

EX-PITCHER TURNS 100

Mill Valley native recalls titles with the Yankees.

SPORTING GREEN, B1



PROTESTERS CAMP OUT AT STANFORD

Students construct 'People's University for Palestine' base, violating school policies.

BAY AREA & BUSINESS, A4



PORTER AT S.F. PRIDE

Actor and singer to perform, serve as grand marshal.

DATEBOOK, B7

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Dapper Down pampers plentiful clients as downtown struggles



Photos by Santiago Mejia/The Chronicle

Chris Flores, left, gives a haircut to Lawrence Richardson at Dapper Down Barber Lounge in San Francisco.

Big hikes expected from state insurer

High rates likely to get worse for customers dropped by other firms

By Megan Fan Muncie

Californians on the FAIR Plan — the state's "insurer of last resort" — can expect to see their rates rise sharply in the near future, the plan's president testified.

"There's going to be a substantial increase. That's as much as I can share," FAIR Plan President Victoria Roach told the Little Hoover Commission, a state oversight committee.

Large numbers of Californians have recently been dropped by mainline insurance companies and forced to turn to the FAIR Plan for wildfire coverage. The switch often prompts sticker shock, as the FAIR Plan — which is packed with people in areas at high risk for wildfires — can cost thousands of dollars more per year than other plans.

That problem is only going to get worse, Roach said Thursday. "Our rates are going to go up, no question about it," she told the commission.

FAIR Plan continues on A8

Union Square barbershop turns into celeb hot spot

By Connor Letourneau

Jerrel Brown leaned against a wall, surveying the Friday afternoon scene at Dapper Down Barber Lounge near Union Square.

Hip-hop music thumped through the fourth-floor shop overlooking Powell Street. A customer sipped expensive whiskey as his barber inspected the back of his head, lining up a taper fade just right. Another customer appeared to doze off while his barber gently rubbed facial cleanser into his stubble.

For years, while carving out a successful real estate career, Brown had daydreamed about this place: an upscale barbershop, where men could escape daily stressors as a hairstylist made them look and feel their best.

Barbershop continues on A8



Jerrel Brown started Dapper Down, which is near Union Square and has become the go-to spot for many Bay Area movers and shakers.

PG&E's chief defends higher electricity bills

By Julie Johnson

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. defended the company's electricity rate hikes, despite widespread outrage from Californians shocked by soaring monthly utility bill charges.

In a call with investors Thursday, PG&E announced that its earnings rose to \$732 million in the first quarter of 2024, up from \$569 million a year earlier — translating to earnings per share of \$0.34, compared with \$0.27 a year earlier.

At the same time, average residential customer bills increased by an estimated \$34.50 each month starting Jan. 1, an unprecedented increase hitting

PG&E continues on A9

Weather-linked outages rising, analysis finds

By Jack Lee

Weather-related power outages have been on the rise over recent decades, according to an analysis released Wednesday by Climate Central, a nonprofit that researches and reports on climate change. According to the study, California has experienced 145 major weather-related power outages since 2000, with blackouts in recent years driven by wildfires and extreme heat, in addition to storms.

It's a similar story across the country, said Jennifer Brady, a senior data analyst with Climate Central who performed the re-

search: "It's not just a lot of wind and rain anymore."

From 2000 to 2023, the United States faced 1,755 weather-related major power outages, according to the new analysis. Utilities are required to report large outages, such as loss of electric service to over 50,000 customers, to the Department of Energy.

The tally accounts for 80% of major outages across the country. This is in line with a 2023 study analyzing prolonged power outages from 2018 to 2020, which reported that 62% of outages were driven by weather.

Outages continues on A9

Young techies flocking to New York

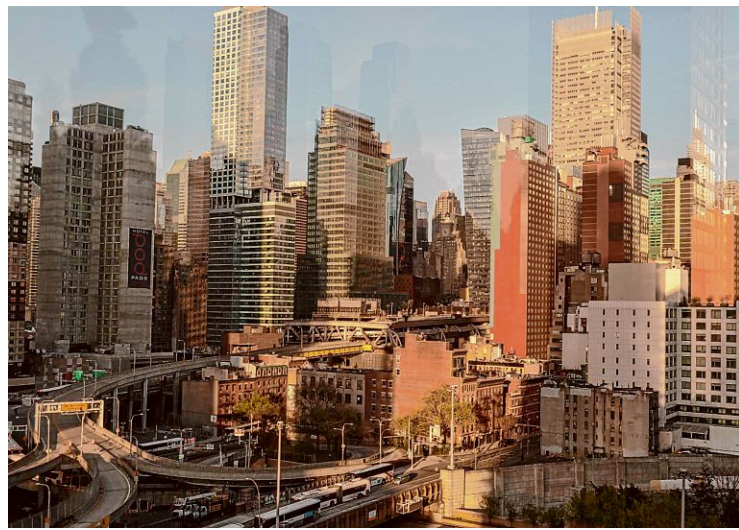
By Connor Letourneau

Like many other Silicon Valley tech workers, Sanchit Gupta started to think about moving away during the COVID-19 pandemic. But instead of relocating to a more affordable place like, say, Austin, Texas, he dreamed about New York City.

With world-famous nightlife, a robust dating scene and a thriving tech community, it seemed the ideal spot for someone like Gupta. In addition to being a single 20-something and self-described "night owl," he was a product manager with some disposable income.

"I always thought New York could be a much more fun city

New York continues on A9



Sarah Blesener/Special to the Chronicle

New York City is drawing millennials and Gen Z tech workers away from Silicon Valley despite a higher cost of living.

Bay Area & Business.....A2

Datebook.....B7

Obituaries.....A6



WEATHER: Mostly sunny. Highs: 58-74. Lows: 45-55. B6



10th ANNIVERSARY

BAY AREA BOOK FESTIVAL

in partnership with the San Francisco Chronicle

Family Day @ Berkeley Public Library

90 Authors • Illustrators • Booksellers • Cosplay • Free Comic Book Giveaway • Interactive Fun

Saturday, May 4 • 11 am - 5 pm • Free Admission

Berkeley Public Library, 2090 Kittredge St. • Presented by Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria

Youth/Family-oriented Author Talks and Book Signings • Story Time Readings • Middle Grade Authors Teen/YA Programs

Graphic Novels, Fantasy, Mystery, Superheroes, Sci-Fi, Family, Coming of Age, Black Joy, Latina Expressions, AANHPI Stories, Youth Poets, Native American Voices + much more!

"Star Wars: May the 4th Be With You" Cosplay - Come Dressed in Costume!

Family Day is BARTable. Only two short blocks from the Downtown Berkeley BART Station.