

LITERARY STAR'S TURN

Young novelist follows hit debut with return to poetry.

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BATTLE OVER AIRPORT NAME

Experts weigh potential trademark suit over renaming of Oakland International.

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CURRY STILL BRINGS JOY

In 15th year, Warriors guard remains people's superstar.

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Stunning drop in S.F. traffic tickets

Police pledge to reverse decade-long plunge amid recent tragedies

By Rachel Swan and Danielle Echeverria

For 10 years, as San Francisco leaders touted an ambitious Vision Zero goal to end traffic fatali-

ties, police eased back on ticketing drivers.

Citations plummeted, from 12,444 in March 2014 — two months after the Police Department launched a crackdown to

deter scofflaw drivers — to 336 in December 2023, according to city records.

The numbers are so stark that some frustrated observers wondered if officers had retreated

from a fundamental part of their job, giving people the impression that road rage or speeding would go unpunished. Although citation data alone cannot reveal

whether risky driving has increased, it points to a huge challenge for a city trying to make the roads safe for everyone, and stumbling in the effort. "We're seeing driver

behavior change, possibly in response to the lack of enforcement," said Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, who has spent years pressing the Police Department for better results.

The Chronicle analyzes. **Tickets continues on A8**

Protesters shut down major Bay Area highways for Gaza



Brontë Wittpenn/The Chronicle

Protesters against the war in the Gaza Strip shut down southbound traffic on Interstate 880 in Oakland on Monday.

Warning targets stadium workers

By Connor Letourneau

The food and beverage concessionaire for the Oakland Coliseum warned workers that speaking publicly about company business may get them fired, delivering the message shortly after Oakland A's officials said layoffs will precede the team's move next season to the Sacramento area.

The 99-word letter from global concession giant Aramark, obtained by the Chronicle, told workers that "it is against Aramark's Business Conduct Policy to speak to the government, media, or press on behalf of the company, and/or comment on Aramark/Client business matters. This includes reporters, written responses, phone calls, video calls, social media, and any other forms of communication."

The letter went on to tell workers to direct any inquiries to management, stating that "violations of this policy are subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination."

Aramark, which has run the Coliseum's concession. **Workers continues on A7**



Brontë Wittpenn/The Chronicle

Protesters lock arms as California Highway Patrol officers reopen lanes to southbound traffic on I-880 in Oakland.



Lea Suzuki/The Chronicle

Pedestrians and bicyclists wait on the south side of the Golden Gate Bridge while it is closed because of protesters.

Hyatt's rotating space will spin again

By Erika Mailman

Nearly a year ago, Dennis Alcaire toggled a switch and listened to machinery grinding. "The big drive wheels were spinning, but the thing wasn't moving," he said. "I could hear rubber scraping on metal. It was like a car with the brake on but spinning its wheels."

Alcaire, a staff engineer at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco, and a few others were on the hotel's top floor inside the former Equinox restaurant, which, for 34 years after the landmark Embarcadero structure opened in 1973, slowly rotated while customers dined and drank. Surrounding the crew, curved glass windows displayed views patrons had once watched float by: Bay Bridge lights and the pale gleam of the Fer-

Revolve continues on A8

Golden Gate Bridge, I-880 blocked as part of nationwide action

By Eli Rosenberg and Jessica Flores

Demonstrators protesting the war in Gaza and U.S. support for Israel blocked two Bay Area highways during the morning commute on Monday, causing significant delays and bringing traffic to a halt for hours across

the region as part of a planned day of disruption nationwide.

The protests broke out early in the morning, with demonstrators shutting down major arteries as weekday traffic peaked. On Interstate 880, a group of protesters blocked the northbound lane just before Jack London Square, by chaining them-

selves to concrete-filled barrels.

Southbound I-880 near Broadway was also blocked by other demonstrators. Meanwhile, across the bay, another group of protesters blocked off the southbound lanes of the Golden Gate Bridge; the bridge protesters had chained themselves to parked cars, officials

said.

The demonstrations snarled traffic across the region, leading to backups for commuters from Marin to Berkeley, in the latest upswell of aggressive and emotional protests over the war in Gaza in the Bay Area. In previous demonstrations since the **Protests continues on A9**

How simple project became red-tape nightmare

By Danielle Echeverria

When Alan Billingsley and John Podolsky sought to expand an 85-square-foot room on the second story of their home in San Francisco's Eureka Valley

neighborhood, they thought they knew what they were getting into.

Both longtime San Francisco residents, Billingsley and Podolsky have friends in city government and are involved in local

politics. Podolsky works in construction, focusing on tenant improvements in downtown high-rises.

Still, they did not expect that getting approval for their home project would take five years, two permit

expeditors, an attorney and tens of thousands of dollars — and counting.

Their problems, like those of many San Francisco homeowners in the throes of permit nightmares, stemmed from a

stream of neighbor complaints that went on for months, as well as a misunderstanding of the city's complex building code — both examples of how seemingly straightforward **Project continues on A7**

