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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



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

Some hope Elk Grove reconsiders ban on marijuana dispensaries

BY MARCUS D. SMITH
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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 out.

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 excursions.

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



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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.

SEE MARIJUANA, 6A

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 hush-money 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
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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 organiza-

tions 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 devel-

opments, 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-

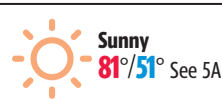
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FROM PAGE 1A

MARIJUANA

an email that the city's ruling is largely a policy call.

"The City of Elk Grove strives to maintain a high quality of life for our residents and businesses, all consistent with state and local law," Laurence wrote. "State law allows cities to regulate and/or prohibit commercial marijuana businesses, medical marijuana dispensaries, and outdoor marijuana cultivation. The City has prohibited all of these uses by local ordinance since 2017. There has been no direction from the City Council to consider changes to the ordinance to date."

According to the California State Department of Cannabis Control, only 44% of cities and counties in the state allow at least one type of cannabis business, while 56% do not allow any. The department reported the only cities within Sacramento County to allow storefront or delivery retail marijuana businesses are the City of Sacramento and Isleton.

Elk Grove is among the remaining cities within Sacramento County that hardly wants anything to do with marijuana. Elk Grove bans dispensaries that sell the actual plant. You can't buy marijuana.

However, it does have places that sell cannabidiol, or CBD, the oil that is extracted from cannabis products and does not create the high of weed. They contain only a tiny percentage of tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, which is the ingredient that causes the high.

Other cities to outlaw marijuana retail sales and allow CBD are Citrus Heights, Folsom, Galt and Rancho Cordova.

"I feel like it's just the white areas, I'm not trying to be racist or anything," Burdette said. "I just feel like they just look at our use of it and think marijuana is a thug drug. I was in Folsom looking for a dispensary. They don't have any dispensaries in Folsom. I don't like going in the hood (for a dispensary)."

Burdette shops at many dispensaries around Sacramento but most recently at Sacramento Dispensary, formerly known as Off the Charts.

Burdette said he would probably buy that weed in Elk Grove if he could.

WHAT WENT INTO ELK GROVE'S MARIJUANA PROHIBITION?

Elk Grove residents who want to partake must continue to get their herb from outside of the city.

The city's ordinance on cannabis said marijuana dispensaries and delivery of marijuana or cannabis to any location within Elk

Grove is prohibited. Despite that, many delivery services outside of Elk Grove do make drop offs in the city, according to WeedMaps, an online directory for marijuana dispensaries and delivery services.

Elk Grove City Council member Darren Suen is the only current one who sat on the council in 2017 when the ordinance prohibiting marijuana was passed.

Suen said he voted not to allow marijuana stores in Elk Grove because it was still very new and the market was in its infancy.

"It wasn't understood or known how the business would do, how it would affect the community, you know, all those things," Suen said. "It was really new at that time. So there was just a lot of uncertainty and we didn't feel a rush to adopt beyond what was allowed by the state at that time."

He said that the city wanted to wait and see how the market fared with other jurisdictions.

Suen said public safety was another concern because the area had vacant homes used as grow houses in 2010.

"There was a lot of concern from EGPD," Suen said. "I remember that time. I think at that time it was a safety blight, nothing was known for sure. It was just erring on the side of caution."

He said he thinks the cannabis retail industry has matured since then.

COULD ELK GROVE SEE DISPENSARIES IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

Laurence said opening Elk Grove to dispensaries is a policy decision that would have to originate from the City Council.

"Previous Councils have asked that the City's Municipal Code be structured in such a way as to prohibit these types of businesses," Laurence said. "I am not aware of anyone on the current Council that is asking for this to be reconsidered."

Suen said the city doesn't have anything against the cannabis industry, but residents he's talked to have not demanded it opening the door to marijuana dispensaries.

"Our constituents, neighbors, friends, and people who use it for medicinal purposes, for cancer, for anxiety, have all said that 'we're good, we don't need it,' or 'we get our stuff delivered' or they don't mind driving to Sacramento," Suen said. "The residents that I've spoken to... I have just not heard of them saying we need to have one of these cannabis stores closer."

