

The Mercury News Sunday



Balloon's-eye view of Napa: Serenity and stunning views are among the perks of experiencing a nature walk in the sky. F1

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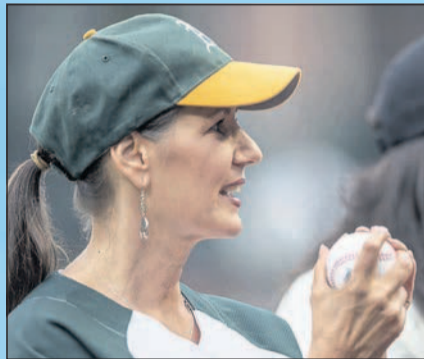
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WILL THEY STAY?

SHOWDOWN

OAKLAND, MLB AND THE A'S AT ODDS



KARL MONDON — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf says they are working together toward "making the vision of a world-class ballpark a reality."



M OTERO — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baseball commissioner Rob Manfred has warned against thinking the A's Howard Terminal ultimatum is an empty threat.



LACHLAN CUNNINGHAM — GETTY IMAGES

A's chief Dave Kaval says he's "open to continuing to negotiate, we're not in a position where this can work right now."

The focal point: Howard Terminal. Will Tuesday's critical meeting about the ballpark show team and city at an impasse?



HOWARD TERMINAL

The Howard Terminal site and the proposed ballpark are shown in a rendering supplied by the Oakland A's organization.

NOT OUR FIGHT

California keeps lid on wedge issues

Golden State avoids being culture war battleground

By Emily DeRuy

ederuy@bayareanews.com

California, have you noticed? Across much of the country, the culture wars have cranked up to broil over a trio of issues whipping up political tensions in the red states of post-President Trump America.

From school board meetings to statehouses, emotions are running high over conservative-led efforts to make it tougher to vote, restrict transgender athletes and condemn the teaching of the legacy of racism in our schools.

Democratic legislators fled the Lone Star State this past week to block their GOP counterparts from making Texas one of more than a dozen states that have enacted new voting restrictions this year. More than 35 states also are considering bills to limit the rights of transgender people, according to the group Freedom for All Americans, which tracks anti-transgender legislation.

But the debates have barely registered a blip in large swaths of the deep blue Golden State. So why is that?

"The culture wars are dead in Sacramento," said Thad Kousser, a UC San Diego political science professor.

More than 5 million Republicans call California home — nearly a quarter of the state's

CULTURE » PAGE 8

RENOVATION



KARL MONDON — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marcella and Bryan Halverson of Fresno return on their wedding anniversary to visit the 150-year-old Pigeon Point Lighthouse.

\$18.9M fix coming to lighthouse in disrepair

By Paul Rogers

progers@bayareanews.com

Pigeon Point Lighthouse, a venerable landmark that has stood dramatically over the San Mateo County coast for 150 years but fallen badly into disrepair over the past two decades, appears finally to be headed for a major restoration.

The 115-foot-tall brick structure south of Half Moon Bay has been awarded full funding to complete an \$18.9 million restoration as part of California's new state budget.

The towering white structure — tied with the Point Arena Lighthouse in Mendocino County for the tallest lighthouse on the West Coast — was built in 1871 to keep wooden ships from hitting the rocky shoreline. For years

LIGHTHOUSE » PAGE 8

Reading signals » Is the team ready to walk or bluffing?

By Annie Sciacca, Fiona Kelliher and Shayna Rubin
Staff writers

OAKLAND » For Oakland A's fans who were hoping Friday would bring news that a deal to get a waterfront ballpark built at Howard Terminal was close, the city's announcement of where things stood and the team's stark contrarian outlook must have hit like a bombshell.

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf said all the right things in a prepared statement about how the city and A's are working in tandem toward "making the vision of a world-class ballpark a reality," but A's President Dave Kaval popped that bubble by declaring in an interview that "while we're always open to continuing to negotiate, we're not in a position where this can work right now."

And indeed, when the dust had settled, it appeared the city and team are still leagues apart despite negotiating since early 2020 over the financial terms of the proposed ballpark and surrounding mixed-use development.

OAKLAND A'S » PAGE 9

Opinion » If A's leave the Bay Area, it will be because of greed



Daniel Borenstein

It's now up to the Oakland A's to decide whether they want to keep the team in the Bay Area. If they leave, they will have only themselves to blame.

City negotiators, in preparation for Tuesday's critical City Council meeting, have already offered the A's the framework of a very fair deal for the team's proposed \$12 billion development and waterfront ballpark plan next to Jack London Square.

Oakland officials have made clear that they're not going to put the city at financial risk. They have learned from their costly effort to woo the Raiders back from Los Angeles in 1995, for which city taxpayers remain about \$65 million in debt even though the team left town again. The city is not going to make the same mistake twice.

The A's for their part, however, seem to want to do everything they can to alienate the community and undermine their "Rooted in Oakland" claim. They continue to

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Full report on B23



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Inns

FROM PAGE 7



R INN

R Inn, a new boutique hotel, is located in a renovated historic building in downtown Napa.

R Inn, Napa

Located in a renovated historic building in downtown Napa, this family-owned, contemporary boutique hotel offers five loft suites and 10 courtyard rooms that take inspiration from the small, arty hotels of Europe. It's got location, design and tech going for it, from original artwork to automatic adjustable beds, rainfall showerheads and heated Toto washlet bidet toilets. Check out the chef's kitchen and pantry, accessible to guests, and the complimentary breakfast. Rooms start at \$375.

DETAILS » 623 Coombs St., Napa; www.rinnnapa.com

Bann at Oak Knoll Napa

This resort-style bed-and-breakfast in the former Oak Knoll Inn marries the modern luxury of wine country with the Old World opulence of Thai royalty. The brainchild of Lalita Souksamlane, chef and owner of Walnut Creek's Torsap Thai and San Francisco's Osha Thai, Bann at Oak Knoll Napa offers three luxurious rooms each designed with elements from the three regions of Thailand. Look for bright jewel tones, handcrafted textiles, a salt-water swimming pool, three-course breakfast and Tesla charging station. Rooms start at \$475.

DETAILS » 2188 Oak Knoll Ave., Napa; bannnapa.com

The George, Napa

Open since March, The George is a luxury boutique inn housed in a restored Queen Anne-style Victorian that dates back to 1891. The inn, featured in the National Register of Historic Places, sits in the heart of downtown Napa, offering nine guest rooms equipped with cloud-like Beautyrest Hybrid Plus mattresses, heated bathroom floors and Molton Brown amenities. Coming soon: a Peloton studio and a speakeasy for wine tasting and movie nights.

DETAILS » 492 Randolph St., Napa; www.thegeorgenapa.com