

Upcoming Events at Michaan's!

Free Appraisal Event
Wednesday, May 21st; 9 am - 12 pm
Wednesday, June 4th; 9 am - 12 pm

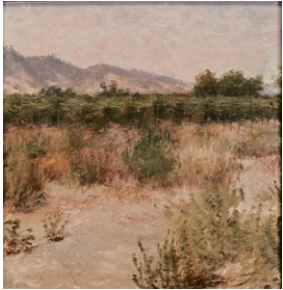
The Austin Hills
"Eclectic Collection" Auction
Monday, May 19th; 10 am
Preview:
Sunday, May 11th; 10 am - 5 pm
Thursday, May 15th; noon - 5 pm
Friday, May 16th; 9 am - 5 pm
Monday, May 19th; 9 am - end of auction

Summer Fine Auction
Thursday, June 12th; 10 am
Preview:
Sunday, June 8th; 10 am - 5 pm
Thursday, June 12th; 9 am - end of auction



Attributed to Louis Comfort
Tiffany, Tiffany & Co. Citrine,
Enamel, 18k Yellow Gold
Necklace.
Summer Fine Auction

GRACE CARPENTER HUDSON
(American, 1865-1937)
"#2 Hopfield, Low Pole"



Native American Acoma
Polychrome Pottery Olla.



Royal Copenhagen
Flora Danica Porcelain



IRA YEAGER
(American, 1938-2022)
Portrait of Pig George Washington

MICHAAN'S
AUCTIONS

Auctioneers & Appraisers



MICHAANS.COM • (800) 380-9822 • (510) 740-0220
2701 Monarch Street, Alameda, CA 94501

