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Reaction to Israeli strike on Iran hints at de-escalation

BY FARNAZ FASSIHI, RONEN BERGMAN AND PATRICK KINGSLEY NYT News Service

The Israeli military struck Iran early on Friday, according to two Israeli and three Iranian officials, in what appeared to be Israel's first military response to Iran's attack last weekend but one whose scope, at least initially, appeared to be limited.

The Iranian officials said that a strike had hit a military air base near the city of Isfahan, in central Iran. Initial reaction in

both Israel and Iran was muted, which analysts said was a sign that the rivals were seeking to lower the temperature of their conflict. World leaders, who for nearly a week have urged Israel and Iran to avoid sparking a broader war in the region, called

for both sides to de-escalate tensions on Friday.

The Israeli military declined to comment on the strike. A senior U.S. official said that Israel had notified the United States through multiple channels shortly before the attack.

All the officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The explosions came less than a week after Iran fired more than 300 missiles and drones at Israel - nearly all of which were shot down - in response to an April 1 strike on an Iranian diplomatic compound in Syria that killed seven Iranian officials. That attack brought the decades-long shadow war between Israel and Iran - waged on land, at sea, in air and in cyberspace -

SEE STRIKE, 5A



Aaron Grove gets cannabidiol products from a case for a customer at Elk Grove CBD earlier this month. The city prohibits marijuana

Some hope Elk Grove reconsiders ban on marijuana dispensaries

BY MARCUS D. SMITH msmith@sacbee.com

Davon Burdette enjoys a walk through the park on a nice day with his girlfriend and their dog. At some point in their outing, he breaks down some weed with his fingers, rolls it in a cigar leaf, lights up and chills

Burdette, a self-proclaimed "weed head," will partake in marijuana activities on 420 on Saturday — after he gets off work, of course.

Burdette, 21, lived in Elk Grove but is no longer a resident. Still, he frequents his old stomping grounds, visiting one of the city's many parks and

trying different eating options. He likes to pick up his cannabis products from dispensaries before his Elk Grove excur-

That's because he has to. Elk Grove does not have a marijuana dispensary.

Elk Grove, a booming economy and suburb of Sacramento, initially disregarded the cannabis industry, outlawing dispensaries in the city limits in 2017 after recreational use was legalized by California's Prop. 64 in 2016. (It does allow other cannabis products, such as those sold at Elk Grove CBD.)

Elk Grove public affairs manager Kristyn Laurence said in

SEE MARIJUANA, 6A



Owner Aaron Grove stands at the counter of Elk Grove CBD earlier this month. He's operated his CBD store in Elk Grove for the past five years. Elk Grove prohibits marijuana dispensaries from operating in the city limits.

Trump trial on track for opening arguments Monday

BY JONAH E. BROMWICH AND BEN PROTESS NYT News Service

NEW YORK

Jury selection wrapped up Friday afternoon in the criminal trial of former President Donald Trump with the empaneling of 12 jurors and six alternates, clearing the way for opening statements next week and the start of testimony.

But as the final alternate jurors were being vetted inside the Manhattan Criminal Courthouse, a horrific scene unfolded in Collect Pond Park across the street. Just before the court adjourned for lunch, a man set himself on fire in the park, after throwing anti-government pamphlets in the air. Badly burned, he was loaded into an ambulance. The Fire Department said in a statement that a critically injured person had been transported to a hospital.

A spokesperson for the court system, Al Baker, said the court schedule would not be affected, though, he added, "The entire court is impacted by this."

Opening statements in Trump's trial, in which prosecutors and defense lawyers will introduce their dueling cases to the newly empaneled jury, are expected to begin as early as

Monday. The case stems from a hushmoney payment made during the 2016 presidential campaign to a Stormy Daniels, an adult film actor who at the time was threatening to go public with her story of a sexual encounter with Trump. The \$130,000 payment came from Trump's former fixer, Michael D. Cohen, who has said he acted at Trump's direction.

The Manhattan district attorney, Alvin Bragg, charged Trump with 34 felony counts of falsifying business records,

SEE TRUMP, 6A

Newsom calls for accountability on funds to help homeless

BY LINDSEY HOLDEN AND VIK JOLLY lholden@sacbee.com violly@sacbee.com

California Gov. Gavin Newsom is renewing his call for accountability from cities and

counties that receive homelessness funding after an audit showed the state is not adequately tracking the effectiveness of programs meant to help

the unhoused. Newsom on Thursday said the Department of Housing and

Community Development will begin overseeing state homelessness grants, namely the **Homeless Housing Assistance** and Prevention program, also known as HHAP. The program awards grants to local governments, agencies and organizations to spend somewhat flexibly on homelessness services.

Jurisdictions that fail to comply with state guidelines could ultimately face a lawsuit from the state's Department of Justice -- mirroring actions that agency has taken to enforce affordable housing laws.

Newsom touted Attorney General Rob Bonta's success at taking legal action against cities like Elk Grove and Huntington Beach over their resistance to approving new housing developments, saying he wanted to see similar action on the homelessness front.

"What's happening on the streets has to be a top priority," Newsom said. "People have to see and feel the progress and the change and if they're not ... I am not interested in continuing the status quo."

As the state's homelessness crisis has grown, the governor has increasingly called for ac-

SEE HOMELESS, 5A





