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► **No new talks:** President Obama's envoy leaves the Middle East without an agreement on restarting peace talks. **A4**

► **Health reform:** Michelle Obama brings a personal touch to the debate over health care reform. **A6**

► **Irving Kristol dies:** The godfather of neoconservatism's youthful radicalism turned into an emphatic rejection of communism. **A9**

**Sporting Green**



► **Giants close in:** San Francisco wins in Los Angeles, and Colorado loses to tighten the NL wild-card race. **B1**

► **Safeties first:** Cal's defensive backfield is expected to be tested by Minnesota today. **B1**

**Bay Area**

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► **Shootings probe:** The new S.F. police chief orders reviews of 20 officer-involved shootings. **C1**

► **Hot, hot, hot:** Get prepared for some steamy weather. **C1**

**Business**

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► **'V' for victorious:** The Mark Morris Dance Group offers an intriguing program at Zellerbach Hall. **E2**

► **Potok in Marin:** Vivid performances anchor a new production of "Asher Lev." **E3**

# San Francisco Chronicle

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MAYORAL BABY

## Newsoms welcome daughter Montana

By Heather Knight  
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

San Francisco Mayor and California gubernatorial candidate Gavin Newsom has a new title: Daddy.

Montana Tessa Siebel Newsom, the first child for the mayor and his wife, Jennifer Siebel Newsom, was born at 12:39 p.m. Friday. She measured 20.5 inches long and weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces.

"Everyone's in very high spirits and doing well," said Newsom's spokesman, Nathan Ballard. Grandparents and other family members gathered at the undisclosed hospital Friday afternoon and reported the baby is a stunner.

Her first name comes from the site of her parents' July 2008 wedding — at the Siebel family ranch in Montana's Bitterroot Valley. Tessa was the name of the mayor's mother, who died of breast cancer in 2002.

Unlike her perennially late father, Montana arrived early. Newsom said the baby's due date was Thursday.

Though Newsom had said September was "the red zone" for the baby's birth and avoided several events in order to stay close to home, the birth was actually a pre-scheduled cesarean section.

Siebel Newsom e-mailed friends and family late Friday morning, saying she was heading to the hospital to have her baby. Montana was

*Mayor continues on A10*

ENVIRONMENT



Linda Chan works at Pacific Heights Cleaners, which doesn't use hazardous solvents.

## S.F. takes green issue to the dry cleaners

By Marisa Lagos  
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Your dry cleaner may claim to be "green" or "environmentally friendly," but San Francisco officials warn that the business is probably using a hazardous chemical solvent that could be harming you, your cleaner and the environment.

The city's Department of the Environment spent months assessing the risks of dry cleaners. Now, the agency that initiated the plastic bag ban and mandatory composting has a new goal: eliminating chemical cleaning.

The department is embarking on an educational and legislative campaign to get the city's 360 dry cleaners away from

*Dry cleaners continues on A12*



Pacific Heights Cleaners uses environmentally friendly detergents in its dry cleaners.

UNEMPLOYMENT

## State jobless rate at 12.2%

But slowing job loss seen as sign recession may be nearing end

By Tom Abate  
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

California's unemployment rate jumped to 12.2 percent in August — the highest on record dating to 1976 — up from 11.9 percent in July, as nearly 2.25 million state residents looked for work in vain.

But a report issued Friday by the state Employment Development Department also showed fewer payroll job losses, a sign that the recession is ending even though the economy isn't yet expanding fast enough to create job growth.

The U.S. unemployment rate is 9.7 percent. California has suffered more deeply from this recession because it had one of the biggest housing bubbles in the nation.

Friday's report offered little comfort to Californians who face discouraging job hunts and frustrations in reaching overloaded employment department help centers.

Economists said that as job losses slow — last month, employers cut 12,300 jobs versus 35,800 in July and 114,000 in February — it shows that California is nearing the bottom and poised to grow.

"The recession is ending," said Stephen Levy, with the Center for the Continuing Study of the California Economy in Palo Alto. "But these are still

*Jobless continues on A10*



Rich Pedroncelli / Associated Press

Vang Pao is backed by supporters outside a Sacramento court in May.

HMONG CONSPIRACY ALLEGATIONS

## Key figure cleared of Laos coup charges

Indictment dropped against leader of refugees in California, but 2 more defendants named

By Bob Egelko  
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Federal prosecutors in Sacramento dismissed charges Friday that a leader of Hmong refugees in the United States, who once commanded pro-U.S. ethnic tribesmen in Laos and Vietnam, took part in a plot three years ago to over-

throw Laos' communist government.

A grand jury issued a new version of its 2007 indictment accusing a group of Hmong living in California, along with a former U.S. Army officer, of conspiring to buy weapons and explosives and finance an army of insurgents to attack a government with which the United States is at peace.

While adding two defendants to the previous list of 11, the government dismissed charges against the most prominent defendant, 79-year-old Vang Pao, with little explanation.

"In our measured judgment, and based on the totality of the evidence in the case and the circumstances regarding defendant Vang Pao, we believe that this continued prosecution of this defendant is no longer warranted," U.S. Attorney Lawrence Brown said in a

*Hmong continues on A10*

On SFGate.com

**Beer-bottle house:** Recycled materials turn homes into art — sfgate.com/ZIER

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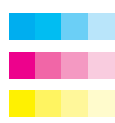
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Weather

Morning fog, then partly cloudy. Highs: 67-90. Lows: 52-61. **B12**



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