

Big Sur open for business, but fire keeps tourists away

By Steve Rubenstein

BIG SUR — It's not easy selling a \$6.09 bag of trail mix when there's no trail.

That's how it is along magnificent Highway 1 from Carmel south past Big Sur. While the Soberanes Fire continues to gobble vast chunks of Monterey County to the east — 27,326 acres at last reckoning — the highway remains open, the lodges and restaurants and stores are open, and the arms of the increasingly lonely innkeepers and merchants are very much open.

"We've got seven vacancies tonight," said Rick Aldinger, general manager of the Big Sur River Inn, as he stood at the front desk Thursday. "That's unheard of for the middle of summer."

What isn't open are the state parks and beaches. They've been ordered shut, and there is speculation that some areas could be closed for weeks. No hiking. No beachcombing. No surfing, birdwatching, rock collecting. The only thing to do is hang around the motel room and sniff the smoke.

"The day this fire started, we began seeing the red on the balance sheet," said Aldinger, who has been obliged to reduce work hours for some of his 75 employees. "This is a big deal."

In the small market next door, where hikers traditionally load up on trail mix and other essentials, hardly anyone was loading up on anything.

"Before the fire, it was crazy busy in here," said store manager Raul Gonzalez, who had no takers for bags of Hit the Trail

Big Sur continues on A8

► **Firefighter IDd:** The bulldozer operator who died battling the wildfire in the Big Sur area was a Fresno County father of two. **A8**

Hot debate over 'equity' plan for pot sales permits

By Rachel Swan

Oakland's new medical cannabis laws, intended to right the perceived wrongs of the U.S. war on drugs, are the focus of a fierce political fight at City Hall.

Although the City Council voted unanimously to approve the laws in May — creating a permit system that will bring Oakland in line with new requirements for regulating the state's multibillion-dollar cannabis industry — several council members say the system they created is not a done deal.

The main sticking point is a provision that reserves half the city's medical cannabis permits for residents who were jailed on marijuana convictions in Oakland within the past decade, or who have lived for at least two years within six police beats in East Oakland where pot arrests were concentrated in 2013. To obtain one of these "equity permits," an applicant must own at least a 50 percent stake in the proposed business.

The intent of supporters, led by Councilwoman Desley Brooks, is to help people whose lives were disrupted by drug-related prosecutions and incarceration. Critics, while praising the goal, say Oakland's approach could hurt those people instead.

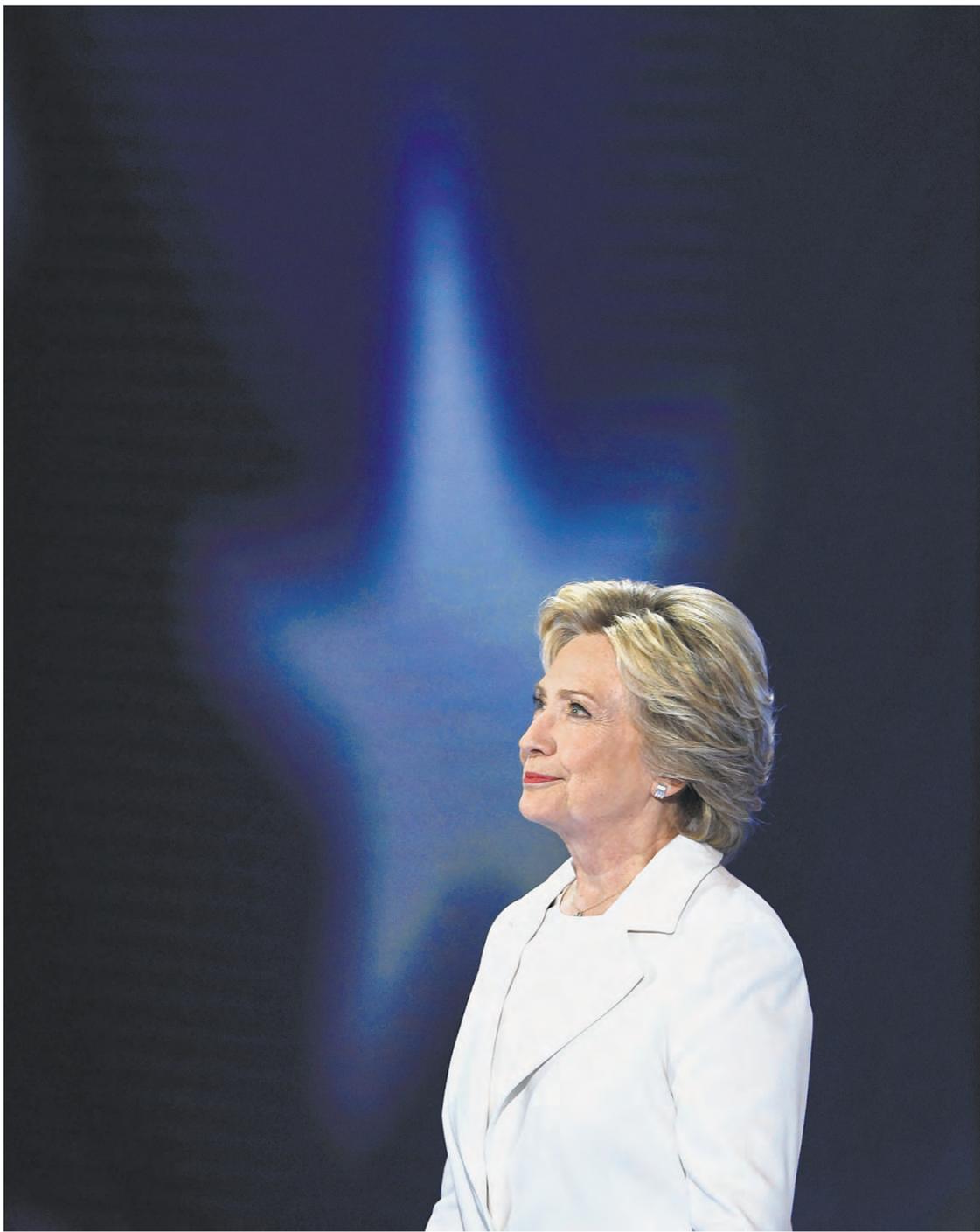
It could "fail to promote, and in many cases actively compromise, the city's social-justice and equity goals," the group

