



Neighborhood Merchants Generally Doing Fine

BY DANNY PHAM

While some San Francisco commercial corridors experienced dramatic reductions in demand between 2019 and 2023 – sales tax revenue dropped by 43 percent South of Market – sales tax revenues in Potrero Hill rose a modest three percent during the period, testament to a resilient clutch of merchants dominated by popular restaurants and small markets.

Vanessa Blyth Marlin owns Bell & Trunk, located on 18th Street between Connecticut and Missouri streets which specializes in floral arrangements for weddings and events, as well as subscriptions for the home and office. According to Blyth Marlin, Bell & Trunk is thriving, with a record-breaking Valentine’s Day and a 2024 wedding and event calendar packed.

“What’s even more exciting is that our flower arranging classes and flower bars are really taking off as companies are focusing on creating a fun and dynamic culture now that workers are returning to the office,” said Blyth Marlin.

Blyth Marlin is fostering new relationships with local flower farms to secure fresher and unique blooms and sestablishing her own perfume and candle line. In June, Blyth Marlin will participate in Bouquets to Art, an annual



Clockwise from top left: Yasmin Points, owner, Cafe Da Fonk!; Chris Hillyard, owner, Farley's; Vanessa Blyth Marlin, owner, Bell & Trunk; Fred Bateman, owner, Bateman Agency. PHOTOS: Danny Pham

floral exhibition at the de Young museum in Golden Gate Park.

“We started out as a sleepy little flower shop but now business is boom-

Marlin. “Potrero Hill is a great place to have a small business; we have a small-town mentality here in the big city. Customers are very loyal, and the local merchants look out for one another. And we have more foot traffic than ever as people from all over flock to Potrero Hill for the sweeping views, great restaurants and all the other unique and wonderful things we have to offer.”

A few stores down Farley’s, a coffeehouse that owner Chris Hillyard describes as an alternative to neighborhood bars, offers coffee and snacks. Commemorating its 35th year, Hillyard said business has been steady.

“We were fortunate to be in such a special neighborhood full of wonderful residents who supported the cafe during the pandemic and continue doing so still after 35 years,” said Hillyard. “We benefit from having people in the neighborhood throughout the day. It’s not like Downtown where fewer people are around. The neighborhood residents recognize the value and importance of local businesses and do their best to support them.”

Hillyard noted that Farley’s is busiest on weekends thanks to what he calls the “Plow Effect,” where patrons stop by for coffee during their wait – upwards of 60 minutes – for a table at popular

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High Care Costs, Pandemic Period Policies, Increases Shelter Demand for Dogs

BY JESSICA ZIMMER

San Francisco Animal Care and Control (SFACC) is experiencing a deluge of dogs due in part to the high cost of veterinary care and the pause in neuter and spay operations early in the COVID-19 pandemic. A shortage of veterinary professionals and surrender of large breeds add to the pressures on the shelter.

San Francisco Health Code Section 41.7(e) requires SFACC to hold the animals of owners who are facing a temporary crisis, such as a medical emergency or incarceration. SFACC must provide veterinary care for ‘custody animals’ while they’re in the shelter. The exception is if the owner consents to someone else, like a family member or partner, assuming responsibility for the creature. SFACC cannot allow a custody animal to be adopted; it already has an owner.

“As of mid-April 2024, SFACC has about 70 dogs in its kennels, with approximately 40 percent – 28 – being

custody dogs. We have three rooms full of custody dogs alone,” said Deb Campbell, SFACC spokesperson. “It’s just overwhelming for staff, to care for so many dogs at once. We’d like to find homes for all of the dogs that can be adopted, especially the German Shepherds, Huskies, and pit bulls.”

This year SFACC’s budget was cut by five percent, less than the 10 percent imposed on other municipal agencies.

“The high numbers of animals in need of shelter and adoption is a national issue,” said Campbell.

Roughly 6.5 million cats and dogs were given refuge nationally in 2023, according to Shelter Animals Count, an Atlanta, Georgia-based nonprofit, about 3.3 million cats, 3.2 million dogs. There was a 0.2 percent increase in the number of animals entering shelters from 2022, a four percent rise 2021.

According to Campbell, Bay Area shelters are seeing a large influx of ani-

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Four Candidates, Plus Roughly 40 More, Vie to Replace Incumbent Mayor

BY STEVEN J. MOSS

Mayors running for reelection typically scare off significant challengers, given the power of incumbency. Not so this year. Four notables – Mark E. Farrell, Daniel Lurie, Aaron Peskin and Ahsha Safai – are serious contenders for the office, with more than 40 others also in the race. The plethora of choice is indicative of at least perceived dissatisfaction with Burgomaster London Breed, and a generalized desire for change.

Presiding over San Francisco isn’t an easy job. Spending more than \$15,000 per capita, the City is one of the nation’s most fiscally profligate municipalities, one in which virtually nobody thinks they’re getting their money’s worth. It’s an imperial city, reaching past its borders to host an international airport and convey water and power from the Yosemite Valley. By population San Francisco is smaller than Phoenix, Arizona, San Antonio, Texas, and

Columbus, Ohio, yet how often do those places make the national news?

To be truly effective a mayor needs intelligence, charisma, managerial chops, endless dedicated patience, good character judgement, a talent network of friends and well-wishers, and, if not fully honest, unimpeachable ethics. Which is why many San Francisco mayors have had a hard time being effective. It’s challenging to find a single individual who possesses all these traits. Voters ultimately need to decide which qualities are most important.

Farrell, who previously served on the Board of Supervisors and was interim mayor briefly before Breed was elected, is a successful lawyer and banker. He’s a practicing Catholic, and, along with his wife, is raising three children in Laurel Heights. His campaign could be boiled down to a single phrase: enough of the shenanigans, inside and outside City Hall. He wants a new police chief,

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PUBLISHER’S VIEW

Monopoly

BY STEVEN J. MOSS

Many of us have played Monopoly, the ruthless board game with cute tokens. The goal is to drive all other players out of business by charging usurious rents. If a contestant is unlucky enough to land on hotel-laden Marvin Gardens they’re required to fork over a stack of faux cash. It doesn’t matter that no one wants to stop at Marvin Gardens, nor that a piece could get essentially the same resting experience on Pacific Avenue at a fraction of the price. The game mimics rapacious capitalism, rewarding complete domination, with chance occupying a large role in the outcome.

Included on the board is electric company, an asset that can’t be improved and whose rents don’t change. A low-cost investment that has reliable returns, but whose ownership rarely wins the game. This treatment reflects a 20th Century political and economic understanding of a sanctioned, tamed, monopoly, one in which economies of scale create the ability to produce what’s needed at lower costs per unit, thereby making the entity worth protecting from unfettered competition.

In today’s real-world property prices – including for San Francisco luxury hotels – rise and fall, while electric utility rates exclusively follow

an upward trajectory. Since 2020, the average price Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) charges a household for a kilowatt-hour has jolted skyward by more than 50 percent. A chunk of this increase is due to inflation; the cost of wages and materials have risen, especially as a consequence of a COVID-shredded supply chain. Another portion is caused by massive investments in managing wildfire risks, benefiting a tiny subset of energy users. And a goodly amount is almost certainly the result of cost ineffective overspending on infrastructure, which coincidentally generates excellent profits for PG&E and other suppliers.

Perhaps contrary to popular belief, while power demand is beginning to surge elsewhere in the nation, the amount of electricity consumed in California has declined over the past three years. The state hasn’t yet experienced significant demand increases due to electric vehicles or building electrification. Investments in distribution (D) – poles, wires, and associated undergrounding – and transmission (T) – long conduits freshly built or bolstered principally to convey recently adding renewable power – are what’s driving rate rises.

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SHORT CUTS

Lights

If you’ve ever wondered why City Hall is lit in a specific set of colors on a given night, wonder no more! According to the **Office of the City Administrator**, April 1, often celebrated as “April Fool’s Day” was lit blue for “Child Abuse Awareness Month.” April 5 and 19th were pink and blue for “Global Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Day.” April 27 was Orange for “King’s Day, the National Day of the Netherlands.” Along the way there were also lights for the SF Cherry Blossom Festival and Parade, Earth Day, and the end of Ramadan. No, this isn’t fake news...

