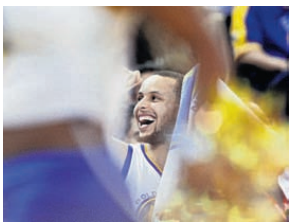


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► Syria: Al Qaeda's Iraqi branch merges with a rebel group the U.S. designates a terrorist organization. A2
► Controversial leader: Uhuru Kenyatta, who has been indicted on charges of crimes against humanity, is sworn in as Kenya's new president. A3
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Carlos Avila Gonzalez / The Chronicle

Sporting Green

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► Giants: Offense comes alive to overcome a shaky outing by Tim Lincecum. B1

Business Report

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► Cap and trade: Gov. Jerry Brown OKs a plan to expand state's carbon market to Quebec. D1

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Datebook

► Tour guide: Spring is the season for home tours — we preview six of the biggest. F1
► Leo lite: Starz takes giddy liberties with Leonardo da Vinci in entertaining new series. F1



Sean Havley / The Chronicle

Health

► Childhood cancers: Treatment advances are seen as a triumph of modern medicine, but that can't be said for some cancers, like the soft tissue sarcoma that killed Ava Cervarich, above. C1

San Francisco Chronicle

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Alvarez out as housing chief

Commission, scrambling to rebuild S.F. agency, to pay out rest of contract



Lea Suzuki / The Chronicle

Ousted chief Henry Alvarez will be paid through June 12.

By Heather Knight

The San Francisco Housing Authority commission voted unanimously Tuesday to terminate the contract of its chief, Henry Alvarez — but a new, scathing federal review of the

Housing Authority makes it clear the agency will be coping with the effects of Alvarez's leadership long after he's gone.

After several weeks of closed-door meetings on Alvarez's fate, the commission voted to fire Alvarez effective immediately, but to pay out the remainder of his contract, which is worth \$210,500 a year and expires June 12.

The commission appears to have taken that route in hopes of avoiding a potential lawsuit from Alvarez rather than withholding his salary for not meeting performance standards.

Asked whether his decision to pay out his contract means the commission believes Alvarez adequately performed his job, commission President

Alvarez continues on A6

EXPLORATORIUM



Photos by Lea Suzuki / The Chronicle

Bryan Connell surveys the San Francisco skyline from the Fisher Bay Observatory Gallery at the new Exploratorium.

Museum goes for the green

Solar power, efficient glass will help new site pursue a 'Net-Zero' goal

By David Perlman

A burst of fog billowed over the water at Pier 15 along the Embarcadero on Tuesday as leaders of the new Exploratorium prepared for next week's opening and workers tinkered with high-tech equipment designed to make it the greenest museum in America, if not the world.

On an otherwise brilliantly sunny day in San Francisco, filtered salt water from the bay ran through the new museum's vast concrete slab floors to keep the facility's interior



The Exploratorium has 5,874 solar panels that will provide 1.3 megawatts of electricity.

Coming Sunday

► A special tabloid section will preview the new Exploratorium, which opens next Wednesday.

comfortably cool against the outdoor warmth. By nightfall that same water — circulating through the museum's powerful titanium heat exchanger installed beneath the pier — would warm the same slabs just as evenly. The unique heating and cooling system is part of the Exploratorium's Exploratorium continues on A6

POLITICS

Clinton's backers see state as crucial to cause

By Carla Marinucci

As a presidential candidate in 2008, Hillary Rodham Clinton handily won California's Democratic primary against Barack Obama while racking up a crowd of influential fans, many of them women hoping to see the election of the first female president in their lifetime.

Now many of those supporters are looking ahead to the 2016 campaign, gathering forces to raise money on social media and entice the former secretary of state and U.S. senator from New York into another White House bid.

This week, former East Bay Democratic Rep. Ellen Tauscher, who has known Clinton for years and worked closely with her in Congress, endorsed the grassroots organizing campaign at ReadyForHillary.com. The group has the support of 150,000 Americans and includes a super PAC to encourage Clinton to run again. Tauscher said in an interview Tuesday that she hopes her support will help "build a grassroots army" to boost a Clinton campaign.

