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'EVERYBODY'S EXCITED'

## Turkey fans set to go wild at Levi's Stadium



Mustafa and Adile Tasdemir watch Turkey play Australia during a World Cup soccer watch party at Sultan's Kebab restaurant in Campbell on Saturday. The team plays tonight at Levi's Stadium. **PHOTOS BY JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

### Bay Area supporters relish the opportunity to see country play a local World Cup match

By Ethan Baron  
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For the first time in more than two decades, Turkey has made it to soccer's World Cup, and Turkish people around the Bay Area are having a ball.

"Everybody's excited," said Sean Tekdemir, a former professional soccer player in Turkey and Indonesia who owns the Pro Elite Soccer Academy in Mountain View.

The four dozen national soccer teams in the World Cup have been divided into

**TODAY'S MATCH**  
Turkey vs. Paraguay  
8 p.m.  
Levi's Stadium  
TV: FS1/Telemundo

See **FANS** on Page A5



Soccer fans watch as Turkey plays Australia on Saturday at Sultan's Kebab. A contingent of Bay Area supporters plans to attend tonight's match in Santa Clara.

PUBLIC HEALTH

## FDA panel backs new flu vaccine

If approved, shots targeting older adults would be first to use mRNA technology

By Lauran Neergaard and Matthew Perrone  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A new kind of flu vaccine moved a step closer to the U.S. market Thursday as federal health advisers recommended approval of the first made with the same mRNA technology that was key to ending the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Food and Drug Administration is evaluating Moderna's new shot, dubbed mFlusiva, for older Americans ahead of the winter flu season. Moderna is seeking full approval for the vaccine's use in people ages 50 to 64 — along with authorization for use in those 65 and older while it conducts additional testing.

The FDA's independent advisory committee evaluated Moderna's studies of the vaccine and voted unanimously that its benefits appear to outweigh any risks for both age groups. The FDA will consider that recommendation in making a final decision by early August.

Tens of thousands of Americans die from influenza every year, and older adults are among the most vulnerable. There are various types of flu vaccines already available in the U.S., including three specifically recommended for people 65 and older. But vaccines made with the Nobel Prize-winning mRNA technology are faster to manufacture than other types — something experts say might help if the shape-shifting flu virus mutates in a way that requires suddenly brewing new doses to match.

"Having this technology available puts us

See **VACCINE** on Page A5

'EXPRESSION OF THANKS'

## Obama Center opens with call to defend democracy

A-listers help former president unveil his site at a Chicago park

By Scott Bauer  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former President Barack Obama formally opened his presidential center in Chicago on Thursday with a call to defend democracy as three former presidents joined him on stage in an extraordinary event featuring politicians, A-list celebrities, athletes and other internationally known figures.

"I hope this center will serve as an affirmation of just how special, how precious our democracy truly is and remind us what we can achieve when we embrace our shared responsibilities as citizens," the nation's first Black president told the crowd.

Bono, John Legend, Christina Aguilera, Marc Anthony and Eddie Vedder took turns on the stage ahead of Bruce Springsteen and Stevie Wonder, who closed the show singing "Higher Ground" as the former presidents, world leaders and others danced along.

President Donald Trump was conspicuous both in his physical absence and by not being mentioned by any of the speakers or performers. Trump called the \$850 million center a

See **OBAMA** on Page A5

ALAMEDA COUNTY CONUNDRUM

## New suitor shows interest in buying arena

Officials, however, seem unwilling to entertain offer amid current negotiations

By Shomik Mukherjee and Chase Hunter  
STAFF WRITERS

OAKLAND — A new suitor has emerged with an offer to acquire one of the Bay Area's most prominent concert venues, the Oakland Arena, just weeks after Alameda County officials began negotiating with another buyer.

Legends Global, the company that manages events at the arena, has proposed to invest as much as \$102 million to cover the cost of the purchase and capital upgrades at the East Oakland venue.

The problem facing Legends, however, is that Oakland and Alameda County are already knee-deep in a deal to transfer the Coliseum complex they jointly own, including the arena, nearby stadium and

land in between, to a local coalition of developers.

That deal, a tango involving several players, added another party late last month: the Oak View Group, which may offer roughly \$100 million to buy the arena alone — heavily subsidizing the development coalition's purchase from the county.

See **ARENA** on Page A5

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WEATHER FORECAST

WEATHER

H: 75-78 L: 56-59  
Full report on **B12**



INDEX

Business ..... C7 Local ..... B1  
Classified ..... B5 Lottery ..... A2  
Comics/TV ..... B10 Obituaries ..... B4

Volume 115, issue 19

Puzzles ..... B9, C5  
Sports ..... C1  
Weather ..... B12



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GO BEHIND THE STORY



RUTA SEPETYS

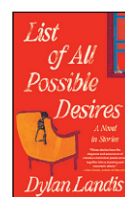


Ruta Sepetys, the internationally acclaimed historical fiction author of *Salt to the Sea*, is beloved by a generation of YA readers. Now she reveals how and why she wrote her debut novel for adults, "A Fortune of Sand," a seductively twisty story set in Prohibition-Era Detroit.

DYLAN LANDIS



Dylan Landis, author of the New York Times Editors' Choice "Rainey Royal," talks about literary fiction, recurring characters, Modern Love columns, and why she knew she had to write her new novel-in-stories, *List of All Possible Desires*.



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