Plates

As part of newly launched intensive enforcement operations, **San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency** has instructed its parking control officers to crack down on vehicles that don’t have a front license plate, so those digits

can be captured by speed cameras. Simultaneously, new car owners are only being provided with one plate by the **California Department of Motor Vehicles**; attempts to obtain a second one are either outright rejected by the DMV or rendered impossible by an inaccessible telephone communications system. Talk much, state and local governments?

Diaspora

“If you have to explain the art,” someone was heard to say, as they scrutinized lengthy instructions on how to experience an installation at Burning Man, “then it’s not worth seeing.” Art, from this perspective, is supposed to speak with its own voice, reaching out to touch the viewer through its visual influence... What do you do, then, when the pieces being shown talk in a different language? Such is the challenge at the Museum of Africa Diaspora’s *Unruly Navigations*, on offer through

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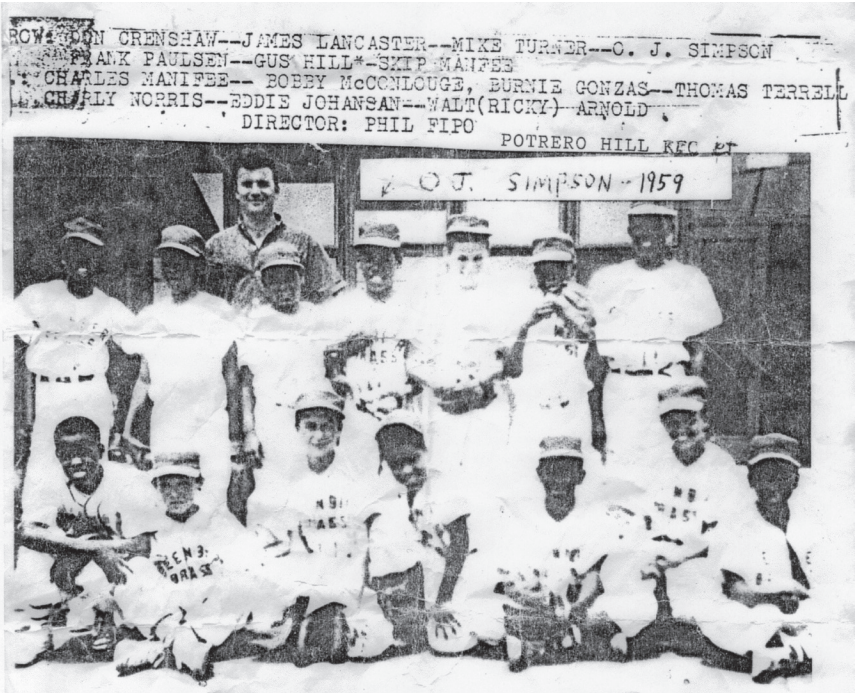


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The Potrero Hill Recreation Center at 801 Arkansas Street has been serving Hill youth since the 1950s. Here famed football player O. J. Simpson, who grew up on the Hill, returns to present awards to recreation center champions in the late 1970s. (Courtesy Potrero Hill Recreation Center.)

Last month O.J. Simpson died of prostate cancer in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was 76 years-old. Before he became a football star, Hollywood actor, and acquitted of the killing of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman, he was raised in the Potrero Annex-Terrace housing complex, his athletic talent nurtured at the Potrero Hill Recreation Center. A 1959 photograph shows him on a neighborhood baseball team. The other image appeared in *San Francisco's Potrero Hill* by Peter Linenthal and Abigail Johnston.

Beneath the Fluorescents: Safeway, Theft, and the Socio-Economic Divide

BY CAMILE MESSERLEY

Ongoing activities at Safeway’s Potrero Center location highlight a broad set of social issues facing the store, San Francisco, and other urban areas. Shoppers rely on the market for routine milk and egg runs, and to purchase toothpaste, shampoo, and other sundries. Simultaneously, the store is subject to chronic grab-and-go theft. Outside, people periodically vie to collect signatures for ballot initiatives. Uber and Lyft drivers gathered there last month to rally for fair wages.

In response to escalating theft—up to 15 shoplifting incidents in a single afternoon, according to the *San Francisco Standard*—in January Safeway removed self-checkout lanes in an attempt to safeguard the store’s inventory. Self-checkout offered shoppers’ convenience and required fewer workers. Eliminating the lanes, combined with more items being locked up, forced employees to learn new procedures, including how to forestall revised attempts at theft. Customers experience longer wait times. During periods of heavy demand, it can take twenty or more minutes to check out, with only two or three cashiers available.

During an April visit by the *View* there was palpable tension among workers. Weary eyes spoke to the stress of daily routines. One worker, speaking anonymously, said during their shift they took 8,000 to 14,000 steps a

day, equivalent to four to seven miles, the length of San Francisco from the Bay Bridge to Ocean Beach. Attempts at stealing, such as an individual attempting to conceal a bulky item under their coat, continue to be routine occurrences.

The prevalence of theft reflects underlying socio-economic struggles. One shopper, a mother in her forties, said she’d lived paycheck to paycheck, and was chronically tempted to steal necessities like diapers and applesauce. A pair of adolescent girls urgently discussed which cereal to buy, with the older one admonishing her younger sister that they couldn’t afford any of the colorful name-brand products.

According to a 2023 study, “Inflation, Profits and Market Power: Towards a New Research and Policy Agenda” inflation, coupled with rising corporate profits, is deepening economic inequalities, particularly impacting individuals in middle to lower income brackets. Meanwhile, despite widespread media attention to the issue, an analysis by the Council on Criminal Justice, a nonpartisan think tank, found that in most months San Francisco’s reported rate of shoplifting incidents per capita was significantly lower than a 24-city average. In June 2023, San Francisco reported 23 incidents per 100,000 residents; the average across the 24 cities that month was 39 per 100,000.

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Join Susan Karasoff (Outreach Chair, California Native Plant Society [CNPS] Yerba Buena Chapter) as she leads a seminar on how San Francisco native plant leaves co-evolved to feed our local butterfly caterpillar species. The **Butterflies and Native Plants Seminar** will take place on Sunday, May 19th from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Vermont Greenway & Eco-patch (Vermont Street between 17th and Mariposa Streets).

RSVP here today! <https://bit.ly/3JAzAkD>

The Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association | potreroboosters.org

The Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association informs, empowers and represents the residents of the Potrero on issues impacting our community in order to develop and maintain complete, vibrant neighborhoods. We’re continuing to **meet via Zoom** on the last Tuesday of each month. Go to www.potreroboosters.org to learn more about how to join us!

The Potrero Dogpatch Merchants Association | potrerodogpatch.com

The Potrero Dogpatch Merchants Association promotes and advocates for independent, locally owned businesses while actively supporting our neighborhood and our wonderful communities.

PREFund | prefund.org

PREFund brings neighbors together to support education and build community. Learn more and get connected at prefund.org

Starr King Open Space | StarrKingOpenSpace.org

Join our **monthly volunteer days** on the second Saturday of the month. This month it is May 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Our **annual meeting and election** is Monday, May 20 at 7 p.m. at St. Theresa of Avila Church. **Donate** to help keep Starr King Open Space open, accessible, and well-maintained for our neighborhood. StarrKingOpenSpace.org

For a \$200 annual fee your organization can be listed in Getting Involved.
Contact production@potreroview.net

InsectPalooza Can be ‘Life-Changing,’ Org Asserts

BY REBEKAH MOAN

Handling a giant African millipede, which can grow up to 13 inches long and 2.5 inches around, will change your life forever, according to SaveNature.Org chief executive officer and co-founder Norman “Norm” Gershenz.

“There’s not a person from two to 92 years old that when I say your life is changed forever by holding these insects, will not be changed forever,” he said. “Holding these animals do that.”

Established in 1993, SaveNature draws a direct line between insect education and conservation efforts. Which is why the San Francisco-based nonprofit is hosting its fourth annual InsectPalooza on May 19 from noon to 3 p.m. at Minnesota Street Project.

Gershenz said it’s easy to make a connection between the giant African millipede and the ones commonly found in everyone’s backyard.

