



Isa Bertorelli kisses her daughter, Olympia, 5 months, outside her Inner Sunset restaurant, Yo También Cantina, co-owned with her partner Kenzie Benesh on Saturday in San Francisco.

Yalonda M. James/S.F. Chronicle

Dining scene gets kid-friendly push

Baby boom has Bay Area restaurants prioritizing family life

By Esther Mobley
SENIOR WINE CRITIC

Sleepless nights, constant unexpected hiccups and lots of whining: This is the domain of new parenthood. It can also describe the experience of running a restaurant.

Combining the two can look so daunting that many Bay Area restaurant owners have said they didn't think they could juggle a baby with the unconventional demands of their work. "In the past, I always thought, 'How would I ever have time to have a child?'" said Nelson German, chef-owner of the restaurants Sobre Mesa, alaMar and Meski.

And yet, German and many of his peers did it anyway. A baby

Dining continues on A9



Adahlia Cole/For the S.F. Chronicle

Chef Brandon Rice's family dines at Ernest in San Francisco. Rice says he took just four days off when his daughter was born in 2024.

Clash at stop sign triggers lawsuits, feud

By Rachel Swan
STAFF WRITER

What began as rather ordinary sniping between a driver and pedestrian, on a Slow Street in San Francisco, has exploded in dueling lawsuits.

On one side: a venture

capitalist accused of running his Tesla past a stop sign and then knocking the phone out of the hand of a pedestrian who began recording him. On the other: the pedestrian, an illustrator whose cartoons have appeared in the New Yorker, whose scolding of the

driver turned into a crusade on social media.

Their brusque exchange in the Richmond neighborhood later escalated online, representing an all-too-familiar clash over space on San Francisco roadways — which both sides said the other had taken too far.

Michael Cohen, the Tesla driver, insisted he obeyed traffic laws but was nonetheless harassed by a man recording him with a cellphone. Jonathan Adams, the pedestrian, portrayed Cohen as a habitual reckless driver who became vi-

Clash continues on A8

Heavy rains unearth Ice Age fossils

Findings in Santa Cruz area offer new information about mastodons that roamed the area

By Lucy Hodgman
STAFF WRITER

The Ice Age-era fossil had an unusual feature when it arrived at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History last year: It shimmered with glitter.

Kindergarten and first grade students discovered the fossilized sloth arm bone while playing in a creek in the Santa Cruz Mountains. After a "hot debate" over whether it was a bone or a branch, they brought it back to their classroom — and eventually to the museum, according to Executive Director Felicia Van Stolk.

The 20-inch bone — the first specimen of an ox-size Jefferson's ground sloth ever found in

the county, museum officials said — is not the only exciting fossil the museum recently acquired.

An unusual number of long-buried specimens came to the surface following the heavy rains that fell on Santa Cruz County during the 2022-2023 winter. In a little-publicized discovery, construction crews found another huge sloth fossil in 2023 during the development of the Santa Cruz Coastal Rail Trail. That same year, a runner picked up a foot-long mastodon molar on Rio Del Mar State Beach.

"When it rains, it pours, quite literally," Van Stolk joked. Next month, her small beachside mu-

Fossils continues on A8



Brontë Wittpenn/S.F. Chronicle

A femur bone, left, from a Harlan's ground sloth can be seen next to a left radius bone from a Jefferson's ground sloth at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History.

Profiling ruling outrages advocates

High court may be foreshadowing change in enforcement standards

By Bob Egelko
STAFF WRITER

Racial profiling by law enforcement officers — arresting people based on their racial or ethnic appearance — has long been outlawed by U.S. courts as contrary to the nation's principles of nondiscrimination and equality. That prohibition may have been lifted — or at least redefined — by Monday's Supreme Court ruling allowing immigration officers to seize suspected illegal immigrants in Los Angeles based on how they look, how they speak or where they work.

The 6-3 decision restoring President Donald Trump's authority to order widespread immigration arrests was not a final ruling on the issue, instead lifting lower-court orders that had blocked Trump's policy while the case proceeded.

But the apparent signal by the court's majority, and particularly by Justice Brett Kavanaugh, a Trump appointee, that the immigration sweeps would be upheld brought an outpouring of protest from immigrant supporters, legal advocates and even schoolteachers.

"As high school government teachers across the state return to their classrooms, ready to educate our next generation of leaders, we can no longer say the Constitution applies to all," said Jeff Freitas, president of the California Federation of Teachers, a union of 120,000 school employees. "And for that, our nation mourns."

Profiling continues on A8

Lurie faces test over housing plan, rezoning

By J.D. Morris and J.K. Dineen
STAFF WRITERS

As his sweeping plan to allow 36,000 new homes in San Francisco advances, Mayor Daniel Lurie faces a difficult question: Can he usher in a seismic shift in local land-use rules without triggering massive political backlash?

The answer won't be known for months, but an inflection point will arrive Thursday, when the planning commission takes up what Lurie calls his "family zoning" plan. It's a far-reaching proposal that seeks to expand the city's housing supply by allowing taller residential buildings from Fisherman's Wharf to the west edges of the Richmond and Sunset districts.

Commissioners are expected to approve the plan, but they don't have the final word. The plan will be taken up next by the Board of Supervisors, where some members are pushing for changes amid an outcry from critics who fear the rezoning would lead to the displacement of small businesses and allow rent-controlled housing and historic buildings to be demolished.

Lurie will have to balance competing interests as he works to ensure supervisors approve the plan by a state-mandated January deadline.

San Francisco is legally required to permit 82,000 new homes by 2031, though it will take far longer for all

Housing continues on A9