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Today: COVID-19 data

Charts illustrate how dramatically Bay Area and California coronavirus numbers have dropped since the beginning of the year.



Sporting Green

Curry scores 41 as Warriors zero in on playoff berth with win over Pelicans. **C1**

Nation

Bill, Melinda Gates to divorce, but keep their foundation. **A5**



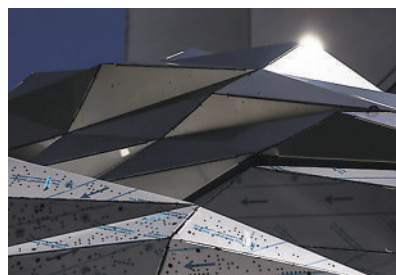
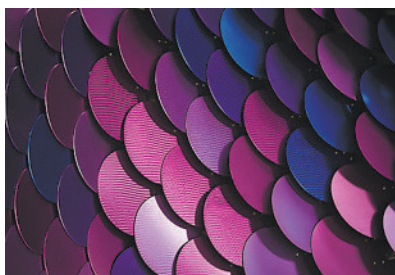
San Francisco Chronicle

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JOHN KING *Urban Design*



Photos by Santiago Mejia / The Chronicle



Dems angle for climate progress

Legislation could have big impact in Bay Area

By Tal Kopan and J.D. Morris

Now that Democrats have full control of Washington for the first time in a decade, Bay Area lawmakers want to make sure they don't walk away empty-handed. For many of them, that means seeing green.

After several years of historically severe wildfires, heat waves and recurring drought conditions, bills related to climate change are at the top of the agenda for many lawmakers with local ties.

Some of the legislative proposals focus on energy issues, such as investing in electric vehicle charging stations and planning job transitions for fossil fuel workers. Others would address the threats of extreme weather by allocating more money to reduce wildfire risks, strengthen water infrastructure and upgrade the electric grid.

The political calculus is fraught. On one hand, Bay Area lawmakers want to deliver tangible

Climate continues on A7

► **Joe Garofoli:** New ad in Newsom recall campaign designed to be a real talker. **B1**

Uber delivers best new public space

Headquarters in San Francisco's Mission Bay creates an oasis with pedestrian pathways, art-studded park

No tech firm embodies the dubious virtues of "disruption" more than Uber, the 2009 startup now valued at \$102 billion that relies on "independent" drivers who clog city streets while trying to make a decent living.

But its new headquarters in San Francisco's Mission Bay shows that sometimes, disruption can be a good thing.

Uber's 6- and 11-story buildings on Third Street are understated but suave, with layers of detail on view behind the sleek glass walls. The art-studded park and pedestrian way between them already is a lush oasis within this neighborhood that didn't exist 20 years ago. And even though the structures are private, the landscape is wide open to passersby — another example of how

Top: The new Uber headquarters in the Mission Bay neighborhood features bridges that connect the buildings, which are private, but the landscape is open to the public. Above left: Long slabs of stone double as seating along Pierpoint Lane between Third Street and Bridgeview Way. Above center and right: Details of an unfinished art installation called "Orbital" by Jason Kelly Johnson and Nataly Gattegno.

San Francisco continues to offer new attractions, no matter how bleak the past year's news might have been.

Uber's new home, developed by the company in conjunction with Alexandria Real Estate Equities, offers a vantage point on how aspirations for Mission Bay have grown since redevelopment plans for the former railyard were approved in 1998.

To the west is housing for UCSF-Mission Bay, the medical campus that jump-started the long-dormant area. To the east, a pair of office buildings from the early 2000s would look at home in a suburban office park. On the block to the south, the Golden State Warriors opened their gleaming orb, Chase Center, in 2019.

Uber continues on A9

S.F. reparations task force soon to begin work

By Shwanika Narayan

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors is slated to approve a 15-member African American Reparations Advisory Committee on Tuesday, which would make the city the first of its size to take such a concrete step to explore what reparations could look like for its Black residents.

Over the next two years, the committee plans to explore possible financial compensation and other recommendations for the descendants of enslaved people. It would examine how slavery, segregation, redlining, predatory financial practices, and other social and political ills contributed to the mistreatment and subsequent wealth gap and other disparities affecting Black people in the city.

Reparations continues on A7

STD cases fell in 2020, but not for a lack of sex

By Erin Allday

Reports of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, appear to have dropped sharply in the Bay Area in 2020. But public health officials fear it's not because people stopped having sex during the pandemic — it's because STD testing was pushed aside while everyone's attention was on COVID-19.

In other words: People were still getting STDs, but many of them didn't know it.

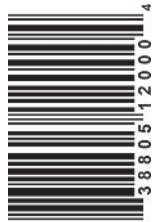
Most counties don't yet have complete STD data for 2020, but early reports suggest large decreases in cases. San Francisco recorded drops for all types of sexually transmitted diseases, according to preliminary data. That would be a remarkable turnaround after more than five years of cases climbing or holding

Sex continues on A8

Weather



Plenty of sunshine. Highs: 58-93. Lows: 45-56. **CB**



Limits, weather making start of salmon season slow, costly

By Tara Duggan



Scott Strazzante / The Chronicle

Some 250 pounds of salmon are unloaded from the fishing boat Doris at H&H Fresh Fish in Santa Cruz on Sunday.

