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AIRPORT SECURITY

Lawmaker's bill takes aim at line-jump perk



PHOTOS BY RAY CHAVEZ — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A traveler gets help from a CLEAR ambassador at the TSA security line at Oakland International Airport on Wednesday. The service uses biometric screening to vouch for passenger identification, which allows them to skip long security lines.

State senator is hoping to put a lid on private screening services such as CLEAR and have their subscribers go through separate TSA lines

By Kristin J. Bender

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The "pay-to-play" concept permeates almost every aspect of American life, including air travel.

Passengers who pay a premium for a first-class ticket board and deplane first, get more comfortable seats and are offered gourmet meals and cocktails served by flight attendants who address them by name.

But even travelers in the cheap seats are increasingly looking to dodge long security lines, paying extra to shorten their slog through airport screening, either to the Transportation Security Administration itself through its Pre-Check service, or private companies such as CLEAR, which use biometric screening to vouch for passenger identification.

That last perk isn't sitting so well with some California lawmakers.

A state bill would put a first-in-the-nation lid on private security screening services like CLEAR. The New York

TSA LINES » PAGE 6



A traveler, left, is escorted by a CLEAR ambassador so she can receive faster check-in service at the TSA security line at Oakland International Airport.

WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Signs of cease-fire progress hit a snag

Israel vows a military operation in 'very near future' as latest round of talks with Hamas reportedly sputter

By Josef Federman and Kareem Chehayeb
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM » The latest round of Gaza cease-fire talks ended in Cairo after "in-depth and serious discussions," the Hamas militant group said Sunday, reiterating key demands that Israel again rejected. After earlier signs of progress, the outlook appeared to dim as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to resist international pressure to halt the war.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant claimed Hamas wasn't serious about a deal and warned of "a powerful operation in the very near future in Rafah and other places across all of Gaza" after Hamas attacked Israel's main crossing point for delivering badly needed humanitarian aid, killing three soldiers.

But Israeli media reported that CIA chief William Burns, a main mediator in the talks, would

CEASE-FIRE » PAGE 7

SHOOTING AFTERMATH

NIMBYs are blocking farmworker housing at Half Moon Bay site

By Kate Talerico

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HALF MOON BAY » After a mass shooting last year killed seven farmworkers and exposed derelict living conditions for those workers, city officials and residents here agree that there's an urgent need for better housing for some of San Mateo County's poorest residents.

But plans to build exactly that in downtown Half Moon Bay are being met with a common refrain: please, just not here.

Citing concerns about design, height and limited parking capacity, Half Moon Bay's planning commission is slow-walking plans for a five-story, 40-unit affordable housing project for senior

HOUSING » PAGE 6

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 16 TIEBREAKER

Recount reveals Santa Clara County again being hampered by human-error problems

By Grace Hase and Harriet Blair Rowan
Staff writers

In the end, it came down to 19 ballots in Santa Clara County that ultimately made the difference in the hotly contested Congressional District 16 race — ballots that were never counted the first time around due to human error.

While a change equal to just a frac-

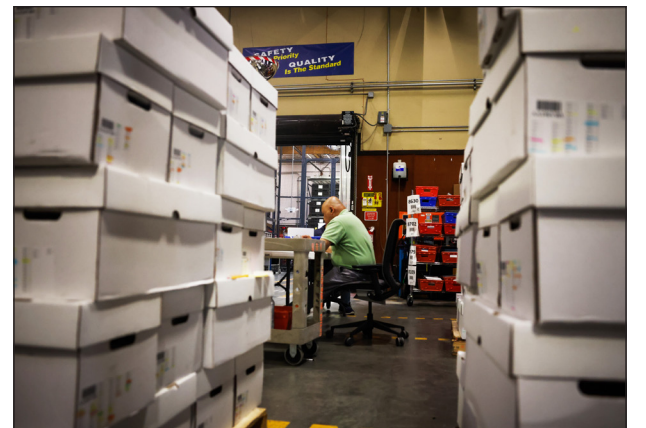
tion of a percent of votes is unlikely to shift the entire results of most elections, a once-in-a-generation tie in this case exposed the gaffes and fumbles by one county in the tabulation process.

What followed the March primary was two months of counting and recounting more than 182,000 votes in the race to replace retiring U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo — a stunning saga that came to a close on Wednesday after-

noon, with Assemblymember Evan Low emerging victorious over Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian by a margin of five votes.

The veteran politicians had previously tied for second behind former San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo until a voter-requested recount — which cost the Super PAC funding it about \$270,000 — decisively changed the outcome of the election.

RECOUNT » PAGE 6



SHAE HAMMOND — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Robert Valdez, who has been working with the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters for nine years, recounts District 16 ballots inside the agency's building on April 26.

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