The common responses he said he hears are that



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Cannabis products are on display in a case as Aaron Grove, owner of Elk Grove CBD, rings up a purchase earlier this month. Elk Grove, a city that prides itself on economic growth, urban planning and development, prohibited marijuana dispensaries from operating in its city limits.

people enjoy the idea that Elk Grove is viewed as a "family town."

Suen said the only people he's heard who want cannabis are those who own dispensaries and want to set up shop here.

And he doesn't blame them, he said, because Elk Grove is an untapped market.

Suen said he no longer has the same concerns about the industry as he did seven years ago and didn't rule out the possibility of a dispensary in Elk Grove.

"If... there was an overwhelming amount of residents that felt so strongly that they felt the need to have cannabis dispensaries in the city... that they were not satisfied with getting their cannabis in nearby cities or online, then I would be willing to, at least, have a conversation about it," Suen said.

However, he said, "if my residents don't see it as a burning desire then I'm not inclined to revisit it."

'NOT A CONCERN OR NEED'

For now, dispensaries won't be opening in Elk Grove.

Suen said that it isn't a priority for the city, as cannabis doesn't even make the city's list.

Instead, he said, many residents have voiced concerns over homelessness, crime and traffic, and they're most interested in more places to eat, shop and things to do.

Cannabis in Elk Grove has never been a priority Suen said, because the city never needed the source of revenue.

Residents voted to pass Measure E, a 1% sales tax increase in Elk Grove, making the city's finances "very healthy," Suen said.

"Whether it's restaurants coming or our auto mall, even more so when things like Nordstrom Rack open up, Whole Foods is coming, a smaller version of Macy's is coming and Yard House. There's all these things that will be opening up,

that sales tax revenue will just increase," Suen said.

"Costco is already here and has been doing phenomenal. We have our revenue sharing from the Sky River Casino, that's something unique. Sacramento doesn't have that, so (cannabis) just hasn't been a concern or a need."

WHAT'S TO LOSE?

Some say otherwise and believe, the more, the merrier.

Aaron Andrew Grove, entrepreneur and owner of Elk Grove CBD, thinks the city should remove the moratorium that prohibits the retail sale of marijuana.

"It's one of those subjects where it seems like on face value what's to lose by implementing it," Grove said. "What could they possibly lose by moving forward with it? So if they were to remove the moratorium, what would be the con of that? What would be the negative aspect of that?"

Grove believes cannabis would further stimulate the economy, on top of its current state.

"They're getting extra traffic as we know the transaction of goods, that's going to base the economy, and if we could simply create more supply

of that (with dispensaries)," Grove said.

He disagreed with the notion that Elk Grove residents wouldn't want a dispensary in town.

"The demand's there," Grove said. "I get calls everyday."

Grove said that he would open a dispensary in Elk Grove, if permitted.

He said he would want to keep his CBD and a marijuana dispensary separated.

"If I was to ever do it (open a dispensary), I might consider doing it at a different location and not intermingling the two because this is more of a medical type of thing (Elk Grove CBD) where it's like a clinic in that sense," Grove said.

WHAT'S ELK GROVE CBD?

Elk Grove CBD, according to Grove, is the first and only dispensary of any kind in Elk Grove. He first opened the store at 6616 Laguna Blvd. in October 2019.

His store offers hemp CBD, which Grove simply describes as the healing without the high.

"Most people don't want to get high..." Grove said. "THC products have to be specially formulated, according to the law, to

even be offered in hemp retail format... That's what I'm offering here."

So can you legally get high from products at Elk Grove CBD?

Cannabis is a genus and has different species, Grove explained. You would need to take a lot of CBD, Grove said, for that to happen.

He does have other products that contain THC that can do the trick for customers, such as THC gummies and vapes.

Ray Tamayo is a customer who visits Elk Grove CBD to buy gummies.

"I use them to relax and take the edge off after a long day," Tamayo said.

Grove, 40, has been in the cannabis industry for nearly 30 years. He was born in Las Vegas and raised there before living in the Bay Area for 20 plus years.

"I've been in the cannabis game for like 28 years and even before then, my mom was growing (plants)... in our backyard," Grove said.

