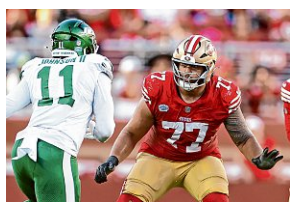


49ERS ROOKIE FACES TEST

Dominick Puni prepares for
Chiefs game-wrecker.

SPORTING GREEN, B1



METREON MALL ON THE MARKET

One of San Francisco's largest downtown
retail, entertainment complexes is for sale.

BAY AREA & BUSINESS, A5



TINY 'FLUTE,' BIG IDEAS

Director scales down classic
Mozart opera at Berkeley Rep.

DATEBOOK, B7

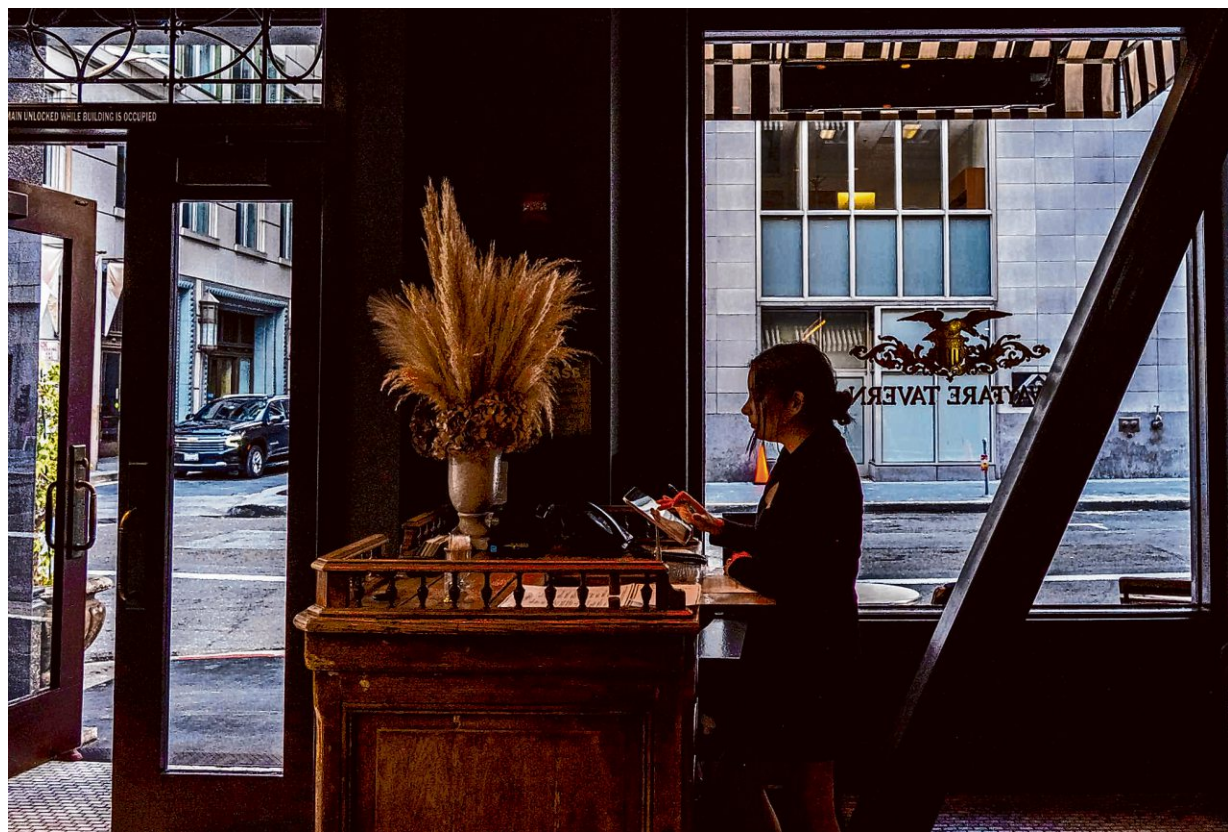
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Photos by Camille Cohen/Special to the Chronicle

A host waits for customers at Wayfare Tavern, which saw Friday business slow down after the pandemic.

