



Valkyries fans turn Bay Area violet

By Tony Bravo
STAFF WRITER

For years there's been Giants orange, 49ers red and Warriors blue. Now the Golden State Valkyries have introduced violet into the Bay Area sports palette, and fans are following suit.

The WNBA team made its

From Chase Center to sports bars, they use fashion and official color to celebrate team

regular-season debut on May 16, and since then, the city has been awash in Valkyrie violet, the team's official color.

Nowhere is the hue more evident than at Ballhalla, the team's home court at Chase Center — its name a playful twist on Valhalla, the mythical Norse hall of Valkyries from

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Clockwise from top left: Golden State Valkyries fans Katie Katuzuny, left, and Ninette Tan show off their team gear; Nick Wong sports Valkyrie-colored clothing; Helena Thompson displays her custom, handmade Valkyrie Jewelry; and Kylee Serrano shows off her team-inspired makeup.

Photos by Richard H. Grant/S.F. Chronicle

Confusion reigns over COVID vaccines

Californians likely qualify for shots despite uneven coverage, availability

By Jessica Roy
STAFF WRITER

Just weeks after the federal government dramatically reduced eligibility for COVID-19 vaccinations, people trying to get an updated booster shot in California are reporting confusion and frustration, with access, policies and availability all over the map.

Christopher Pederson, 62, of San Francisco, said Tuesday that he recently wanted to get an updated COVID vaccine before an upcoming trip. He decided to call his insurance company to make sure the shots were still covered; the customer service representative told him they only covered COVID shots given at a doctor's office. So he called his doctor's office at UCSF Medical Center to schedule an appointment; they told him they wouldn't have the new shots in until October.

Jennifer Minton, 64, of Tiburon, said she and her husband went to a local CVS without an appointment last Thursday and asked for COVID, flu and measles shots. They were able to get them right away, and their PPO insurance plan covered the entire cost.

"Nobody asked us anything about our age; we got our three vaccinations each, and that was it," she said. "We weren't asked to pay a dime."

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DoorDash plans to test deliveries by drone at S.F. warehouse site

By Laura Waxmann
STAFF WRITER

In San Francisco, where Waymos and other self-driving cars have become a familiar sight on city streets, DoorDash is preparing to take on-demand delivery to new heights.

Last month, the food delivery platform quietly leased a nondescript Mission District warehouse where it plans to test the future of logistics: deliveries by autonomous flying drones that can zip through the sky at 65 miles per hour while carrying the equivalent of a six-pack of beer.

The 34,000-square-foot building at 1960 Folsom St., located about 2 miles south of DoorDash's downtown headquarters and within walking distance of the 16th Street Mission BART Station, will serve as a research and development space to advance the company's autonomous delivery technology, according to a letter submitted to San Francisco Zoning Administrator Corey Teague in July.

The letter came as DoorDash's warehouse lease deal was pending, and coincided with changes pro-

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Study: Fire mitigation can double saved homes

By Jack Lee
STAFF WRITER

A new study led by UC Berkeley scientists reports that wildfire mitigation measures like creating defensible space and hardening homes can more than double the share of homes that survive a major blaze.

"It is possible to make a big difference," said author Michael Gollner, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at UC Berkeley.

The research builds on earlier work on proven wildfire mitigation measures. Home hardening can increase structures' resistance to blazes by taking actions like installing

fireproof roofing and mesh over vents. Maintaining defensible space provides a buffer from flying embers or flames carried through vegetation.

In the new work, the researchers studied five major wildfires in California's wild-life-urban interface: the Tubbs, Thomas, Camp, Kincade and Glass fires. These blazes are among the state's deadliest and most destructive on record. In 2019, the Camp Fire killed 85 people and destroyed over 18,800 structures across Butte County.

The authors used machine learning to disentangle factors important for house survival, including distance between

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Conservative activist killed at speaking event

By Hannah Schoenbaum, Alanna Durkin Richer and Mark Sherman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OREM, Utah — Charlie Kirk, a conservative activist and close ally of President Donald Trump, was shot and killed Wednesday at a Utah college event in an act that drew renewed attention to the threat of political violence across the United States.

The death was announced on social media by Trump, who praised the 31-year-old Kirk, the co-founder and CEO of the youth organization Turning Point USA, as "Great, and even Legendary."

"No one understood or had the Heart of the Youth in the

United States of America better than Charlie," Trump posted on his Truth Social account.

The suspected shooter was in custody, according to a social media post by FBI Director Kash Patel. A person who was taken into custody earlier by law enforcement at the university where Kirk was speaking was not the suspect, according to a person familiar with the investigation who was not authorized to speak publicly.

Utah authorities said the shooter wore dark clothing and fired from a roof on campus some distance away.

Videos posted to social media from Utah Valley University show Kirk speaking into a hand-

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