

**STAYING AFLOAT**  
Olympian talks about facing family tragedy during Games.  
**SPORTING GREEN, B1**



**PREPARE FOR PG&E SHUT-OFF**  
Keep household safe, stocked with supplies for planned outages to reduce fire risk.  
**BAY AREA & BUSINESS, A12**



**DEADLY GAME**  
Actor's directorial debut a look into dating show killer.  
**DATEBOOK, B7**

# San Francisco Chronicle

SFCHRONICLE.COM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024

CONTAINS RECYCLED PAPER

\$3.00

## Breed cheers drop in homeless tents



Photos by Gabrielle Lurie/The Chronicle

A San Francisco Public Works crew cleans the streets as Justin, who is unhoused, moves his belongings during a sweep.

**Fentanyl deaths at four-year low; additional options for treatment cited**

By Catherine Ho

The number of people in San Francisco who died from accidental overdoses of fentanyl, the powerful synthetic opioid at the heart of the nation's overdose epidemic, fell to a four-year low in September — a bright spot after years of the drug's escalating devastation.

Twenty-three people died from fentanyl overdoses last month, according to preliminary figures released by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner on Wednesday. That is the lowest number since the city began releasing monthly overdose data in January 2020.

Forty-one people died from overdoses overall in September, a significant drop from last year, when the average of monthly overdose deaths soared to more  
**Fentanyl continues on A10**



The city counted nearly 80 fewer homeless tents in San Francisco than just three months prior to Oct. 2.

*"We are trying to meet people where they are, but the goal is to not let people be comfortable living on the streets of San Francisco when we have an alternative place for you to go."*

Mayor London Breed

**Mayor cites more arrests, citations since Supreme Court decision**

By Maggie Angst

For the third time this year, Mayor London Breed is celebrating that San Francisco has reached the lowest number of homeless tents on record.

City employees and contractors on Oct. 2 counted 242 tents and structures across the city — about half the number tallied in November 2023 and nearly 80 less than just three months prior, according to data collected quarterly by a partnership made up of multiple city agencies. The number of vehicles that people are sleeping in dropped from 613 in November 2023 to 458 earlier this month.

"We are trying to meet people where they are, but the goal is to not let people be comfortable living on the streets."  
**Tents continues on A10**

**Trump vows ban on trans athletes**

By Marisa Ingemi

Former President Donald Trump, referencing a play in a San Jose State women's volleyball match last week, said he would ban transgender women from competing in women's sports if reelected.

San Jose State co-captain Brooke Slusser joined a lawsuit last month seeking to overturn NCAA guidelines that allow transgender women to play under certain conditions. When she joined the suit, Slusser named a teammate she said is transgender.

In an Oct. 10 match, that teammate spiked a ball that hit a San Diego State player  
**SJSU continues on A11**

## Thao slams raid by FBI, assails critics

With recall vote looming, Oakland mayor says she is not target of corruption probe

By Sarah Ravani

With a recall vote looming and opponents striking from every angle, Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao is demanding the FBI tell the public that she's not the target of an ongoing corruption investigation despite federal agents raiding her house in June.

Thao told the Chronicle in an exclusive interview last week that her attorney has sent a letter to the agency requesting an update, but has yet to hear back. She said members of the public deserve to know more — before they vote on her future.

"It is not appropriate to hear nothing from them. ... We know that this is going to weigh a lot on our voters' minds when they go to that poll booth," she said. "But we know that here in the United States, that you are innocent until you are proven guilty. And I want voters to remember that."

The FBI raided Thao's home on June 20 — just two days after the recall election was certified — as well as three properties linked to the politically powerful Duong family. The family, who control the city's curbside recycling contract, had been under  
**Thao continues on A11**



Stephen Lam/The Chronicle

Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao's attorney has asked the FBI for an update in the months since the agency raided her home in June but has yet to hear back. Thao says this "is not appropriate."

