

'THIS IS A MOVEMENT'

Killion: Bay FC's sold-out game shows bright future.

SPORTING GREEN, B1



THOUSANDS RALLY IN ISRAEL

Anti-government protesters demand early elections, urge cease-fire deal for hostages.

NATION & WORLD, A1



KIDS ARE ON BOARD

Chess tourney scores big with area students.

BAY AREA & BUSINESS, A2

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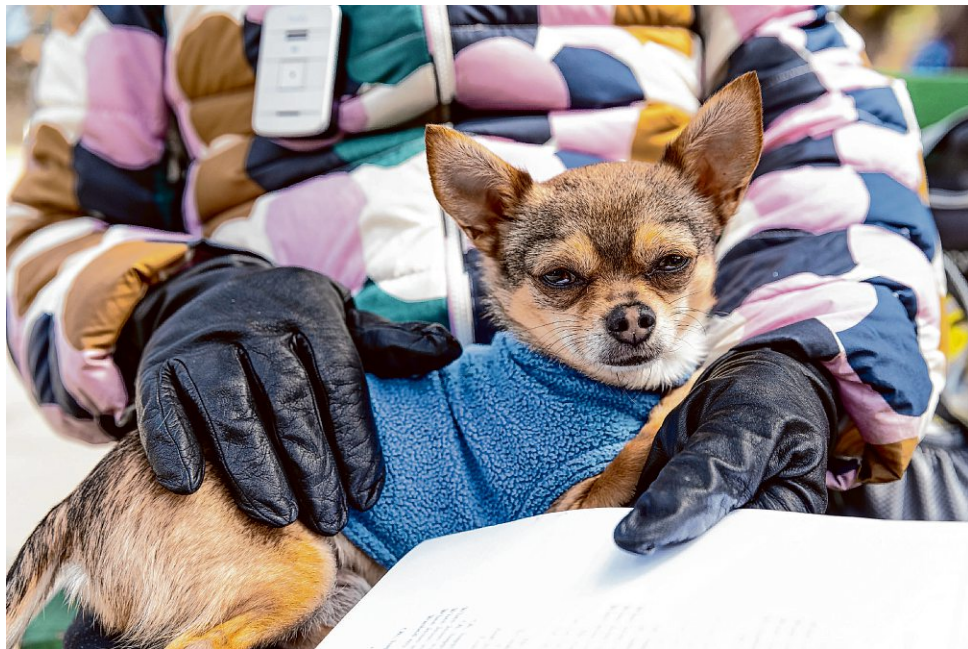
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A GOOD EGG



City Church of San Francisco, an institution as inclusive as its name suggests, welcomed all to its Easter services Sunday in Golden Gate Park. The celebration, held at the band shell under sunny skies, attracted Mina, above, hunting for Easter eggs, as well as Chewbacca the dog, below.

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PHOTOS BY LIZZY MONTANA MYERS/SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Nearly empty buildings guzzling energy

By Joseph Howlett

San Francisco's downtown offices still haven't returned to pre-pandemic levels of use, as many workers continue to prefer their home offices. But the buildings they left behind kept thrumming with wasted energy.

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, when

many of these buildings were nearly or completely vacant, they continued to guzzle immense amounts of energy, according to city data analyzed by the Chronicle.

Of the 100 highest energy users reporting in 2022, the most recent data available, 43 were office buildings, the largest segment. Among them, five office

buildings that remained at least 90% vacant well into 2023 combined to use almost half as much energy as the Empire State Building in 2022 — enough to power at least a thousand homes.

"I think work has changed," said Bianca Howard, professor and director of the Building Energy Research Laboratory

at Columbia University. "I don't know if we will go back to how things were before."

But substantial barriers exist to either reducing these hollowed-out office buildings' consumption or putting them to a different use, she added.

Large buildings' managers have to report how

Energy continues on A7

Regulators propose flat rate on utility bill

Change could cut some customers' electricity bills by \$33 a month

By Julie Johnson

Millions of Californians could see a new \$24 fixed charge on their monthly utility bills in coming years if state regulators approve a plan that would reduce how much customers pay per kilowatt hour of electricity.

The California Public Utilities Commission estimates the new flat fee would allow companies like Pacific Gas and Electric to reduce electricity prices by about 5 to 7 cents per kilowatt hour, easing the expense for customers already paying some of the highest electricity prices in the country.

The fixed rates are intended to help utilities cover some basic costs while reducing electricity prices at a time when California wants households to electrify and shift away from fossil fuel energy sources used in gas stoves and cars.

Linda Serizawa, interim director of the commission's Public Advocates Office, which works to lower ratepayer costs, said that the proposal would not increase utility profits and is meant to make utility bills fairer.

"We support the proposal," she said, adding that a flat rate "will reduce electric bills for low-income customers and cut the price of electricity for all customers."

Utility continues on A7

Reckoning took years for woman in predator cases

By Raheem Hosseini and Daniel Lempres

Rachel Tolliver was in an Apostolic Christian church in San Francisco when she was reminded of the devil from her past.

It was 2011 and Tolliver, then in her early 20s, had known a hard road. Raised around addiction and abuse, and having spent time in multiple group homes, the Bayview native was well versed in the ways that adults and systems can disappoint the children in their care. She was "over it all — just over life, to be quite frank," she said. So she came asking God for a reason to go on.

"I made every single day of my life church," she said. "Sunday all the way through Saturday, going to church. I was very committed to that."

Then, one evening, Tolliver caught curious looks from parishioners who lived in her building. They said the police were looking for her. One handed her a business card with a detective's name on it. Tolliver concealed her embarrassment.

"No one wants to go around saying, 'Yeah, I was molested,'" she said. "That's how it all began again."

In 2001, when she was 12, Tolliver was molested by a man named Robert Earl Thomas Jr. He was her uncle in a roundabout way — married to a woman who used to be married to her dad's broth-

Abuse continues on A8

Mission High seniors defy odds to make it into elite universities

School's focus on resources, guidance proves pivotal to success rates

By Jill Tucker

The seniors at San Francisco's Mission High School don't pay attention to the odds that say children of immigrants, teens exposed to violence, Black and brown kids, unhoused students, or those living in poverty are far less likely to go to college than their wealthier, white and Asian American peers.

Instead, the vast majority of 12th graders at the school send out multiple applications to universities across California and the country every fall and then wait a few months for the hundreds of acceptances to flood their email inboxes.

For years, the school has been a standout in University of California acceptance rates, especially at UC Berkeley, where 43% of 90 applicants were ad-

mitted for the fall of 2023, edging out academic powerhouses like Lowell High School, where 14% were admitted.

And 92% of Mission seniors were accepted to at least one UC campus — the top of California's three-tier public university system.

Teachers, counselors and administrators have thumbed their noses at the odds for

Mission continues on A9



Brontë Wittpenn/The Chronicle

Michael Lowe, 17, applied to nine universities and has received acceptance letters from five UCs and CSUs.