"I'm going to be an active supporter of ReadyFor Hillary.com and making sure people who supported me in the past can see that this isn't just about hoping and praying until she makes it happen," Tauscher said. "There are tangible things, important Clinton continues on A8

FLEET WEEK

Angels' grounding could sink event

By Henry K. Lee

The future of San Francisco's annual Fleet Week was thrown into doubt Tuesday when the Navy grounded the show's star attraction, the Blue Angels precision flying team, citing

federal budget cuts.

Officials said they would try to salvage an event that draws as many as 1 million visitors to the northern waterfront each fall, many of them to watch the half-dozen F/A-18 fighter jets shriek overhead in tight formation.

But J. Michael Myatt, a retired Marine Corps major general who heads the Fleet Week organizing group, acknowledged that without the Blue Angels, it might not be possible Blue Angels continues on A8



Jason Henry / Special to The Chronicle 2012

The Blue Angels, seen here performing over San Francisco Bay during October's Fleet Week, were grounded Tuesday by federal budget cuts.



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Weather

Sunny and warmer. Highs: 65-85. Lows: 45-53. B8



DID YOU KNOW?

Only 2% comply with contact-lens care guidelines

If you're one of the 36 million Americans who wear contact lenses, you probably think you do a pretty good job caring for them. But according to a study from the University

of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, you almost certainly don't. Eighty-five percent of the 281 contacts wearers surveyed said they were compliant with their eye

doctor's wear and care recommendations, but when researchers questioned patients about specific practices, only 2 percent actually demonstrated good compliance. The most common mistake was exposing contact lenses to water, either by wearing them while showering or swimming or using water instead of sterile saline solution to clean contacts. Microorganisms in non-

Proper lens care often overlooked

Percentage of respondents reporting these risky behaviors:



64%

Wearing while swimming or playing water sports



56%

Not taking lenses out before sleeping



52%

Wearing lenses longer than recommended



49%

Not washing hands before handling lenses

Source: Survey of 281 contact lens wearers in the Dallas-Fort Worth metro area
Todd Trumbull / The Chronicle

sterilized water can lead to eye infections. Other bad habits topping the list included sleeping in lenses, not

washing hands before handling lenses and failing to replace the contacts case more than once annually. People

also commonly reported using lenses longer than the number of days or months they're designed for, and topping off old contacts solution with fresh instead of using entirely fresh solution. All of these practices, researchers say, increase a patient's chances of eye infections or other contact lens complications. Source: <http://i.usa.gov/1oBW1be>

— Kathryn Roethel

Health

Crunching the Numbers: More surviving cancer, but costs also rising C6

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PEDIATRIC MEDICINE



Sean Havery / The Chronicle

Vale Cervarich and husband Mark play with daughter Lucy as their son, Oscar, watches. Baby Ava died in 2004.



EXPERT ADVICE
From Dr. Diana Coffa

Trying to eat well? Simplest rules are best ones

What could you do differently to improve your health? I ask my patients this question regularly. The response is usually, "I could eat better."

But what does that mean? The rules for a healthy diet change faster than San Francisco weather. Yesterday, scientists said butter was unhealthy and that we should eat margarine instead. Today, butter is better. It seems impossible to keep up.

Fortunately there is a reliable body of knowledge that has been passed down through generations of families in the form of recipes, family stories and lore. "Eat your vegetables." "Don't spoil your dinner by eating dessert first." "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." These wise words have repeatedly been upheld by good science.

I encourage my patients to reconnect with the simple facts we know about food. Here are four basics. If you follow these, you can't go wrong.

Fruits and vegetables: Vegetables and fruits are the foundation of healthy eating. It almost doesn't matter which fruits and vegetables. What matters is **Food continues on C2**

Children and cancer — too low a priority?

Survival rates are up — somewhat

By Suzanne Leigh

For Lisa Lee of Alamo, a scan of her daughter's brain was the lowest low in a 2½-year odyssey that started with a pediatrician visit for back and arm pain and escalated to hospitalizations for cancer treatment.

The scan showed that the

cancer had spread to Quincy Lee's brain, disqualifying the 6-year-old from a clinical trial for a treatment that might have bought her a bit more time. The little girl with a type of soft-tissue cancer called rhabdomyosarcoma died two months later, just before she would have started

Cancer continues on C6



Courtesy Cervarich family

Ava Cervarich died of a soft-tissue sarcoma at age 1. Grieving parents want more focus on pediatric cancers.

