

## WORLD CUP KICKS



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN LAM/S.F. CHRONICLE

ABOVE: Tameem, right, dribbles the ball with another fan before the FIFA World Cup 2026 Group B match between Qatar and Switzerland at Levi's Stadium on Saturday in Santa Clara.

LEFT: Switzerland defender Ricardo Rodriguez drives the ball as Qatar defender Jassem Gaber defends.

### MORE COVERAGE INSIDE

Qatar, Switzerland deliver dramatic draw in first Bay Area match, despite some empty seats. **B1**

## State battles mussel infestation clogging water systems, pipelines

By Kurtis Alexander  
STAFF WRITER

When golden mussels were found in an international shipping channel in Stockton nearly two years ago, marking the first detection of the invasive shellfish in North America, state officials knew it was going to be bad.

Now those fears are being borne out.

The roughly 1-inch-long, golden-

brown mollusks, native to Asia, have spread from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, where they were initially spotted, through canals and aqueducts to the Bay Area and Southern California. Along the way, they've blanketed boats and docks with their crusty colonies and gummed up pumps and pipelines at major water facilities.

"The mussels have the ability to clog an entire pipe," said Jennifer Allen, spokesperson for the Contra-

Costa Water District, which is dealing with the pest in its water intake fixtures. "Getting in to clean all the infrastructure is a massive amount of work and potentially requires shutting down parts of the system."

She added, "We're really only seeing the beginning of what the impacts are."

Across California, tens of millions of dollars are being spent to stop the mussels. But with no retreat in sight

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## Coastal agencies to face review

Trump administration alleges noncompliance with law; critics say aim is to weaken authority

By Kurtis Alexander  
STAFF WRITER

The Trump administration is planning a review of the powerful California Coastal Commission and other state regulatory agencies that deal with the state's shoreline, saying they're likely out of compliance with the nation's coastal management laws — an assertion critics say is merely a pretense to weaken their authority.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick directed the review in a recent letter to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He alleged that California regulators were making decisions about development and other activities without giving due consideration to military plans and possibly many other federal interests, including offshore oil and gas drilling.

By initiating an assessment of California's federally approved coastal management program, and the agencies that execute it, the administration is opening the door to changing how much say the state has over federal and federally licensed projects — from dredging harbors to developing wind farms in the ocean to building undersea pipelines.

Coastal management programs, which ensure states have a voice in federal planning, are periodically reviewed and lightly modified under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. But because a review of California's program had been nearly completed under the Biden adminis-

**Coast continues on A9**

## Slow-moving DACA status renewals are upending lives

By Alexei Koseff  
STAFF WRITER

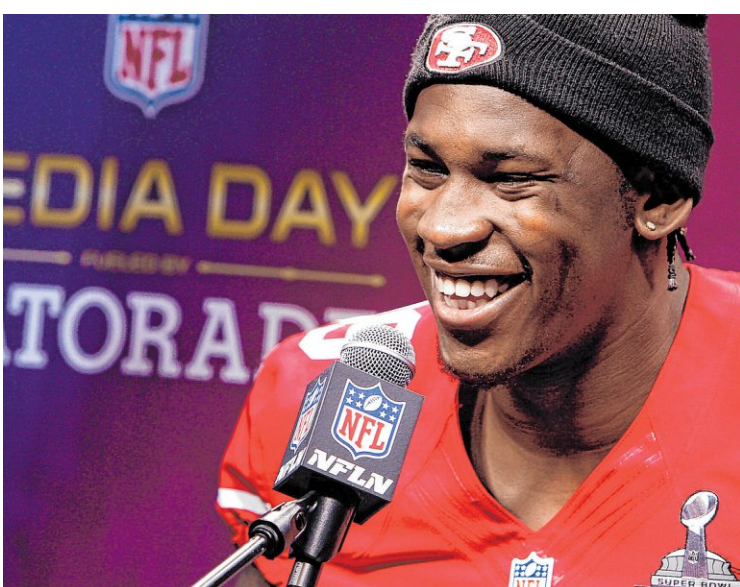
Julio has been out of work for four months, relying on retirement savings and occasional under-the-table jobs to help support his wife and 13-month-old daughter.

For nearly 14 years, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program offered Julio — who was brought to the United States from El Salvador illegally at the age of 4 — protection from deportation and permission to work. He built a career as a service technician for an oil and gas company and started a family in his San Bernardino County community.

But under the Trump administration, the once-routine renewal of DACA status, which must be extended every two years, has turned into a protracted and uncertain process that is upending applicants' lives and fomenting fears about the

**DACA continues on A8**

## Friend details final hours of former 49er Smith's life



Carlos Avila Gonzalez/S.F. Chronicle

Former 49ers linebacker Aldon Smith, shown in 2013, holds the franchise record for sacks in one season. Smith died on Saturday in San Jose at age 36. The cause of death is pending.

By Matthias Gafni and Noah Furtado  
STAFF WRITERS

Amir Shirazi walked out of his Los Gatos house Saturday morning and found his massive friend Aldon Smith, a former first-team All-Pro linebacker for the San Francisco 49ers, slumped over in the front passenger seat of his white Chevrolet pickup.

He thought Smith was asleep, his mouth open, his 6-foot-4-inch frame slightly twitching. Shirazi said he quickly knew something was wrong. He thought it was possibly a seizure, and then maybe a massive heart attack.

Shortly before noon, Shirazi told the Chronicle in an exclusive interview, he called 911 and summoned former 49ers run-

ning back Anthony Dixon to the scene to assist him in CPR.

Less than an hour later, Smith would be declared dead at Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose. His cause and manner of death are pending, according to Santa Clara County's chief medical examiner. He was 36 years old.

Smith's death marked a tragic end to a life and football career full of highs and lows. On his final day, after recently returning to the Bay Area, Smith helped deliver pizzas to a homeless charity. But his friend said he was financially struggling, bouncing around friends' homes and waiting for his NFL pension to kick in.

He would not get that chance.

Smith was drafted by the 49ers with the No. 7 overall pick in 2011 and quickly emerged as a

**Smith continues on A9**

