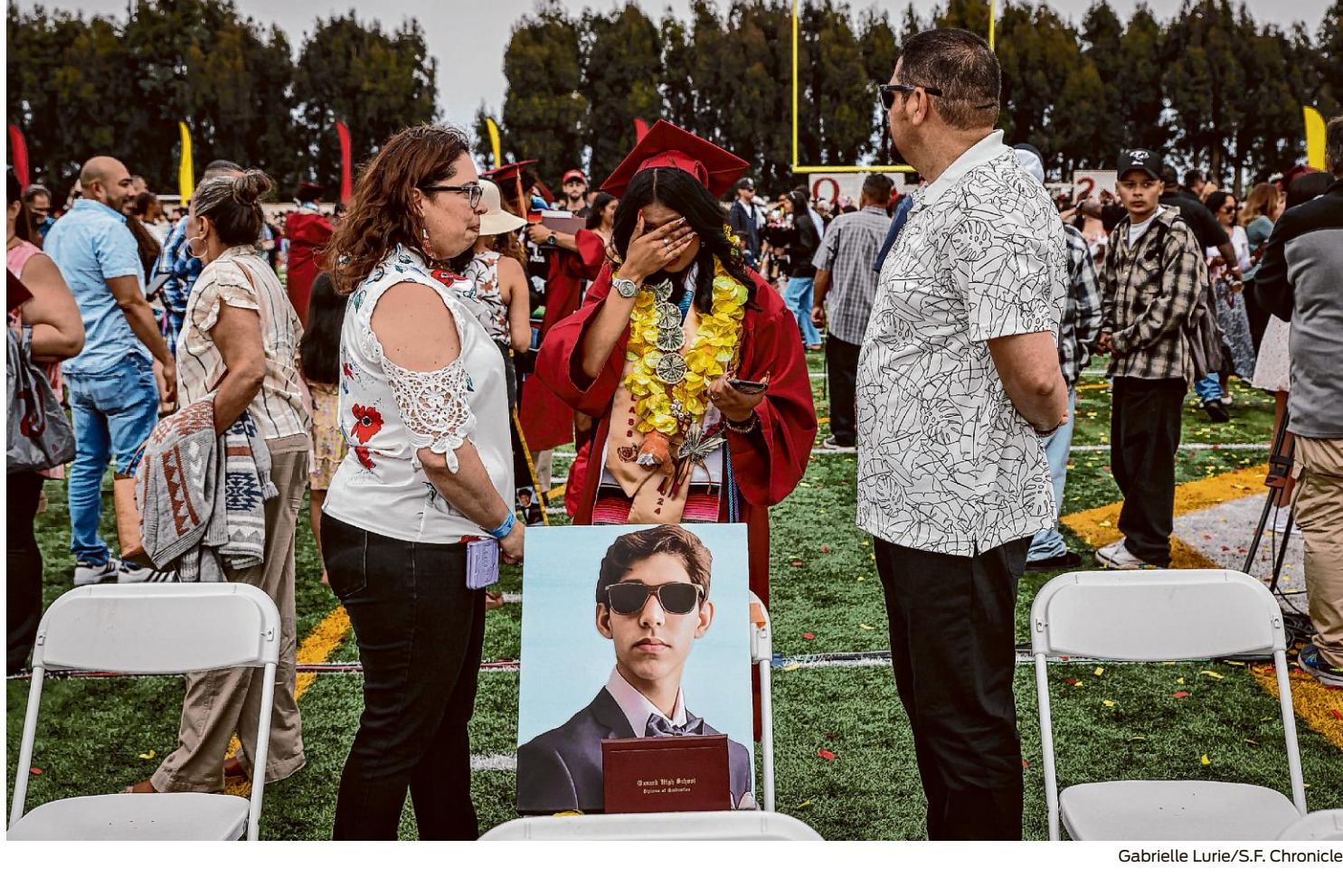
\$3.00

FAILED TO DEATH A CHRONICLE INVESTIGATION

'This business killed my son'

Stories by Cynthia Dizikes and Joaquin Palomino

STAFF WRITERS



Gabrielle Lurie/S.F. Chronicle

California hospital empire rises as its patients suffer

Note: This story contains descriptions of suicide, self-harm and mental illness that may be upsetting to readers and survivors.

Late one day in April 2022, an ambulance delivered a teenage boy to a psychiatric hospital on a palm tree-dotted hillside overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

"Mom, I need help," Raymond Jimenez had confided to his mother as he struggled with suicidal urges and repeatedly cut himself. "I'm really scared about my thoughts."

Money continues on A10



ABOVE: Dr. Soon Kim, owner and CEO of Signature Healthcare Services, testifies during a 2019 civil trial in Ventura.

TOP: Elsy Jimenez, left, and her husband, Lionel Jimenez, with a photo of their son, Raymond, at what would have been his graduation at Oxnard High School in 2024.

State imposes new sanctions, fines after Chronicle investigation

California health officials have moved to strengthen oversight of for-profit psychiatric hospitals in response to a Chronicle investigation into patient abuses at the facilities, issuing new sanctions and more than a million dollars in fines related to the newspaper's reporting.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has made mental health care a centerpiece of his administration, saying the state should intervene in more people's lives. But reporters found that California has increasingly turned to profit-driv-

State continues on A14

Quake swarms nearing record

San Ramon tally is second highest for area over 2 months

By Jack Lee

STAFF WRITER

Earthquakes have unsettled San Ramon residents for months, with dozens of small quakes peppering the Tri-Valley area since November.

The area around San Ramon recorded 87 quakes stronger than magnitude 2 over November and December, through Tuesday morning. That tally is the second highest on record for the area for a two-month period, according to a Chronicle analysis of U.S. Geological Survey data.

San Ramon's highest two-month tally for quakes stronger than magnitude 2 is 89, in the fall of 2015.

The recent quake counts, calculated on Friday, are subject to change, as analysts review events that were detected automatically and adjusted magnitudes. When an earlier version of this story was published Tuesday, the San Ramon area had logged 91 earthquakes stronger than magnitude 2 in November and December — higher than the 2015 count.

The Tri-Valley region has a history of earthquake swarms, when earthquakes repeatedly strike a small area and don't follow a typical mainshock-aftershock sequence. Swarms struck the area around Alamo, Danville and San Ramon in 1970, 1976, 1990, 2002, 2003, 2015 and 2018, said Annemarie Baltay, a research geophysicist with the USGS.

"We have these earthquakes in San Ramon somewhat frequently," Baltay said.

Scientists can't yet fully

Quake continues on A6



Santiago Mejia/S.F. Chronicle
Feli Mercado, a Concord teacher diagnosed with breast cancer, received help on her mortgage from the Season of Sharing Fund.

SEASON OF SHARING

Teacher with cancer learns value of accepting charity

By Jill Tucker

STAFF WRITER

Feli Mercado's pixie cut hairstyle has straight bangs high on her forehead, the reddish strands no more than a fraction of an inch long — just long enough so that she no longer looks like a cancer patient.

She still feels like one.

Mercado gets tired sometimes, occasionally dizzy. Her

body is still recovering from a double mastectomy and months of chemotherapy treatments, the last administered in July, to battle the breast cancer discovered in late 2024.

All that came after the phone call that will probably remain a fixture in Mercado's mind. The physician's voice on the other end with the biopsy results that followed an irregular mammogram.

Sharing continues on A7

WEATHER: Windy, rainy.

Highs: 55-61. Lows: 44-52. **B8**



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