“The millipedes in the garden do the same thing; they’re great decomposers,” he said. “We want people to be better stewards of the planet and to do that locally. We want to inspire people to care more about nature. They’re what I love to call ‘oh my’ animals because when people hold them for the first time, everyone says, ‘oh my.’”

In addition to the giant African millipede, SaveNature will have giant thorny walking sticks from Malaysia – also known as jungle nymphs – and Madagascar hissing cockroaches. Each InsectPalooza station will feature eight or nine bugs, providing attendees a chance to see, touch, and hold them.

An insect that’ll be on display, but not available to touch, is the largest scorpion in North America, the giant desert hairy scorpion, housed in a darkened box. When an ultraviolet light is turned on above it the scorpion glows bright blue or bright green. There are smaller scorpions that live in the Bay Area under rocks and logs; SaveNature wants to draw a connection to the local habitat.

SaveNature is hosting the event with the San Francisco Arts Education Project, with support from the Goldstein-Warrington Family Fund. Three local artists, Zoe Farmer, Lauren Hartman, and Jennifer Zee will facilitate artmaking.

Farmer creates sculptures of creatures made of seed pods, feathers, parts of insects, and anything else that inspires her.

“I’m a big fan of the potential of natural materials as sculptural and I’m aware of my impact as an artist,” she said. “I want to use nature-friendly materials.”

At the event she’ll bring items she’s collected and support people to make their own bug or beetle. She’ll also provide tiny pieces of wood so participants can display their artwork. She plans to use the cochineal scale insect, from which the natural dye carmine is derived, to extract the dye to create paint, or examine the bug under the microscope.

“I think one of the things that I do, and hope to share with people, is that by looking at and paying attention to nature, we are inspired to save it and also create our own sense of wellbeing



InsectPalooza 2023: a walking stick from Thailand gets acquainted with an event guest. PHOTO: Courtesy of SaveNature.org

and seeing our place within nature,” she said.

Zee will do printmaking. Hartman will offer a hand-stitched embroidery activity.

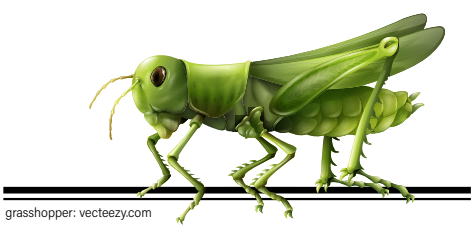
InsectPalooza attendees will be able to sample chocolate chip mealworm cookies. Using beetle larva, the cookies have an almond flavor but are nut-free.

“Last year, when we weren’t even halfway through the event, all the cookies were gone,” Gershenz said. “Everyone ate them.”

This year he’ll make more so that everyone can try one. Attendees will be able to participate in a raffle with prizes such as a safari to South Africa.

“We want to inspire care to save nature,” he added. “We’ll provide information sheets about plant pollinator gardens, ways to reduce light pollution, and other ideas people can do like using compost bins.”

Last year’s event attracted upwards of 500 people. From the advance free tickets on Eventbrite this year will easily surpass that, according to Gershenz.



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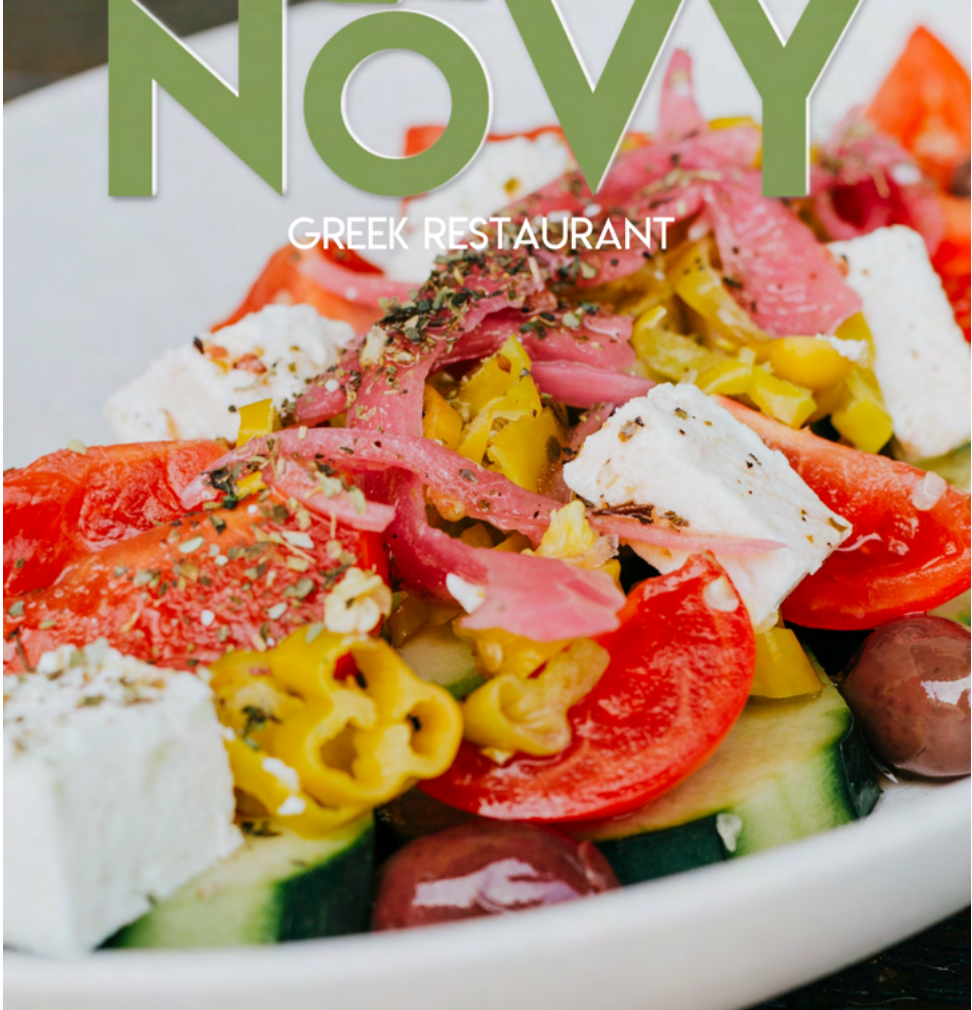


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Native Plants Can be Found Throughout Potrero Hill

BY LORRAINE SAWICKI

Spring can bring fresh feelings of joyful growth. Although allergies can be triggered, the season bursts with flowers and fruits of many shapes and sizes. Some plants have been in San Francisco for a half-millennium or more, flourishing among other floras imported from far-away lands.

The Public Works Street Tree Map, <https://bsm.sfdpw.org/urbanforestry/> can be used to find most of San Francisco’s mapped street trees, identifying site-specific ones. A description of how to use the map, as well as information about its continued development, can be found at <https://sfpublicworks.org/services/street-tree-map>.

The California Native Plant Society offers a plant database, <https://calscape.org/>, in which a user can type in an address and find floras native to that location. The California Native Plant Society website can be used alongside the Public Works tool to discover locations of specific tree species.

Calscape, combined with the Street Tree Map, revealed native trees in Potrero Hill. Three Coast Live Oak, *Quercus agrifolia*, are growing at Potrero Recreation Center’s northern edge. There are many more Monterey Pine, *Pinus radiata*, in San Francisco than Live Oaks. One is located on International Studies Academy’s southeast edge, two across the street from McKinley Square on the third sharp curve going south on Vermont Street from 20th, another on Potrero Recreation Center’s northern edge.

Other organisms co-evolved with native plants and depend on them for



ceanothus thyrsiflorus

food and reproduction. Insects need a specific leaf to munch. Birds recognize and flourish when a certain fruit is available. Native plants tend to adapt well to places ignored by humans; California poppies can often be found in a neglected corner lot amidst long grass.

