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Tentative pact ends teachers strike

\$183M deal to reopen S.F. schools Wednesday after holiday breaks

By Jill Tucker
STAFF WRITER

The San Francisco teachers strike is over.

Union and district officials agreed to a \$183 million deal early Friday, increasing educators' salaries and health care benefits in a two-year contract that required compromise from both sides and could mean imminent pink slips and additional

budget cuts in the coming year.

The tentative agreement will give teachers the equivalent of a 6% raise over two years — including 2% raises this year and next, with the equivalent of an additional 1% raise each year based on two days added to their annual work calendar for training, including how to address federal immigration enforce-



Lea Suzuki/S.F. Chronicle
Superintendent Maria Su says SFUSD's deal with the United Educators of San Francisco "reflects our commitment to invest in educators."

ment, said officials with the United Educators of San Francisco and the San Francisco Unified School District.

The deal also includes fully funded family health care with Kaiser starting on Jan. 1, 2027, with the district covering 50% of costs starting on July 1, 2026, and with the union agreeing to pause paid sabbatical leave to help cover the initial costs. This is the first time in the district's history that it has fully covered families, SFUSD Super-

intendent Maria Su said.

"This historic strike built an unbreakable solidarity across our city, among families, students, educators and community," union officials said in an email sent to members just before 6 a.m. "This strike has made it clear what is possible when we join together and fight for the stability in our schools that many have said was out of our reach."

Other district employees, however, were not elated.

Strike continues on A11



Stephen Lam/S.F. Chronicle
Instructor Natalie Leonard directs cyclists onto a test track during a community e-bike test-and-ride event in Oakland in November.

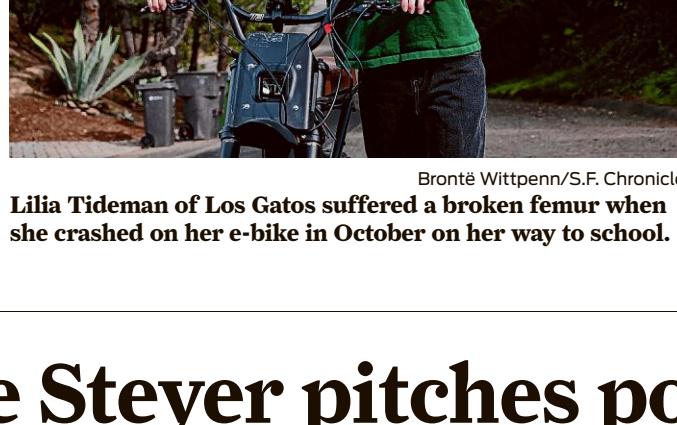
E-bike injury 'epidemic'

Doctors, lawmakers alarmed as more kids ride at motorcycle speeds

By Brooke Park
STAFF WRITER

When 14-year-old Lilia Tideman opened her eyes, she was splayed on the asphalt, the wheel of a Chevrolet Silverado inches from her skull. Her left femur was cracked in half. Nearby lay her scuffed gray e-bike.

Moments earlier, the Los Gatos High freshman had been rushing to campus, her 88-pound Super73 e-bike reaching nearly 40 mph on a twisting downhill stretch of a one-lane, two-way road. As she rounded a corner, she



Bronte Wittpenn/S.F. Chronicle
Lilia Tideman of Los Gatos suffered a broken femur when she crashed on her e-bike in October on her way to school.

saw the Chevy coming the other way and squeezed the brakes. Her bike wobbled and she tipped, skidding down the roadway and toward the wheel of the pickup that stopped just in time.

Young people like Lilia have embraced e-bikes as a way to shed their reliance on a mom or dad for a ride to school, a pizza place or a friend's house. But with this new freedom has come a growing number of e-bike crashes involving young riders that is raising deep concern — and confusion —

E-bikes continues on A9

PG&E continues on A8

Billionaire Steyer pitches populist cred

Tom Steyer has a steep hill to climb in his quest to become California's next governor: He has never held elected office and has relatively low name recognition. As the former San Francisco hedge fund manager introduces himself to voters, he's making a case that could make

his candidacy an even harder sell: that it's possible to be both a billionaire and a man of the people.

He has joined striking teachers in San Francisco and health care workers in San Diego on the picket lines. He supports

single-payer health care, closing tax loopholes for the wealthy and eliminating corporate PACs.

It's a noblesse oblige idea — and Steyer is saying a lot of the right things — but it's hard to believe he could achieve what he's promising. Or that he isn't just taking advantage of a political moment in which working people across the state are frustrated by the high cost of living.

Steyer's gambit is that Californians believe a billionaire can be a savior — a real populist who actually can help working people, not a transactional one like President Donald Trump, who campaigns as their champion.

Garofoli continues on A8



Benjamin Fanjoy/For the S.F. Chronicle
Billionaire gubernatorial candidate Tom Steyer is being greeted as a populist in some of the state's most progressive quarters.