

FESTIVAL SETS LINEUP

Post Malone, the Killers headline Outside Lands.

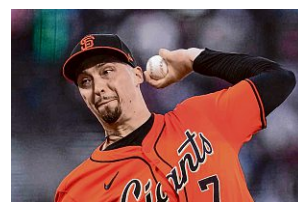
DATEBOOK, B7



COURT HEARS ABORTION CASE

Supreme Court justices appear skeptical state bans violate federal health law.

NATION & WORLD, A1



ROUGH START

Giants pitcher Blake Snell out with adductor strain.

SPORTING GREEN, B1

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Photos by Santiago Mejia/The Chronicle

Marco Simonit checks on the vines at Shafer Vineyards in Napa earlier this month. Simonit is a master pruner who favors fewer but more strategic cuts, allowing the plants to withstand weather extremes.

Wineries embrace vine whisperer

Master pruner teaches sustainability amid climate crisis

By Jess Lander

Marco Simonit slips on a pair of kneepads, laces up his work boots and pulls a faded yellow glove over each hand before turning to a grapevine. Then he pulls out a chain saw.

With the vine in two pieces, the lesson begins. Simonit points to dried-up pieces of deadwood, a sign of severe damage inside the plant. He shows how the damage has disrupted the natural flow



Shafer Vineyards is one of 20 in Napa now working with Simonit to rejuvenate their vines and ensure they live longer.

of sap and nutrients through the vine, ultimately hindering its growth and potential to produce high-quality grapes.

It was a dramatic demonstration but, as wine-maker Chantal Forthun put it, "an incredibly eye-opening" moment for the team at Flowers Vineyards & Winery in Healdsburg.

"You can see the desiccation inside the plant," Forthun said.

Vines continues on A8

NASA's solar sail mission is a leap forward

By Jack Lee

Someday spacecraft could set out for Mars or distant asteroids, propelled by sunlight instead of rocket fuel. Tiny pushes produced by light aren't noticeable on Earth, but they can have big effects in the near-vacuum of space.

It might sound fantastical, but solar sails pushed by particles of light are already a reality. In 2010, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's IKAROS was the first spacecraft to put solar sail propulsion in action in space.

NASA's Advanced Composite Solar Sail System, which launched

Tuesday, is another giant leap forward in solar sailing. The solar sail mission is managed by NASA's Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, in Santa Clara County, with the booms and solar sail system built by NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va.

The system's booms,

which support the solar sail, are made of stronger and lighter materials than past designs. This mission has a solar sail about the size of six parking spots, but the technology could enable even larger sails, which could carry heavier instruments to monitor the sun or travel

Solar continues on A9

S.F. office tower sells at 90% discount

Empty Mid-Market building traded after former owner defaults on loan

By Laura Waxmann

Deeply discounted office towers have become the norm in San Francisco over the past year, but no recent deal has been as radical as one that closed in the city's struggling Mid-Market neighborhood this month: An empty 16-story tower traded for just \$6.5 million.

The \$72-per-square-foot pricing for the tower at 995 Market St., which anchors the corner at Sixth and Market streets, represents a 90% drop in value from when the building last sold in 2016, for roughly \$62 million.

The April 18 sale comes after the tower's former owner, Bridgeton Holdings, last year defaulted on a \$45 million loan tied to the property. Public records show the building is now in the hands of Florida real estate investment firm LNR Partners LLC — an affiliate of private real estate investor Starwood Capital Group.

LNR has been serving as the special servicer appointed to oversee the tower's distressed loan, and has essentially been in control of the property for the past eight months. The building sold at a public auction, but real estate market participants with insight into the situation told the Chronicle LNR "took over the property beforehand."

Tower continues on A8

Bill would ease abortion access for Arizonans

By Sophia Bollag and Joe Garofoli

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Wednesday announced legislation to give Arizona doctors temporary, emergency licenses to perform abortions in California on the heels of the Arizona Supreme Court decision outlawing the procedure.

The legislation, SB233 (co-written by Democratic state Sens. Nancy Skinner of Berkeley and Cecilia Aguiar-Curry of Winters) would allow licensed Arizona doctors in good standing to provide abortions and abortion-related care to Arizona patients traveling to California through Nov. 30. If passed by the Democratic-led Legislature, it would go into effect as soon as Newsom signs it.

The Arizona abortion providers would be under the oversight of California's Medical Board and Osteopathic Medical Board and would be required to provide registration information to those boards, according to the measure. Skinner said the measure includes provisions to ensure California will protect the privacy of any Arizona medical professionals who travel here for work.

California Democrats say the bill is intended to be a

Abortion continues on A9

College students choose protests over politics

Pro-Palestinian demonstrators have little faith that voting can create change quickly or at all

One reason that pro-Palestinian demonstrators are pitching tents at UC Berkeley and campuses elsewhere, shutting down freeways and interrupting social gatherings, is the same reason that only 16% of young people voted in the California primary: They don't trust politicians to get anything done quickly — or at all.

The quicker way to get attention and jolt the system into action, they feel, is to put their body on the line, consequences be damned. And this week on the UC Berkeley campus, it is

JOE GAROFOLI

IT'S ALL POLITICAL

MORE INSIDE

Gaza protests continue at UC Berkeley, Cal Poly Humboldt. A10

coming in the form of dozens of tents springing up in the middle of campus, with demonstrators calling for the university to divest from companies with connections to Israel and rally-goers chanting, "We don't want no Zionists here! Say it loud and

say it clear!"

Demonstrations were so intense at Cal Poly Humboldt this week that officials shut down the campus after demonstrators took over an administrative building. The campus will be closed through the weekend.

"When people voted against the Vietnam War, it didn't achieve anything. But when we saw protests erupting for divesting from apartheid South Africa, or against the Vietnam War, that was what achieved power," Malak Afaneh, a third-year law student at UC Berkeley, said as she stood near tents pitched on the university's Sproul Plaza after a pro-Pales-

Garofoli continues on A10



Don Fera/Special to the Chronicle

Protesters set up tents and supplies on Monday for an encampment outside Sproul Hall on the UC Berkeley campus.

