Free Appraisal Event

Wednesday, April 23rd; 9 am - 12 pm

April Gallery Auction Friday, April 18th; 10 am Preview:

Preview: Sunday, April 13th; 10 am - 5 pm Thursday, April 17th; noon - 5 pm Friday, April 18th; 9 am - end of auction

April Annex Auction Mon.,April 14th;Tues.,April 15th;Wed.,April 16th | 9 am





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SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

CONTAINS RECYCLED PAPER



'Van life' for on-call Stanford nurse

Between shifts, he stays in hospital parking lot in pricey Palo Alto

Nearing the end of his 12-hour nursing shift at Stanford Health Care one recent evening, TJ Carella ticked through the possible options for where he might sleep that night, none of which would

be the bed in his East Bay home. For 13 years, he has worked at the hospital as a registered nurse helping patients suffering from life-or-death emergencies, a job that requires him to be on call several nights a week. Should a complication arise with a patient, Carella and nurses like him have to be able to be at the hospital in 30 minutes or less.

But he can't afford to live near his place of work in the heart of Silicon Valley, where the average home costs more than \$3 million. Instead, he lives an hour's drive away in Pleasanton with his wife and three children.

So Carella outfitted a Sprinter

By Nora Mishanec

"On any given day, there's a row of vans parked in the hospital parking lot. A lot of nurses sleep in their cars."

TJ Carella, a nurse who works at Stanford Health Care in Palo Alto but lives in Pleasanton

Nurse TJ Carella FaceTimes with his family from his van, where he can sleep. When he is on call, he must arrive at Stanford Health Care hospital within 30 minutes.

van with a cot, a small refrigerator, air mattress and a composting toilet for the nights when he must stay on call with nowhere else to go. He is part of a group of hospital staffers who regularly sleep in their cars, trailers and RVs. Carella said he knew of at least 15 other hospital staffers who sleep in their vehicles. He exchanges text messages with more than 10 workers who warn one another when parking enforcement officers are ticketing vehicles parked overnight at the hospital.

'On any given day, there's a row of vans parked in the hospital parking lot," Carella said. "A

lot of nurses sleep in their cars." That many medical professionals cannot afford to live near the hospitals where they work is perhaps unsurprising in an area Nurse continues on A12

BART's ridership declining unevenly

Stations near endpoints have lost most passengers

By Danielle Echeverria and Harsha Devulapalli

On a recent Friday morning at the North Concord BART station, people exiting trains onto the platform were few and far between. Cows grazing placidly on the nearby hillsides seemed more plentiful.

It's no surprise: Ridership at the station was down more than 66% in 2024 compared with 2019. And trips to and from downtown San Francisco from the East Bay station were down even more, with 75% fewer trips in 2024 than before the pandemic.

After the pandemic shattered the Bay Area's commuting patterns, yearly BART ridership has continued to struggle to rise to anywhere near 2019 levels. While San Francisco's downtown stations have suffered enormous losses in passenger traffic, BART's most far-flung stations have also seen a disproportionate decline, a Chroni-**BART continues on A13**

A. JUSTIN STERLING 1942-2025

Relationship guru promoted chauvinism

By Raheem Hosseini

A. Justin Sterling, the elusive founder of an Oakland self-improvement empire accused of misogynistic and cultlike practices, died March 21. He was 82.

For more than four decades, Sterling cultivated a brand as a relationship guru who professed to strengthen heterosexual bonds by teaching men to embrace their egos and women to support their men. A strutting counterpoint to second-wave feminism, the 5-foot-7 Sterling often took the stage of his segregated weekend seminars in snug T-shirts and lifted boots, and exhorted his audiences to embrace traditional and even prehistoric gender roles.

His followers lauded him for changing their lives. His dissatisfied customers and two exwives accused him of emotional, verbal and fi-

Sterling continues on A15

Rules on psychiatric hospitals may tighten

By Cynthia Dizikes and Joaquin Palomino

Calling the dangerous conditions in for-profit psychiatric hospitals an emergency, the top lawmaker on the state Senate Health Committee proposed legislation to quickly impose stricter staffing requirements in the facilities that treat tens of thousands of residents experiencing mental health crises every year.

Sen. Caroline Menjivar, D-Los Angeles, wrote an amendment Thursday to Senate Bill Hospitals continues on A10

Sheriff defies sanctuary law

He vows to report undocumented immigrant 'threat' in jail to ICE



Louis Bryant III/For the S.F. Chronicle

Amador County Sheriff Gary Redman, seen in his office in Jackson, is adamant that his public rejection of state sanctuary law is not politically motivated.

By Connor Letourneau

JACKSON, Amador County - Sheriff Gary Redman guided his gray Ford Expedition down Highway 49, past the oak-studded foothills and 19th century barns of Northern California's Gold Country.

"I love this place," he said. "I'd do anything to protect my county. If I have to break state law to do it, that's what I'll do.'

Even if that means taking a surprising stand in a state known for protecting its immigrants. In a 274-word announcement posted last month to the Amador County Sheriff's Office Facebook page, Redman pledged to break California's Sheriff continues on A14