



Photos by Manuel Orbeagozo/For the S.F. Chronicle
An airplane flies above two visitors at Coyote Point Recreation Area. The park is a few miles from San Francisco International Airport, and the planes arrive at regular intervals.

Childhood favorite even better now

Mystical park near SFO offers airplane views, hidden zoo

The first thing you notice at Coyote Point Recreation Area is the airplanes. Massive passenger jets thunder in from the south every minute or two, all looking like they’re coming in too low. The aircraft are so close, landing at San Francisco International Airport less than 2 miles north, that they seem like another living thing in this very unusual park.

PETER HARTLAUB
TOTAL SF

Coyote Point’s geography is similar to other Bay Area parks, a 670-acre shoreline promontory with a tree-covered hill, laid out a lot like Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline in San Leandro and the East Bay’s Albany Bulb. But the overall vibes are one of a kind, with the airplanes, massive picnic areas, tide pools, a colorful playground, a hidden zoo, oh, and bursts of audible gunfire. More on that later.

It’s also a lesson for me: How the Bay Area things we grew up with that once felt routine, seem wild and mystical when you return with perspective. I was raised in Burlingame six blocks from Coyote Point, and thought this strange and versatile park was the norm. Biking through the entire thing for the first time in decades, I’m struck by how close I



A common chuckwalla takes a light bath at CuriOdyssey science museum and zoo inside Coyote Point Recreation Area.

once lived to an open space unicorn.

I don’t live within walking distance any more. My trek starts with a ferry from my Alameda home to San Francisco, a bike ride to Mission Bay to pick up a sandwich for later, then Caltrain at Fourth and King streets, where a new electric train speeds me to Burlingame in just 25 minutes.

From there I bike slowly east through a town I barely recognize, retracing most of my old 1980s Chronicle paper route and passing my childhood home — bought

by my parents for \$35,000 in 1970 — now mostly unrecognizable after a recent modern makeover.

Minutes later I’m on the Peninsula Avenue overpass above Highway 101, then descending toward an entrance so close to the freeway that downhill momentum carries me into this park filled with surprising and sometimes dubious history.

Coyote Point was once an island, with marshland that was filled in the late 1800s. It first made front-page news in 1922,

Hartlaub continues on A10

Bill seeks standards on toxic fire debris

State would create safeguards for testing, cleaning homes

By Megan Fan Munce, Susie Neilson and Sara DiNatale
STAFF WRITERS

California lawmakers have unveiled another bill to create first-in-the-nation standards for addressing toxic debris left inside homes after wildfires.

Assembly Bill 1795, or the Smoke Damage Recovery Act, would direct state regulators to create public health standards for testing and cleaning wildfire smoke-tainted homes. The legislation does not yet identify which state agency would be responsible for enforcing the new rules, but it is intended to ensure policyholders get equal treatment regardless of their insurer. The legislation was filed Tuesday by Assembly Member Mike Gipson, D-Gardena (Los Angeles County), and is sponsored by Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara.

Southern California’s Eaton and Palisades fires in January 2025 decimated more than 16,000 structures. But for every home destroyed, another was left standing. Many of these homes were contaminated by soot and ash, and tests later showed this debris typically contained toxic substances including lead, asbestos and even beryllium.

Both wildfire survivors and insurance companies have struggled with decision-making in the absence of standards on how to properly clean these homes. Representatives of the insurance industry work-

Bill continues on A10

Teachers, district fail to agree after marathon talks

By Jill Tucker
STAFF WRITER

After 16 hours of negotiations through the wee hours of Thursday, San Francisco labor and school district officials remained at odds over contract terms as the teachers strike moved into its fourth day.

The two sides continued to trade conflicting messages about what was happening behind the closed doors.

Union leaders said in a 2 a.m. overnight video that they waited until 1 a.m. for a counterproposal.

“We need to keep up the struggle,” said Nathalie Hrizi, the United Educators of San Francisco’s vice president of substitutes. “We need to go one day stronger, one day longer.”

San Francisco Unified School District officials said they gave the union bargaining team their latest counteroffer at 1:33 a.m. and the teachers had not yet responded.

“As of 8:00 am today, we are awaiting (the union’s) counter offer,” district spokesperson Laura Dudnick said in a statement. “The SFUSD bargaining team, comprised of veteran and expert professionals, are ready to meet with the union’s bargaining team to

SFUSD continues on A9

Livermore bulb still burning, 125 years on

By Sarah Ravani
STAFF WRITER

A typical light bulb can last about a year. The one hanging from the ceiling at Fire Station No. 6 in Livermore has lasted more than a century.

The Centennial Light Bulb, as it’s known, has been glowing almost continuously since 1901. In June, it’s expected to reach its 125-year mark. Time has turned a simple light fixture into one of the Bay Area’s head-scratching curiosities.

Recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest-burning light in the world, the bulb has turned off on-

ly a handful of times, mostly during moves between firehouses and once due to an unexpected generator outage. It’s drawn visitors from Israel, Saudi Arabia and Germany and been the subject of children’s books. The Centennial was even featured in a South African commercial for financial lending. Locally, the lamp has become a frequent stop for people passing through the Bay Area city of about 90,000 residents.

“It’s a unique situation,” said Tom Bramell, a retired deputy fire chief who is the custodian of the light. “Here we are 125 years later, and it’s still

Bulb continues on A10



Don Feria/For the S.F. Chronicle
Several styles of Shelby bulbs are displayed at Fire Station No. 6 in Livermore. One bulb there has been glowing almost continuously since 1901.