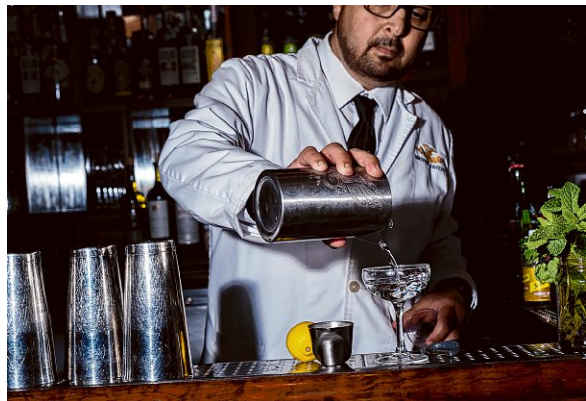
Deals seek to revive Fridays downtown

Restaurants struggled after 'happy hour culture died'

By Mario Cortez

Five years ago, the downtown lunch rush on a Friday kept cooks and bar staff at San Francisco's Wayfare Tavern in an intense, steady rhythm from 11 a.m. through around 3 p.m. Then, after 5 p.m., activity revved up all over again for happy hour and dinner.

But now, even with pandemic restrictions long relaxed, Friday — a day restaurateurs used to look forward to — has become one of Wayfare Tavern's slowest



Wayfare Tavern, in the Financial District, is offering a \$29 martini and burger special on Fridays to lure end-of-workweek diners.

days of the week.

"Business is a lot more casual and spread out throughout the day. It feels like a weekend without that traditional crowd," said operations director Tony Marcell.

So Wayfare Tavern rolled out a Friday-only deal: a \$29 burger and martini special available all day long. Staff currently prepare more than 100 orders ahead of Fridays, shaping cuts of short rib and chuck into patties that go into a

Fridays continues on A9

Plan to rebuild Breed's childhood housing stalls

By Laura Waxmann

A plan to tear down dilapidated public housing in San Francisco's Western Addition and replace it with more than 750 new homes has quietly fizzled.

For many years, residents of the Plaza East

public housing complex, where Mayor London Breed grew up, say they've endured terrible conditions and broken promises to fix the rampant problems.

Two years ago, a development group swooped in, promising to help rede-

velop the 193-unit site with new homes for those now living there as well as affordable units and market-rate towers of up to 20 stories.

Local developer Strada Investment Group — which is also behind the proposed redevelopment

of a waterfront site into a floating swimming pool, office and housing — was tapped to lead the market-rate component of the Plaza East remake. But the Chronicle has learned that two years after the project was formally proposed,

Rebuild continues on A8

S.F. break-in tied to Vance remark occurred later

By Rachel Swan

Republican vice presidential candidate J.D. Vance said in a recent New York Times interview that frustration over a San Francisco car break-in — and the response from law enforcement — may have prompted him to tell a friend, in an email in late 2014, "I hate the police."

But according to records from the San Francisco Police Department, the burglary appears to have occurred in August 2015, many months after Vance's comment.

Responding to a public records request from the Chronicle for any car burglary reports associated with Vance or his wife, Usha Vance, department spokesperson Robert Rueca identified one. It concerned a vehicle break-in that occurred Aug. 15, 2015, and was reported online nearly three years later, on Aug. 14, 2018.

Department officials would not immediately release the police report but summarized its content. The victim, whom Rueca didn't name, said a suitcase contain-

Vance continues on A10

Youth offender law hasn't led to more prison releases

By Bob Egelko

When a prisoner who committed a serious crime as a youth seeks parole, California law requires the parole board to give "great weight" to their age and mental development, and to grant release unless they clearly pose a danger to the public. But records for the past decade indicate the law has had little or no effect on parole rates.

The Board of Parole Hearings, appointed by the governor, approves release of about one-third of the inmates it considers, those sentenced to long prison terms or to indeterminate terms of up to life in prison. Despite the state law on youth offenders, defined as those who were sentenced as adults for crimes committed



Yatonda M. James/The Chronicle

Jamesetta Guy, 61, embraces Chewy, her emotional support dog. Guy served 41 years for a homicide she committed at age 17 in 1981.

when they were 25 or younger, their parole-approval rates have been similar to those for

older offenders since the law took effect in 2014.

For example, the board

granted parole to 35% of the prisoners whose cases it heard in 2023, and to 38% of the youth offenders, according to state prison officials. Between 2018 and 2022, the approval rates ranged from 28% to 39% for all cases and from 34% to 40% for youth offenders.

Those figures do not include thousands of prisoners who were eligible for parole consideration but decided they were unlikely to win release and waived their right to a hearing. And fears that parolees are dangerous appear to be overblown: According to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, among 5,248 California inmates who were freed on parole between 2011 and 2019, only 23, or 0.5%, were convicted of a felony against

Youth continues on A10

