

San Francisco Chronicle

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TOP OF THE NEWS

World/Nation

► **Powerful punch:** New Englanders struggle to dig out from as much as 3 feet of snow. **A13**

Bay Area

► **Tree fight:** PG&E wants trees out of Mountain View yards to protect gas pipelines. **D1**

► **Drivers:** Charity group gives rides to cancer patients. **D1**



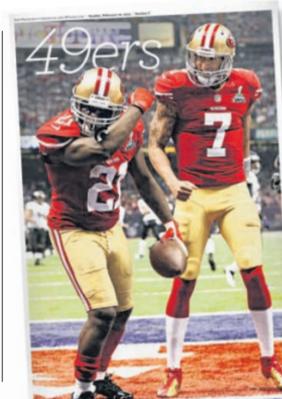
David Paul Morris / Special to The Chronicle

Sporting Green

► **Giants FanFest:** Sammy Swann of Stockton gets an autograph from Hunter Pence, left, at the annual event at AT&T Park on Saturday. **B1**

Travel

Larry Ellison is bringing good times back to Lanai. **P1**



Special Section

Coach Jim Harbaugh's roll of the dice took the 49ers to the brink of glory. **C1**

TAKING THE HEAT

One in an Occasional Series

COOLEST NOTIONS PAY OFF

By James Temple

When it comes to high-tech possibilities for counteracting climate change, the headlines tend to focus on the seemingly sci-fi stuff: brightening clouds, pumping particles into the stratosphere and launching giant mirrors into space.

But there are down-to-earth versions of the same basic concept, approaches as simple as painting roofs white or using light-colored pavement to cast away more heat from the Earth. A group at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories is exploring how big an impact this approach could have on global warming, as well as developing next-generation building materials that could reflect more light.

Compared with more unconventional strategies, the advantages of white

Warming continues on A6

KEVIN COLLINS CASE

Abduction set course for searches

By Kevin Fagan

When it comes to hunting for kidnapped children and conjuring worst-case fates for any boy or girl playing outdoors alone, there is a clearly defined moment in history when everything changed.

That moment came exactly 29 years ago Sunday, on Feb. 10, 1984 — the day 10-year-old Kevin Collins vanished off a San Francisco street.

Before then, parents' precautions largely amounted to telling their children never to take candy from strangers or get into their cars. When a child went missing, police often took their time in the belief that the youngster was probably off on a lark and would soon come

Collins continues on A8

Presidio reaches goal — financial independence



Lea Suzuki / The Chronicle

The Presidio Trust rents out more than 1,200 housing units, from small apartments to homes like this one on Pilot's Row, in the shadow of a world-renowned landmark.

Self-sufficiency part of deal for base to become national park

By Carl Nolte

The Presidio Trust, the federal agency that runs the Presidio of San Francisco, has quietly passed a milestone — it is now financially self-sufficient and no longer requires taxpayer money to operate the former military post as part of a national park.

Ending the federal subsidy for the Presidio this year "is very important," said Craig Middleton, executive director of the Presidio Trust. Under the law that transferred the former Army base to park status, the property had to become self-sufficient by 2013 or it could be sold off.

"The Presidio has been saved as a place for the public, and the threat of its being sold has been forever removed," said Nancy Bechtle, chairwoman of the trust's board of directors.

The law that created the Presidio Trust in 1996 was unique. It made the 1,381-acre Army installation part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, but turned management of most of it over to the trust, a separate government corporation, with the mandate that the Presidio had to pay for itself.

The arrangement was both unusual and controversial. Opponents argued that the deal meant that an important part of a national park would in effect be privatized. "It was something that had never been tried before," Middleton said.

It was also risky. During its 200-year history as a military post, the Presidio had a separate existence from the rest of

Presidio continues on A15



Noah Berger / Special to The Chronicle

Avid hunter and gun owner Rep. Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena, shoulders his shotgun after shooting clay pigeons in Napa.

SUNDAY PROFILE *Mike Thompson*

Napa Democrat playing central role in gun debate

By Drew Joseph

Mike Thompson loaded a shell into his shotgun and snapped the barrel into place. He raised the gun, calmly uttered "pull" and fired at the flying clay pigeon, shattering it as it ascended. He released the shell and pocketed it in his vest in one swift motion.

Thompson, the Democratic congressman who was born

and still lives in St. Helena, was wearing khakis and loafers. The smell of the shot just fired rose from the gun.

"These buzzards are going to eat some of these clay pigeons when we're done," he joked, pointing to the birds circling above the canyon in Napa.

Thompson, 62, is a gun owner and avid hunter who supports new gun regulations. He

Thompson continues on A14

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Weather
Sunny and warming.
Highs: 54-63.
Lows: 31-43. **D6-D7**



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