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San Francisco Chronicle

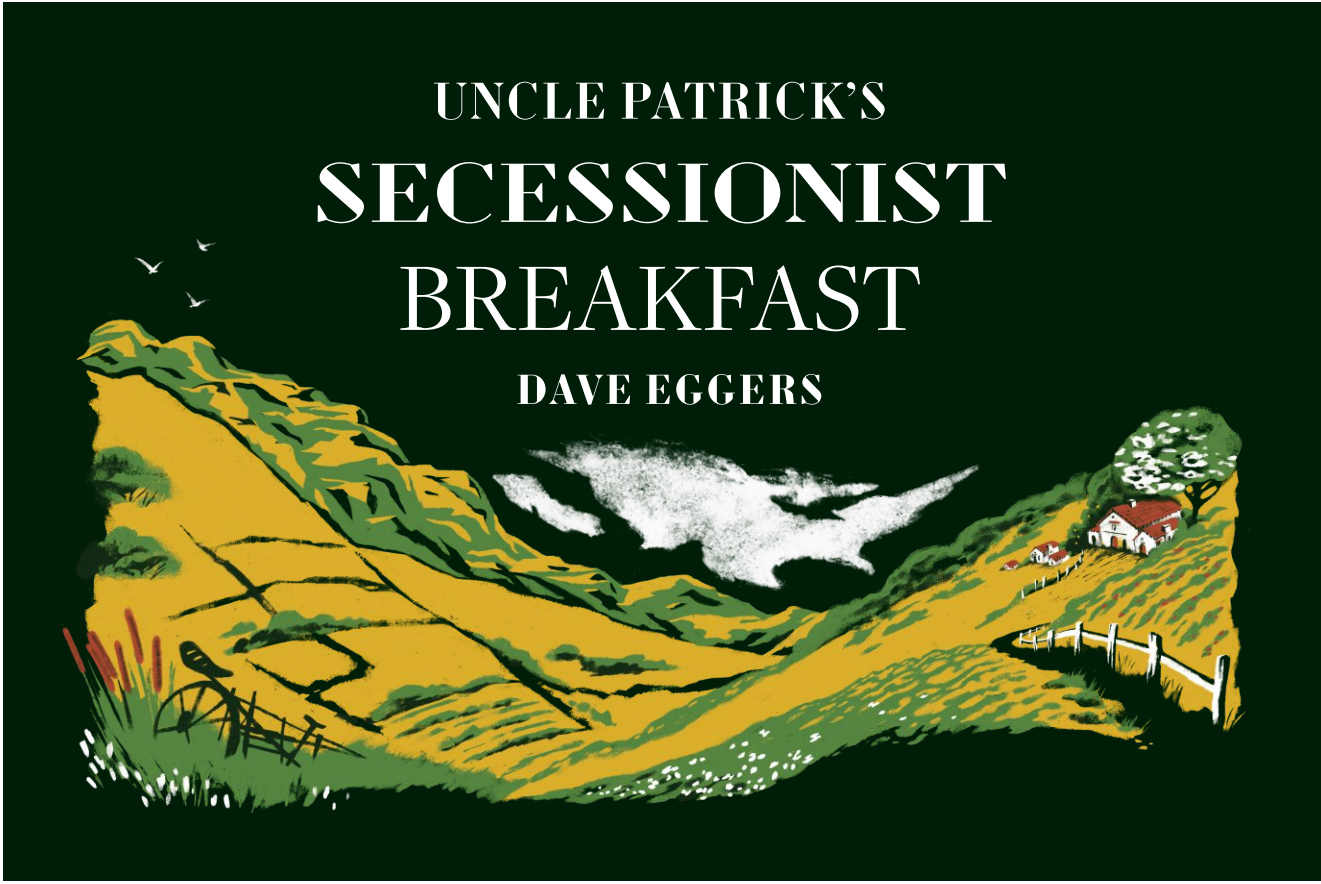
SFCHRONICLE.COM

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

CONTAINS RECYCLED PAPER

\$3.00

Should California secede from the U.S?
One fictional family takes up the debate



Annie Dills/McSweeney's

The Mahoneys are having a family reunion on their sprawling Central Coast fruit ranch — and it's already more than anyone wanted. There's one thing that might really bring everyone together: a visit from the California Independence Coalition. In this special collaboration between the Chronicle and McSweeney's, Dave Eggers, author of "The Eyes and the Impossible" and "The Circle," interrogates the sanity of the Golden State staying in an unhappy union with a nation drifting away from democracy.

SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

String of psychiatric crises linked to 'Zizians'

By Michael Barba,
Megan Cassidy
and Matthias Gafni

While seeking life's greater purpose on a tropical island off Morocco, amid marathon meditation sessions and experiments with self-optimization, Maia Pasek discovered a new source of

EDITOR'S NOTE

This story contains descriptions of self-harm and mental illness that may be upsetting to readers. For the 24-hour National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, call or text 988.

enlightenment halfway across the globe.

It was "Ziz," the Bay Area blogger now linked to six violent deaths from Vallejo to Vermont.

Like Pasek, Ziz — whose legal name is Jack LaSota — was a young transgender woman who had eschewed meat-eating and immersed

herself in rationalism, a Berkeley-centered movement focused on thinking more effectively and protecting the human race from the prospect of runaway artificial intelligence.

By the time they started interacting in web forums, in 2017, Pasek and LaSota
Zizians continues on A16

SFUSD
kids fill up
more seats
at Lowell

Enrollment of S.F. students from private schools drops

By Jill Tucker

Fewer private school students are sitting in the coveted seats at San Francisco's Lowell High School than in years past, with district students taking 8 out of every 10 spots in the freshman class, according to district data.

It's a significant shift from just four years ago, when nearly a third of the 2020 ninth-graders came from non-district middle schools.

While enrollment numbers for the freshman class of 2025 won't be available until this fall, the trends of a lower acceptance rate among non-district students and a decline in the percentage of those admitted students who enroll indicate the pattern will likely continue.

For the upcoming fall, the district admitted 58% of the 708 private and other non-district eighth-grade students who applied to Lowell, compared to 74% of the 584 applicants in 2019.

For the first time, all applicants this year were required to take the same test for admission.
Lowell continues on A15

GOP may cap
U.S. write-off
for local taxes

By Shira Stein

WASHINGTON — Republicans are poised to permanently cap how much of the taxes paid to state and local governments can be written off on federal taxes, which would greatly impact Californians — particularly taxpayers in the Bay Area.

Before 2018, taxpayers could deduct their state and local taxes from their federal income. With the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Congress capped that at \$10,000 each year through 2025. A House Republican tax bill would make that cap permanent and increase it slightly, to \$30,000, for people who make less than \$400,000 a year.

The SALT cap would bring in \$915.6 billion annually.
Taxes continues on A17

Bike lane driving gridlock, motorists say

Richmond-San Rafael path a repository for frustrations about traffic, housing

By Rachel Swan

A group of business and labor leaders gathered near the toll plaza of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, watching, with smug expressions, as traffic piled around them.

It was a perfect I-told-you-so-scene for the rally this group had organized. Cars and trucks crawled by, swarming two upper deck lanes that are packed against a protected bike path. No cyclists appeared to be using it at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, a fact the rally participants repeatedly underscored.

"Did you take note that the

whole hour we've been here, not a single bike has gone down the lane, but thousands of cars are backed up?" asked Joshua Arce, an adviser for the California Alliance for Jobs. He and others blamed the bike path for this gridlock, characterizing it as wasted space.

Many waved signs with a stark message: "Close the failed bike lane." Officials at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission say it's not quite that simple.

As the rally got underway, an MTC committee met in the commission's SoMa headquarters.
Bike lane continues on A15



Jessica Christian/S.F. Chronicle

Local 261 members and business groups hold a rally near the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge toll plaza during rush hour Wednesday to protest the bike lane, which they say is wasted space.

