

## MISPLACED DANGER

Killion: Trans athletes not the problem in women's sports.

SPORTING GREEN, B1



## TREE-KILLING DISEASE RETURNS

A new, more potent form of the pathogen behind sudden oak death is discovered.

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## TOP-NOTCH CAST

S.F. Opera's production of 'Carmen' sparkles.

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Brontë Wittpenn/The Chronicle

Daniel Lurie walks with his wife, Becca Prowda, before casting his ballot on Election Day at City Hall.

## Overdose deaths in S.F. fall to new low

City leaders tout 'remarkable' progress in fentanyl crisis fight

By Catherine Ho

The number of people who died from accidental drug overdoses in San Francisco fell in October to 32, the lowest number since the city began releasing monthly death figures in 2020 — a continuation of what officials called "remarkable" progress against the deadly fentanyl crisis.

The preliminary figures, released Monday by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, mark a 20% year-to-date decline compared with 2023. The numbers are likely to rise once they become final.

The number of deaths involving fentanyl was 24 — which would be one of the lowest numbers since the city began reporting monthly data. October was the fifth consecutive month both fentanyl deaths and overall overdose deaths declined, according to three-month averages for both data points.

San Francisco's decline mirrors a nationwide dip in fatal overdoses. Overdose deaths were down roughly 15% for the 12 months ending in June 2024 compared with the 12 months ending in June 2023, according to provisional data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Mayor London Breed and Health Director Dr.

Overdose continues on A9

## A not-so-secret weapon for Lurie

Newsom, others praise S.F.'s incoming first lady

By Nora Mishanec and Sophia Bollag

Daniel Lurie won the San Francisco mayor's race after pitching himself as an outsider promising to shake up City Hall. But his wife, Becca Prowda, is a consummate political insider whose considerable government savvy is poised to make her a powerful force in her husband's administration.

Prowda served as an aide to Gavin Newsom during his tenure as San Francisco mayor and is now his chief of protocol in Sacramento. People who have worked with her described her as personable and gracious, as comfortable campaigning door-to-door as she is chatting with diplomats on overseas trips with the governor.

Her office is directly across the hall from Newsom's in Sacramento, where for five years she



Gabrielle Lurie/The Chronicle

Prowda claps in St. Mary's Square as her husband speaks a day after winning the mayoral race.

has helped shepherd his transition into a Democratic bulldog and international statesman. Former staffers say that proximity underscores her close relationship with the governor. Her deep political connections are already visible in Lurie's transition team, which includes former Newsom Chief of Staff Ann O'Leary, with whom Prowda worked closely

managing the state government's response to the pandemic in 2020.

Prowda, 46, has not decided whether she will give up her job in the Newsom administration when her husband becomes mayor in January. In an interview Thursday, Prowda called working for Newsom "the honor of a lifetime" and said she is uncertain how big a role

she wants to play in the Lurie administration.

People who know the couple said Prowda's institutional knowledge and political acumen will undoubtedly be an asset to Lurie, who is an heir to the Levi Strauss fortune and the founder of an anti-poverty nonprofit.

"She's the not-so-secret weapon of the Lurie administration," said Dan Newman, a longtime Newsom adviser and the strategist behind the independent campaign that helped propel Lurie into the mayor's office.

While her husband has never held elected office, Prowda is intimately familiar with City Hall. She spent nearly five years in Newsom's mayoral administration, first as an assistant and later managing international relationships and important events.

From her desk outside Prowda continues on A9

## 'Bathroom bill' targets trans Dem lawmaker

By Shira Stein

WASHINGTON — A Republican lawmaker is using the election of the first openly transgender member of Congress as a vehicle to introduce a new "bathroom bill" proposal to ban transgender people from using restrooms aligned with their gender identity in the U.S. Capitol.

Rep.-elect Sarah McBride, a Democrat, will be the first transgender lawmaker after winning Delaware's sole House seat. While she and other incoming members were going through orientation, one of her new colleagues, Rep. Nancy Mace of South Carolina, introduced a resolution directly aimed at her.

Mace's resolution would prohibit transgender lawmakers and staff from using single-sex facilities that don't correspond with their assigned sex at birth.

The bill appears to signal that some Republicans are willing to extend their efforts to limit transgender people's rights to include their own colleagues and could portend harsher attacks on transgender people in a Republican-controlled White House and

Trans continues on A9

## Data shows where voters turned against Alameda DA

By Danielle Echeverria and David Hernandez

In 2022, San Leandro resident Gerard Monaghan voted for Pamela Price, then a progressive candidate for Alameda County's district attorney, hoping that she would bring "new ideas" to the office.

But two years later, he changed his mind on her, voting for her to be recalled from office.

"I was willing to see if something else was going to work," he said, adding that he believes the approach of the past, with its reliance on jails and prisons, was not effective. But Price's reform-oriented direction didn't appear to curb crime considerably,

he said, prompting him to rethink. He wondered whether a "middle approach" would be better to address public safety.

Monaghan is not alone. Support for Price, who was recalled, fell from 53% in her 2022 election to just 34% this year. Strikingly, the voters who turned against her tended to live in the poorest and most heavily Black and Latino parts of the county.

In the San Leandro voting precinct where Monaghan lives, a small, quiet residential area lined with single-family homes between Interstate 580 and East 14th Street, Price lost support from a third of the electorate. Recall continues on A8



Santiago Mejia/The Chronicle

East Oakland resident Noah Camene, 41, voted in favor of the recall of Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price.

