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Bay Area

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Nancy and Ronald Reagan, shown in the late 1980s, were known for their unwavering love through the decades.

NANCY REAGAN 1921-2016

Intensely loyal, strong first lady

By Steve Rubenstein

In their only movie together, Ronald Reagan gave Nancy Davis a kiss in an ammunition dump after the actress said she would love him "until you tell me you stop caring."

He never did stop caring. And Nancy Reagan — who died Sunday at 94 of heart failure in Los Angeles — went on from her role as romantic lead in "Hellcats of the Navy" to per-

form the greater and grander role of first lady, first of California and then the nation.

Like her husband, she hit her marks. She was firm and fiercely loyal. The love story she lived with her leading man, on camera and off, inspired admiration, respect and awe.

"Our former first lady redefined the role in her time here," President Obama said. "Later, in her long good *Reagan continues on A6*

San Francisco Chronicle

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"It's still a very hopeful time. There is a lot in the pipeline."

Dr. Valerie Cwik, chief medical and scientific officer for the Muscular Dystrophy Association



James Tensuan / The Chronicle

Albert and Rosella Maglines of Santa Clara pray with their sons before dinner. Four of their five sons suffer from Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a muscle-wasting genetic disorder that affects boys almost exclusively.

FDA rejects new drugs for muscular dystrophy

Hopes dashed for many, but scientists say they are close to cure

By Victoria Colliver

Children with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, the most common form of the muscle-wasting disease in kids, rarely live beyond their 20s, and no drugs have been approved specifically to treat their condition.

This year, scientists and doctors are more hopeful than ever before that they will finally get a drug that treats the underlying cause of

the disease. But the federal government's negative reaction to the first drugs out of the gate in 2016 has dealt a crushing blow to parents, patients and physicians struggling to find a way to save these young lives.

"These have been huge setbacks to the Duchenne community and to the clinical trials," said Dr. Craig McDonald, who specializes in treating neuromuscular diseases at UC Davis, where more Duchenne

patients are treated than at any other center on the West Coast.

The genetic disorder, which is passed down by the mother, affects boys almost exclusively. It starts with a loss of muscle function that worsens over time and eventually leads to problems with the heart and lungs. Approximately 1 in every 3,500 males are born with it.

Three companies — San Rafael's BioMarin Pharmaceuticals, PTC *Duchenne continues on A8*

Waste pits seen as toxic to water

Dumped oil, gas byproduct hazardous, watchdog says

By Peter Fimrite

Hundreds of open pits containing toxic waste produced by oil and gas drilling are threatening groundwater in California, and regulators have failed to protect drinking and irrigation water supplies from the danger, an environmental watchdog group concludes in a report set to be released Monday.

Oil industry leaders deny that the pits, which are primarily in the Central Valley, have contaminated any groundwater. But the report by Clean Water Action argues that oversight of the waste is so flimsy that the state should immediately

Pollution continues on A8

Email challenge could delay trial on PG&E blast

By Jaxon Van Derbeken

A federal magistrate is recommending that prosecutors seeking to convict Pacific Gas and Electric Co. of obstructing the investigation into the San Bruno pipeline disaster be given confidential emails between the company and its lawyers, which the government believes will show that the attorneys were involved in the alleged obstruction, The Chronicle has learned.

The magistrate's recommendation has not been made public, but on Friday PG&E filed sealed court motions to support an objection to *San Bruno continues on A7*

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Weather

Mostly cloudy; showers likely. Highs: 55-64. Lows: 32-48. **B8**



After tent city, plenty of plans — and homeless

By Kevin Fagan

As the final tent was tossed into a city truck last week to be hauled away from the biggest homeless camp ever assembled in San Francisco, its owner watched and shook his head with a weariness pounded into him by too many years on the street.

"This won't solve anything," said 39-year-old Ashante Jones. "Sure, some people like me are going into shelters, but everyone else just moved around the corner. Are there



Gabrielle Lurie / Special to The Chronicle

Ashante Jones (left) and Leslie Roundtree remove their tent from Division Street before moving to a shelter Tuesday.

enough places for us all to live in? Hell, no.

"This s— needs to change. But nobody knows how."

Jones is at least half right. Now that the 250-plus people camping along Division Street under busy Highway 101 have been cleared from the sidewalk and business owners can breathe sighs of relief, two immense questions are left hovering in the air: What next? And why can't the homeless problem be solved?

For now, this much is clear: *Homeless continues on A9*

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