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COMMENTARY

## The Warriors' dynasty ends in embarrassment



PHOTOS BY JANE TYSKA — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Golden State Warriors' Klay Thompson, left, and Draymond Green leave the court after losing 118-94 to the Sacramento Kings in an NBA play-in tournament Tuesday. The game may have marked the end of an era for the Warriors.

**SACRAMENTO** » Steph Curry, master of focus, sipped a beer with a 10,000-yard stare.



Dieter Kurtenbach  
Columnist

The loquacious Draymond Green seemed to be at a loss for words. The ever-positive Klay Thompson was downright despondent.

The Warriors' season ended Tuesday night at the hot hands of the Sacramento Kings, and the bout left the once-great champions dazed.

The question was plastered across each of the greats' faces before the final buzzer sounded and well after as well:

What just happened?

Let me tell you:

The No. 10 seed in the Western Conference— the worst team in the Western



Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry watches the last minute of the NBA play-in tournament game Tuesday. The team likely faces sweeping changes in the offseason.

Conference postseason— was jumped from the opening tip-off Tuesday. They were pushed around and beaten up, and they provided little to no resistance to the Kings' ever-present force.

The Warriors were punked.

And it left the once-

mighty Warriors — with a core that has played for and won everything — looking like a team over its head in a lowly play-in tournament game.

Sacramento is hardly a team of destiny—a future champion on the rise. The Kings stink, too. This squad entered this No. 9 vs.

No. 10 game as underdogs, carrying lousy form and bad vibes.

Yet they dispatched the Warriors with ease.

Where does that leave the Dubs in the NBA hierarchy they once headed?

The Warriors' dynasty might have ended years ago. Perhaps 2022's title run was something different than dynastic. Or maybe that run of excellence extended that started in 2014-15 and lasted all the way until Tuesday night's game.

But whatever the Warriors were, they are no longer.

The 118-94 beatdown in a made-for-TV single-elimination game between two noncontenders is a clear line of demarcation.

Having seen the Warriors play — and win — at the highest level, seeing them in Tuesday's game felt incongruent with that leg-

**KURTENBACH** » PAGE 5

SAN JOSE

## Two more charged in baby's OD death

Allegations of murder are made against pair accused of carelessly keeping narcotics around child

By Robert Salonga, Julia Prodis Sulek and Scooty Nickerson  
Bay Area News Group

**SAN JOSE** » Five months after the parents of 18-month-old Winter Rayo were charged with murder in their daughter's fentanyl overdose death, Santa Clara County District Attorney Jeff Rosen on Wednesday took the extraordinary step of charging their two housemates with murder, too.

Their own text messages detailing a history of reckless drug use, prosecutors say, made it clear why.

In the months leading up to Winter's death, one of the housemates texted Winter's mother that "he left his bong in a bag hanging on (Winter's) stroller."

In May, Winter's mother, Kelly Richardson, asked the other housemate to borrow one of her bongs because Winter "got a hold of our bong that you gave us & broke it."

"Please don't use the pink one or my new one," housemate Paige Vitale responded in a text message, according to court documents. "I would be hell a sad if (Winter) ended up breaking any of my favorites is all."

On Aug. 12, in her parents' bedroom littered with fentanyl on the nightstand and on a rug beneath her, Winter became the second of at least three young Bay Area children to die of a fentanyl overdose within a six-month span. An autopsy showed that her blood contained 24 times the lethal dose of fentanyl for her age.

**WINTER** » PAGE 5

POLITICS

## Senate drops impeachment charges against homeland chief

Mayorkas cleared without a trial in party-line vote won by Democrats

By Luke Broadwater  
New York Times

**WASHINGTON** » The Senate on Wednesday dismissed the impeachment case against Alejandro Mayorkas, the homeland security secretary, voting along party lines before his trial got underway to sweep aside two charges accusing him of failing to enforce immigration laws and breaching the public trust.

By a vote of 51-48, with one senator voting "present," the Senate ruled that the first charge was unconstitutional because it failed to meet the constitutional bar of a high crime or misdemeanor. Republicans united in opposition except for Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, the lone "present" vote, while Democrats were unanimous in favor.

Murkowski joined her party in voting against dismissal of the second count on the same grounds; it fell along party lines on a 51-49 vote.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., moved to dismiss each charge, arguing that a Cabinet member cannot be impeached and removed merely for carrying out the policies of the administration he serves.

"To validate this gross abuse by the House would be a grave mistake and could set a dangerous precedent for the future," Schumer said.

It took only about three hours for the Senate to dispense with the matter.

**MAYORKAS** » PAGE 5

CALIFORNIA

## Bill pushes drug-free homeless housing

Measure would allow more spending on sober-living facilities

By Ethan Varian  
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Gwendolyn Bryant died of a fentanyl overdose when she was supposed to be celebrating her granddaughter's 15th birthday.

When Bryant didn't show up to the party, her daughter, Sheenia Branner, was angry. Branner assumed her mother had relapsed again, giving in to the temptation while living among opioid users in one of San Francisco's residential hotels for



KARL MONDON — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sheenia Branner, who lost her mother to fentanyl use, believes many people in recovery need the structure and accountability of living in a sober-living environment.

formerly homeless people. But days later, that an-

ger turned to sorrow upon learning Bryant had been

found dead, alone in her room. She was 58. "I was so proud of her when she got her apartment," Branner recalled. "But it was a blessing and a curse."

Bryant died in late 2020 in one of the hundreds of homeless housing sites across California designed to provide supportive services, including drug treatment and counseling. On the recommendation of health and homelessness researchers, many of the facilities don't require residents to accept services or stay clean after moving in. The reasoning is that homeless people need a safe and stable place to live before they're

**SOBER** » PAGE 5

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