

'ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE'

Draft-day trade of Aiyuk could be in play, sources say.

SPORTING GREEN, B1



TRUMP'S 'EYES AND EARS'

Tabloid publisher testifies about pledge he made to presidential candidate.

NATION & WORLD, A11



RIDE UP THE AMAZON

Deftly executed opera 'Florencia' lacks conflict.

DATEBOOK, B7

# San Francisco Chronicle

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## Alameda County death sentences on hold

DA: Evidence suggests prosecutors illegally excluded Black, Jewish jurors in prior decades

By Bob Egelko

Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price put all 35 of her county's death sentences on hold Monday and said there was evidence that prosecutors in a 30-

year-old case had removed all Jewish and Black people from the jury.

"When you intentionally exclude any juror based on their race, their religion, their gender or any protected category, it vio-

lates the Constitution," Price said at a news conference. "The evidence that we collected suggests plainly that many people did not receive a fair trial in Alameda County."

She cited only one case, in which Ernest Dykes of Oakland was convicted in 1993 of murdering his landlady's 9-year-old grandson, Lance Clark, and try-

ing to murder landlady Bernice Clark during an attempted robbery. But Price said there was evidence that the same discriminatory conduct took place in "a number of cases" and "was not limited to one or two prosecutors."

Price was acting at the direction of U.S. District Judge Vince Chhabria of San Francisco, who

is hearing Dykes' federal appeal, known as habeas corpus, after the state Supreme Court upheld his convictions and death sentence.

In a document filed Monday, Chhabria said Price's office, "consistent with its legal and ethical obligations," had shown him and Dykes' lawyers notes from jury **Review continues on A8**

THE REV. CECIL WILLIAMS 1929-2024

Glide church co-founder, minister of liberation was civil rights pioneer



James Tensuan/The Chronicle

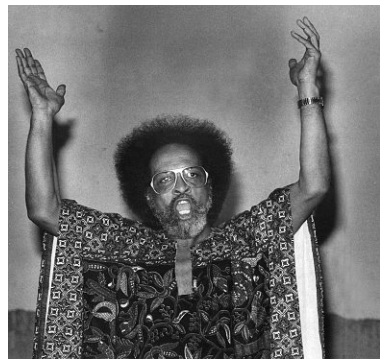
The Rev. Cecil Williams speaks about Maya Angelou during her memorial on June 15, 2014, at Glide Memorial's sanctuary.

## Longtime champion of the poor and hungry

By Sam Whiting

The Rev. Cecil Williams, civil rights pioneer, champion for the poor and hungry, and probably the most influential religious figure in San Francisco over the last 50 years, has died.

Williams passed away peacefully Monday morning at his home in a retirement community near Glide Memorial Church, said Karl Robillard, chief communications officer at Glide. No cause was given. He was 94. Immediately



Vince Maggiora/The Chronicle

The Rev. Cecil Williams preaches on March 9, 1980, at Glide church in San Francisco.

"We would not be who we are as a city and a people without the legendary Cecil Williams."

Mayor London Breed

after the word came out Monday afternoon, Marvin K. White, who succeeded Williams as minister of celebration at Glide, was in the sanctuary welcoming members of the congregation and the wider community who had streamed in after hearing of his death.

"Cecil was unwavering in his commitment to help the most marginalized in our community and in the world," said Gina Fromer, president and CEO of Glide, an umbrella for **Williams continues on A10**

## Can S.F.'s police spend less time on paperwork?

By David Hernandez and J.D. Morris

It didn't take long for San Francisco police officers to track down two suspects who matched the description of robbers who took a cellphone from a pedestrian in the Lower Nob Hill neighborhood around midnight last Sunday. The suspects, two juveniles, were walking in the area when officers nabbed them.

But then came a more daunting task: paperwork.

There was the incident report and forms specific to the suspects' demographics, said Capt. Jason Sawyer, who runs the San Francisco Police Department's Northern Station. Officers also filed forms documenting that they detained other suspects but didn't ar- **Paperwork continues on A9**

## Merchants challenge redesign of West Portal

By Rachel Swan

When San Francisco leaders rolled out a new street design for West Portal last week — one that would stop cars from cutting through the intersection near the Muni station — they had a vision for the neighborhood.

With a few tweaks, officials said, the rail station could become a grand plaza with ample space for bikes and pedestrians. Crosswalks would be safer and artists could paint murals on the pavement.

It took just a day for merchants to set up a website and a fervent campaign in opposition.

"Here we have a business district that's thriving, and they (the **West Portal continues on A9**

## 1940 polar bear pit debut at S.F. Zoo a horrific scene

San Francisco's mayor, emissaries from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration and hundreds of local schoolchildren arrived at the San Francisco Zoo on Oct. 6, 1940, to celebrate a massive expansion.

Instead, they witnessed a scene of unforgettable carnage.

"A battle to death, a battle of the kind that shatters the white silence

PETER HARTLAUB  
OUR SAN FRANCISCO

of the Arctic ice floes, yesterday intruded upon the dedication ceremonies at the new Fleishacker Zoo and christened the polar bear pit in blood," Chronicle reporter John Upton Terrell wrote the next day in front-page cover-

age. More than 80 years later, the story reads like war correspondence: Two polar bears engaged in a death match, while zoo staff and police scrambled to intervene. The scene went on for a half-hour, leaving visitors horrified and one animal dead.

The bear's enclosure was part of a \$2 million **Zoo continues on A8**



To the shock of visitors, a polar bear named Big Bill attacked and killed his mate Min on Oct. 6, 1940, the opening day of a huge expansion at the San Francisco Zoo.

Chronicle file photo

