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Marin Independent Journal

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ONE-DAY ACTION

Novato employees walk out again over contract dispute



PHOTOS BY ALAN DEP — MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL

Jennifer Esteen, a vice president for SEIU Local 1121, speaks to city workers during a labor demonstration in Novato on Monday. The workers staged a picket line along Seventh Street to bring attention to contract negotiations.

Second protest in a month in pursuit of pay increase

By Steven Rosenfeld
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Novato's largest municipal employee union staged its second strike in a month Tuesday as contract negotiations drag on. The one-day walkout was about bringing base pay for Novato's 76 street maintenance workers, building inspectors, parks and recreation coordinators, city planners and office assistants in line with nearby cities and counties. The workers' three-year contract expired in June. The bargaining unit, represented by Service Employees International Union Local 1021, staged a

three-day walkout in early August. "Everyone's feeling a bit overworked, a bit undervalued, and the reason we are here today is we want to send the city a message that we won't tolerate their disrespect," said Jana Blunt, a SEIU field representative who has been negotiating with the city. "Right now, our biggest drive is getting to 100% of equity because over the long term that would be the best for us," said Brett Walker, a city planner. "While one of the other units had to accept the 93%, what we're all looking for is 100%." **PROTEST » PAGE 4**



SEIU field representative Jana Blunt speaks to Novato city workers during a one-day walkout.

"Everyone's feeling a bit overworked, a bit undervalued, and the reason we are here today is we want to send the city a message that we won't tolerate their disrespect."
— Jana Blunt, a SEIU field representative

THREE-COUNTY EFFORT

Marin deal to reduce pollution renewed

Contract helps to protect coast against litter problem

By Adrian Rodriguez
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Marin County has renewed a commitment to reduce pollution on its beaches and waterways. The Board of Supervisors approved a \$106,123 contract with the nonprofit Leave No Trace on Aug. 19 to continue abating the waste nuisances along coastal Marin. The contract is part of a three-county effort to protect the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries. This is the fourth year of a five-year project to promote the Cleaner California Coast Initiative in Marin, Sonoma and Mendocino counties. "When we launched this collaboration in 2022, our goal was to find a meaningful way to reduce the growing litter problem along our coast," said Marin County Supervisor Dennis Rodoni, whose district 4 includes West Marin. Marin joined forces with the two counties after officials noted that their coastal communities were being overwhelmed by visitors and their garbage during the COVID-19 pandemic. "By working together across counties, we are protecting two of the nation's most treasured marine sanctuaries while ensuring our beaches and waterways remain places of beauty for residents and visitors alike," Rodoni said. "The renewal of this partnership with Leave No Trace shows

POLLUTION » PAGE 4

FEDERAL COURT

Judge: Trump's use of military in LA illegal

Blistering opinion could have widespread impact

By Sonja Sharp
Los Angeles Times

A federal judge in San Francisco barred soldiers from aiding immigration arrests and other civilian law enforcement in Southern California Tuesday, warning of a growing "a national police force with the President as its chief" in an impassioned order set to take effect Sept. 12. In a 52-page decision early Tuesday morning, Senior District Judge Charles R. Breyer barred the administration from "deploying, ordering, instructing, training, or using" California troops to engage in civilian law enforcement — a ruling that could have wide-ranging consequences for Donald Trump's use of the military nationally. "Why is the National Guard still around?" Breyer demanded with evident irritation at trial last month. "What is the threat today? What was the threat yesterday or two weeks ago that allowed it?" the judge said. "I'm trying to see whether there are any limits, any limits to the use of a federal force." The government called California's suit a "Hail-Mary pass" and vowed to fight the decision. The ruling comes as hundreds of troops now patrol the United States capital, following an order by the president in mid-August deploying the National Guard to tamp down crime in D.C. Thousands more could soon be deployed to

TROOPS » PAGE 2

LEGISLATURE

State bills to help renters didn't reach Newsom's desk; which ones and why?

By Theresa Clift
The Sacramento Bee

When Ilene Tony and her family were evicted from their Sacramento apartment in 2015, they were given three days to either pay rent or get out. Like for all people getting formally evicted in California for non-payment of rent, three days is the standard. However, if it would be extended to 14 days, as a now-shelved bill would have done, Tony said it could have prevented her family from a decade of homelessness. "I could've found legal help," Tony said. "That many

more days still isn't enough but enough to at least start a trail of finding those resources people need. All around it would've helped." State Sen. Aisha Wahab, D-Fremont, introduced that bill, SB 436, in February. In June, it essentially died while in a committee, where three Democrats in the state Assembly voted toward its demise. "This is a very small ask," Wahab, who chairs the California Senate Housing Committee, said during a June 24 Assembly Standing Committee on Judiciary hearing.



SARA NEVIS — THE SACRAMENTO BEE/TNS, FILE

State Sen. Aisha Wahab's bill to help evicted renters was shelved.

RENTERS » PAGE 2

COURTS

Appeals court backs EPA action ending grants

Federal appeals court has ruled in favor of Trump's effort to freeze billions for nonprofits running a "green bank." **PAGE A6**



FLORIDA

Trial starts next week in assassination bid

Man charged with trying to assassinate Trump given instructions on how to behave representing himself. **PAGE A7**

BUSINESS

Dow Jones
45,295.81 (-249.07)
S&P 500
6,415.54 (-44.72)
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