

San Francisco Chronicle

SFGATE.COM | PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



\$3.00 ★★★★★

Special Section
Savor the Santa Cruz area's best beaches, vineyards, food and farms. **H1**



NEIL ARMSTRONG
1930-2012

The astronaut, who made history by being the first human to set foot on the moon during a mission that culminated the Soviet-American space race in the 1960s, has died at 82. **A8**

TOP OF THE NEWS

World/Nation

► **Venezuela:** A huge explosion rocks the nation's biggest oil refinery, killing 39. **A3**

Sporting Green

► **Giants:** As the rival Dodgers trade for high-price talent, S.F.'s winning streak ends at five games. **B1**

Bay Area

► **Bar's future:** The gay community is split over the fate of Eagle Tavern. **C1**

► **Arena's design:** The new Warriors arena will be designed by SFMOMA architect. **C1**

Refinery oversight questioned

Dangerous industry seen as self-regulating system with gaps in authority where insiders set safety rules

By Eric Nalder

A crusading oil patch lawyer calls the American refinery industry an "under-regulated cesspool." A member of the U.S.

Chemical Safety Board is more polite, describing a mismatch between well-heeled oil companies and under-qualified government regulators. Reid Porter, a spokesman for the American Petroleum

Institute, sees it the opposite way: "This is already one of the most heavily regulated industries in the country." In fact, a Chronicle investigation launched after the Aug. 6 fire that destroyed part of

Chevron's Richmond plant and sent thousands of residents to hospital emergency rooms found that refinery oversight is riddled with gaps. Porter's industry group plays a major role in what critics say is a self-regulating system for refineries. In the past three years, the industry has been accused of blocking or watering down

federal efforts to require refineries to reveal safety incidents that threaten their operations and the nation's fuel supply. Safety experts say such reporting sheds light on accumulating problems that can lead to refinery disasters. The Petroleum Institute is more than an oil industry lobbying organization — it's **Refineries continues on A13**

Petaluma boys fall just short



Brant Ward / The Chronicle

Petaluma players watch as the last batter strikes out and Goodlettsville, Tenn., claims the U.S. title at the Little League World Series in South Williamsport, Pa., winning 24-16 in seven innings. Petaluma tied the game with a 10-run rally in the sixth in the highest-scoring game in the event's history. **Game story, B1. Petaluma reacts, C1.**

CAMPAIGN 2012 Florida's seniors could sway election

By Carla Marinucci

SEBASTIAN, Fla. — Surrounded by a crowd of aging bikers and classic Harleys that populate the longtime Treasure Coast hangout known as Earl's Hideaway and Tiki Bar, former Cal State East Bay instructor Rodger Bolling should be reveling in retirement: The sky is blue, the beer is cold, and he lives in the Sunshine State. But that's exactly the problem, Bolling, 67, a tax law instructor and attorney, said Friday. "This election is going to be very, very close — and Florida is the most important of the undecided states," said Bolling, a proud Democrat wearing an "Obama Got Osama" baseball cap. "I'm scared to death." In a state that for months has been lavished with nonstop attention from Republican Mitt **Florida continues on A11**

More coverage



INSIGHT
► **Debra J. Saunders:** State GOP tries to regain stature. **F6**
NATION
► **Rising star:** Ted Cruz of Texas is turning heads. **A10**
► **Isaac:** Storm forces a one-day delay to convention kickoff. **A11**
BAY AREA
► **Willie Brown:** GOP faces a tough sell this year. **C1**



Michael Macor / The Chronicle

Ron Conway, an early investor in Google, Facebook and Twitter, also invests in 120 San Francisco companies.

SUNDAY PROFILE Ron Conway

Angel investor spreads his influence at City Hall

By Heather Knight

Against a backdrop of huge purple bouquets spilling out of their vases and trumpeters lining either side of a blue velvet carpet, Ed Lee made his way down City Hall's marble staircase to be sworn in as the mayor of San Francisco. Waiting at the bottom of the stairs that January Sunday were scores of prominent elect-

ed officials who were introduced by emcee and former Mayor Willie Brown. He then turned to Lee and pronounced, "I think I should identify some of your real friends." "Where are you, Ron Conway?" asked Brown, a Chronicle columnist. Conway, of course, was front and center, as he'd been throughout the election season. **Conway continues on A12**

Only in The Chronicle
► Stories with this logo in today's Chronicle can be found only in The Chronicle's print edition, e-edition and iPad app. Download the app at www.sfgate.com/ipad, and buy e-editions at www.sfgate.com/ZKFB.

Index

Bay Area.....C1	Food & Wine.....J1	Obituaries .C6-C9
Books.....G1	Home & GardenN1	Santa Cruz.....H1
Business.....E1	Insight.....F10	Style.....M1
Datebook	Letters.....F10	Sports.....B1
Movies.....34	Lottery.....A2	Travel.....D1

Weather
Fog and drizzle, then partly cloudy. Highs: 56-86. Lows: 47-58. **C4-C5**



Impressionist & Modern Art
Consignments now invited
+1 415 503 3311
sarah.nelson@bonhams.com
Jean Metzinger, *Saint Tropez*
Sold for \$156,000

Bonhams 1793
bonhams.com/impressionist
©2012 Bond No. 57bsbes3248