

30 YEARS IN ONE SHOW

Smuin's season finale shows stylistic variety.

DATEBOOK, B7



DANIELS TAKES THE STAND

Porn actress describes at trial Trump encounter central to payoff charge.

NATION & WORLD, A1



HAPPY DAY FOR ALL

Willie Mays' birthday gives everyone a reason to cheer.

SPORTING GREEN, B1

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Photos by Brian L. Frank/Special to the Chronicle

The picture-perfect ridge known as Molok Luyuk will be added to the 330,000-acre Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. Molok Luyuk contains about 450 plant species, 7% of the state's total.

Biden adds land to national monument

Site north of S.F. filled with natural beauty, cultural significance

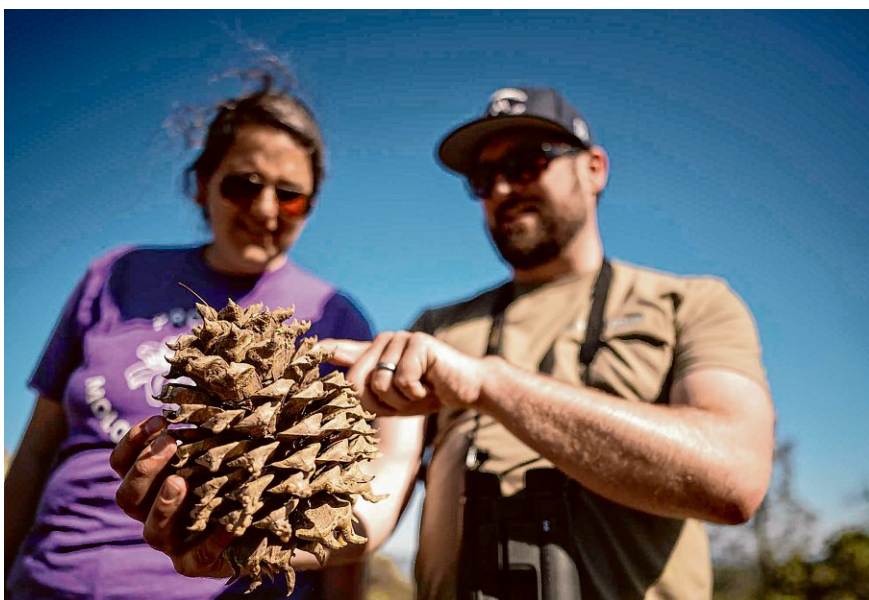
By Kurtis Alexander

WALKER RIDGE, Colusa County — Up a long dirt road flanked by wildflower-drenched meadows and rolling green mountains, about 120 miles north of San Francisco, lies California's newest national monument land.

President Joe Biden announced Thursday, after months of speculation, that 13,696 acres of federal land along the picture-perfect ridge known as Molok Luyuk would be added to the 330,000-acre Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. He cited the area's "prolific botanical richness" and tribal significance. The monument, in the inner Coast Range, was created in 2015.

Plans for the newly designated land in Lake and Colusa counties are not set. But a recent tour of the unpaved Walker Ridge Road revealed the many possibilities for the future of the site, inspired by its natural beauty and cultural past. Among the visions is to turning the road, an old trade route for tribes with views of distant Mount Shasta and the Sierra Nevada, into part of a lengthy recreational trail running from

Monument continues on A9



Geoff Benn, with the conservation group Tuleyome, visits with California Deputy Secretary for Tribal Affairs Geneva E.B. Thompson.

"To me, it's clear that we need to do more to protect cultural sites and biodiversity. This is a really big deal."

Wade Crowfoot, California's natural resources secretary

S.F. tax plan aims to propel recovery

Measure aids small businesses, tries to get workers back to office

By Laura Waxmann, Roland Li and J.D. Morris

San Francisco voters will likely consider a sweeping business tax overhaul in November that advocates say is critical to make the city a competitive corporate destination and aid struggling small businesses as it continues to grapple with the fallout from remote work.

The proposed measure, filed on Monday by two business leaders, would cut taxes and fees for small companies and shift the city's main business tax away from payroll expenses and toward sales, which backers say would encourage job creation and even encourage employers to have more workers in the office.

Supporters hope the city will become less reliant on its biggest employers, with the five biggest currently paying nearly a quarter of all business taxes. But some sectors such as retailers and biotech could see their taxes rise.

Business leaders say the changes are critical as San Francisco has both the highest taxes of any California city and one of the slowest pandemic recoveries. Remote work cost the city \$484 million in lost tax revenue in 2021, and a record-high office vacancy rate is expected to hurt property tax revenue further, raising fears of a "doom loop" and budget deficit that could swell to \$1 billion. The urgency has

Tax plan continues on A10

Effectiveness of S.F. sex crime office questioned

By Megan Cassidy and Susie Neilson

When allegations of sexual abuse against rising San Francisco political star Jon Jacobo surfaced in April, the reports contained a familiar refrain: The three women said police had failed to sensitively and thoroughly investigate their cases.

In 2018, when a dozen women and advocates had voiced similar complaints about reporting sex crimes, city officials created a new office to fix the system that had let down so many survivors.

The Office of Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention, or SHARP, promised to process victims' complaints about city departments' handling of their cases and to help them access services. It would notify departments if one of their employees was accused of breaking the law or failed to follow policy for reporting sex crimes, and it could require city employees to meet with the survivor to hear out their concerns. Ultimately, SHARP's staff would distill what it learned into policy proposals to help reform a process widely seen

SHARP continues on A8

Crime dropping in all but one S.F. neighborhood

Noe Valley sees increase of 15% in reports compared with city's overall 30% decrease

By Danielle Echeverria

Reported crime has plummeted in San Francisco. In the first four months of 2024, the number of reported crimes fell by 30% compared with the same time period in 2023. The most notable declines have been in property crimes such as larceny theft.

But not every neighborhood is experiencing the trend the same way.

A Chronicle analysis of police data shows that nearly every neighborhood in San Francisco saw less reported crime in the

first four months of 2024 compared with the first four months in 2023, a trend consistent with a city and nationwide decrease in both reported violent and reported property crimes through the end of 2023. Most neighborhoods saw reported crime fall somewhere between 10% and 50%.

But one San Francisco neighborhood — Noe Valley — saw the opposite.

Noe Valley, a quiet, charming residential area in the center of the city, experiences less crime overall than the city on average. But from January through April

of this year, crime rose 15% compared with the same time in 2023.

Noe Valley saw notable increases in burglaries and larceny theft, which includes car break-ins that make up more than half of the reported crimes in Noe Valley. Larceny thefts, which rose by 23% in Noe Valley, have plummeted by almost 40% city-wide. The number of stolen cars, by contrast, fell from 50 in the first months of 2023, to 35 in the same period this year.

The neighborhood experiences very little violent crime overall. There were no homicides reported in the first four months of 2023 or 2024, and the number of

Crime continues on A9



Gabrielle Lurie/The Chronicle

Noe Valley sees less crime than other neighborhoods, but larceny thefts and burglaries were up in the first four months this year.

