

VAMPIRES
GO LEGIT

Berkeley Rep show brings
blood-suckers to stage

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NEW POST FOR
CHESA BOUDIN

Former S.F. district attorney will lead
criminal justice center at UC Berkeley

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BIG SHOES
TO FILL

Warriors taking time to find
Bob Myers' successor

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San Francisco Chronicle

SFCHRONICLE.COM

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023

CONTAINS RECYCLED PAPER

\$3.00

Mayor unveils \$14.6 billion plan as city stares down \$780 million hole



Photos by Jessica Christian/The Chronicle

Debt deal draws ire of state's Dems for 3 reasons

Trio of trade-offs riles
as bill OK'd by House

By Shira Stein

A compromise to prevent a default on the federal government's debts has California Democrats riled over concessions made by the White House that they say could harm their constituents.

The U.S. government has — since the early 1900s — periodically reached a legal limit on how much money it can borrow, requiring Congress to increase that ceiling. Negotiations between Republicans and the White House went on for weeks and cut it close to the deadline, but the two parties announced they had reached an agreement Sunday evening.

The legislation passed the House on Wednesday evening and will head to the Senate in the coming days. The vote split the Bay Area members of Congress. Four Bay Area Democrats opposed the bill — Reps. Mark DeSaulnier, Jared Huffman, Ro Khanna and Barbara Lee — while Reps. Anna Eshoo, John Garamendi, Zoe Lofgren, Kevin Mullin, Jimmy Panetta, Nancy Pelosi, Eric Swalwell and Mike Thompson supported the measure.

The deal included an agreement to suspend the debt limit, provisions on federal spending and some policy changes that included concessions from both sides. Progressive Democrats are unhappy with three of the provisions in particular: changes to work requirements for people on the supplemental nutrition assistance program, or SNAP, waiving environmental impact assessments for some federal actions and ending the pause on student loan repayments.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Bakersfield, called the bill the “biggest cut in the history of America,” while speaking to reporters in the Capitol Wednesday. “We’ll have work requirements on welfare to help people get a job, we’ll have reformed

Trade-offs continues on A7

S.F.'s budget hefty, just like its deficit

By J.D. Morris and
Mallory Moench

San Francisco's budget is expected to reach \$14.6 billion — a record high — for each of the next two fiscal years, even as it works to close a massive two-year deficit of about \$780 million. The latest spending plan for the city and county, announced Wednesday by Mayor London Breed, increased from \$14 billion in the current fiscal year because tax revenue is still growing year over year, as are the city's expenses, including labor costs.

Because of the economic headwinds facing San Francisco, tax revenue growth hasn't been fast enough to keep up with the city's rising costs, producing the deficit it has to close



Above: Homelessness advocate Jennifer Friedenbach protests during Breed's address Wednesday.

Top: San Francisco Mayor London Breed set aside money in her proposed budget for increases in SFPD spending and for funding to battle homelessness.

this year.

As she prepared to close the deficit, Breed ordered City Hall departments to submit sharply reduced spending proposals ahead of this year's budget negotiations. But her administration has avoided painful across-the-board service cuts in a variety of ways, such as leaving vacant jobs unfilled, spending less money on equipment and technology, and shifting funding for some programs to sources such as opioid lawsuit settlement funds from pharmaceutical companies instead of pulling from the general fund. The city also dipped into reserves to balance the budget.

The mayor was still able to set aside money to fund her top priorities, boosting funding for the

Budget continues on A8

PG&E to pay \$50 million to settle last criminal suit over California wildfires

By Julie Johnson

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. has agreed to pay \$50 million in a civil agreement with prosecutors, bringing to a close the company's criminal prosecution in Shasta County in the wake of the 2020 Zogg Fire that killed four people outside Redding.

The agreement with the Shasta County District Attorney's Office, announced Wednesday, ensures the civil penalties will be paid by PG&E's shareholders and not by customers. Patti Poppe, PG&E's chief executive officer, said in a statement that the agreement “reflects our continuing commitment to making it right and making it safe.”

The deal brings to a close the last pending criminal case

against PG&E stemming from major wildfires, capping a years-long battle with destructive and deadly fires ignited by PG&E power lines that drove the utility to seek bankruptcy protection from billion-dollar liabilities and left communities across Northern California in ashes.

Four people were killed in the fast-moving Zogg Fire, which started near Igo on Sept. 27, 2020. They were 8-year-old Fela McLeod, her mother, Alaina Rowe McLeod, Karin King and Kenneth Vossen, all residents of Shasta County. The fire destroyed about 200 structures and burned 56,000 acres in Shasta and Tehama counties.

Cal Fire investigators con-

PG&E continues on A8

From hut in Guatemala to straight A's in school

Senior left home, family to seek a 'better future' in S.F.



Yalonda M. James/The Chronicle

At 17, Oliser Aguilar had a sixth-grade education. Four years later, he has a 3.9 GPA and plans to go to community college.

By Jill Tucker

Oliser Aguilar was 17 when he left his dirt-floor hut in a small village in Guatemala, determined to make it to the United States. He had nothing but the clothes on his back and a sixth-grade education.

On that day four years ago, he left his mother and grandmother behind without saying goodbye.

“I just started walking,” said Aguilar, adding he was penniless and spoke no English.

But he had an uncle in the Bay Area and a choice between a life of abject poverty toiling in

Aguilar continues on A9

