

# San Francisco Chronicle

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## TOP OF THE NEWS

### World/Nation

▶ **Japan:** Authorities discover radioactive material in Tokyo tap water and in 11 types of vegetables. **A2**  
 ▶ **Syria:** Police kill 15 anti-government protesters. **A4**  
 ▶ **War crimes:** A U.S. soldier is sentenced to 24 years for killing unarmed Afghan civilians. **A6**  
 ▶ **Tucson shootings:** World Trade Center steel is molded into an angel to honor victim born on 9/11. **A7**

### Bay Area

▶ **Marriage:** Court says same-sex weddings can't resume until it reviews ban. **C1**  
 ▶ **Blast:** A man who posed as a victim of the San Bruno explosion gets three years. **C2**  
**Business Report**  
 ▶ **Motor City outreach:** Auto executives are scouring Internet firms for workers. **D1**  
 ▶ **Stabilizing:** Survey of Bay Area executives shows signs the economy is evening out. **D1**

### Datebook

▶ **Gluten-free:** Restaurants cater to those intolerant of the sometimes pesky protein. **E1**  
 ▶ **Catching Up:** The Rev. Billy has discovered a new mission: to heal the world. **E1**  
**Ovation**  
 ▶ **Twain is back:** Actor Hal Holbrook takes his trademark character on the road. **F1**  
 ▶ **Arts and Ends:** Sonoma State concert hall receives a big financial boost. **F4**



Paul Chinn / The Chronicle

### Sporting Green

▶ **Giants:** It was a bad day for Matt Cain, left, who was hit hard; Brian Wilson, whose muscle injury is still bothersome; and Cody Ross, who injured his right calf going after a line drive. **B1**

## ELIZABETH TAYLOR 1932-2011



AFP / Getty Images

Elizabeth Taylor's stardom continued long after her Hollywood heyday.

## Vulnerable yet durable face of fame

By Mick LaSalle  
CHRONICLE MOVIE CRITIC

Elizabeth Taylor, the violet-eyed child actress from England who went on to become one of the most beautiful women in the world and the embodiment of Hollywood stardom, died Wednesday of congestive heart failure in Los Angeles. She was 79.  
 She was a sometimes formidable actress whose personal life and off-screen causes often overshadowed her screen achievements. Vulnerable yet seemingly indestructible, Ms. Taylor was plagued by illness throughout her life. She survived a brain tumor, an appendectomy, a fall from a horse, tu-  
*Taylor continues on A8*

## Role as activist helped change AIDS policy

By Erin Allday  
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

The mid-1980s were dark, terrible years as the AIDS epidemic took off — patients were dying and doctors often didn't know how to help them.  
 Out in the public, hysteria and stigma ruled.  
 But then Elizabeth Taylor, so glamorous and popular, embraced her friend Rock Hudson, who was dying of AIDS. And people paid attention.  
 She didn't remove the stigma of AIDS overnight, but her public support of her friend — speaking up on his  
*AIDS continues on A8*

# Ex-friend says steroid use was 'out of hand'

Witness says he taped exchange in bid to help Bonds

By Lance Williams  
CALIFORNIA WATCH

Barry Bonds' steroid use was so "out of hand" that his former business manager made a secret recording in the Giants' clubhouse as part

of a campaign to dissuade the ballplayer from using banned drugs, the ex-employee testified Wednesday.  
 Steve Hoskins was Bonds' boyhood friend and his business manager until a bitter breakup in 2003. That year,

he testified, he recorded weight trainer Greg Anderson describing the array of steroids that he was allegedly providing to the Giants left fielder.  
 Hoskins, the government's  
*Bonds continues on A9*



Barry Bonds



Steve Hoskins

## ENVIRONMENT



Photos by Thomas Levinson / The Chronicle

Lisa Wayne of S.F. Recreation and Park Department surveys newly flooded areas of Sharp Park Golf Course on Monday.



California red-legged frogs are food for an even rarer snake.

