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'KICKING THE CAN DOWN THE ROAD'



James Knowles and his daughter, Aisha, gather near a mural in Hayward on Wednesday. Hayward officials promised a restitution fund to support those who lived in Russell City, but it's unclear who will distribute and receive the money that still isn't fully collected. In the meantime, aging survivors have either died or are angry. ARIC CRABB — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Reparation funds met with delays

Former Russell City residents frustrated with lack of restitution from both Hayward, county officials

By Ara Rosenthal
CORRESPONDENT

Every few months, James Knowles receives an email saying he'll be updated on efforts to address a 63-year-old injustice.

Knowles, 74, his family and entire community lost homes and business when their mostly Black and Latino neighborhood, known as Russell City, was cleared through eminent domain.

"This is the same thing they've been

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A muddy and weedy Sixth Street is seen in Russell City in 1953. The unincorporated area was the only one in Alameda County without storm and sewer services and lacked fresh water. The area was taken over by Alameda County through eminent domain and redeveloped as an industrial area. OAKLAND TRIBUNE PHOTO

VALIDITY OF FBI RAIDS AT ISSUE

Judge seems unlikely to allow Thao challenge

By Shomik Mukherjee
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OAKLAND — A federal judge signaled Thursday she is unlikely to grant a key defense request from former Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao and her co-defendants to challenge the FBI search warrants that led agents to raid their homes and businesses in June 2024.

"I would not stop preparing for trial if I were you," U.S. District Court of Northern California Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers told a defense attorney Thursday.

The hearing marked an early legal skirmish in a sprawling corruption case that has spread

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Former Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao appears with her lawyer, Jeffrey Tsai, outside the Federal Courthouse in Oakland on Jan. 17, 2025, after being indicted on bribery and conspiracy charges. RAY CHAVEZ — STAFF ARCHIVES

TRUMP CABINET SHAKEUP

Noem out as leader of DHS

Her planned replacement is a senator who hopes to 'build off things' that went awry

By Michael C. Bender, Michael Gold, Hamed Aleaziz and Maggie Haberman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump fired his embattled homeland security secretary, Kristi Noem, on Thursday and announced plans to replace her with Sen. Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma, after she was grilled by Republican lawmakers this week at congressional hearings on a variety of topics, including her knowledge of a contract with a politically connected firm.

Trump announced the change on social media, along with a new, and previously nonexistent, role for Noem: special envoy for the Shield of the Americas, which he said would be a new security initiative for the Western Hemisphere.

Trump is close with Mullin, a Republican, and speaks with him regularly. Mullin said that Noem had "done the best that she could do under the circumstances," but that he hoped to learn from her tenure and "build off things that didn't quite go as planned."

Noem, the first Cabinet member to be ousted in Trump's second term, had been among the



Noem

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UC SYSTEM BACKS STATE BILL

Plan puts \$23B research bond on the ballot

By Molly Gibbs
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California's taxpayers could fund a \$23 billion bond to replace federal grants that once supercharged scientific research in California under a proposal making its way through the statehouse.

That's the idea behind a new bill, Senate Bill 895, which would create a state-level taxpayer-funded institute similar to the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation, amid more than \$500 million in cuts to public and private research funding by the Trump administration.

The bill was introduced by state Sen. Scott Wiener, who represents San Francisco, earlier this year and would the bond measure on the November ballot.

If voters support the proposition, they would also authorize the creation of the California Foundation for Science and Health Research, which would hand out the cash in the form of research grants, loans

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