Along the Potrero Recreation Center’s southern boundary a few Ceanothus bushes prolifically bloomed in early spring. According to Calscape, there are many more plants native to Potrero Hill, though they can be hard to spot. These floras tend to “have their moment”, usually in the spring, and then go dormant for the long, dry summer spell of little or no rain.



pinus radiata



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The Mysterious Beauty of *Tótem*

BY MARISA HELMS

Tótem (2023), the latest film by Mexican writer-director Lila Avilés (*The Chambermaid*), is visually stunning and contemplative, inviting viewers into the quiet and disquieting world of a young child as she navigates the unfolding of a single day.

Shortly after the movie begins, seven-year-old Sol (Naíma Sentíes) stands at the door of her grandfather’s house with a bouquet of balloons. It’s her dad’s birthday and she can’t wait to see him. Sol’s aunties and cousins are there to welcome Sol, breaking momentarily from their cake-baking and cleaning. They’re busy preparing for a birthday party later that night for Sol’s dad, Tona (Mateo Garcia Elizondo).

We learn quickly that Tona, the father, son and brother of this clan, is suffering greatly. He’s dying. Sol is told when she arrives that she can’t see him because he’s resting. Tona’s impending death colors preparations for his birthday celebration. Loss hovers over Sol and everyone else, aware as they are of the preciousness of time and that they’re on the edge of something they don’t understand.

Tótem’s pace is deliciously meditative. Moments are savored despite the long list of the day’s tasks or the familial tensions that flare then fizzle.

Deft camerawork brings us close to the action, following Sol as she bides her time before the party. She wades into tall greenery to find insects in the garden, and moves through the house room by room, interacting with extended family members and passing through intimate domestic scenes that are already in progress.

Though the adults lovingly watch over Sol, for much of the film they continually deny her the one thing she keeps asking for, which is to see her dad. As they try their best to protect Sol by telling her he’s resting for the party and

cannot be disturbed, they inadvertently stoke her anxiety. Her questions become more urgent: she wants to know why he won’t see her and wonders if he still loves her. In one scene when she’s alone in a garden shed, Sol asks the Mexican Siri: “When will the world end?”

In a story that’s rich with symbolism of the natural world, with wild and domestic creatures appearing in most scenes, Tona becomes the elephant in the room.

And in her seven-year-old way, Sol’s quest to connect with her dying father embodies the introspection, confusion and grief that can surface when mortality comes knocking for our loved ones.

Later in the film, Tona slowly makes his way into the home’s shared spaces. When the much-anticipated party takes place at the end of the day, optimism is in the air. Revelers muddle through the birthday rituals beautifully, if disoriented. Sol looks to the future in a new way.

Though death hangs over *Tótem*, it’s neither depressing nor maudlin. Instead, it’s a tender-hearted and compassionate representation of a family rallying in the face of loss.

The film’s strong, naturalistic performances transform ordinary scenes into transcendent moments. Sol’s ultimate reunion with her dad, and the moving scenes between Sol’s aunt Nuri (Montserrat Marañón) and her young daughter, Esther (Saori Gurza) are so full of heart that they stay with you long after the movie has ended.

Director Avilés has said that *Tótem* is a gift for her daughter and “a celebration of love.” I would add that this near-perfect film is a gift for audiences as well. *Tótem* unearths a spirituality, a tender wisdom inside us, urging us to slow down for a closer look at the mysterious beauty of life and death.

Tótem can be streamed on the Criterion Channel, Fandango at Home, Prime, and Apple TV.

Place to Play Games in Dogpatch

BY MIKE LIN

Located at 1095 Tennessee Street, Dogpatch Games is a retail store and community space that hosts events centered around tabletop games, amusements that’re typically played on a table or other flat surface, such as board, card, dice, and tile-based games, as well as miniature wargames.

“We have games for sale, but the most important thing that we offer is space for the community to gather and have fun,” said Shannon Newton, one of the businesses’ four co-owners.

The idea for Dogpatch Games was catalyzed when Newton attended PAX Unplugged with Kevin Mauer, who would become another Dogpatch Games co-owner, several years ago. PAX Unplugged is a tabletop gaming-focused event held in Philadelphia for lovers of board and roleplaying games, miniatures and cards.

“The idea to create a space that brought people together was something deep inside of me. I didn’t really know how to manifest that or where that wanted to be. All I knew was that at some point I wanted to either build a coffee shop or someplace that brought

people together. It’s part of my DNA.” said Newton.

One of the company’s core values is inclusivity. Dogpatch Games offers kids clubs, family memberships and “ladies night” events.

In addition to its physical location, Dogpatch Games has a robust online store offering tabletop games as well as company-branded merchandise that combines San Francisco iconography with traditional games that reflects the business’s geek chic vibe.

T-Shirts, \$35, include “Dungeness & Dragons,” a mashup of a gigantic crab and Dungeons & Dragons. “The City” t-shirt design remixes the Golden State Warriors with the game Settlers of Catan. The “Trolley Car Mimic” shirt has an image of a troll with a bag riding on an iconic trolley car alongside a huge monster with one eye. Stickers of like designs are available for \$3 to \$5.

“Business is good,” Newton said. “After Covid, people are really hungry for more social interaction. We have structured events almost every single day of the week that are designed with the specific intention of introducing people and building community.”

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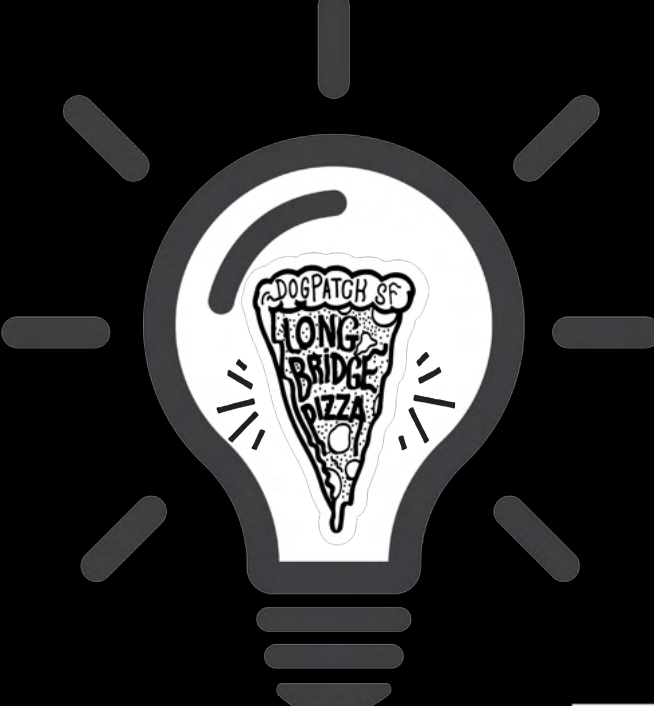
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COMMUNITY | MAY



Graphic Arts Workshop's reduction woodblock printmaking course begins on May 25. PHOTO: Graphic Arts Workshop

4 sat

“Music”: US Air Guitar Regional Championships
Part rock show. Part comedy act. Part spectacle. 9 p.m. \$18; \$25 competitor. Bottom of the Hill, 1233 17th Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/44dnLug>

Dance: Intertribal Dance Gathering at Presidio
Dance in many Indigenous communities is a prayer, an offering, a balancing of the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional, which heals and strengthens communities. Spend the day viewing dances from the Costanoan Rumsen Tribe (Ohlone), Point Arena Pomo, Cahuilla Bird Singers and Paiute Hand Games (Team Lent). Also on offer will be screen printing, an arts and crafts marketplace, and more. 11 a.m. to 4 pm. Free. Presidio Transit Center, 215 Lincoln Boulevard. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3wa2AfX>

7 tues

Politics: The Mayoral Election
Join *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Mission Local* journalists for a deep dive into the 2024 mayor’s race. 6 to 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15 to \$30. Manny’s, 3092 16th Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/49UyUBt>

5/7 Tuesday through 5/26 Sunday Theater: PlayGround’s 28th Annual Festival of New Works
The Festival of New Words gives theatre-makers and goes with varied and robust opportunities to discover leading new voices of the American Theatre while providing up-and-coming writers with the exposure, production experience, and networks needed to succeed on the national stage. All works performed live at Potrero Stage and simulcast. 7 p.m. Free; donations welcomed. Potrero Stage, 1695 18th Street. For more information and this year’s full line up: <https://playground-sf.org/festival/>