The first glistening, coral-red fillets of California king salmon arrived in Bay Area stores Monday after the commercial season opened this weekend. But windy, choppy weather and regulations limiting where fishing can take place meant the season got off to a slow and expensive start.

"It's decent fishing they've been doing," said Hans Have-man, a fisherman and co-owner of H&H Fresh Fish in Santa Cruz Harbor, where he purchases salmon from fishermen and then sells it at a retail store and Bay Area

Salmon continues on A8

FROM THE COVER

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Bounty.
“Everybody is in the bay because it’s the only place to hide from the afternoon wind,” Bates said. “It’s calm in the morning. By noon or 2 the wind whips everything up into a mess.”

The limited season means they don’t have much of a choice, Bates said.

“We feel pressure to fish in bad weather where there’s so few days,” she said. “We’re pretty much going to go fishing no matter what.”

To add to their challenges, there was a high swell, and then water temperature dropped 3 degrees Sunday night, said John Koeppen, captain of the Lulu out of Santa Cruz. That scared away the salmon’s main food source, anchovies, which in turn caused the salmon to disappear.

“The anchovies are really fragile, and they can’t take that kind of temperature shock. Now everybody’s looking for the anchovies,” he said, laughing. “I need a fish-sniffing dog.”

The weather is supposed to improve, however, and there should be more fish this weekend in time for Mother’s Day, said Koeppen, who is also on the Pacific Fishery Management Council’s salmon advisory subpanel.

Haveman said it’s too bad salmon has become such a luxury item, similar to crab in that it’s something you might eat a few times a year rather than every summer weekend.

“It’s kind of sad,” he said. “Salmon has turned from a barbecue fish to a birthday fish.”

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Sex from page A8

Dr. Curtis Moore, director of the STD unit for the Alameda County Department of Public Health, expects to see more cases of advanced infections in people who have delayed testing and treatment. He worries about high school and college students who haven’t had access to campus services for testing or education.

“Schools have not been in session for an extended period in the county,” he said. “I’m not sure where those teenagers and young adults were getting screened, or if they were at all.”

Park, the UCSF family medicine physician, said she anticipates a spike in infections as people emerge from more than a year of sheltering. She’s supportive of people resuming their sex lives in ways that feel appropriate for them. But she worries they may be reckless.

“Now that people are vaccinated, I feel like some people are making up for lost time,” Park said. “The fact that people might have been compliant with mask-wearing, I don’t think necessarily means they’ll be compliant with barriers like condoms. I would encourage people to have sex and do so as safely as they can. And to go out and be tested.”

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Santiago Mejia / The Chronicle

Colorful tables and chairs line Pierpoint Lane between Third Street and Bridgeview Way at Uber’s new headquarters.

Uber delivers S.F.’s best new public space

Uber from page A1

What Uber brings to the mix is low-key sophistication — not what you’d expect from a firm with a rapacious image whose founder, Travis Kalanick, once urged people to “be comfortable with confrontation.”

The main attraction is the plaza that begins on Third Street with a path leading into the block amid oak and tulip trees, plentiful shrubs and long slabs of sandstone that double as seating. If that earthy lure weren’t enough to pull you in, other attractions beckon — not only the garden-like landscape but a scatter of playfully hallucinogenic, painted bronze blobs and a 33-foot-high swirl of muscular forms clad in metal scales, like a really hip Transformer.

The 11 curvy blobs are by Berkeley artist Masako Miki, while the immense “Orbital” is by San Francisco’s FutureForms. They’re a nice counterpoint. Miki’s pieces could be half-remembered snippets of trippy dreams, while “Orbital” is so big you can walk through its legs and peer upward through an opening in the domed summit.

Some spaces are bucolic, such as the shrub-softened nook that includes a grassy berm on the northeast corner of the space. Others features are assertive — like the metal bridge behind the berm that ramps up to a second-level outdoor terrace that is part of the public realm within the privately owned, three-quarter-acre space.

As for the sandstone slabs, plaza designer Surfacedesign has them play multiple roles — seating, retaining walls and sculptural presences. Yet they seem almost haphazard, as if they’re geologic evidence of an earthquake eons ago.

In an odd way, the space

reminds me of the romantic naturalism of Levi’s Plaza that landscape legend Lawrence Halprin conjured up in the 1970s at the base of Telegraph Hill. Though the designs are profoundly different — Halprin claimed his shaded park with its meandering stream was meant to evoke a Sierra meadow in Gold Rush days — each is transportive in the best way. You can find a nook and tune out the commercial forces around you.

And the buildings?

Clad in dark glass with bronze accents, tailored in rigorous right angles, they might seem aloof and cold. But there’s a sophistication to the simple forms that adds warmth.

