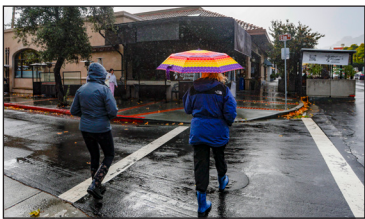
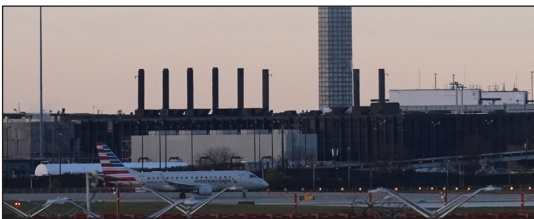


Local: Powerful winds, rain slam Bay Area. **B1**



Business: FAA cutting flights as controller shortage continues. **C9**



Sports: No moves by 49ers is a good thing, Kurtenbach says. **C1**



Nation: New NY mayor challenges Trump. **A3**



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‘I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS’

EATERIES STAND UP AND DELIVER



Rhyis McMack, 9, gives a hug to Monster Pho owner Tee Tran after receiving free food at the Oakland restaurant on Wednesday. Rhyis and his mother also got free bags of food supplies donated by customers at the restaurant, which offers free beef, chicken, or vegetable pho to kids 12 and under who receive SNAP benefits. **RAY CHAVEZ — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

In midst of government shutdown, restaurant customers pay it forward and donate to the food drive to help families relying on curtailed SNAP benefits

By Julia Prodis Sulek
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In less than a week, Tony & Alba’s Pizza and Pasta served meals to 150 kids whose federal food stamps are being cut. Monster Pho in Oakland has served at least 130 to-go bags of soup. Al Pastor Papi, a taqueria in San Francisco’s Union Square, handed out so many free burritos in a day the owner can’t keep up.

Along with the overwhelming demand from parents to feed their children as the government shutdown enters its sixth week, another interesting phenomenon is occurring:

Paying customers are lining up to support the restaurant owners, purchasing extra large orders, donating bags of groceries to give to parents



Al Vallorz, co-owner of Tony & Alba’s Pizza and Pasta, hands a free box of pizza to a mother for her 3-year-old son in San Jose on Tuesday. **NHAT V. MEYER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

and in some cases, handing over \$100 bills to help the cause.

“It breaks my heart to think about these kids going hungry,” said Anna Tran, 45, who drove from Milpi-

tas to San Jose to order extra pizzas from Tony & Alba’s, one of the first Bay Area restaurants to announce a giveaway program. “Our families that are working hard, they shouldn’t have to pay the price

of what’s going on with our government right now.”

So many donations in cash and food have flooded into Tony & Alba’s, an Italian restaurant across from upscale Santana Row, that owners Al and Diana Vallorz are starting to share some of their unexpected bounty with other restaurateurs to help them extend their free meals through November. They’ve also discounted meals for parents.

On his Instagram page this week, Al Vallorz posted a challenge for other Italian restaurants, delis and pizzerias — along with the “white tablecloth” restaurants of Santana Row — to offer free meals to children whose parents present their SNAP debit cards. He was inspired, he said, by a

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OAKLAND CORRUPTION SCANDAL

Federal case rife with questions

The plot thickens as key Thao witness suddenly lands in defense crosshairs

By Shomik Mukherjee
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OAKLAND — Not sure what became of the federal corruption case involving former Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao and others? It’s a fair question, and the details grew more complicated after a new court filing by one of Thao’s three co-defendants.

Nearly 10 months after

Thao, her romantic partner Andre Jones, and father-and-son businessmen David and Andy Duong pleaded not guilty to bribery and conspiracy charges, there is still no trial date.

The case has moved slowly since indictments were filed in January, with court hearings since then mainly limited to discussions about gathering evidence.

A similar corruption probe in San Leandro led to federal charges last



Thao



David Duong

accepting bribes to funnel taxpayer dollars to the Duongs’ housing company, Evolutionary Homes.

After months of silence among the defendants in Oakland, a new development emerged over the past week, when David Duong filed a motion in court challenging the credibility of an apparent FBI informant whose testi-

mony could play a crucial role in an eventual trial.

The informant, a co-conspirator who is not identified in the indictments, is widely believed to be longtime East Bay political insider Mario Juarez, a former business partner of the Duongs. Juarez, who has not been charged, appears central to the feds’ case.

What went into David Duong’s legal challenge against Juarez? Where does the Oakland case go from here? And how does it all tie into San Leandro?

Here’s where things stood this week:

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CALIFORNIA REDISTRICTING

Newsom basks in Prop. 50 victory

Governor urges additional Democratic states to follow suit to counter Trump’s moves

By Grant Stringer
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Gov. Gavin Newsom’s victory lap was brief Election Night after voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 50, the Democrats’ plan to gerrymander the state.

With a heavily-funded campaign, Newsom and his party’s national leaders managed to convince California voters that Proposition 50 was a way to take a stand against President Donald Trump — a president, they said, who is trying to “rig” the 2026 midterm elections by urging similar moves in Republican-led states.

Newsom has used the ballot measure to elevate his national profile and raise millions of dollars in contributions as he plans a possible run for president in 2028.

But in comments to reporters on Tuesday night, Newsom described the ballot measure as just one battle in the national war over redistricting before the midterms. The Republican effort is still in full swing, he said. Officials in GOP-led North Carolina, Missouri and Texas have already redrawn U.S. House of Representatives districts to benefit their party. Newsom called on his Democratic allies in other states to follow suit.

“We need the state of Virginia. We need the state of Maryland. We need our friends in New York and Illinois and Colorado,” the governor said. By retaking the House, he said, “we can de facto end Donald Trump’s presidency as we know it.”

Newsom’s political opponents agree on the stakes.

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KEY SUPREME COURT CASE

Justices seem skeptical of Trump tariffs

Majority on bench raise questions about his ability to act unilaterally

By Lindsay Whitehurst
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A majority of Supreme Court justices seemed skeptical on Wednesday about President Donald Trump’s ability to unilaterally impose far-reaching tariffs, putting at risk a cornerstone of his agenda in the biggest legal test yet of his unprecedented presidency.

Three conservative justices raised questions about whether an emergency law gives Trump near-limitless power to set and change duties on imports, with potentially trillion-dollar implications for the global economy.

The court’s three liberal justices also appeared dubious, so at least two conservative votes could limit Trump’s tariff power, though likely not end it altogether.

The case is the first major piece of Trump’s agenda to come squarely before the nation’s highest court, which he helped shape by naming three of the nine justices in his first term.

The conservative majority has so far been reluctant to check his extraordinary flex of executive power in short-term orders in cases ranging from

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