9 thur

Design: Dogpatch Design Studio Crawl
A four-hour guided walk through up to five Dogpatch design studios. Meet the designers, see their work and design process up close. 4 to 8 p.m. Tickets: \$20. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3UnLYts>

5/9 Thursday through 5/11 Saturday Theater: Wetside of the Lake
Performed by members of Bay Area based Kismet Art Tangent, *Wetside of the Lake* is a multidisciplinary, immersive theatre experience that explores surrender, trust, and the power of dreams through rituals inspired by meditation, butoh, and somatic practices. Characters with mysterious intentions invite the audience into a state of awe and transformation, challenging societal norms and fostering deeper connections. Thursday and Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday 3 p.m. Tickets: \$20 to \$28. Studio 210, 3435 Cesar Chavez Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3xNSToh>

5/9 Thursday through 5/19 Sunday Film: CAAMFest
Presented by the Center for Asian American Media, CAAMFest offers more than 100 Asian American and Asian films, food, and music programs in San Francisco and Oakland. Tickets: \$20 to \$135. For more information: <https://caamfest.com/2024/>

5/10 Friday through 5/12 Sunday Theater: After the War Blues
The City College of San Francisco Theatre Arts Department presents Philip Kan Gotanda’s *After the War Blues*. It’s 1948 in San Francisco’s Fillmore District. To some, “Harlem of the West,” others “Japanese Town.” Racial tensions simmer, love triangulates, and the wrecking ball

looms as each community feels the weight of the past and the pressure of an uncertain future. The story takes viewers on a journey to the intersection of post war African American and post internment Japanese American communities as they jostle shoulder to shoulder in the boarding houses and on the employment lines. Friday and Saturday: 7:30 p.m. Sunday: 2 p.m. Tickets: \$10 to \$15. For more information: <https://www.zspace.org/ccsf>

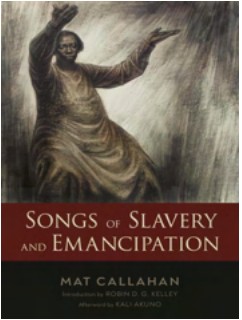

11 sat

Music: Kitka in Concert
Over nearly four decades the nine-women Oakland ensemble has developed a vast repertoire of traditional songs from the Balkans, Caucasus and Slavic lands, as well as new material drawing on those traditional vocal practices. Traveling to rural communities in Armenia, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Georgia, Poland, Macedonia, and Turkey Kitka gathered songs and communed with elders who are often the last links to centuries-old traditions. The ravishing textures of the women’s voices, unearthly cadences, angular rhythms and unfamiliar languages make Kitka’s performances an enthralling experience. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Yerba Buena Gardens Festival. Great Lawn, Yerba Buena Gardens, Mission Street between Third and Fourth streets. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3QlOSiS>

12 sun

Mothers’ Day: Pay What You Wish at Exploratorium
Community Day returns to honor Mother’s Day / Día de las Madres. Mothers — and especially *mamás* Latinas — are invited to celebrate with their families at the Exploratorium,

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16 thur

Film: *Songs of Slavery and Emancipation*
More than 50 musicians are featured in the film. Live performances by Mat Callahan and Yvonne Moore. 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street.

18 sat

Festival: The Ube Festival
Celebrate the enchanting purple yam that’s taken the food world by storm, with more than 20 vendors dishing out ube-infused creations alongside regular hits. Live entertainment, DJ, crafts and treats. 12 to 5 p.m. Tickets \$5 to \$7. District Six, 428 11th Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/4bcrGtl>

19 sun

Nature: Butterflies and Native Plants
Susan Karasoff leads this seminar on how San Francisco native plant leaves co-evolved to feed local butterfly caterpillar species. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Vermont Greenway & Eco-patch (Vermont Street between

17th and Mariposa streets). For more information: <https://bit.ly/3JAzAkD>
5/25 Saturday and 5/26 Sunday Printing: Reduction Woodblock Class
Learn the reduction woodblock printmaking approach. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuition: \$250, plus \$25. materials fee. Graphic Arts Workshop, 2565 Third Street, Number 305. For more information: Toru Sugita at toppi@torusugita.net or call 415.505.1564. Visit the Graphic Arts Workshop website at graphicartsworkshop.org/

5/25 Saturday and 5/26 Sunday Festival: Carnaval
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more than 400,000 people annually, Carnaval San Francisco is California’s largest multicultural celebration. The Grand Parade boasts a 60-contingent lineup, with more than 3,000 artists representing the cultural heritages of Brazil, Mexico, Panama, Bolivia, Cuba, Peru, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, Colombia, Trinidad & Tobago, Guatemala, and El Salvador. Festival: Saturday and Sunday, May 25-26; Grand Parade: Sunday, May 26, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Parade begins at 24th and Bryant streets. Free. For more information: <https://carnavalsanfrancisco.org/>

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High-Tech Solution to Reducing Noise Pollution

BY MARK STEENSLAND

The term “noise pollution” first appeared in a 1966 *New England Journal of Medicine* article about the negative health effects of unwanted sound. Six years later the federal Noise Control Act was adopted, making it “...the policy of the United States to promote an environment for all Americans free from noise that jeopardizes their health or welfare.”

In the five decades since, however, sound seems to have grown in volume. According to the World Health Organization, noise is the second largest environmental cause of health problems, after air pollution.

Controlling excessive sound has largely been a local responsibility, with many cities, including San Francisco, relying on the 311 system to take noise complaints from citizens and allow them to track the response, something that’s more easily accomplished when the racket is coming from a fixed position, such as a party in a park or the neighbor’s house.

According to the 311 data, there were 67 noise complaints registered in Potrero Hill and Dogpatch in the six months between April and September 2023, on average one every three days. By way of comparison, there were 1,285 complaints about graffiti in the same neighborhoods during the same period.

One of the most difficult sources to control is the loud car.

Most gasoline-powered vehicles have a noise level of less than 75 decibels

(dBs) thanks to the muffler in their exhaust system. Electric vehicles, on the other hand, are so quiet at slow speeds that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration *requires* that they produce sound ranging from 43 to 64 dBs to ensure pedestrians can hear them approaching.

Some drivers want their gas-powered cars to be louder, an outcome that can be achieved through a combination of after-market parts or “muffler deletes,” a euphemism for removing the device from the automobile. California vehicle code allows these modifications so long as the vehicle weighs less than 6,000 pounds and the sound level doesn’t exceed 95 decibels, about equal to the average gas-powered lawnmower.

In the past, police issued “fix-it” tickets which allowed violators 30 days to make the necessary repairs. Assembly Bill 1824, passed in 2019, eliminated the grace period and made citations mandatory. Fines for first-time offenders are now around \$200, with repeat offenders subject to up to \$1,000 in penalties.

But while a radar gun can catch a speeding driver, how can law enforcement detect and identify moving vehicles with engines exceeding the 95 dB limit allowed by the code? Enter the noise camera, a device which combines audio monitoring with picture-taking technology similar to what’s used in red light violation devices and toll gathering systems at Bay Area bridges.

Noise cameras – which are distinct from ShotSpotter, a non-camera system that deploys up to 25 microphones

per square mile to allow human operators to listen for gunfire – are being produced by two companies: SoundVue by United Kingdom-based Intelligent Instruments and Not-A-Loud in New Mexico. Not-A-Loud is the brainchild of Nick Ferenchak, a civil engineering professor at the University of New Mexico who specializes in traffic safety issues. He started the company shortly after he moved to Albuquerque in 2018.

“I was hiking about 20 miles east of downtown in the Sandia Mountains,” he said. “And I could still hear the traffic. I just remember thinking, ‘This is not okay.’”

In addition to the health problems that may be exacerbated by road noise, Ferenchak has identified a link between louder cars and more dangerous driving behaviors, such as speeding. He hopes the technology will reduce noise pol-

lution and curtail other more deadly outcomes.

