

ROBERT REDFORD 1936-2025



Robert Redford, an iconic leading man who became a liberal activist and a champion of independent film through the Sundance Institute and its famous festival, died at his home outside Provo, Utah. He was 89.

Movie icon rides off into the Utah sunset

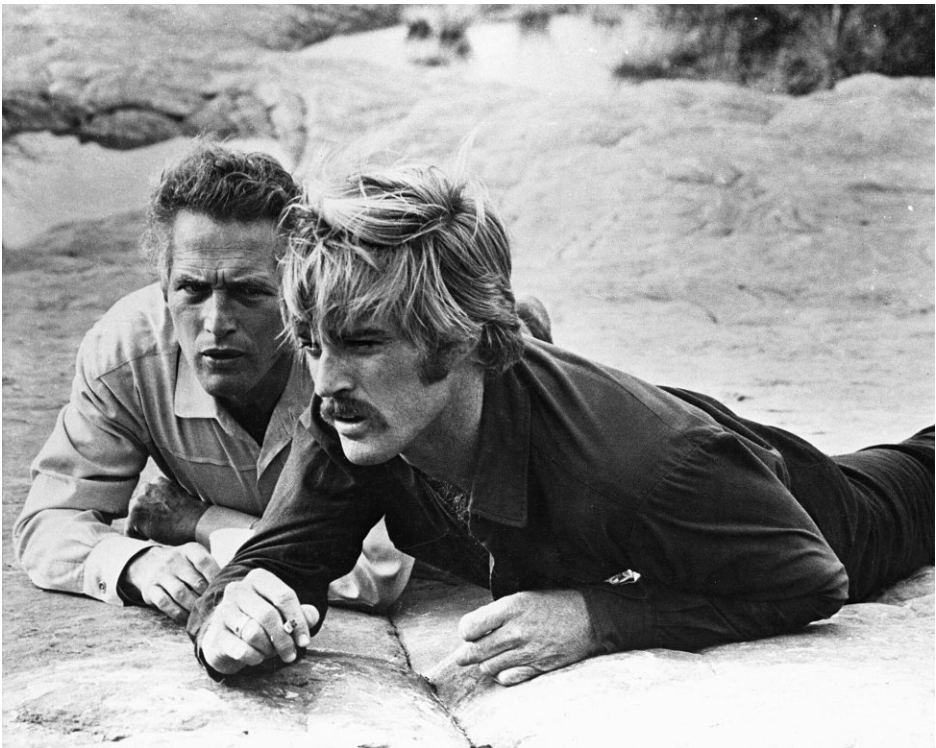
Actor shot to stardom in '60s and '70s before founding Sundance

By G. Allen Johnson
STAFF WRITER

The first thing audiences noticed as Robert Redford was becoming a star was that handsome face. Before he opened his mouth and delivered a line, before anyone could tell whether he could even act, there was a California golden-boy vibe that announced his presence.

Whether he was an angel of death leading an old woman to the afterlife in a famous “Twilight Zone” episode or a Depression-era stranger romancing Natalie Wood in “This Property Is Condemned,” Redford exuded star power.

That light dimmed Tuesday when Redford, an iconic leading man who became a liberal



Paul Newman, left, and Robert Redford starred in the title roles of “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” (1969).

“I just figure that I’ve had a long career that I’m very pleased with. It’s been so long, ever since I was 21. I figure now as I’m getting into my 80s, it’s maybe time to move toward retirement.”

Robert Redford, commenting on his final film as a leading man

RECALL ELECTION

For latest coverage on the effort to recall District 4 Supervisor Joel Engardio, go to [sfchronicle.com](https://www.sfchronicle.com).

Audit: S.F. agency misspent \$4.6M

Former rights commission chief’s spending called unethical in report

By Michael Barba
STAFF WRITER

A new audit of payments made by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission under former chief Sheryl Davis found that it misused more than \$4 million in taxpayer dollars — spending the city controller deemed “frivolous, unethical and unjustifiable.”

The audit, released Tuesday by the controller and city attorney, concluded that the department’s routine and pervasive disregard for city purchasing controls and policies undermined the essential services it provided, often to needy communities.

The audit reviewed \$6.3 million in purchases that the department made outside city contracts, which are subject to less oversight, over roughly four years beginning in summer 2020.

Auditors found the department spent nearly three quarters of that total in ways that it shouldn’t have or on purchases that seemed excessive or improper, including by paying \$6,800 to put up a former fashion executive at a luxury

Audit continues on A9

Trump firing S.F. judges who favor granting asylum

By Christian Leonard
STAFF WRITER

The Trump administration is firing immigration judges around the country, often without warning or stated rationale. But data reviewed by the Chronicle suggests the result, at least locally, could be a bleaker outlook for immigrants seeking to avoid deportation.

By last Thursday, the administration had fired roughly one-third of the judges in San Francisco’s immigration court, which is among the country’s most favorable to people claiming refuge. Five of the seven dismissed judges had granted immigrants relief at even higher rates than their San Francisco colleagues.

The Chronicle’s analysis of data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review was based on deportation proceedings involving a request for asylum, withholding of removal (a temporary stay of deportation) or relief under the Convention of Torture (a more limited program covering people facing violence in their home country).

The seven fired San Francisco immigration judges are among nearly 70 that have been terminated.

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Careful what you say about Kirk’s death

JOE GAROFOLI
IT’S ALL POLITICAL

Hours after Charlie Kirk was assassinated last week while speaking at a college campus in Utah, President Donald Trump urged “all Americans to commit themselves to the American values for which Charlie Kirk lived and died.” Free speech was chief among those values, Trump said.

But in the days that have followed, Trump, members of his administration and many of his followers have done just the opposite. We’re now in the midst of a brutal crackdown on speech

that involves Kirk and his legacy.

In that same speech, Trump said “the radical left” was “directly responsible for the terrorism that we’re seeing in our country today” — which is not only inaccurate but has the effect of stifling any speech that is not in lockstep with the dominant conservative ideology that pervades the federal government and the Supreme Court. Trump isn’t alone in wanting to police dissident voices. Nearly three dozen people have been fired or disciplined for making comments about Kirk’s death that

Garofoli continues on A11



After the shooting, President Donald Trump said “the radical left” was “directly responsible for the terrorism that we’re seeing in our country today.”