

BOYLE PARK UPGRADE PLANNED LOCAL | PAGE A3



A MARIN TAKE ON SHERLOCK HOLMES LIFESTYLES | PAGE B1



P/SUNNY High:77 Low:50

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CIVIC CENTER EXHIBIT

THE DEEPER STORY

County workers' self-portraits explore what it means to be viewed as public employees



Supriya Menon holds a self-portrait at the Marin County Civic Center in San Rafael. Menon is among the county employees who contributed images to an exhibit titled, "The Art of Public Service." PHOTOS BY ALAN DEP — MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL

By Cameron Macdonald CMACDONALD@MARINIJ.COM

Supriya Menon insists she is not an artist.

"I'm such a left-brained person," said Menon, an information technology specialist for the Marin County government.

However, Menon made a New Year's resolution to try something that discomferts her. She got her opportunity when she joined a series of lunchtime art workshops at the Marin County Civic Center cafeteria. The participants were asked to create self-portraits for an exhibit of art by county employees.

Menon pieced together her portrait from materials such as dried chili peppers, burlap and embroidered chiffon saree, which reflects her Indian heritage.

"Not everything goes well," she said. "I'm creative, but I'm not good with my hands."

Menon is among 21 county employees whose work is being displayed at the exhibit, titled, "The Art of Public Service." The collection will be outside the Board of Supervisors chamber through Sept. 25.

Employment analyst Erika Powell and county library administrator Juliet Schiller organized the workshops and art show.

See ART on Page A4



Marin County employees Supriya Menon, left, and Juliet Schiller chat in the third-floor art gallery at the Marin County Civic Center. They each contributed a self-portrait for "The Art of Public Service."

"My proposal for this series was to build a process where participants could let go of perfectionism, reconnect with curiosity and childlike wonder, and discover that meaningful, beautiful art can come from honesty and experimentation rather than technical skill alone."

— COUNTY LIBRARY ADMINISTRATOR JULIET SCHILLER

MAPE

County, largest union settle

Two-year agreement covers pay, benefits

By Richard Halstead RHALSTEAD@MARINIJ.COM

Marin County has reached a new two-year agreement with its largest union.

Under the agreement, members of the Marin Association of Public Employees, known as MAPE, will receive a 4% pay raise in July and another 3% in July 2027.

The union, which has more than 1,000 members, also secured additional equity pay increases for most of its members and other concessions from the county.

"Although healthcare is still a point of contention, we have made progress in a lot of areas," Erica Butler, the union president, told supervisors Tuesday. "We feel more appreciated by our employer."

The contract specifies that in each year of the agreement, the county will boost employees' biweekly fringe benefit packages by an amount equal to 5% of the same dollar amount as the new Kaiser Permanente "silver" plan premium.

See MAPE on Page A4

NEWS ANALYSIS

Iran thwarts US, Israeli hope for quick end

By Amanda Taub THE NEW YORK TIMES

Nearly three months into the conflict, the Iranian regime has succeeded in confounding U.S. and Israeli expectations for a speedy victory.

The regime survived a wave of targeted killings early in the war. It then managed to turn the tables on its more powerful adversaries, introducing something of a stalemate.

See IRAN on Page A2

CAPITOL SIEGE

Prison to pardons to payouts for Jan. 6 rioters

By Alan Feuer THE NEW YORK TIMES

Antony Vo was at a friend's house Monday morning when a fellow pardoned Jan. 6 rioter sent a message: The Trump administration had just created a fund to benefit people who believed they had been wronged by the federal government — including those, like him, who had stormed the Capitol five years ago.

Vo, who briefly fled the country to avoid his prison

inside: Jan. 6 Officers sue to block Trump's payout fund/A8

sentence stemming from the riot, said he did not know at first that the fund had come about as part of a larger deal by President Donald Trump to withdraw an extraordinary lawsuit filed against the IRS. But the origins of the fund, he said, were less important than how it made him feel: surprised, relieved and grateful all at once.

"I'm glad it turned into

something," he said, "that could help people who have been hurting for quite a while now."

That reaction, it turns out, appeared typical among the so-called Jan. 6ers who have long joined Trump in claiming that the efforts to hold them accountable for disrupting the peaceful transfer of power after the 2020 election amounted to mistreatment by the criminal justice system.

Some felt that the fund validated their self-image as

victims of the government. Others felt elated — albeit somewhat stunned — at the prospect of a payout. And not a few felt a bit confused at how the process of filing claims and receiving checks could play out.

"So many questions," said Enrique Tarrio, the leader of the far-right Proud Boys who was sentenced to 22 years on a seditious conspiracy conviction arising from the riot. "But it's a good direction."

See PAYOUTS on Page A2



Violent protesters gather outside the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. ANDREW HARNIK — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, FILE

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INDEX

Lottery A2
Opinion A11
Weather A12

Volume 165, Issue 60

TV B4
Sports C1
Classifieds C6

