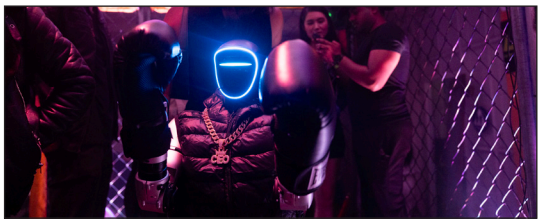


Local: Filmmaker puts culture on screen. **B1**



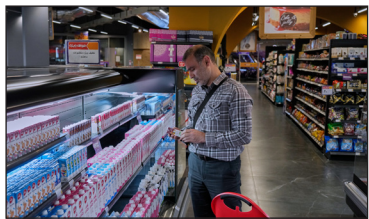
Business: AI robot fights make for 'peak S.F.' Friday night. **C9**



Sports: Warriors fill gaping hole at center by signing Horford. **C1**



World: Iran weighs sanctions reaction. **A4**



The newspaper of Silicon Valley

# The Mercury News

BayArea  
NewsGroup

\$3.00 | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2025 | MERCURYNEWS.COM

111

## COMMENTARY

# \$265M DOESN'T BUY A WINNER



Quarterback Brock Purdy walks off the field after a fourth-quarter fumble cemented a 26-21 49ers' loss against the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara. **PHOTOS BY JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

**Dieter Kurtenbach**  
COLUMNIST

SANTA CLARA — Let's tick off the boxes from the 49ers' debacle against the Jaguars on Sunday at Levi's Stadium, shall we?

The 49ers couldn't run the ball. They couldn't stop the run. They were gashed through the air by an opposing quarterback for whom on-target passes are a career rarity. They went entire series where catching a football seemed like an impossible feat, and for good measure, they got burned for a touchdown on special teams.

It was, in short, a complete and total mess. A no-good, very bad game.



Niners running back Christian McCaffrey, bottom, fumbles after a tackle by Jacksonville Jaguars linebacker Foyesade Oluokon in the third quarter Sunday at Levi's Stadium.

Those happen in the NFL. It's a league built on parity and chaos. The ball is oddly shaped, after all.

And in the modern NFL, a game like Sunday's is the exact kind of game in which you turn to your franchise quarterback to fix things.

The great quarterbacks

are janitors for organizational messes, smoothing over the cracks and making a bad team look competent for three hours.

On Sunday, the 49ers looked like a bad team. They needed the full-fledged, dark-magic, MVP-vote-receiving, \$265-million-

contract version of Brock Purdy.

That's not what was under center.

And so, a miserable team performance was cemented into a 26-21 loss, the team's first of the year. Don't let that score fool you; it was a minor miracle this game was even within reach in the fourth quarter.

Purdy, clearly hobbled by the sorta-kind-of-turf toe that sidelined him for two games, was sailing passes all afternoon. He couldn't step into his throws, and his secret weapon — that sneaky scrambling ability that extends drives — unsurprisingly stayed holstered.

Of the four turnovers San Francisco gift-wrapped for Jacksonville, Purdy had his fingerprints all over three of them: two interceptions and a game-sealing fumble.

See **KURTENBACH** on Page A6

## MICHIGAN

# Shooter attacks, burns church

Suspect and at least 4 victims are dead, and eight others are injured at Mormon service

By Isabella Volmert and Corey Williams  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRAND BLANC TOWNSHIP, Mich. — A gunman opened fire inside a church in Michigan during Sunday services before apparently setting the building ablaze, killing at least four people and injuring eight others before police shot him, authorities said.

Hundreds of people were inside The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Grand Blanc Township when a 40-year-old man rammed a pickup truck through the front door, then got out of the vehicle and started shooting, Police Chief William Renye told reporters. Police believe he “deliberately” set the building on fire.

After the suspect left the church, two officers pursued him and “engaged in gunfire,” Renye said. The man was killed.

Flames and smoke could be seen pouring from the church for hours before the blaze was put out. First responders were then sifting through the wreckage.

“We do believe we will find some additional victims once we find the area where the fire was,” Renye said.

Police initially said that nine people were injured. When Renye later announced that one additional person had died from a gunshot wound at a hospital, he did not say whether that person had been included in the number of injured.

The motive was not yet clear.

Police said they did not yet have a motive for the fire or shooting. Investigators are searching the suspect's residence in nearby Burton. Authorities did not provide any additional details about the suspect, including whether he was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, widely known as the Mormon church.

It was the latest of many shooting attacks on houses of worship in the U.S. over the past 20 years, including one in August that killed two children during Mass at the Church of the Annunciation in Minneapolis.

See **SHOOTING** on Page A6

## OBITUARY

# Davis, 92, was pioneering journalist

KPIX reporter became West Coast's 1st Black woman newscaster

By Devan Patel  
DPATEL@  
BAYAREA NEWSGROUP.COM

Belva Davis, the trailblazing journalist who broke the color barrier and graced Bay Area airwaves and television sets for more than five decades, died Wednesday at the age of 92.

After initially starting her career in print, Davis transitioned into radio and broadcast journalism in the Bay Area in the mid-1960s, becoming the first Black female TV reporter on the West Coast when KPIX-TV hired her in 1966. However, for those who knew her best, her impact extended beyond the journalism world.

“While many news outlets will report on her being a pioneer in journalism and a civil rights advo-



Belva Davis is shown in the KQED studios for her “This Week in Northern California” public affairs program in 2012, the year she retired. Davis died Wednesday. She was 92. **RAY CHAVEZ — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

cate, as well as her groundbreaking career in television broadcasting, to us she was just mom and ‘Nana,’” the Davis family said in a statement. “Mom had an uncanny knack for

asking questions that allowed different points of view to drive civil discourse. We will miss the spirited

See **DAVIS** on Page A6

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY

# Prosecutor's suit over free speech dismissed

Daniel Chung will again challenge DA Jeff Rosen for office

By Robert Salonga  
RSALONGA@  
BAYAREANEWSGROUP.COM

A federal judge has dismissed a years-long free-speech lawsuit by a sidelined Santa Clara County prosecutor against District Attorney Jeff Rosen, but the turmoil between the two will continue as the plaintiff is pursuing a second appeal — and a second political run to unseat his boss.

Judge Araceli Martínez-Olguín, of the Northern District of California, decided earlier this month to dismiss Daniel Chung's First Amendment lawsuit alleging that he was the

victim of retaliation for writing a February 2021 editorial submission. The opinion article, published in The Mercury News, argued that criminal justice reforms had weakened consequences for serious offenders.

The heart of the First Amendment disagreement between Chung and Rosen was whether Chung was writing in his personal capacity or as a representative of the district attorney's office. If he were presenting the opinion in his official capacity, he would have been



Chung

See **CHUNG** on Page A6

## SUBSCRIPTION

Call 408-508-5554 for a subscription. To place a classified ad, call 408-920-5111. Copyright © 2025, Mercury News 24/7 coverage at mercurynews.com

## WEATHER

H: 72-73 L: 61-65  
Full report on **B8**



## INDEX

Business ..... C9  
Classified ..... A8, B5  
Comics/TV ..... B6-7  
Local ..... B1  
Lottery ..... A2  
Obituaries ..... B4

Volume 175, issue 102

Puzzles ..... B2, C7-8  
Sports ..... C1  
Weather ..... B8