According to a 2023 survey reported by SkyNews, 58 percent of drivers in the United Kingdom favored using the technology to catch loud vehicles, while 44 percent were opposed or unsure. The SoundVue system has been tested in New York City and Knoxville, Tennessee, where 1,300 cars triggered the camera in the first six months of operation. Ferenchak’s device, which secured a patent earlier this year, has been tried in Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

Noise cameras, as well as less sophisticated devices, could be used to monitor static sources, such as intermittent late-night partying at Esprit, Jackson, Dolores, or other parks, creating an ability to dispatch Recreation and Park Department rangers without having to rely on angry citizen complaints.



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MERCHANTS from front page

brunch restaurant Plow down the street. “It’s great for latte sales!” said Hillyard.

Hillyard is considering extending Farley’s hours into the evening.

“This is something we had pre-pandemic, but we just need to make sure there will be enough customers to support us,” said Hillyard.

“The cafe has experienced its fair share of challenges,” said Yasmin Points who opened Cafe Da Fonk! at 300 De Haro Street last summer. “Initially, there was a hopeful surge in business as the holiday season approached, but the onset of the new year brought with it a notable slowdown. Concerns over the economy, tighter budgets, and unfavorable weather have all played a role in this downturn, prompting us to rethink our strategy and offerings.”

Points has diversified the cafe’s menu to better cater to its lunchtime customers, introducing heartier options like grilled chicken and beef stew rice bowls. Its breakfast sandwiches and biscuits remain popular.

“We typically see a peak in activity around early lunch, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by a more sporadic influx of patrons after 1 p.m.,” said Points. “This pattern is largely driven by the local workforce, with a significant portion of our clientele comprising employees from the surrounding area. We also welcome those who work from home, seeking a change of scenery or a meal out.”

Points said operating in Potrero Hill has advantages and challenges compared to other areas of San Francisco, such as South-of-Market, where she previously owned a restaurant. Despite SoMa’s higher foot and car traffic, the Hill offers a more welcoming and homely atmosphere.

“SoMa’s parking difficulties, less appealing scenery, and cramped spaces, common in more central locations, are offset here by a sense of coziness and community. This setting resonates well with our diverse clientele, who often describe it as a comfortable, cozy albeit slightly grungy, space reminiscent of Berlin,” said Points. “We’re considering branching into catering, hosting pop-up events, and possibly extending our evening cafe hours to a regular weekly schedule. I’m planning some virtual kitchen concepts as well.”

Veteran communications executive Fred Bateman has been running his own public relations agency in the historic Hamm’s Building in Mishpot for more than twenty years. His firm, eponymously called Bateman Agency, was named the “Fastest Growing Private Company in the Bay Area” by *San Francisco Business Times* in 2023 after bringing in \$2.2 million in revenue in 2022, a roughly 1,000 percent increase in two years.

When he moved to San Francisco from Boston in 1998, Bateman stumbled upon the Hamm’s building after picking up household items at the Potrero Center Safeway.

“As I’m pulling out of the downstairs underground exit, I see this enormous, green-colored masonry building with tinted black windows and a tower with green neon at the top. I was overcome with the strangest premonition and thought ‘I will have my own company in there someday,’” said Bateman. “At this point, I had never, ever considered the possibility of starting my own PR agency. Sure enough, fast forward to 2005 and I signed my first lease for 850 square feet on the seventh floor of the

Crossword

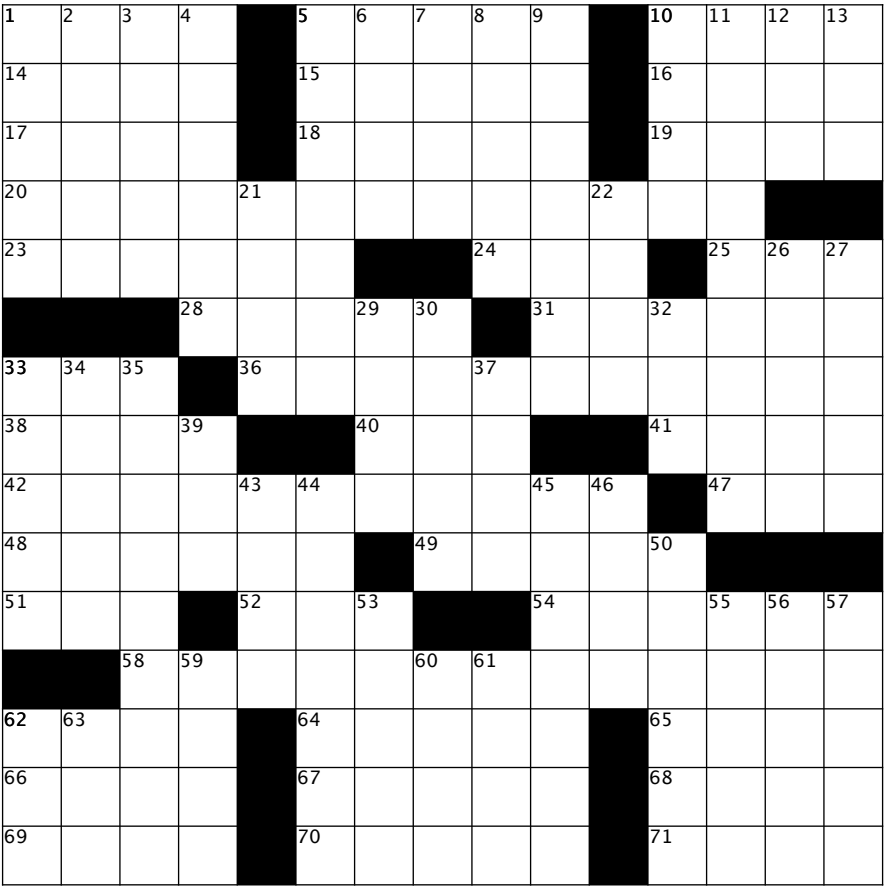
BY DENA WITKES

ACROSS

1. "Mi ___ es su ___"
5. City north of Sacramento that is home to a California State campus
10. Merriment
14. WWW programming code
15. Word on the street
16. Troubles
17. Landed
18. You can count on them
19. Deflation sound
20. Local java joint celebrating 35th years on St. Patrick's Day
23. Kind of dog or kiss
24. Cause of inflation?
25. CBS forensic franchise
28. Heath Ceramics purchases
31. Tippy boats
33. Practical joke
36. Court option at Bakar Rec Center in Mission Bay
38. Words from Wordsworth
40. Run smoothly, as a an engine
41. Wile E. Coyote's supplier
42. Extra credit
47. Dr. Seuss's "The Cat in the ___"
48. Record label for the Grateful Dead and Aretha Franklin
49. Winter footwear in Tahoe
51. Ungulate with a silent letter
52. Podcast interruptions
54. Havens who sang at Woodstock
58. Car-free community program since 2008
62. NYSE news network

DOWN

1. Rub the wrong way
2. ___ Cafe at 20th and Alabama
3. Self-satisfied expression
4. Typewriter: Beat Generation :: internet: ___ movement
5. Colorful name since 1903
6. LAX and ATL
7. Jobs creation?
8. Warm winter drink with marshmallows
9. Opening
10. Open-mouthed stare
11. Guru for hire
12. Will Ferrell title role
13. Controversial self-improvement course founded in SF
21. Arabic for "commander"
22. "Animal House" house
26. 1965 civil rights march site
27. Archipelago part
29. Parrot or ape
30. Short kickoff kick
32. Warriors' org.
33. Portable emergency kit
34. Embellish
35. Apple Store tech support
37. "Yeah, not gonna happen"
39. Shady, in modern lingo
43. Lee of Marvel
44. Area for bison in Golden Gate Park
45. Field of practice for an ambulance chaser
46. ___ the pot
50. Aromas
53. Yemen's capital
55. <3
56. Tech-savvy dude at 35-down
57. Small street between Harrison & Folsom and 1st & 2nd
59. Local health-science campus, familiarly
60. SF-based website founded by former PayPal employees
61. Cylindrical storage
62. When doubled, a dance
63. When doubled, a dance



© 2024

Solution on page 14.

Hamm’s Building. 20 years later and I’m still here.

According to Bateman, despite his revenue growth, it’s increasingly challenging to do business in San Francisco.

