



**BOB FERNANDEZ**, 100, who was a 17-year-old sailor when Pearl Harbor was attacked 83 years ago, dances with Elizabeth Chitiva, 74, at Whirlows restaurant in Stockton. He's still light on his feet and likes to twirl the ladies around wherever there's live music playing.

COLUMN ONE

# The memories are receding for one of the last survivors of Pearl Harbor

Bob Fernandez was aboard the USS Curtiss. ‘I wish that they never would have come.’



**FERNANDEZ** has been called a hero, but he's not sure about that. He was doing his job, except he survived when 2,400 other service members didn't.

By THOMAS CURWEN  
REPORTING FROM LODI, CALIF.

Questions about that day come year-round but nothing like November and December. The answers have grown into stories, now briefer than before but still mostly complete. Details sometimes get jumbled, but no one complains. For 100, everyone says, Bob Fernandez is doing great.

“You can tell my story if you want,” he says, “but sometimes I’m not all here.”

As much as Fernandez knows his limitations, he is also aware of his obligation.

On Dec. 7, 1941, he was a sailor and stood at a pivot point of history, a moment never to forget when sudden and extreme violence rendered the past irrelevant and the future an open book hinging on the outcome of war.

On a recent morning, Maria Dominguez pours him a cup of decaf, black, two sugars. He’s just woken up. His steps are wobbly as he makes his way to his chair in the living room, where a TV tray awaits with a cookie and three pills.

“Do you remember my name?” she asks.

“Emily? June?”

Then he remembers. Maria. His wife was named Mary.

“You took care of her when she was sick,” she reminds him. “You were 90 when she passed.”

Now Dominguez is taking care of [See **Fernandez**, A5]

## USDA to begin testing milk for bird flu

Regulators will screen samples from dairy farms in six states including California.

By SUSANNE RUST

Nearly a year after a wild bird infected with H5N1 avian flu presumably passed its viral baggage to a dairy cow in the Texas panhandle — which has subsequently led to the infection of more than 700 herds nationwide and sickened at least 35 dairy workers — the nation’s Agriculture Department announced Friday that it will sample the nation’s milk supply to test for the virus.

The federal order requires dairy farmers to collect and share raw milk samples for testing — if requested — by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It also lays out a staged testing strategy that will allow the federal agency to track and monitor the disease.

The new testing regimen, called the National Milk Testing Strategy, “is a critical part of our ongoing efforts to protect the health and safety of individuals and communities nationwide,” according to a statement from Xavier Becerra, the U.S. secretary of Health and Human Services.

The new order will initially apply to six states: California, Colorado, Michigan, Mississippi, Oregon and Pennsylvania.

The goal, according to the statement, is to rid the nation’s dairy herds of the disease — an achievement few infectious-disease researchers or virologists think is possible, at least not anytime soon.

“I very much support efforts to expand bulk milk testing, as it is currently the primary way we are finding outbreaks on farms,” said Jennifer Nuzzo, a professor of epidemiology and director of the Pandemic Center at Brown University School of Public Health. “This is helpful, but not fully adequate to protect farmworkers who [See **Milk**, A6]

## What Trump’s choices say about his economic policies’ direction

Some Cabinet picks raise hopes for little disruption. Others back a push for tariffs.

By DON LEE

WASHINGTON — Some of President-elect Donald Trump’s Cabinet nominations have raised hopes that his trade and other economic actions will not be wildly disruptive or bring back inflation. But that could turn

out to be wishful thinking.

Based on the record of his first term in the Oval Office and on his current statements of his intent, Trump’s second term may see a break from the largely bipartisan consensus that has shaped U.S. economic policy for more than 50 years.

That consensus has centered on a push for more foreign trade, less government regulation of business, tax cuts and other fiscal stimulus when necessary to sustain steady growth and low unemployment. Though Re-

publicans tended to put more emphasis on one element or another than Democrats, the overall thrust remained pretty much the same.

Supporters of that approach took heart when Trump picked billionaire investor Scott Bessent to be his Treasury secretary. Bessent is a familiar name in the hedge fund world, and for some years he worked under longtime financier and Democratic backer George Soros. Wall Street [See **U.S. economy**, A8]



**SAN FRANCISCO’S** siren-based Outdoor Public Warning System, offline since 2019, is facing renewed scrutiny since Thursday’s tsunami warning on the coast.

## Tsunami warning is state’s wake-up call

By GRACE TOOHEY,  
KAREN GARCIA  
AND RONG-GONG LIN II

Fear, anxiety and confusion swept across the West Coast early Thursday when a rare tsunami warning was issued for parts of Northern California and southern Oregon after a magnitude 7 earthquake that hit about 55 miles off the shore of Eureka.

Evacuations were ordered. Sirens went off. Service was suspended on the Bay Area’s commuter rail through its underwater Transbay Tube.

But in about an hour, the warning was canceled. Though the circumstances were right, no major tsunami formed — this time.

“It could have moved a lot of water,” said Dave Snider, the tsunami warning coordi-

nator at the National Tsunami Warning Center in Alaska. “We’re glad it didn’t.”

The conditions could have produced a dangerous tsunami, but there’s no way to predict such an event accurately ahead of time, Snider said. So his team errs on the side of caution, especially when the earthquake hits closer to the coast — as this one did — and could [See **Tsunami**, A6]

**Police say gunman who killed CEO fled NYC on bus**

New details emerge about suspect’s travels before and after slaying of UnitedHealthcare executive. **NATION**, A4

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**TikTok loses bid to stop U.S. ban**

Appeals court rejects the social video app’s request to toss out law forcing ByteDance’s divestiture. **BUSINESS**, A7

**Weather**

Sunny and very warm. L.A. Basin: 80/50. **B3**

**Nothing ruffles Galaxy’s coach**

Vannoy’s calming demeanor has team on the verge of sixth MLS Cup title. **SPORTS**, B12



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