OUTSOURCING A LIFE

Third in an Occasional Series



Nicole Fruge / The Chronicle

Jennifer Benito-Kowalski and husband Steve Kowalski (right) compete in a swaddling and diapering game at their baby shower, along with Steve's father, Mike.

Varying regulations can complicate surrogacy

By Stephanie M. Lee

If Jennifer Benito-Kowalski could have had her way, she wouldn't have shipped her eggs to India.

Determined to have a child but unable to con-

ceive and unwilling to adopt, the San Carlos woman considered hiring a Bay Area surrogate in early 2012.

But the cost was high — more than \$100,000 — and **Surrogacy continues on C5**

PEDIATRIC HEART DISEASE

Patients sometimes need a do-over

By Erin Alliday

For the first time in her 24 years, Brooke Stone is able to run.

She was born with a congenital heart defect that, after surgery in her first weeks of life, was repaired well enough to keep her alive. But it meant she couldn't do anything that might make her heart work too hard. She was told not to play baseball or soccer, join her gym class or even walk too far.

Her heart started to fail anyway. The repair that had once saved her life wouldn't be able to keep her adult-size heart beating for a lifetime. So last fall, she had a second surgery.

And now, finally, she's realizing what it means to be normal.



Paul Chinn / The Chronicle

"I'm really excited to be able to just run. But on the other hand, I'm like, 'Oh man, what have I gotten myself into?'" Stone said, laughing. "Since I've never done any

cardio in my life, my lungs are like, 'Huh? You really want me to do this?'" "Basically, I'm just trying to get a normal life, figure out normal stuff **Heart continues on C4**

Brooke Stone wears a sweatshirt her parents gave her after her heart surgery last fall.

HEALTH

Cancer in youth — focus needed?

Cancer from page C1

first grade. For Vale Cervarich of San Francisco, the beginning of the end struck when she and her husband, Mark, were ushered into a private room at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, where they were joined by about 25 doctors, nurses and social workers.

Cervarich remembers the box of tissues. The couple's 1-year-old, Ava, who had been treated for a rare soft tissue cancer called undifferentiated sarcoma, would not get better, they were told. Hospice — a word feared more than any other by cancer parents — was gently recommended. Ava died less than a month later.

Advances in childhood cancers, which affect 1 in 300 children and teens, have been described as a triumph of modern medicine. In 1975, there were 3,992 pediatric cancer deaths, versus 2,035 in 2006, according to the National Cancer Institute. But not all pediatric oncologists are jubilant.

Marginal improvements

Cure rates have stalled or improved only modestly for some cancers, including soft tissue sarcomas, which claimed the lives of Quincy and Ava and make up 7.4 percent of pediatric malignancies. The survival rate for Quincy's rhabdomyosarcoma remains the same as it was in 1982.

Standard chemotherapy, which uses "cytotoxic" or cell-killing agents, has been attributed to the upswing in survival of leukemias and lymphomas, the leading childhood malignancy, affecting 34 percent of patients. But it has had modest effects on some other childhood cancers.

Improved survival rates in most types of brain tumors — the second-leading malignancy among children ages 1 to 14, affecting 27 percent of patients — are also modest, according to a 2010 report in the Journal of Clinical Oncology, partly because of the failure of some cytotoxic agents to cross from the bloodstream into the brain.

More work needed

"We have maximized the use of cytotoxic agents," said Dr. Neyssa Marina, a pediatric oncologist at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford, which sees 15 to 20 sarcoma patients a year. "We have concluded that we need to work on better understanding of the mechanisms of diseases so that we can design better targeted therapy."

"Targeted therapies may offer the best hope for boosting five-year survival rates for some types of childhood brain tumors," said Dr. Sabine Mueller, a pediatric neuro-oncologist at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, which treats more than 100 young brain tumor patients annually.



Sam Wolson / Special to The Chronicle

A balloon in memory of Quincy Lee floats in her family's kitchen, a tribute on her birthday, nine years after she died at age 6.



Sean Havvy / The Chronicle

Vale Cervarich says she rediscovered happiness only when Oscar and Lucy were born.

While standard chemo destroys both healthy and malignant cells, targeted therapies act by striking the biological pathways of abnormal genes, thus blocking the growth of and killing the cancer cells alone.

Developments are in their infancy, a fact that bodes poorly for diffuse intrinsic

"A lot more research will be needed before an effective therapy is available."