“The pandemic drained the city of mid-level and senior talent who could afford to relocate permanently to places like Bend, Oregon, or Tahoe,” he said. “It’s extremely difficult to find talent at all levels but especially people in their 20s. Every year it gets harder to keep the center of gravity of my company in Potrero Hill and San Francisco in general. My plan is to try and continue to hire locally as much as I can, but to maintain and grow our other chosen talent centers in Boston and Austin so I’m not restricted by that either. The Marina, Cow Hollow, Jackson Square and Russian Hill remain the same through every boom-and-bust cycle while this neighborhood rises up during the good times and falls the furthest during the bad. Right now, it’s the worst I’ve ever

seen. But I know it will bounce back because it always has.”

SHORT CUTS from page 2

September 1. The exhibit puts forth a mighty array of works: Nadine Hall’s set of bricks composed of sugar, coconuts, and peanuts, a reclamation of Jamaican street food as something worthy of high culture attention; Oluseye’s cowry shells in a vending machine, evoking colonial commodification of Africans, and Blackness; Nafis M. White’s “Oculus,” a stunning wall medallion made of human hair, a tangled search for identity. With the artists present to introduce themselves and their intentions, the art comes alive, embodied with the compelling personality of its creator. Without such animation to many viewers the meaning may be lost, replaced by puzzled looks at inscrutable objects, with placard texts only capable of doing

so much...MoAD exists to nurture a dialogue between African Americans, as well as with others. It grapples with a rough, vibrant, history, one in which humble objects can convey deep messages, in many cases having been molded by externally imposed empires. Art has often been the knife’s edge on which cultural boundaries are sliced open, with today’s borders associated with race, gender, what constitutes truth, core American values, and the meaning of borders themselves. The languages being used are new to many of us, perhaps being created real time, distinct from a European-American understanding of elevated art institutions. They deserve our attention and intention, as part of the process of forging a newfangled commons. Hopefully MoAD will succeed at holding space for transformative interactions, meriting multiple visits.

SHORT CUTS continues on page 15



Last month dozens stood in line at STASHED on Third Street to buy ADIDAS Kobe sneakers, many waiting overnight.

PHOTO: Thomas Hunter II

SFACC from front page

imals, particularly dogs. In 2023, SFACC accepted a substantial population of guinea pigs and rabbits. The agency co-ordinated with organizations like Marin Humane, a Novato-based shelter, to find homes for some of the small animals.

Muttville, a senior dog rescue on Alabama Street that’s seeing higher demand than it did last year accepts some of SFACC’s older dogs.

“On a normal week, before the CO-VID-19 pandemic, we used to receive an average of 125 requests for us to rescue a dog per week. Now we are close to 300 requests per week,” said Sherri Franklin, Muttville founder and director.

Muttville takes in dogs aged seven and older from as far north as Napa and Sonoma counties and as far south as the Central Valley. It also takes dogs from as far east as Tahoe and Truckee.

“We know the situation is changing because we are seeing a wider variety of dogs being surrendered. We’ve also seen a lot of purebreds, including French bulldogs, German Shepherds, Huskies, and St. Bernards. It’s not just pit bulls and Chihuahuas anymore,” said Franklin. “In 2023, roughly 20 percent of our adoption questionnaires were San Francisco-based. The majority of questionnaires are Bay Area-based or Bay Area-adjacent. We had 3,227 submitted questionnaires last year.”

In the last two years donations to

Muttville have risen, particularly from the South Bay, enabling the shelter to increase its capacity. More than 60 percent of the dogs under the nonprofit’s care need dental surgery. There’s also steady demand for neuter and spay operations, mammary tumor removal, and eye enucleations.

“We get a lot of dogs which have never been to a vet before. We even have a few older dogs that came in pregnant,” said Franklin.

Kiska Icard, division manager for the City of San José Animal Care Center, said his facility is also facing higher demands.

“Right now, we have 240 dogs in our kennels and 190 dog kennels. People are being threatened with evictions for having pets. Very few landlords allow people to have large dogs. The majority of our dogs came to us as strays,” said Icard.

Icard said the state’s housing shortage is driving up the population of dogs surrendered.

“We have over 90 rescue partners in Santa Clara County and a very robust foster program. But as soon as we get a dog adopted, more dogs come through,” said Icard.

According to Ann Dunn, Oakland Animal Services director, the issue is serious in the East Bay.

“We are seeing 350 dogs a month come to our shelter. Most of these are large dogs. We only have 73 kennels for large dogs,” said Dunn.

Many of the dogs that enter OAS are owner surrenders, some associated with residents who lost housing.

“When Oakland’s planning commis-sion approved recently built apartment units, they required they be pet-friendly, but didn’t define the term. Now, some landlords have breed restrictions or limit to “small dogs only.” Some require pet deposits or monthly pet rent, which can be cost prohibitive,” said Dunn.

Lifting of municipal eviction moratoriums, combined with resolution of eviction backlog cases in local courts, is enabling landlords to execute on removals that were initiated last summer. Oakland’s eviction protections expired last July, San Francisco’s last August.

Dunn said there’s considerable collaboration between city shelters and ‘transfer partners’ like Muttville.

“Yet more work and more funding from the state is needed to bring down the number of animals in city shelters. It would help for voters to see that the number of animals entering the shelters

is linked to an increase in homelessness and housing insecurity,” said Dunn.

PUBLISHER'S VIEW from page 2

There are non-utility alternatives to these monopoly-provided services. For instance, the need for both D and T can be displaced or replaced by locally sited renewables supported by batteries or other storage technologies, along with conservation and adoption of more efficient devices.

Less than a year ago the State Auditor found that the California Public Utilities Commission and Public Advocates Office – which’re responsible for regulating for-profit utilities – are performing poorly, with too little scrutiny of monopolies that have strong financial incentives to overinvest. One way to make sure that we’re getting what we need, rather than overpaying

PUBLISHER'S VIEW continues on next page

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PUBLISHER'S VIEW from previous page

for things that aren't necessary, would be to carefully examine all investments, especially potentially excessive D and T infrastructure, disallowing reimbursement for items determined to be excessive. Similarly, the rate of return regulators authorize for these assets, between seven and 10 percent, should be reduced to reflect actual risks, instead of padding shareholder proceeds. PG&E made \$2.24 billion last year, a 24 percent increase from the year before.

