

TRADE PLAN
LESS CLEAR

Ann Killion: Warriors' epic win raises more questions.

SPORTING GREEN, B1



TRUMP TARGETS
2024 PROTESTERS

President threatens noncitizens who took part in rallies against the war in Gaza.

BAY AREA & BUSINESS, A4



FAITHFULL
DIES AT 78

British singer and actress captured spirit of the '60s.

OBITUARIES, A6

San Francisco Chronicle

SFCHRONICLE.COM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025

CONTAINS RECYCLED PAPER

\$3.00

D.C. air crash leaves 67 dead

Army helicopter apparently flew into path of landing American Airlines plane at night over Potomac River



Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/Getty Images

Law enforcement personnel and others stand on a runway Thursday at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport as crews search the Potomac River after Wednesday's midair crash of a helicopter and a passenger jet.

By Lolita C. Baldor,
Tara Copp,
Brian Melley
and Sarah Brumfield
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARLINGTON, Va. — A midair collision between an Army helicopter and an American Airlines flight killed all 67 people aboard the two aircraft, officials said Thursday, as they scrutinized the actions of the military pilot and reported that control tower staffing was "not normal" at the time of the country's worst aviation disaster in a generation.

At least 28 bodies were pulled from the icy waters of the Potomac River after the helicopter apparently flew into the path of the jet late Wednesday while it was landing at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, just across the river from the nation's capital, officials said. The



Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy, left, shown speaking Thursday with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, says he believes Wednesday night's crash could have been avoided.

INSIDE

Trump baselessly blames diversity initiatives, questions actions of Army pilot. **A10**

Fourteen members of a Boston skating community were among the crash victims. **B2**

plane carried 60 passengers and four crew. Three soldiers were aboard the helicopter.

One air traffic controller was doing work normally assigned to two people in the tower at Reagan National when the collision happened, according to a report by the Federal Aviation Administration obtained by the Associated Press.

"The position configuration was not normal for the time of day and volume of traffic," the report said.

President Donald Trump said in a White House news conference that no one had survived.

John Donnelly, the fire chief in the nation's capital, said that "we are now at the point where we are switching from a rescue operation to a recovery operation."

Crash continues on A10

Significant support for Lurie on fentanyl

Supervisors receptive to mayor's proposal to expedite contracting

By J.D. Morris

Mayor Daniel Lurie's proposal to speed up San Francisco's response to the fentanyl crisis was broadly embraced at City Hall and appears likely to pass next week.

Lurie's ordinance, his first major legislative effort since he took office three weeks ago, was advanced unanimously by a Board of Supervisors committee Wednesday. A majority of the entire 11-member board has indicated support for the measure, which would cut red tape in an effort to more quickly address public drug use and homelessness.

The strong show of support from the board indicates that Lurie, who had never held public office before he became mayor, is on track to secure his first political victory since his Jan. 8 inauguration. Several supervisors joined Lurie and dozens of other people, including drug recovery advocates, on the steps of City Hall to rally in favor of the mayor's legislation before Wednesday's committee hearing.

A full vote by the supervisors is expected Tuesday.

"People in San Francisco are suffering. Every day that we don't act is another day of life lost to addiction, to overdose and to despair," Lurie said at the rally. "Our response must be just as urgent as the crisis that we are facing."

Crisis continues on A9

Yosemite leader's departure to leave management void

By Kurtis Alexander

Yosemite National Park Superintendent Cicely Muldoon has announced that she is stepping down at the end of next month, leaving a hole in the management at one of the nation's top parks.

Muldoon's retirement follows a four-decade career at the National Park Service, which includes the past five years at Yosemite and, before that, 10 years as the head of Point Reyes National Seashore.

Muldoon, 59, is known within the federal agency as a manager who builds relationships with communities around parks and as a leader who inspires those who work for her.

The Bay Area native, who has long kept a houseboat in Sausalito and plans to retire there, was not available to discuss her departure with the Chronicle, but she told park employees in a Jan. 13 email that it had been an honor to work for the National Park Service.

Yosemite continues on A8

Trump trans orders to test state's rules

Directives, if upheld by courts, could cut off federal funding for care approved by California

By Bob Egelko

President Donald Trump's order to end federal support for gender-affirming care for minors wouldn't affect laws like California's that allow care, like puberty blockers and hormone therapy, for transgender youths. But the order, if upheld by the courts, might cut off federal funding for medical care the state has approved.

A separate order issued Wednesday threatens to revoke federal funding for schools where teachers refer to transgender children by their preferred name or pronoun, or allow them to use the bathroom that corresponds with their gender identity.

Trans continues on A9



Transgender rights supporters rally in December outside the U.S. Supreme Court during arguments over a case regarding a Tennessee law banning gender-affirming medical care for transgender youths.

Jacquelyn Martin/Associated Press