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## Looming fights test Lurie's ties with unions

Labor issues set to intensify amid plan to cut 500 city jobs

By J.D. Morris  
STAFF WRITER

Mayor Daniel Lurie was already in a tough spot with San Francisco labor unions Monday when his administration delivered a sobering message: City Hall needs to eliminate hundreds of jobs.

At least 500 positions are on the chopping block as the city seeks to reduce its spending on salary and benefits by \$100 million, according to Lurie's budget director Sophia Kittler. She told departments in an email that San Francisco "cannot afford to sustain current spending on personnel costs" as it works to eliminate the recurring deficits that have plagued the city since the pandemic.

Kittler's message was a clear sign that labor issues are becoming increasingly urgent for Lurie. And the mayor probably can't meet the needed reduction in workforce expenses by cutting only vacant jobs: Kittler said that based on current vacancy rates, "meeting this target requires eliminating filled positions."

Public-sector unions would inevitably resist such a move, underscoring how labor conflict is a central issue for the Lurie administration this year. While San Francisco public school teachers just ratified a new contract after concluding their first strike in nearly 50 years, the mayor is now star-

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## BLOOD MOON ECLIPSE GLOWS



The last full moon of winter rises near the Transamerica Pyramid as it goes into total eclipse and turns red to become a blood moon on Tuesday. It's the last total lunar eclipse seen in North America until 2029.

CARLOS AVILA GONZALEZ/S.F. CHRONICLE

## Israel steps up strikes in Tehran

Attacks by Iran target U.S. embassies, disrupt travel

By Jon Gambrell, Elena Becatoros and Samy Magdy  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Israel said it launched airstrikes against Iranian missile launchers and a nuclear research site Tuesday, and Iran struck back against Israel and across the Gulf region, targeting U.S. embassies and disrupting energy supplies and travel.

Four days into a war that President Donald Trump suggested would last several weeks but perhaps longer, nearly 800 people have been killed in Iran, including some Trump said he had considered as possible future leaders of the country.

Explosions rang out Tuesday in Tehran and in Lebanon — where Israel said it retaliated against Hezbollah militants — and the American embassy in Saudi Arabia came under drone attack. Iran has fired dozens of ballistic missiles at Israel, though most of the incoming fire has been intercepted. Eleven people in Israel have been killed since the conflict began.

The spiraling nature of the war raised questions about when and how it would end. Trump seemed to leave open the possibility for more extensive U.S. military involvement, telling the New York Post on Monday that he was not ruling out the possibility of boots on the ground.

The administration has given various objectives. While the initial U.S.-Israeli strikes killed Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Trump urged Iranians to overthrow their government, senior administration officials have since said regime change was not the goal.

Trump said Monday the military campaign's four objectives were to destroy Iran's missile capabilities, wipe out its navy, prevent it from obtaining a nuclear weapon and ensure that it cannot continue to support allied armed groups.

Trump said Tuesday that "someone from Iran continues on A9"

## Lowell High teacher on leave over unseemly quiz questions

By Jill Tucker  
STAFF WRITER

A San Francisco math teacher was on indefinite leave Monday after administrators learned he required his students to solve quiz problems about a "fat kid" punted in the air and the monetary cost of dating girls based on their weight or "sexy points."

Lowell High School Principal Jan Bautista notified families just after 5:30 p.m. that teacher Tom Chan "needed to go on leave" and there was no return date known, with coverage of his classes pending.

She asked the community to respect his privacy at this time.

The announcement came hours after the Chronicle contacted district officials and Bautista seeking comment on the content of Chan's quizzes after a parent raised concerns, saying families and students feared retaliation in their grades or college recommendations if they complained.

District officials refused to confirm whether Chan was placed on paid leave or whether he took personal leave.

The wording in the ninth-

grade Algebra I quizzes reinforces stereotypes and the kids are accepting it, said the parent, who requested anonymity given concerns of retaliation against their family.

The questions reflect fat shaming, promote values based on looks and imply that girls aren't good at math, the parents said. "It's pretty shocking," they added. "The fact that nobody has brought this up to the school and he's been there a really long time."

Neither Bautista nor Chan responded to requests for com-

ment.

Chan has been a teacher at Lowell for more than 20 years. The parent said that older students confirmed previous classes experienced similar content on quizzes.

One of the quiz questions in February referenced taking someone out on Valentine's Day.

"The amount of money you spend on a date varies inversely to how much they weigh. A typical girl that weighs 120lbs will cost you \$55.

a) Derive the variation equation.

b) How much would you expect to pay for a date with Ashley who is 220lbs?

c) If you can only afford \$5, how much would your date weigh and what is his/her name?"

Another question was titled "Mr. Chan vs. The Fat Kid (part 2)."

"The fat kid from last time wouldn't be quiet about the candy I was eating in front of him, so I punted him up into the air."

Chan then asked students to solve questions related to an

*Teacher continues on A8*

## Newsom criticizes S.F.'s lag in use of CARE Court

By Sophia Bollag  
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Gavin Newsom named San Francisco County's CARE Court program as one of the lowest-performing in California on Monday, as part of a new effort to bolster his signature mental health care program.

"Through CARE Court, we have seen inspirational stories of recovery and resilience, but many counties continue to lag behind their peers," Newsom wrote in a statement. "We will not accept failure and excuses when lives are on the line."

The news comes weeks after the Chronicle published a detailed account of a man who died shortly after he was reject-

ed from CARE Court in San Francisco.

Newsom launched the program in 2023 as a streamlined path into the state's mental health system for people with severe mental illness languishing on the streets. San Francisco was one of the first counties to roll out the program, which created a new arm of the courts focused on mental health care.

Families who had struggled for years to get their loved ones into care viewed it as a lifeline. But early numbers show the program has helped far fewer people than initially anticipated. Newsom's office had initially projected that the program would help 7,000 to 12,000 people, but just 706 people had re-



Jessica Christian/S.F. Chronicle

Gov. Gavin Newsom, BCSH Secretary Tomiquia Moss and Health and Human Services Secretary Kim Johnson address CARE court.

ceived treatment plans or agreements through the court as of October.

San Francisco's CARE Court program was one of the governor identified Monday as the

worst-performing, alongside programs in Santa Clara, San Bernardino, Orange, Los Angeles, Kern, Riverside, Yolo, Monterey and Fresno counties.

*CARE continues on A9*