Unlike most new glass buildings, these two don’t have a simple, uniform skin. Some panes are laminated to keep out sunlight. Others are clear enough that you can see the metal staircases inside, or the teak slats that cover interior walls, or the multistory white cubes that contain meeting rooms and seem to hover in space.

It’s a transparency reminiscent of the aged industrial buildings found at nearby Pier 70.

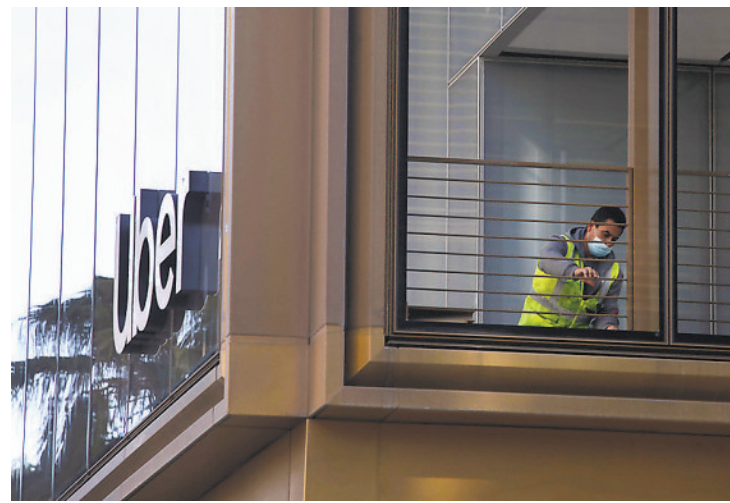
Like those older buildings, this pair has natural ventilation — but with a 21st century twist. Portions of the skin are designed to open, with paired panels folding out like an accordion. This is all automated, linked to a weather station atop one building, and it allows for a natural ventilation found in few large office buildings erected since World War II.

The designer, New York’s Shop Architects, also included one bit of practical flash — diagonal bridges that connect the two buildings at the fourth and sixth floors. It’s a dynamic feature that creates a portal for



Sources: Nextzen, OpenStreetMap

Todd Trumbull / The Chronicle



Lea Suzuki / The Chronicle

Uber’s new home is clad in dark glass with bronze accents.

the walkway from Third Street, especially since the underside of each bridge is mirrored.

All this makes for a much different environment than the crowd-friendly flash of Chase Center, another recent project with big ambitions. The intimate scale beckons you to linger, rather than arrive for an event and then depart.

It’s too early to know whether the plaza will be embraced as part of the necklace of public spaces that are being added near the waterfront south of the Embarcadero. They include the Bay Trail along China Basin, and the deservedly popular Crane Cove Park that

opened last year in Dogpatch.

There’s still a ghostly feel to this part of Mission Bay, given that buildings are only now stirring back to life as the coronavirus pandemic wanes. But the Giants and Warriors again are playing in front of fans, a good sign.

If you’re in the neighborhood, stop by for a look at Mission Bay’s most beguiling snippet of green. And don’t be surprised if it becomes a place you revisit to show your friends.

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WASHINGTON

Biden raises cap on refugees after delay backlash

By Matthew Lee and Zeke Miller

WASHINGTON — President Biden is formally lifting the nation’s refugee cap to 62,500 this year, weeks after facing bipartisan blowback for his delay in lifting former President Donald Trump’s limit of 15,000.

Biden last month moved to expand the eligibility criteria for resettlements, removing one roadblock to refugees entering the U.S. put in place by Trump, but he had initially stopped short of lifting the annual cap,

with aides saying they did not believe it was necessary. But Biden faced sharp pushback for not at least taking the symbolic step of authorizing more refugees to enter the U.S. this year and swiftly reversed course.

Biden, in a statement, said the new limit “erases the historically low number set by the previous administration,” adding that Trump’s cap “did not reflect America’s values as a nation that welcomes and supports refugees.”

“It is important to take this action today to remove any

lingering doubt in the minds of refugees around the world who have suffered so much, and who are anxiously waiting for their new lives to begin,” Biden added.

Biden said it was a “sad truth” that the U.S. would not meet the 62,500 cap by the end of the fiscal year in September, given the pandemic and limitations on the country’s resettlement capabilities — some of which his administration has attributed to the Trump administration’s policies to restrict immigration. That said, they

maintain Biden remains committed to setting the cap at 125,000 for the 2022 fiscal year that starts in October, while they were working to improve U.S. capabilities to process refugees to be able to accept as many of them as possible under the new cap.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken notified Congress on Feb. 12 of a plan to raise the ceiling on admissions to 62,500, but no presidential determination followed. In an emergency declaration on April 16, Biden stated the admission of up to

15,000 refugees set by Trump this year “remains justified by humanitarian concerns and is otherwise in the national interest.”

“Failing to issue a new Determination undermines your declared purpose to reverse your predecessor’s refugee policies,” New Jersey Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez, chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, wrote in a letter to Biden.

Matthew Lee and Zeke Miller are Associated Press writers.