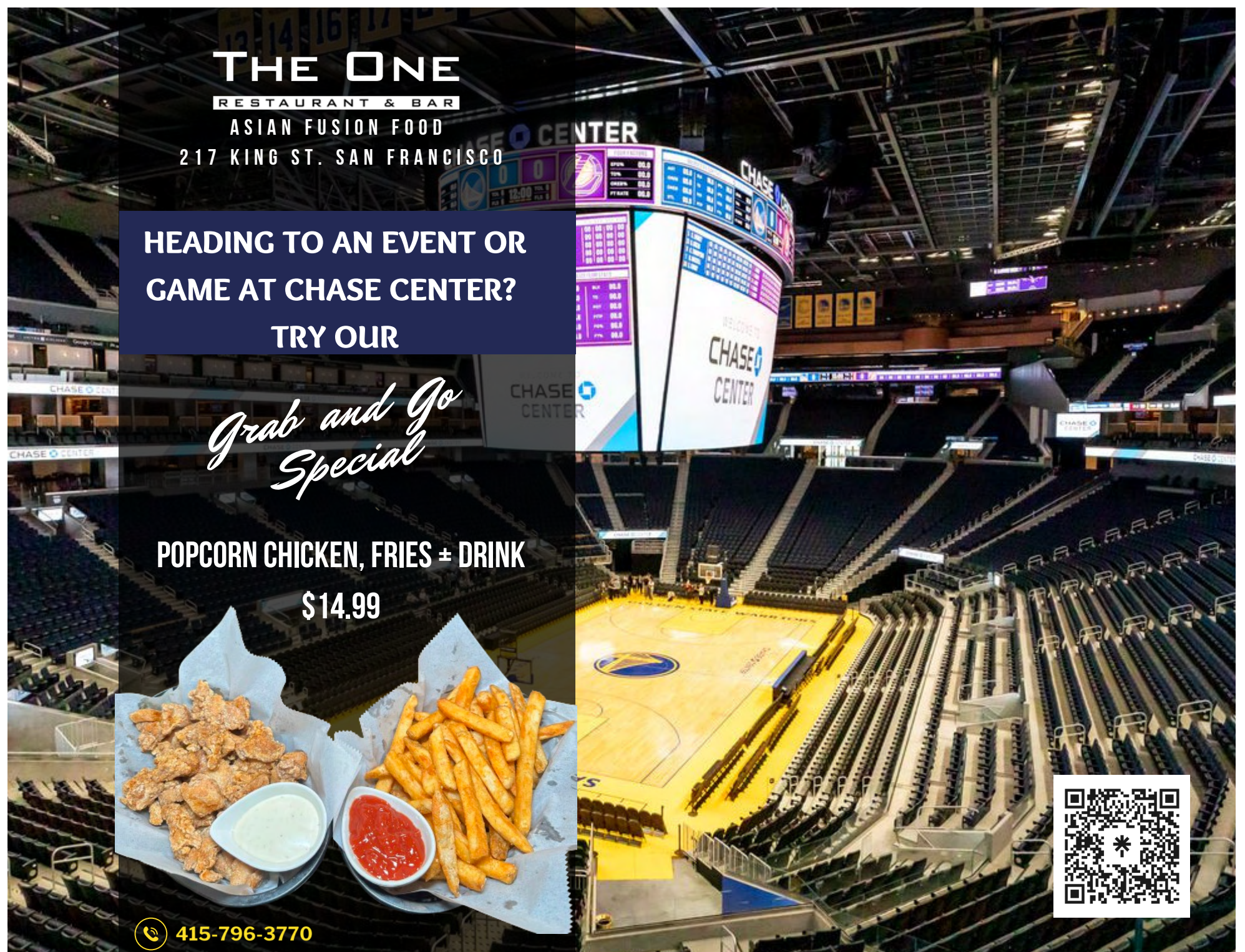
As importantly, regulators' responsibilities to police the monopolies need to shrink, replaced by competition and broader civic-based initiatives. Utility code should be modified to allow electricity sales to contiguous parcels, thereby enabling development of community-based microgrids; localized networks of solar, storage, and energy management devices. Assembly Bill 3107 – which'll almost certainly be killed by utility lobbyists – would clarify that microgrids that cross public streets to provide collective energy services could be approved by local governments, rather than the CPUC.

The alternative strategy, being pushed by utilities and state regulators, is to further solidify monopoly

dominance, by giving them direct control of when appliances and electric vehicles are used and charged. This is an unpleasant prospect, particularly in the hands of investor-owned entities that have an interest in maximizing profits and which already have oversized political pull. If monopoly utilities are influential now, wait until climate-driven electrification enables them to absorb the power of the petroleum companies. Godzilla and Mothra, together at last.

Those of us who've played Monopoly against serious, cold-blooded competitors have learned that the best way to win the game is to walk away from it. At its heart it's a cruel amusement, an educational tool about capitalism gone wrong. There are other pastimes to enjoy, just like there are alternatives to sole reliance on a centrally controlled grid that depends on active policing by topnotch regulators to affordably heat our homes, cook our food, and potentially drive our cars.

Let's stop playing around with attempting to tame monopolies, which almost certainly do not even possess economies of scale advantages anymore. We control the regulatory board; let's create one with less chance of ever rising rates.





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MAYORAL RACE from front page

capable of instilling fresh vigor and discipline into the department; better fiscal responsibility, with a budget that matches priorities, centering on public health and safety; and improved communication between the executive and legislative branches. When asked how he'd deliver on these items, his response, in various forms, was: leadership.

Lurie, running for office for the first time, is presently raising two children with his wife in Potrero Hill. His father is a Rabbi. Lurie grew up with wealth, ultimately founding Tipping Point Community, an anti-poverty nonprofit. To combat crime and encourage civilized behavior he wants foot patrols, which he thinks will inculcate a better overall policing ethos. To address the municipal deficit and instill better fiscal practices he'd adopt performance-based budgeting, which attempts to improve efficiency and effectiveness by linking funding to results. To stamp out municipal malfeasance he'd centralize contracting, reform construction management, and overhaul the permitting process.

Peskin has been on the Board of Supervisors for almost 16 of the last 24 years, representing North Beach, Chinatown, Fisherman's Wharf, and adjacent neighborhoods. He points to his own

journey of salvation, as a recovering rage-alcoholic, as a metaphor for San Francisco's chronic phoenix-like rise. To fight municipal corruption, he'd create an inspector general position "with the power of subpoena and investigation." He wants to immediately expand rent control if a statewide initiative to repeal Costa Hawkins, which bans the policy in buildings constructed after 1975, is successful. Peskin has a complicated relationship with housing, effectively advocating against specific projects and higher density in some cases, while more broadly supporting development of affordable accommodations.

Safai, whose kids attended Daniel Webster Elementary School, represents District 11 on the Board of Supervisors, which includes Crocker Amazon, Excelsior, and Outer Mission. He previously worked as Service Employees International Union Local 87's political director. Voters in his district appear to like him. After winning with less than 10,000 votes in 2016, he succeeded in a tough race against former supervisor John Avalos in 2020, garnering more than 16,000 votes. Safai is deeply disturbed about chronic corruption in local government, though some believe that by placing emphasis on the "city family" former Mayor Ed Lee, whom he supported, may have reinforced a culture of



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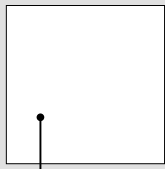
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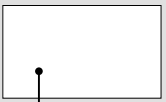
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silence and nepotism. Safai believes far more municipal oversight is needed. He advocated for Proposition C, to deploy audits to control homeless funds. Like Lurie, Safai wants foot patrols. Like Farrell, he'd fire the police chief, as well as the heads of public health and municipal transportation.

Breed has had a rough road as mayor. She was initially hailed for her leadership during the pandemic, following the lead of public health scientists to repeatedly impose shelter-in-place orders. But that strategy proved too stringent, squeezing the life out of Downtown and crushing public school children's educational journey. Flush with federal funds, her attack on unpleasant street behavior, out-of-control drug use, and homelessness was haphazard, though intermittently successful, with many temporarily or permanently sheltered. In the face of an almost \$800 million shortfall starting in Fiscal Year 2025 she's wielded a hatchet, asking municipal departments for 10 percent cuts, rather than using the opportunity to right-size funding priorities and squeeze out inefficiencies. There's a belief that Breed isn't excellent


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at legislative negotiation and may suffer from a short attention span.

Aside from Peskin, who tends towards a more "progressive" approach to politics, the other three candidates likely agree, more or less, on most of one another's reform tactics, some of which Breed insists she's already adopted. Which complicates voters' ranked choice voting selection. If you like Peskin's ideology and temperament you'll vote for him, with murky second and third choices. If you prefer Breed, she's your number one. The question then becomes, which – Farrell, Lurie, and Safai – are likely to be most effective in actually getting things done? With the election seven months away, it's a good time to start getting to know the candidates.



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SHORT CUTS from page 11

Spare the Rod

According to Test Prep Insight, a company that does what its name suggests, half of California parents are adopting “authoritarian parenting,” driven by anxiety over their children’s future. At its most extreme, rigid rules are set without explanation, expected to be obeyed without question under the threat of severe punishment, old school style. One fifth equate their child’s failure to attend college with personal

defeat. Simultaneously, upwards of one-third of California students are chronically absent from campus, suggesting a deepening divide between the academic haves and have-nots...A casual survey suggests that growing numbers of parents don’t allow their kids to sleepover at a non-relative’s house, implementing “sleep unders” instead, in which the youngster is picked up before midnight. We are by turns in a fearful, neglectful, determined period, with backlashes against permissive parenting that gave us social media-obsessed Gen Z and public institutions like schools...



The deceit of "free stuff."

PHOTO: Potrero View Staff



The Portfolio

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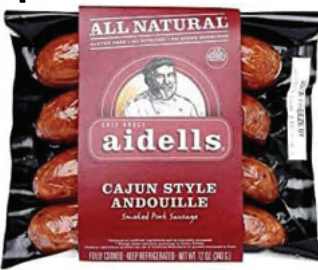
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