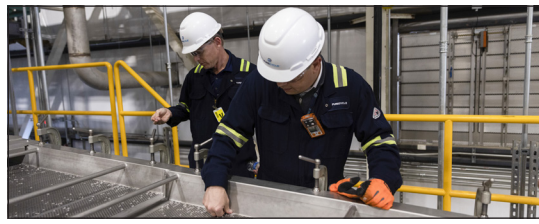


Sports: Scheffler holds on to win Masters. C1



Business: Plastic recycling breakthrough appears to be slowly happening. C7



Local: Bay Area office market has empty space but demand jumps. B1



Nation: Trump's first criminal trial starts today. A3



The newspaper of Silicon Valley

The Mercury News

BayArea NewsGroup 111

Volume 173, issue 301

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024

24/7 COVERAGE: MERCURYNEWS.COM » \$3.00

TRANSPORTATION



PHOTOS BY SHAE HAMMOND — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Crashes at the “turbo roundabout” are three times higher at the intersection of highways 25 and 156 near Hollister on Saturday. While there have been no deaths or serious injuries, collisions have been happening at the rate of one every 2.5 days.

‘Turbo roundabout’ may involve a learning curve

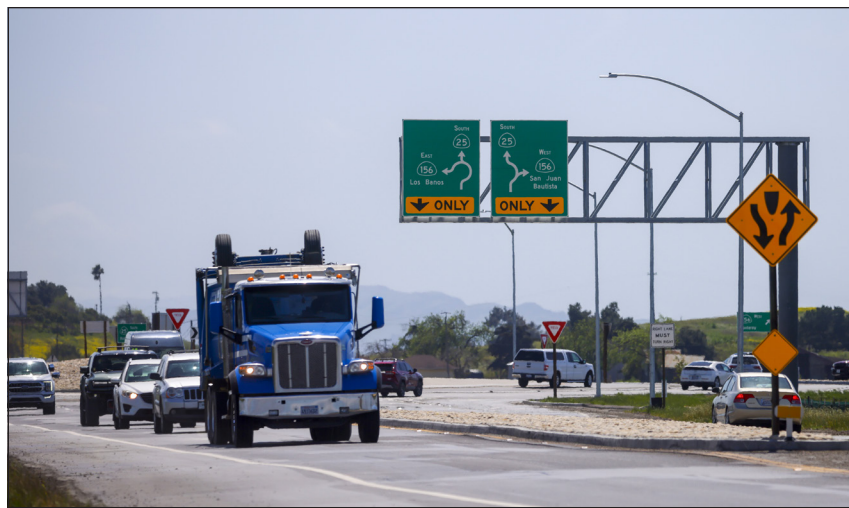
While collision rates at San Benito County site have tripled compared to the year before installation, fatal crashes and serious injuries have dropped to zero in early weeks

By Luis Melecio-Zambrano
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HOLLISTER » When drivers first crossed this particular roadway in San Benito County last February, they encountered an intersection never before seen in California — a multilane “turbo roundabout” shaped like a cartoon hurricane.

And, while the turbo roundabout has a history of making intersections safer throughout Europe, here the Scandinavian rotary has led to confusion among some drivers who have been seen entering the intersection backward, hopping over lane dividers, and cutting through yield signs.

“I use the roundabout twice a day, and I definitely see some stuff,” said Wayne Wallace, who lives in Hollister and works in San Jose. The most common blunder he sees is drivers trying to shift lanes after entering the roundabout, jumping over the concrete divider meant to keep them in their lane. “I’ve seen people catching air jumping



While the “turbo roundabout” has a history of making intersections safer throughout Europe, the intersection near Hollister has seen many collisions.

over it,” he said.

In one instance, Wallace witnessed a crash when a car cut over the divider in front of a semi, which hit it broadside.

Since Caltrans first unveiled the

roundabout in February at the intersection of highways 25 and 156 near Hollister, the site has seen a significant spike in crashes, according to a Mer-

CRASHES » PAGE 6

BEYOND SHADOW WAR

Biden tries to head off escalation in Mideast

White House says Israel’s successful defense against Iranian airstrikes is strategic win that needs no response

By Peter Baker and Michael D. Shear
The New York Times

President Joe Biden and his team, hoping to avoid further escalation leading to a wider war in the Middle East, are advising Israel that its successful defense against Iranian airstrikes constituted a major strategic victory that might not require another round of retaliation, U.S. officials said Sunday.

