

PG&E strikes deal on fires

Utility agrees to pay \$1 billion to governments; claims from residents, businesses not affected

By J.D. Morris

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. has agreed to pay \$1 billion to more than a dozen local government agencies affected by recent devastating wildfires, including last year's Camp Fire.

PG&E's plan, announced Tuesday after days of mediation sessions in San Francisco, must still be approved in Bankruptcy Court and does not affect claims from individual residents or businesses

More online

See all of The Chronicle's coverage of California's recent devastating fire seasons, plus an interactive fire tracker to keep you up to date as a new season begins. www.sfchronicle.com/california-wildfires

who were victims of the wildfires.

Still, the agreement marks the first major settlement reached by PG&E since it

filed for bankruptcy protection in January, largely because of its looming liabilities after the past two wildfire seasons. State investigators in May found PG&E responsible for starting the 2018 Camp Fire, the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in state history, and the utility's equipment was also blamed for many of the wildfires that tore through Wine Country in 2017.

Most of the settlement money PG&E continues on A8



Gabrielle Lurie / The Chronicle 2018

A firefighter stands in 2018 amid the remains of an apartment complex in Paradise, which was decimated by the Camp Fire.



Gabrielle Lurie / The Chronicle 2017

Dr. Oded Herbsman offers infant Hazel Hua a high-five after giving a vaccination in San Francisco. New legislation would mandate the state Department of Public Health to approve some medical exemptions.

Bill targeting vaccine exemptions revamped

Legislation watered down after governor's comments

By Dustin Gardiner

SACRAMENTO — The author of California legislation to require state approval of all childhood vaccination exemptions pulled back Tuesday after Gov. Gavin Newsom said the measure would inject government bureaucracy into doctor-patient decisions.

State Sen. Richard Pan, D-Sacramento, who proposed the legislation, unveiled amendments that would limit the number of medical exemptions that would have to be approved by the state Department of Public Health. Even with the amendments, however, tens of thousands of existing student exemptions could be subject to state review.

Opponents of mandatory childhood vaccinations said they would continue to fight the bill, maintaining it would criminalize doctors who protect children from what the opponents say are vaccines' potential side effects.

Pan, a pediatrician, said the



Rich Pedroncelli / Associated Press 2015

amendments to his SB276 were the result of negotiations with the Newsom administration. He said the revamped bill would allow for legitimate medical waivers while cracking down on doctors who issue inappropriate exemptions, creating the risk of a disease outbreak.

"I appreciate that the governor

has worked with me in crafting a California solution to halting the abuse of medical exemptions that endanger our children," Pan said in a statement. "The governor recognizes that we need to ensure that children who truly need medical exemptions get them and they will be safe in their schools with com-

Vaccine continues on A9

State Sen. Richard Pan, D-Sacramento, pulled back on his proposal to require state approval of all childhood vaccination exemptions after negotiations with the Newsom administration.

Huge Google commitment of \$1 billion for housing

By Melia Russell

Wells Fargo. Kaiser Permanente. Salesforce's Marc Benioff. Now Google.

One by one, the corporate titans of the Bay Area are vowing to plow dollars into solving the region's biggest crisis — housing.

It's a sign of just how serious the problem has become, for employees who need a place to live and also for the region's major companies, which are under fire from their communities because their workers are displacing longtime residents.

Google's announcement Tuesday that it would put \$1 billion toward housing — including affordable units for the community and housing for its employees — came weeks after Wells Fargo pledged the same round number — \$1 billion — toward housing affordability over the

Housing continues on A8



Tales of the housing crisis

Whether you are a buyer, a seller, a renter, a landlord or builder, the availability and affordability of housing is an everyday concern. The Chronicle wants to hear about your housing experience. Tell us your story: www.sfchronicle.com/housing/stories

S.F. supervisors vote to ban sale of e-cigarettes

By Catherine Ho

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously voted to approve first-of-its-kind legislation to suspend the sale of e-cigarettes in the city, amid concerns over underage use of the addictive nicotine products. The measure is already being challenged by the nation's largest e-cigarette company, Juul, which is laying the groundwork to take the issue to voters in November.

The bill still requires final approval, but the board voted 11-0 to pass the ordinance on the first reading, telegraphing its intent to make it official as early as next week.

The measure, if passed, would go into effect E-cigarettes continues on A9

» Growing fast: Juul buys 28-story office tower in San Francisco. D1

Sporting Green



Warriors prepare for draft, weigh keeping Cousins. B1

Bay Area



Ghost Ship prosecutors take aim at credibility of Max Harris as defendant admits lying to police. C1

Business



Grocery Outlet latest to try an IPO to raise capital. D1

Weather



Clouds, and sunshine. Highs: 61-92. Lows: 50-59. B8