## Both frogs and golfers lay claim to the 14th hole

By Kelly Zito  
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Sloshing through knee-deep water on a golf course in Pacifica, Lisa Wayne scanned the muck and murk for something she'd rather not find: gelatinous, grapefruit-sized egg sacs indicating a federally protected frog has spawned in unfriendly

territory.  
 The land in question is 80-year old Sharp Park, a wetland turned picturesque golf course that lies against the Pacific Ocean behind an imposing seawall in San Mateo County. The amphibian is the California red-legged frog, a threatened species whose propensity this winter for laying  
*Sharp Park continues on A7*

## STATE FISCAL CRISIS

# Talks drag on as June vote window narrows

By Wyatt Buchanan  
CHRONICLE SACRAMENTO BUREAU

SACRAMENTO — Negotiations on closing California's \$26.6 billion deficit continued without an appar-

ent breakthrough Wednesday, as Gov. Jerry Brown and Democratic leaders warned that little time remained for compromise.  
 Brown is still seeking two Republicans in both the

Assembly and Senate to join all the Democrats to allow for a special election in June so voters can decide whether to extend and increase taxes for five years to help wipe out the persistent deficit.

The governor acknowledged he is looking at alternatives if negotiations with Republicans fail to produce a compromise, but he did not specify what the  
*Budget continues on A9*



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### Weather

Rain, isolated thunderstorms.  
 Highs: 49-58.  
 Lows: 40-47. **B8**



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Image: Cristóbal Balenciaga, cocktail hat of ivory silk satin, 1953. Rawlings / Vogue / Condé Nast Archive, © Condé Nast

de Young  
FINE ARTS MUSEUM

FROM THE COVER

# Frogs and golfers both endangered

Sharp Park from page A1

thousands of eggs smack in the middle of the flooded 14th fairway has incensed environmentalists, renewed scrutiny of operations at the 18-hole course, which is owned by San Francisco, and forced the federal government to put the city on notice.

It also reignites debate over the future of a popular public course that supporters say deserves protection as a historic landmark but critics argue is an obsolete facility on the losing end of the battle against sea level rise.

**Emergency moves**

On this particular day, Wayne, natural areas manager for San Francisco's Recreation and Park Department, didn't find any eggs. A few months ago, however, her team did find a staggering 170 egg masses — that's hundreds of thousands of eggs — during the height of the frog's breeding season. Fearing that the course's pumps — which continually drain the low-lying links — would strand, dry out and kill the embryos, the city moved them to more hospitable marshland nearby. Because the Endangered Species Act protects the frog, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued three emergency authorizations for the transfers.

"We're doing the best we can to balance the needs of the frog and the operation of the course," said Wayne, adding that she has never in the past decade seen so many eggs — possibly the result of a wet winter.

But environmental groups contend the multiple authorizations were illegal because the city knew its operations at the course would imperil the species. As such, San Francisco



Source: ESRI Todd Trumbull / The Chronicle

must seek a long-term permit to manage the frog and snake populations, they say. Without limits on pumping and mowing at Sharp Park, the city could wipe out the red-legged frog population — which also happens to be the main food for the extremely rare and endangered San Francisco garter snake.

"They're jeopardizing the continued existence of these species," said Brent Plater, leader of the Wild Equity Institute, an environmental activist group. "They can no longer ignore the facts. The question is — how long are they going to ignore the law?"

Earlier this month, the institute, the Sierra Club, the Center for Biological Diversity and others sued the city, claiming that for years it has failed to devise adequate conservation plans for the frog and the few dozen remaining snakes biologists estimate live in the Sharp Park area.

**Federal intervention**

Federal regulators are also losing patience. Fish and Wildlife officials said they will not authorize any further moving of



Thomas Levinson / The Chronicle

**Lisa Wayne says this year she's seen the most red-legged frog eggs in the past decade at Sharp Park.**

frog egg sacs at Sharp Park in this or any other year. To deal with stranded egg sacs in the future, the city must apply for a permit that may technically allow the killing of a certain number of protected animals in the course of operations — with the idea that they would take certain steps to offset those losses. Otherwise, the wildlife service's police force may order the city to stop draining the course.

"There will be no more emergency removals," said Sarah Swenty, spokeswoman for the agency in Sacramento. If regulators learn of additional stranded egg sacs, "it becomes a law enforcement issue."

