

PEARSALL'S POTENTIAL

49ers' new wideout put in work to rise to first round.

SPORTING GREEN, B1



CLEANUP CREW FOR DOWNTOWN

Five of S.F.'s top employers created volunteer group to restore city, reputation.

BAY AREA NEWS & BUSINESS, A9



GOSLING IS THAT GUY

Affable actor is the spark for fizzling 'The Fall Guy.'

DATEBOOK, B7

San Francisco Chronicle

SFCHRONICLE.COM

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024

CONTAINS RECYCLED PAPER

\$3.00

Over 200 arrested at UCLA camp

Officers in riot gear move in on pro-Palestinian demonstrators

By Jordan Parker

Police arrested more than 200 pro-Palestinian protesters at UCLA early Thursday morning, authorities confirmed.

The arrests came a week after students and community members pitched tents in front of Royce Hall to support Palestinians in Gaza and demand the UC system divest from business relations with Israel.

There were no serious injuries to officers or protesters when 210 people were arrested, said Los An-

INSIDE

Are actions by protesters, universities lawful? A12

Biden says 'order must prevail' in protests. A13

geles Police Chief Dominic Choi.

In a statement to the campus community Thursday, UCLA Chancellor Gene D. Block said the Bruin community "is in deep pain."

"The past week has been among the most painful periods our UCLA community has experienced," he said. "Protest continues on A12"



Ethan Swope/Associated Press

Police detain a protester in a pro-Palestinian camp at UCLA on Thursday. Videos showed protesters fighting with police as they tried to get in the camp.

California electricity prices now 2nd highest

PG&E says most of 20% rate hike in January goes to infrastructure

By Julie Johnson

North Beach resident Serena Satyasai never thought much about her utility bill, but that was before February when California's electricity prices rose to become the highest in the contiguous United States, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Satyasai's Pacific Gas and Electric Co. bill jumped by about \$100 compared with the same month last year. Like many of PG&E's 5.5 million customers, she's having to rescript her monthly budget around these rising costs.

"Everyone is getting squeezed," Satyasai said. Propelled in large part by PG&E, which hiked residential electricity rates by 20% for about 16 million Californians in January, the state's high electricity prices are second only to Hawaii, which is always an expensive outlier because of the costs of shipping oil to the far-flung archipelago.

A pack of New England states have historically had some of the nation's highest electricity prices (the federal government doesn't track rates but rather calculates prices using customer counts, sales and revenue data) due to factors such as a shortage in natural gas pipeline capacity plus the region's reliance on costly fossil fuels to generate electricity.

But California has joined them in the past 10 years, leapfrogging with Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire to periodically hold the title as the most expensive state for electricity usage in the lower 48. (Even though Californians pay a high amount for each unit of electricity, their total bills tend to be lower than

Electricity continues on A11



Loren Elliott/Special to the Chronicle

A spectator sitting in a window watches Wednesday as protesters participate in a March for Palestine rally through the Mission District. The march was inspired by the May Day Vietnam War protests of 1971.

May Day marchers stress workers' rights, Gazans' plight

By Nora Mishanec, Erin Allday and Rachel Swan

Hundreds of May Day protesters marched through San Francisco city streets, and dozens more rallied outside a closed Port of Oakland, both groups chanting for workers' rights — a cause made more urgent than ever by the war in Gaza, participants said.

The San Francisco protest, inspired by the May Day Vietnam War pro-



Brontë Wittpenn/The Chronicle

High school teacher Sunshine Roque, 33, marches along Mission Street during the rally.

tests of 1971 that resulted in the largest mass arrest in U.S. history, is an annual pro-labor rally. This year's event mingled with ongoing pro-Palestinian movements, including boisterous protests that have swept over American college campuses.

Hundreds of students have been arrested nationwide, and a violent attack at a pro-Palestinian encampment at UCLA early Wednesday raised concerns of similar unrest at almost daily. March continues on A12

Mayoral hopefuls propose housing crisis solutions

By J.D. Morris

Mayor London Breed considers herself a champion of the YIMBY movement that seeks an aggressive expansion of new homes in expensive cities such as San Francisco where residential development is advancing at a glacial pace.

Now, Breed is trying to defeat four serious reelection challengers who each argue they could do a better job at alleviating San Francisco's notorious housing crisis marked by astronomical rents, million-dollar-plus sales prices, byzantine permitting and a dearth of construction. Some candidates hope to chip away at Breed's support among her YIMBY allies.

Mark Farrell, one of Breed's moderate opponents in the mayor's race, became the latest candidate to make a big push for the pro-housing vote on Thursday when he released a list of ideas intended to increase supply, cut red tape and improve financing conditions for new development. Farrell unveiled his proposals days before he's set to meet with the San Francisco chapter of YIMBY Action, a housing advocacy group that has already met with Breed and two of her major challengers, Daniel Lurie and Ahsha Safai. The chapter hopes

Housing continues on A11

Bay Area diners cut back on eating out as costs increase

By Mario Cortez

San Mateo teacher Hannah Brown used to go out to a restaurant with her husband once a week. Now, dates are down to every other week. They're not alone, as many around the Bay Area are also dining out less frequently than they used to.

Brown is one of hundreds who responded to a recent San Francisco Chronicle survey on how they've handled eating out

as menu prices at restaurants have risen in the past few years.

Of the nearly 600 people who responded by April 25, 80% said they were eating at restaurants less often. The other 20% said they were dining out the same amount.

Our survey came after seeing reactions to our coverage of one San Francisco restaurant's decision to offer a \$22 burrito, though conversations about the increasing cost of dining have

been a constant since the height of the pandemic.

Unsurprisingly, resignation and disappointment were common responses to the upward trajectory on prices. The terms "high" or "expensive" appeared in about 25% of responses.

Just a couple of years ago, Sausalito retiree Jean Patterson would split the bill with her husband, with a total coming to around \$50 or \$60 per head, she said. Now, when going out to

dinner with friends, she is paying up to \$100 for a salad to share, an entree and drinks.

"I still go out and do this because I enjoy it, but it is a bit frustrating," Patterson said, noting she is now going out two or three times a week instead of almost daily.

Others are cutting dining as a budgeting tactic. Brown, the teacher in San Mateo, said she and her husband did not eat out from mid-January through Val-

entine's Day as part of a "no-spend" month. And some locals have stopped going to restaurants altogether. "I have always tried to support local restaurants as I appreciate having them here, but now I just can't afford to anymore," a retired reader wrote.

A Chronicle analysis of sales tax data shows San Francisco's restaurants aren't actually making more money compared

Dining continues on A10

