

Business: Tesla lays off about 10% of workers. C7



Local: Logoed 49ers license plates will help good causes in the state. B1



Sports: Kurtenbach: The Warriors are a strange mix. Is that good? C1



World: Four wild ways to save the koala. A2



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'THIS IS SO NUTS AND SO RIDICULOUS'

Hundreds stop traffic on Bay Area freeways



JANE TYSKA — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Protesters are monitored by California Highway Patrol officers on Interstate 880 southbound near the 7th Avenue on ramp in West Oakland on Monday. Demonstrators who are opposed to the war in Gaza shut down 880 and the Golden Gate Bridge for much of the day.

Morning commuters are frustrated as they face a wall of people protesting the Middle East war

By John Woolfolk, Rick Hurd, Katie Lauer and Ethan Baron
Staff writers

Bay Area commuter traffic was brought to a halt Monday, as demonstrators calling for an end to the war in Gaza blocked the Golden Gate Bridge and Interstate 880 for hours. It was the second time protesters have shut down major highways in the region since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel plunged the Middle East into bloody conflict and spawned protests across the U.S.

INSIDE:

Israel's choices on response to Iran's attack all come with risks. A3

Biden to host Iraqi leader as tensions rise in the Mideast. A3

The demonstrations began around 6:30 a.m. on northbound Interstate 880 in Oakland. The California Highway Patrol said protesters blocked off I-880 just south of the exit for 5th Avenue and the Embarcadero by deploying concrete-filled 55-gallon barrels — carried to the site by a rental truck — and chaining themselves to them.

Traffic backed up six miles to the Oakland Coliseum as officers worked to clear the jam.

A short distance west, at 7th Street, some 300 demonstrators impeded traffic at an on-ramp and frontage road entrance to southbound I-880, refusing orders to leave. CHP officers made arrests, working to remove the protesters and partially reopen the freeway shortly after noon.

The CHP said around 3 p.m. that all lanes of I-880 were open again in both directions.

On the Golden Gate Bridge, protesters chained themselves to vehicles starting around 8 a.m. The CHP arrested 20 protesters and reopened the span at 12:15 p.m.

"Attempting to block or shut down a freeway or state highway to protest is unlawful, dangerous, and prevents motorists from safely reaching their destinations," the CHP said in a statement Monday.

Many motorists were not amused.

"Aaaaarrrrrggghhh!!!" Bay Area photographer and writer Renate Flynn posted on X. "My daughter's stuck on the Golden Gate Bridge. She's been there for TWO HOURS and just left her car to go to the restrooms on the North Side of the bridge. This is so nuts and so ridiculous and so poten-

PROTESTS » PAGE 5



ARIC CRABB — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A protester is carried away by police officers after she and others shut down traffic along northbound Interstate 880.



JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Motorist Pam Satterthwaite, of San Francisco, shows her frustration as she and others are idled by the demonstration.

HUSH-MONEY CASE

Jurors hard to find for Trump

Majority of prospective panelists on trial's first day say they can't be fair

By Jonah E. Bromwich, Ben Protess, Maggie Haberman and Kate Christobek
The New York Times

NEW YORK » After years of investigation and weeks of delay, the criminal case known as the People of the State of New York vs. Donald J. Trump went to trial Monday, with hundreds of citizens summoned to potentially join a jury that will decide the fate of the first American president to face prosecution.

But the ritual of choosing the jury got off to a slow start as more than half of the first group of 96 potential jurors raised their hands to say they could not be fair to Trump, demonstrating the challenges of picking an impartial panel in a city where the defendant is widely loathed. The judge immediately excused them.

One prospective juror, a woman in her 30s, was heard outside the courtroom saying, "I just couldn't do it."

The prospective jurors, who represented a cross-section of Manhattanites of various ages and demographics, filed past Trump and into the rows of a dingy courtroom. Some strained

TRUMP » PAGE 8

INSIDE: Trump's media stock takes another plunge. A2

A weary Trump appears to doze off in New York courtroom. A2

Biden, allies are likely to stay quiet on Trump's current trial. A2

FCI DUBLIN

Troubled women's prison will be closed

Federal authorities give no timeline for end of site known as the 'rape club'

By Jakob Rodgers
jrodgers@bayareanewsgroup.com

DUBLIN » Federal officials announced plans Monday to close the troubled FCI Dublin women's prison, signaling the end to a facility that saw numerous jail officers imprisoned for a reputed "rape club" while inmates alleged years of abuse and retaliation for speaking up about misconduct there.

The surprise move by the Federal Bureau of Prisons came just a week after a special master assumed control of the facility, which was raided by the FBI last month. Attorneys representing inmates immediately raised questions about the agency's motives, suggesting that the move was an attempt to avoid such oversight.

Prison officials gave no timeline for the closure and few details for how they planned to shut down a facility that a federal judge recently derided as "a dysfunctional mess" in need of unprecedented oversight.

In a statement, Director of FCI DUBLIN » PAGE 5

INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY

Allies plead with Israel to show military restraint

World leaders urge Benjamin Netanyahu not to retaliate against Iran for weekend attack

By Cassandra Vinograd
The New York Times

JERUSALEM » Israel's allies on Monday were strongly urging it not to retaliate against Iran for the missile and drone attack over the weekend, calling instead for a de-escalation of the tensions that have gripped the Middle East.

The Iranian aerial assault — itself a retaliation for a strike that killed Iranian commanders in Syria — was the first time Iran had launched open attacks against Israel from its own soil. As some far-right members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government called for a strong response, the United States, the Group of

7 nations, the European Union and the U.N. secretary-general were among those counseling restraint.

Netanyahu's government faces a delicate balancing act: how to respond to Iran in order not to look weak, while not alienating the Biden administration and other allies already impatient with Israel's conduct of the war in the Gaza Strip. While the United States, Britain and France strongly condemned Iran's actions and

swiftly came to Israel's defense to help intercept Iran's strikes, their calls for restraint highlighted the intense pressure Israel was facing not to fuel a wider Middle East conflict.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken emphasized the need to prevent further escalation in a flurry of calls Sunday with his counterparts in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Turkey, Britain and Germany, according to State Department statements.

ISRAEL » PAGE 5

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INDEX

BusinessC7
ClassifiedB6

Comics/TVB10
LotteryA2
LocalB1

ObituariesB5
PuzzlesB2, C5, C6
WeatherB12

WEATHER

H: 76-77 L: 51-54
Full report on B12



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