Swenty said her agency prefers to hammer out a long-term plan for Sharp Park with the city. Last year, officials met with San Francisco about the endangered species problem at Sharp Park. Nevertheless, the agency has yet to receive a for-

mal habitat conservation plan from the city, Swenty said.

San Francisco planning officials say they are working on a plan. Once completed later this year, the city hopes to begin work on a \$6 million to \$10 million effort to reconfigure Sharp Park, including moving some holes, improving drainage and linking up two ponds key to the red-legged frog habitat — Horse Stable Pond and Laguna Salada.

**Back to marshland**

In essence, the city's long-range plans for Sharp Park hinge on the notion that the golf course, frogs and snakes can co-exist. The environmental groups strongly disagree.

In their view, the greens, fairways and tees should be replaced by a restored marshland, ponds and boardwalks for visitors. In other words, allow Mother Nature to reclaim what was lost to the 1932 vision of famed architect Alister MacKenzie, who also

designed the Cypress Point Club course in Pebble Beach and Augusta National Golf Club course in Georgia.

The course's abandonment would save money, too, the conservation groups say. Their research shows rounds played at the course dropped nearly 40 percent between 2001 and 2006, due in large part to flooding. Between 2004 and 2008, San Francisco lost between \$30,000 and \$300,000 a year on the course.

But if returning part or all of Sharp Park to an earlier, natural state is one real option, there is no consensus on what that was, exactly.

Plater describes the swath just north of Mori Point as a lush, freshwater lagoon divided from the sea by rolling barrier dunes.

**Threat from the sea**

In contrast, Sharp Park proponents such as San Francisco lawyer Bo Links maintain it was a tidal marshland so salty that the golf course development happened to help the red-legged frog and garter snake flourish.

"It's important to have some perspective here," Links said. "Golfers are environmentalists, too. The course gives (frogs and snakes) an area to breed and prosper."

On one crucial point, nearly everyone sees eye to eye. Keeping the sea at bay at Sharp Park could become a vastly more difficult enterprise if the worst-case predictions for climate change come true. Along the California coast, ocean levels might rise 4½ feet over the next 90 years, scientists say. In other words, today's Sharp Park won't be tomorrow's Sharp Park.

"We're doing the frog surveys, working on changing the golf course," Wayne said. "But with sea-level rise, our kids and grandkids should probably know that in 100 years this isn't going to be the same golf course — and it might not be here at all."

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TUCSON SHOOTINGS

## Steel from 9/11 attacks to be used for statue

By Karen Matthews  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — A piece of World Trade Center steel is being molded into an angel in memory of a girl who was born on Sept. 11, 2001, and died in a barrage of gunfire in the Tucson shooting rampage that injured Rep. Gabrielle Giff-

ords.

The 5½-foot-long fragment of an I-beam was picked up from a hangar at John F. Kennedy International Airport on Wednesday and will be trucked to Arizona in time for an April 1 dedication ceremony.

The Freedom's Steadfast Angel of Love statue will incorporate artifacts from the

Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon and the crash of United Airlines Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pa., sculptor Lei Hennessy-Owen said.

The angel honoring Christina-Taylor Green will stand 9 feet 11 inches tall. The steel from the twin towers was donated by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owns the trade center site.

"We just wanted to do something to kind of help them heal, let them know that we're going to try to support them through their grief," said Hennessy-Owen, who has created



**The angel statue will be installed at Christina-Taylor Green's Little League park.**

angel sculptures at the three 9/11 crash sites and other locations across the country.

She said some family members of Sept. 11 victims plan to attend the dedication.

Christina-Taylor was 9 years old, the youngest victim of the January shooting that left six people dead and 13 wounded. Her birth on the day of the

worst terror attack in the nation's history and her death in another unspeakable act of violence made her an enduring face in the Tucson tragedy, generating a tremendous outpouring of sympathy in Arizona and around the country.

Donations to her memorial fund came in from 10 countries and 43 states in just the first month after the shooting.

Her statue will be installed at James D. Krieger Park in Oro Valley, Ariz., where she played Little League baseball, and dedicated at the opening-day ceremonies of the Canyon del Oro Little League.

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