



escape to the
extraordinary



CACHE CREEK  CASINO RESORT

San Francisco Chronicle

SFCHRONICLE.COM

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026

CONTAINS RECYCLED PAPER

\$3.00



Valerie Chieng hands Kris Gallimore a bouquet of lilies at her flower stand at the intersection of Montgomery and Post streets in S.F. on Thursday. Gallimore is a regular of the outdoor stand, one of the few left in the city.

Photos by Brontë Wittpenn/S.F. Chronicle

Quiet push to bring flower stands back

Measure would ease permitting for Market Street vendors



Chieng backs proposed city legislation that could help bring in more stands. "More flower stands will bring more people in," she says.

PETER HARTLAUB

TOTAL SF

Valerie Chieng assembles a bouquet at her street-side flower stand, an oasis of color on eerily lifeless Market Street, and points toward the ghosts of her competition. Over 26 years, Chieng has watched her fellow flower vendors shutter their doors and close.

"There was one over there, two over there, one in Crocker Galleria," she says. "Just on Market and Montgomery, (near) this corner, there were nine flower shops."

San Francisco had 120 flower sellers after the turn of the 19th

Hartlaub continues on A7

Frog turns cleanup of golf club pond into big mess

By Sarah Ravani

STAFF WRITER

The pond at a Blackhawk golf course wasn't always a mess. Eight years ago, water cascaded out of a waterfall into the pond, a pristine feature of the posh Tri-Valley neighborhood where homes routinely sell for several million dollars.

Today, the pond water sits stagnant and murky green. Algae blankets the surface. Mosquitoes swarm above it. And residents like Laurie Cindric, who drives past it multiple times a

Blackhawk continues on A6

Dog trainer fights state over use of rattlesnakes for work



Santiago Mejia/S.F. Chronicle

Jake Molieri handles an albino rattlesnake he owns on Jan. 21 in Fair Oaks (Sacramento County). Molieri runs a business that teaches dogs to avoid rattlesnakes.

By Kurtis Alexander

STAFF WRITER

Working inches from venomous fangs, Jake Molieri knows that placing a muzzle on a rattlesnake leaves little room for error. If it's too tight, the animal can't breathe; too loose and the deadly viper could open its mouth and strike.

The 27-year-old Sacramento resident and Cal Poly biology graduate proceeds cautiously yet confidently with the task. He clutches the sometimes hissing rattler just briefly, his grip firm and precise when, "with love" as he describes it, he straps the jaw with protective tape.

Snakes continues on A9

Comics B8

Obituaries A4

Sporting Green .. B1

Opinion A10

TV B10

WEATHER

Rain and thunderstorm. Highs: 51-56. Lows: 42-49. B6



7 38805 12000 4