

# San Francisco Chronicle

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## SCHOOL SHOOTINGS



**"It's not going to die down."**

*Olivia Talley, 16*



**"This is the tipping point."**

*Eli McAmis, 16*



**"We're redefining what politics is."**

*Sofia Odeste, 17*

## Youths take lead on issue

By Jill Tucker and Joe Garofoli

To Bay Area children well-rehearsed on how to react if a heavily armed gunman tries to kill them in class, what happened in Florida seemed — at first — like just another school shooting.

There have been so many, said nine student organizers this past week as they sat around a conference table at their Oakland high school. Why would this one be different? And then, as if someone hit a switch, everything changed.

Teens across the country heard the gunshots and screams recorded on cell phones by students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. They watched survivors their own age take to social media

*Students continues on A8*



**"You can't shut down millions of teenagers."**

*Alden O'Rafferty, 16*



**"We are a ticking time bomb of voters."**

*Kameela Hall, 18*



**"It's incredibly naive to think this is going to go away."**

*Paulina Harding, 14*



**"It can happen at any school."**

*Aleki Lozano, 14*

▶ **Gun control:** Florida's governor and lawmakers seek to ban sales to those younger than 21. **A8**

▶ **NRA pressure:** With #BoycottNRA trending, companies drop promotions for its members. **A8**

## Driverless cars await state's OK

Truly autonomous vehicles could start California road tests in April

By Carolyn Said

Robot cars without drivers could be on California streets by early spring.

Long-awaited state regulations for autonomous cars without human drivers may be approved Monday by a legal compliance agency, according to the state Department of Motor Vehicles, which submitted the rules to the Office of Administrative Law on Jan. 11.

A thumbs-up would open a 30-day public notice period, during which companies can apply for permits to test the cars. California could begin issuing such permits April 2, according to spokeswoman Jessica Gonzalez.

"I think we'll definitely see some companies applying for driverless testing permits right away," she said. "Manufacturers

will want to be the first ones."

California is a hotbed for robot-car development, with 50 companies testing 387 autonomous vehicles. They all are required to have a backup driver ready to take the wheel on public roads.

### DRIVING THE FUTURE

"This is a significant step toward an autonomous future in the state, and signals that California is interested in leading

by example in the deployment of autonomous vehicles," said Uber spokeswoman Sarah Abboud in an email. The ride-hailing company operates autonomous taxis with backup drivers in Arizona and Pittsburgh. It tests driverless cars in San Francisco, but they don't carry passengers. Uber declined to comment about whether it would apply for a no-driver permit.

*Cars continues on A4*

## Oakland fire razes empty building that lured squatters, vice

By Kimberly Veklerov, Sophie Haigney and Erin Allday

A large, smoky blaze on Friday destroyed much of a city-owned historic building in East Oakland that has long attracted squatters, had previously caught fire twice and had been a dilemma for city officials who repeatedly boarded it up.

"It looks like it's a complete loss," said Oakland fire Battalion Chief Dino Torres. "When I got here, the fire was shooting out of the roof."

The fire at 1449 Miller Ave. was contained within an hour but had done significant damage to the building. The roof collapsed, and parts of the two-story building crumbled away as firefighters shot jets of water at it to put out hot spots.

People who lived and worked nearby said they had long anticipated a fire like the one that consumed the building Friday. Greg Jones, who has lived in the neighborhood for 14 years, said the structure was a known "den" for prostitutes and people using drugs.

"Believe me, city officials, police knew about this whole situation," Jones said. "They ride by here all the time. They need to knock it down, flatten it out."

The structure once housed an Oakland Library branch and a high school before it was abandoned in 1989 after the Loma Prieta earthquake, remaining vacant — except for squatters — ever since. In 2012, Occupy Oakland protesters took over the property, and despite the city's efforts to

*Fire continues on A9*

## Brave boy's spirit lifts Stanford team

By Tom FitzGerald

Just before the Stanford men's basketball team played Oregon a few weeks ago, the players were given a pep talk by the day's honorary captain.

"I've fought for the last year. Now you need to fight in your season!" he told them. "I want you to beat the quack out of the Ducks!"

They did just that, by 35 points, Stanford's most lopsid-

ed Pac-12 win in 16 years.

The inspirational and effective speech was delivered by 11-year-old Ty Whisler of Tahoe City (Placer County), who has been battling brain cancer for nearly a year and a half.

He was back on the Stanford bench Thursday night and again the Cardinal won big, beating Washington 94-78.

"He'll have to bomb a plane ticket when we go to Arizo-

*Whisler continues on A9*



Santiago Mejia / The Chronicle

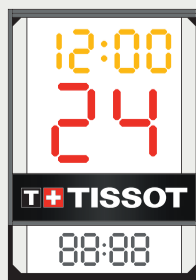
Ty Whisler, 11, sits on the Stanford bench Thursday, cheering the team on to a solid victory over the Washington Huskies.

### World/Nation

**Former Trump adviser Rick Gates pleads guilty to federal charges. A6**

### Sports

**Giants take field in Arizona, eager to put grim season behind them. B1**



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