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**Today: Bay Area wildfires in photos**

Our journalists have captured stunning photos and videos of the desperate battle to contain the fires engulfing communities around the Bay Area and Northern California.



**Business Report**

Merger of two top Lake County wine companies forms powerhouse. **C1**

**Datebook**

Sensitive programs boost TV's portrayal of sexual assault. **E1**

# San Francisco Chronicle

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## Fires grow as storm moves in

Besieged Bay Area braces for new round of lightning

By Sam Whiting, Kurtis Alexander, Chase DiFelicianantonio and Rusty Simmons

A massive cluster of fires burning across several counties including Sonoma, Napa and Solano became the second largest in California history Sunday, as firefighters and residents braced for a potential new round of lightning storms that could bring wind

**INSIDE**

► **Hurricane a factor:** Possible lightning strikes are part of aftermath of storm that hit Baja. **B1**

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► **Fire Tracker:** Search an interactive map for updates. [sfchronicle.com/fire-tracker](http://sfchronicle.com/fire-tracker)

gusts and spark new blazes across Northern California. The LNU Lightning Com-

plex is one of three groups of wildfires that are spreading through dry fields and forests and threatening communities in and around the Bay Area. Firefighters have had a difficult time containing the unprecedented siege of blazes sparked a week ago during a round of thunderstorms that brought lightning but little rain amid a record-setting heat wave.

*Fires continues on A8*



Gabrielle Lurie / The Chronicle

John Cutino hoses down a spot fire after an LNU blaze tore through the area in Healdsburg.

CAMPAIGN 2020

## Left sees Harris' decisions as crucial

By Bob Egelko

A state attorney general is expected to defend state laws in court, including initiatives passed by the voters. But in 2011, newly elected Attorney General Kamala Harris refused to defend Proposition 8's ban on same-sex marriage, saying it was unconstitutional.

Her decision proved crucial when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2013 that Prop. 8's private sponsors had no standing to represent the voters in court, leaving the measure without a legal defense and erasing it from the books.

However, Harris responded differently in 2014 when a federal judge ruled that California's death penalty law was unconstitutionally arbitrary because condemned prisoners had to wait 20 years or more to get legal representation and have their appeals decided.

Harris, now a U.S. senator, opposes the death penalty — her refusal to seek it as San Francisco district attorney in a police-killing case nearly cost her the 2010 election for at-

*Harris continues on A8*

**Coronavirus update**

As of 6 p.m. Sunday

BAY AREA	
79,155 cases	1,047 deaths
CALIFORNIA	
668,017 cases	12,153 deaths
UNITED STATES	
5,700,487 cases	176,774 deaths

Source: Chronicle research, county health departments and Johns Hopkins University

**Weather**  
Spotty storms.  
Highs: 66-98.  
Lows: 53-65.  
**DB**



Photos by Allison Zaucha / Special to The Chronicle

## Burial costs compound grief of inmates' families

Prisoners infected in state's custody, but loved ones must pay for remains

**"I cried my eyes out. I don't have that kind of money sitting around."**

*Tracy Henson, widow of inmate who died of COVID-19*

By Jason Fagone

Tracy Henson just wanted her husband's ashes. By the time she spoke with a cremation company in May, the newly widowed woman from Portola (Plumas County) was an emotional wreck. For more than six years, she had been married to Melford Henson, a 65-year-old carpenter with white hair and a fondness for Chihuahuas. Deemed a low-risk prisoner by the state, he was serving a short sentence for DUI at the California Institution for Men in Chino. Until late April, he and Tracy spoke on the phone every day, planning their reunion; Melford was scheduled to be released by the end of 2020.

But the coronavirus was sweeping through the prison's overcrowded dormitories, and Melford suddenly stopped calling, sending Tracy into a

*Prisoners continues on A7*



Above: Raymond Price and grandfather Jesse Vargas attend services for Steve Garcia, who died of COVID-19.

Top: Monique Garcia breaks down at services in L.A. for her father, Steve Garcia, who became infected in prison.

## Fresh focus on whether racial stress leads to illness

By Tatiana Sánchez

Elaine Shelly has lived with multiple sclerosis for 30 years. But she said she still panics whenever she has to see a new neurologist because of racial discrimination she's experienced in the past.

Even getting a proper diagnosis for her illness was a battle. "I'd go to these neurologists who would tell me that Black people don't get M.S. and that I must be mentally ill," said Shelly, 63, of San Leandro.

A former print journalist,

Shelly said racial stress has been a constant in her life for decades, including in the workplace, where she often faced microaggressions from peers and retaliation from management.

"Living with that stress, day in and day out, I became ill,"

said Shelly, who left journalism in 1989. "I can't say that because of that stress I ended up getting M.S. ... But I can say these are the stressors I experienced before I became ill and never got better."

The idea that racial profiling *Racial continues on A9*

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