Dr. Sabine Mueller of UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, referring to the pediatric brain tumor called diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma

pontine glioma, DIPG, as it is commonly called, is the third-leading type of pediatric brain tumor, with a mean survival of just nine months — a prognosis that has stagnated for decades, Mueller said.

"We're a step closer to understanding the biology of this tumor, thanks to the recent identification of mutations by the Pediatric Cancer Genome Project," Mueller



Sam Wolson / Special to The Chronicle

Lisa Lee, whose daughter Quincy died at age 6, and her husband, Roger, have started a foundation in Quincy's name.

said. "But we don't know yet how many mutations are implicated, and we don't have the agents to treat them. A lot more research will be needed before an effective therapy is available."

Childhood cancers are not helped by the low profile that comes with their rarity. Not all bereaved parents become advocates.

To Cervarich, who credits the birth of Oscar, 7, and Lucy, 3, for her rediscovering happiness after Ava's death in

2004, her loss left her defeated and empty.

"There was no gas left in the tank. To expect a bereaved parent to campaign for childhood cancers is like expecting the victim of a robbery to lobby Congress," said Cervarich, an editor at Natural Light Photography.

For Lee and her husband, Roger, who have two other children, Keenan, 17, and Brody, 19, starting the Quincy Lee Foundation after their daughter died in 2004 has been one

positive offshoot of their loss.

The foundation provides resources to cancer patients at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, where Quincy was treated, and will eventually fund a fellowship in pediatric oncology.

"It has allowed us to continue to be known as Quincy's parents and to spread her sunshine doing good things in her name," said Lee, a member of the hospital's Family Advisory Council and volunteer at its family resource center.

She admits to frustration at the extensive timeline for testing drugs in clinical trials and getting approval by the Food and Drug Administration. Typically pediatric drugs aren't tested until adult ones are cleared. "It would be wonderful if doctors could start researching those pediatric cancer cells at the same time as they study adult ones," Lee said.

Lack of funding

Her frustration is shared by the organization Parents Against Childhood Cancer (PACC), started by Bob Piniowski of Raleigh, N.C., whose 14-year-old son, AJ, died from Burkitt's lymphoma in 2008. The group speaks out about both the lack of funding by the National Cancer Institute and financial incentives for drug companies to develop childhood cancer treatments. The group is also vocal about five-year survival statistics "that don't tell the whole picture" because of the potential for late recurrences and secondary malignancies due to the toxicity of treatment.

"We're trying to speak as one voice against childhood cancers," Piniowski said. "We're increasing awareness that our country is not doing all we can do to save children from the leading cause of death by disease: childhood cancers."

Suzanne Leigh is a freelance writer. She blogs about her life as a bereaved mom at www.themourningafter.com. E-mail: health@sfgchronicle.com

CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

Cancer survivor rates up, but so are post-cancer costs

More people in the United States are surviving cancer — and the survivorship numbers will rise in the next decade. That's according to a March report from the American Association for Cancer Research, which says the number of cancer survivors has reached 13.7 million and is expected to grow to 18 million by 2022.

Researchers credit some of the increase to better cancer detection and treatment, but say that, as the U.S. population ages, the number of cancer survivors — and cancer cases — will naturally increase. The report also shows that life after cancer is expensive.

Here are the numbers.

64% The percentage of U.S. survivors who as of Jan. 1, 2012, had lived at least five years past their initial diagnoses. Forty percent had lived 10 years and 15 percent had lived 20 years.

99% The percentage of prostate cancer patients who had survived at least five years after diagnosis; 89 percent of breast cancer patients had. Survivors of these two types of cancer will comprise 42 percent of all cancer survivors in the coming decade, according to the report.

15% The percentage of lung cancer patients who had reached the five-year mark. Experts say the rate is low because symptoms are vague and the cancer usually isn't diagnosed until it has already spread.

2/3 The fraction among U.S. cancer survivors who will be over age 65 by 2020. A person's chance of getting many cancers, including prostate, breast and lung, increases with age.

Times 2

The average cancer survivor has health care costs that are twice as high as a person without cancer. Even if the disease is in remission, cancer survivors require regular doctor visits, tests and often treatment of cancer side effects. The full report of the American Association for Cancer Research can be found here: <http://eebp.aacrjournals.org/content/22/4/561.full>

— Kathryn Roethel