The interception of nearly all of the more than 300 drones and missiles fired against Israel on Saturday night demonstrated that Israel had come out ahead in its confrontation with Iran and proved to enemies its ability to protect itself along with its American allies, meaning it did not necessarily need to fire back, officials said.

Whether Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel and his government will agree to leave it at that was not yet clear as the country’s war Cabinet met for several hours Sunday to make decisions about its next steps.

The leaders of the Group of 7 major industrial democracies echoed Biden’s message Sunday morning, condemning Iran for the attack and warning that it could provoke what they called an “uncontrollable regional escalation” in the Middle East.

“This must be avoided,” the joint statement said. “We will continue to work to stabilize the situation and avoid further escalation.”

Although damage from the attack was relatively light, the scope of the strikes went well beyond the small-bore tit-for-tat shadow war between Iran and Israel in recent years, crossing a red line with the firing of weapons from Iranian territory into Israeli territory. Had defenses not held, scores or hundreds could have been killed.

American officials said it was clear to them that wide-scale death was Iran’s intent, despite the fact that its leadership telegraphed the attack well in advance, publicly and privately. Officials said that even as the attack was underway, Iran’s government sent word through Swiss intermediaries that it considered the matter closed.

“I mean, look at the size and the scale, the scope of what they fired into Israel from Iran proper: more than 300 missiles and drones,” John F. Kirby, the national security spokesperson at

ISRAEL » PAGE 7

HOUSE HUNTING

With a baby due in July, a South Bay couple searches for their first home

The pair wanted a spot in a good school district, not far from friends in Santa Clara — and for \$1.5M

By Kate Talerico
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Nishant Singh and Apeqsha Dudani met as students at Santa Clara University. Upon graduating, they didn’t stray far.

“We never moved out,” Singh joked.

Although Singh had grown up in Mumbai and Dudani in Dubai, they both fell in love with the South Bay, spending their weekends hiking the Santa Teresa Hills or discovering new restaurants — and both decided they wanted to build a life here. They found jobs at tech companies — Singh, 30, is a data engineer and Dudani, 32, is a business analyst — and up until March, they had been renting a two-bedroom in Santa Clara, not



SHAE HAMMOND — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Husband and wife Nishant Sigh, right, and Apeqsha Dudani, left, stand in front of their new home in San Jose on April 5.

far from a group of close college friends who also stuck around.

But the apartment started to feel small when, in January, the couple learned they were expect-

ing a baby. With their daughter due in July, Singh and Dudani decided to take the leap and buy a home in the Bay Area. “We

couple learned they were expect-

HOME » PAGE 6

CALIFORNIA

COVID deaths have shifted; victims are much older and whiter than pandemic start

By Harriet Blair Rowan
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Four years after the start of the COVID pandemic, the age and race of its victims in California have dramatically shifted: Now, a Bay Area News Group analysis finds, those who are dying from the virus are much older, and more often White than Latino, a notable switch.

While COVID deaths in California have plunged across all race and age groups, a comparison of deaths from the first six months of the pandemic to the most recent six months of data compiled by the California Department of Public Health shows 70% of those dying nowadays are 75 or older — up from just over half in early 2020.

And while Latinos made up nearly half of all Californians

killed by COVID in the first six months of the pandemic, White residents now account for nearly 60% of all deaths.

The changing demographics and plummeting overall death toll exhibit how Californians built up immunity to the virus, experts say, through exposures and vaccines, and which groups are now the most vulnerable to the worst outcomes.

After four years of living with the virus, life is largely back to pre-pandemic normal. But when the virus first shut down our lives in 2020, face masks and working from home were foreign concepts to most. And while the speed of developing the first COVID vaccines was unprecedented in science, it took until early 2021 — the heart of the pandemic’s deadliest wave — for the public to get immunized. While COV-

COVID-19 » PAGE 6

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