He lived in San Diego before moving to Elk Grove, where he learned about CBD.

He entered the industry because he wanted to help change people's lives.

"I'm an expert," Grove said. "I do thorough consultations with people that are dealing with serious issues, like chronic life-long, life-threatening issues that I help them with. I've been holistically healing people for over a decade."

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NAME, AGE	CITY	DEATH	ARRANGEMENTS
Sneeringer, William Joseph, 88	Fort Collins	Apr 05	Chapel of The Valley
Swanick, Devin Christopher, 40	Blaine	Oct 30	

Bold listings indicate expanded obituaries

Devin Christopher Swanick August 19, 1983 - October 30, 2023



Blaine, Minnesota - Devin Swanick, beloved husband, son, brother and friend, passed away in his sleep on October 30, 2023 after a brief and brutal illness. He is survived and dearly missed by his wife Stephanie (Morton) Swanick, parents Deborah Flower and Gerald Swanick, and brother Oliver Swanick.

Devin was a brilliant engineer with a master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Sacramento State University. He loved spending time with his family and friends, learning new things and explaining them to others, and building his Star Wars Lego collection.

A celebration of life will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on April 27, 2024 at the Wyndham Garden Inn in Sacramento. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to the Sacramento County Bradshaw Animal Shelter or the animal shelter of your choice.

William Joseph Sneeringer February 16, 1936 - April 5, 2024



Fort Collins, Colorado - William "Bill" Sneeringer, passed away peacefully on April 5, 2024, due to natural causes at his daughter Anne's home in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Bill was born on February 16, 1936, in Gillespie, Illinois, to his parents, Louisa Novello Sneeringer and Sylvester Sneeringer. He led a life filled with joy, kindness, generosity, and a deep devotion to his Catholic faith. His sense of humor was contagious, bringing a smile to everyone he knew. Bill's love for God and his commitment to living a life of service and compassion were the cornerstones of his existence.

As a prayer warrior, Bill spent countless hours in prayer, meditation, and reflection, inspiring those around him with his unwavering faith. He served in the Army, was a retired LA Fireman Engineer and school administrator, dedicating his

career to serving his community guided by his strong moral values.

He is survived by his sisters, Mary and Rosalie. He is preceded in death by his siblings, Lou, Catherine, and Joan. Bill has been joyfully reunited with his loving wife, Jonan Sneeringer, who passed away 16 years ago. Their love was a testament to the enduring power of devotion and companionship.

Bill was a devoted father to his eight children, Paula, Kenny, Karen, Mat, Anne, William, Patrick and Beth, and a cherished grandfather and great-grandfather to many. His family was his greatest joy, and he instilled in them the values of faith, love, and compassion.

The Requiem Mass will be a celebration of Bill's life, faith, and the impact he had on those around him. It will be held at St. Stephen the First Martyr Catholic Church in Sacramento, California, on Friday, April 26, 2024, at 12:00 noon.

Though Bill may no longer be with us in person, his spirit, love, and unwavering faith will forever live on in our hearts. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him. May he rest in peace, embraced by God's eternal love, reunited with Jonan in heavenly bliss.

FROM PAGE 1A

TRUMP

accusing him of having disguised reimbursements of Cohen to keep the sex scandal under wraps.

Trump has pleaded not guilty and has consistently denied having had sex with Daniels. If the jury convicts him, he faces up to four years behind bars.

Here's what else to know about Day 4 of the trial:

- Several potential jurors opened up about their lives in court Friday. One woman broke down while talking about having served prison time in another state and later said she felt people should be held accountable for their actions "because that's what I went through." Another was overcome with emotion as she answered basic questions in the jury box. "This is so much more stressful than I thought it would be," she

said. Both were excused.

- The judge, Juan Merchan, has ordered news outlets not to report prospective jurors' answers to two queries on a lengthy questionnaire: "Who is your current employer?" and "Who was your prior employer?" He has also directed that those answers be redacted from the transcript.

- Prosecutors Thursday renewed their request that Merchan hold Trump in contempt of court, arguing that the former president has repeatedly violated a gag order that bars him from attacking witnesses, prosecutors, jurors and others. Merchan said he would take up the matter Tuesday.



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