Cannabis continues on A13

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Shattering the ceiling

Hillary Clinton accepts nomination and makes history



Olivier Douliery / Abaca Press Agency

In a groundbreaking moment, Hillary Clinton accepts the Democratic Party nomination for the presidency of the United States on the last day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

By Joe Garofoli

PHILADELPHIA — Nearly a century after women gained the right to vote, Hillary Clinton on Thursday became the first woman to accept a major party's nomination for president.

The celebration of the historic milestone could be seen in the tears rolling down the cheeks of many in the crowd, as Clinton pitched herself as a policy-driven progressive with a

much steadier temperament than GOP nominee Donald Trump.

She offered an uplifting vision of a country where people "work together so we all can rise together" and contrasted it with a dark vision of a country led by Trump that is paralyzed by fear and resentment.

And she gave a prominent bow to her primary rival, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, for putting economic and social-justice issues front and center during the primary campaign,

and acknowledged to his followers, "I want you to know, I've heard you. Your cause is our cause."

But Trump increasingly became her target as the 56-minute speech progressed. She outlined a left-of-center agenda — addressing climate change and clean energy, immigration, gun policy and criminal-justice reform — that she contrasted with Trump's GOP nomination acceptance speech in Cleveland last week.

Clinton continues on A12

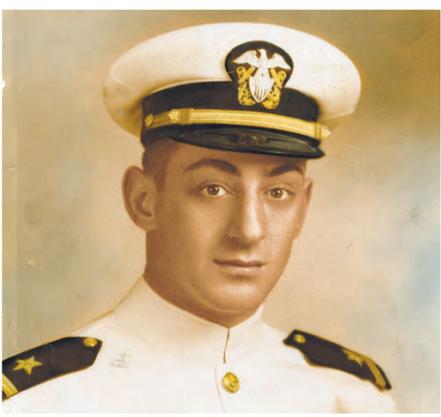
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► **Candidate's taxes:** Big Democratic donors criticize Donald Trump's refusal to release returns. **A12**

► **Scaling back:** Republican nominee says Russian hacker comments were meant to be sarcastic. **A13**

► **Editorial:** Despite rocky start, convention ends with strong dose of party unity. **A15**

Harvey Milk, who served in the Navy during the Korean War and later protested the Vietnam War, became one of the nation's first openly gay officials when in 1977 he joined San Francisco's Board of Supervisors.



San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library

Navy expected to name ship for slain gay leader

By Emily Green

The U.S. Navy is expected to name a ship after Harvey Milk, the first time it has bestowed the honor on an openly gay leader and a gesture that underscores the military's transformative shift on LGBT people.

According to the U.S. Naval Institute News, Navy Secretary

Ray Mabus signed a notification July 14 that he intended to name a Military Sealift Command fleet oiler the USNS Harvey Milk. Milk's nephew, Stuart Milk, said Mabus told him that the ship would travel worldwide.

A Navy spokesman declined to comment because the decision has not been officially

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Weather

Patchy fog, then mostly sunny.
Highs: 61-104
Lows: 49-67 **B8**



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