

LEDECKY STILL FINDING JOY

Ann Killion: Swimmer at home in Florida after leaving Stanford.

SPORTING GREEN, B1



HELP FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Screenings of adults for adverse childhood experiences gaining popularity.

BAY AREA & BUSINESS, A6



NEW SIDE OF MASTER

SFJazz program centers on Peterson as composer.

DATEBOOK, B7

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Photos by Lea Suzuki/The Chronicle

Golden Gate Park's Middle Lake, which has been dried up for years, is close to the end of its renovation and is being prepared for reopening. It is part of a three-lake chain that was dug out in 1899.

Jewel to sparkle anew at Golden Gate Park

Restored Middle Lake will be open for visitors soon

By Sam Whiting

For 30 or 40 years, the Chain of Lakes at the western end of San Francisco's Golden Gate Park has been missing its crucial center link.

Called simply Middle Lake, it is part of the three-lake chain dug out in 1899 and filled by a natural source, an underlying aquifer.

It took about a century for Middle Lake to give way to seepage, silt, invasive species, algae blooms and drought until it finally dried up and became a wildland for kids to build forts on.

But it has now been reclaimed in a \$71



Project manager Alex Schuknecht says the lake will open in midsummer.

million capital project that has created a glistening blue lake 7 feet deep with a clay bottom dropping down an additional 18 inches to ensure the water stays there.

The lake — which is 85,000 square feet and kidney-shaped like a swimming pool at one end and keyhole-shaped with mysterious islands and inlets at the other — is suddenly viewable from Chain of Lakes Drive, the main transverse at the 43rd Avenue entrance.

"We've been anticipating it for a while. When will it open?" asked Mission District resident Mike Gustenson, as he

Middle Lake continues on A8

Apple adds AI to devices, ChatGPT for Siri

Tech giant promises to protect consumers

By Chase DiFelicianantonio

Apple is a comparative latecomer to the artificial intelligence boom that kicked off nearly two years ago, but the tech giant has announced plans to catch up by adding AI capabilities across its apps and products, including a deal with OpenAI to incorporate the startup's ChatGPT bot into Apple's Siri personal assistant.

Apple CEO Tim Cook and other company executives made the announcements during the company's annual developer conference in Cupertino on Monday. The highly anticipated step was accompanied by the announcement of a new operating system and a host of other features for iPhones, tablets and Mac computers.

In an AI industry rife with concerns over privacy, the presentation was heavy on promises to protect consumers. The new Apple Intelligence services will happen mostly within devices, rather than sending data to outside servers.

"This is AI for the rest of us," Apple senior

AI continues on A9

What changes mean for your PG&E bills

By Kathleen Pender

Maggie Robbins lives alone in a one-bedroom apartment in San Francisco's Pacific Heights. Because she has no air conditioning, dishwasher, washer or dryer, she uses little electricity.

As a result, the net amount she pays Pacific Gas and Electric Co. to deliver electricity to her home could go up by about \$20 a month in early 2026, when the big utility implements a new rate structure for some costs of distributing electricity to homes. Under the new scheme, PG&E's residential customers will pay a fixed monthly charge based on income, but pay a bit less for each kilowatt-hour used.

The Chronicle analyzed bills from a dozen PG&E customers around the Bay Area and found that based on past usage, most will pay more.

People who use lots of electricity — such as those in hot inland areas, especially if they are low-income, and electric-vehicle owners — will

PG&E continues on A7

Horse track's closure 'bittersweet'

By Larry Stumes

In August 2008, the final days of racing drew abnormally large crowds to Bay Meadows, prompting then-track president Jack Liebau to joke that perhaps his best marketing plan was the track's closing.

Fast-forward to Sunday, and Golden Gate Fields encountered a similar situation on its final day after 78 consecutive years offering thoroughbred racing.

Cars backed up to Gilman Avenue in Albany, long lines formed at concession stands, and track management finally opened its doors without charge. The attendance totaled 5,936 — which doesn't sound like much — but dwarfed the typical Sunday attendance of about 1,000.

"It shows you that there is some interest," said trainer Andy Mathis, pointing to the four-deep throng overlooking the saddling paddock before the first race. "You just have to tap it,

but it's been tough with sports betting and the internet and everybody on their phones."

Golden Gate Fields is owned by the Stronach Group's 1/ST Racing, which originally announced plans in July to close it at the end of the fall meeting on Dec. 10. After protests over the suddenness of the closure, 1/ST Racing agreed to run a winter-spring season that ended Sunday.

And it finished with Southern Cali-

Racetrack continues on A9

Were you an 'American Graffiti' extra in 1972?

Newly found negatives focus on teenagers who wandered into Lucas' landmark film

Expectations couldn't have been very high in the summer of 1972, when filmmaker George Lucas walked into the Tamalpais High School gymnasium in Mill Valley.

He was 28 years old, soft spoken, and his sole feature film — the abstract 1971 dystopian sci-fi movie "THX-1138" — had been greeted with mixed reviews from critics and empty seats from fans.

But Lucas was making "American Graffiti," the story of Modesto high schoolers contemplating their futures during an eventful last night

PETER HARTLAUB
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together. Today, it is American cinema history, selected for the Library of Congress National Film Registry. The 1973 film fueled a car culture resurgence and grossed a reported \$140 million, more than 180 times its \$750,000 budget. The massive success gave Lucas the agency and money to finish "Star Wars" and build his Lucasfilm empire.

The Chronicle sent photog-

Hartlaub continues on A8



Filming for the sock hop scene of George Lucas' film "American Graffiti" took place in August 1972 at the Tamalpais High School gymnasium in Mill Valley.

Jerry Telfer/
The Chronicle 1972

