

CONTAINS RECYCLED PAPER

Toxic metal detected in L.A. after wildfires

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Little-known beryllium showing up in tests of air and homes



Athira Satheesh, left, and Dawn Bolstad-Johnson collect samples early last month from a home in Altadena, a Los Angeles suburb, to test for toxic substances resulting from January's Eaton Fire.

By Megan Fan Munce

Fatal ODs rise again amid shift in supply

\$3.00

S.F.'s 'reconfigured' markets reverse last year's progress

By Maggie Angst and Christian Leonard

When Jorge Morales secured a San Francisco apartment with a federally subsidized housing voucher in early 2024, he was elated. But its location, on the corner of Sixth and Mission streets, immediately concerned his mom.

The area was teeming with drug activity, and Ana Duran worried that her son, who was diagnosed with schizophrenia in his mid-20s, could become involved in it.

Soon after the move, Duran said, Jorge began losing weight and experiencing mood swings. And on March 19, just two weeks after his 35th birthday, Jorge was found dead of a fentanyl overdose alone in his apartment.

"He had everything he could want right outside — alcohol, drugs," Ana said. "It's very painful."

Jorge's death came after a sharp and unprecedented drop in fatal overdoses, which *Deaths continues on A8*

Schools reel as Trump freezes federal grants

and Susie Neilson

Krista Copelan's home didn't burn in the Eaton Fire. But for months afterward, it was filled with poisonous traces of things that did.

Arsenic from treated wood and pesticides in the soil. Copper, likely from the wiring systems of the thousands of homes reduced to ash. Lead, discovered on the floor of her daughter's bedroom, from old paint and leaded gasoline that leached into the ground only to be vaporized by flames.

And on Copelan's kitchen floor: beryllium.

A little-known earth metal prized for being lighter than alu-*Metal continues on A12*



Alisha Jucevic/For the S.F. Chronicle The Altadena home of Krista Copelan had traces of beryllium. She says she won't move back in until she knows the home is safe.

By Jill Tucker

For months, the leaders of Bay Area schools already dealing with budget deficits and declining enrollment have been pinching pennies, trimming staff and wringing their hands, hoping the federal funding allocated to them months ago would land in their bank accounts as promised in early July.

On June 30, at the 11th hour, the Trump administration announced that \$7 billion in grants for after-school programs, literacy instructions and other support services would remain in Washington, D.C., with the funds "under review" to ensure they aligned with presidential priorities.

There was no indication whether California schools would see their \$1 billion share before classes start in the fall – or whether the check *Funding continues on A9*

Lake faces 'apocalyptic' overcrowding

Illegal parking, bad behavior at popular Pinecrest spur crackdown

By Gregory Thomas

A drowning. Heavy traffic. Trash everywhere. Cars parked in fire lanes. Fistfights on the beach. Last summer at bucolic Pinecrest Lake was rough.

The scenic getaway, tucked in a forested granite basin in Tuolumne County off Highway 108, has been a summertime escape for generations of Bay Area and Central Valley residents — some



Tracy Barbutes/For the S.F. Chronicle

Martha Geiszler, who owns a cabin at Pinecrest Lake, has been involved in community discussions for new solutions to curb problem behavior there.

of whom own cabins at the lake. There's a market and restaurant, a marina that rents pontoon party boats, an amphitheater that shows movies under the stars, a campground and a wide sand beach.

Like other outdoor destinations in Northern California that have seen surges in visitation since the pandemic, Pinecrest becomes overcrowded and unmanageable on busy summer weekends, as thousands of people pack the beach.

"There have been some apocalyptic weekends," said Tuolumne County Supervisor Anaiah Kirk, whose district includes *Lake continues on A15*

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WEATHER: Clouds then sun. Highs: 59-92. Lows: 46-56. **B8**



