



Photos by Dan Hernandez/S.F. Chronicle

Guests wade through the ball pit room at the “EmotionAir” exhibition in San Francisco’s Palace of Fine Arts.

## Balloon Museum inflates imagination

Opening weekend of 5-month show with 20 exhibits sells out in S.F.

By Sam Whiting

Mill Valley first-graders and best friends June and Poppy were in their matching sparkly party dresses when they walked into a giant helium sphere covered in spikes with charcoal on the tips.

They soon had that charcoal all over their party dresses and their hands and faces, but it didn’t matter to them or their moms because June and Poppy had pushed that sphere up against four white walls to create an abstract painting at the Balloon Museum, which opened this weekend at San Francisco’s Palace of Fine Arts.

“It’s great that it is so interactive,” said Poppy’s mom, Gretchen George.

“It allows the kids to play while also engaging in art,” added June’s mom, Mandy Campbell.

The moms did have to wipe off the charcoal with hand sanitizer, but otherwise, all they had to do was pay \$41 for their artist daughters, plus \$51 for themselves, to gain entry to “EmotionAir: Art You Can Feel,” a temporary exhibition dedicated to inflatable art as practiced by



A couple takes a selfie while playing in the ball pit at the exhibition, which features installations designed to elicit emotions by 22 international artists.



A tornado of balloons envelope guests walking through the “Invisible Ballet” room.

22 international artists. Each artist created an installation intended to bring out an emotional reaction in the visitors who, on Sunday morning, seemed to be parents and grandparents with kids ready to run around and scream. But not stomp or pop. This is not that kind of interactive balloon exhibit.

“It’s not a playground,” said Lidia Daini, project manager for Lux Enter-  
**Balloon continues on A9**

## Treatment provider faces suit over death

Parents allege failure to ensure safety of son who overdosed

By Maggie Angst

The parents of Justin Cartwright, a man who was featured in the Chronicle after fatally overdosing inside San Francisco’s largest addiction treatment program, have sued the operator, HealthRight 360, alleging that it failed to ensure their son’s safety.

The lawsuit, filed Thursday by Dawn Poole and Michael Cartwright in San Francisco Superior Court, accuses HealthRight 360 of breaching its “duty of care” and lacking meaningful oversight. It further alleges that “reckless conduct” by HealthRight 360 leadership in managing and operating its facilities created a “dangerous milieu where clients would fatally overdose due to known shortcomings” of the nonprofit.

HealthRight did not immediately return requests for comment.

Cameron Sehat, the attorney representing Cartwright’s parents, said Monday that the con-  
**Lawsuit continues on A10**



Carlos Avila Gonzalez/S.F. Chronicle

Co-living company Urbanest operates several buildings in SoMa in San Francisco.

## AI boom fueling return to city of co-living industry

By J.K. Dineen

Param Vora doesn’t mind living in a 100-square-foot SoMa co-living space with a sink, mini-fridge and shared kitchen and bathroom.

A year after getting a master’s in artificial intelligence at Northeastern University in Boston, the native of India spends his days bouncing among his residence at 221 Seventh St. and several other SoMa buildings operated by the co-living company Urbanest — including 1080 Folsom St. and 1412 Market St., where a tight-knit community of mostly foreign-born engineers share meals, ideas and fan out across the city for networking events.

Vora said he and his friends don’t see the point in spending \$2,200 a month for a room in an apartment when, for \$1,000 a month, they can immerse themselves in a dynamic group of like-minded AI obsessives.

“If you are a single person like me you are fo-  
**Co-living continues on A10**

## Car break-ins dramatically drop in S.F.

By Danielle Echeverria

In fall 2023, San Francisco Police Chief Bill Scott, standing at the landmark Palace of Fine Arts, announced that his agency would be cracking down on smash-and-grab car break-ins — a problem so seemingly perpetual in the city that it has its own name.

How perpetual? Minutes before the news conference began, a rental car was “bipped” just around the corner from where the city officials were set to speak.

The crackdown would involve a number of interconnected strategies and tools: an overtime unit fo-

cused on car break-in hot spots; targeted stings aimed at prolific offenders; bait cars, license plate readers and even drones.

Just over a year later, those efforts appear to have paid off. Since that news conference, not only has the number of reported car break-ins fallen precipitously, but a Chronicle analysis also found that it hit a 22-year low in 2024.

And that’s only because records earlier than 2003 weren’t readily available.

The numbers come amid a citywide drop in both violent and property crime reports — both of which also fell to two-decade lows by the end of last  
**Crime continues on A9**



Scott Strazzante/S.F. Chronicle

The number of reported car break-ins in S.F., historically one of the city’s most common crimes, hit a 22-year low in 2024, a Chronicle analysis shows.

