

SAN MATEO COUNTY

Binder selected as sheriff

The former department undersheriff says his priority will be to ‘stabilize the organization’ as he takes over for the ousted Corpus

By Ryan Macasero
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A year after San Mateo County released a scathing report accusing former Sheriff Christina Corpus of misconduct and abuse of power — and following her ouster last month — supervisors on Wednesday voted 4-1 to appoint former Santa Clara County Undersheriff Ken Binder as the county’s new top law enforcement officer.

County supervisors cited Binder’s experience in neighboring Santa Clara County — which shares a similar economic, geographic, and administrative profile with San Mateo County — as a key reason for their choice.

Supervisor Noelia Corzo, who

called for Corpus’ resignation a year ago and was once an ally, said she looks forward to turning the page on the yearlong saga.

“This process has not been an easy one,” Corzo said, addressing the press after Binder’s appointment. “Every step forward has been coupled with difficult decisions and

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Ken Binder, right, is sworn in as San Mateo County sheriff by county Supervisor Ray Mueller at the San Mateo County Center in Redwood City on Wednesday. **NHAT V. MEYER — STAFF**

INITIAL U.S. UNDERTAKING

WAYMO REVS UP RIDERS’ OPTIONS



A Waymo autonomous vehicle drives on Highway 101 during a demonstration on Friday in San Francisco. The Silicon Valley-based company is now offering rides on freeways in the Bay Area, Los Angeles and Phoenix for the first time. **PHOTOS BY DAI SUGANO — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

Autonomous vehicle company begins offering rides on Bay Area freeways, touting researched safety measures but worrying other officials who cite a ‘tremendous risk’

By Ethan Baron
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In a first for the U.S., Waymo on Wednesday began offering driverless robot-taxi rides on freeways in the Bay Area, along with Los Angeles and Phoenix.

The pioneering Google spinoff will also expand service down the Peninsula all the way into San Jose, and serve riders to and from Mineta San Jose International Airport, creating broad new trip-taking opportunities for residents and visitors.

Waymo co-CEO Dmitri Dolgov said the Mountain View company had been targeting freeways since Google launched its autonomous vehicle project in 2009.

“Freeway driving is one of those things that is very easy to learn but very hard to master,” Dolgov said last week during a press event preceding Wednesday’s public announcement of the freeway service.

Dolgov promised Waymo, owned by Google parent Alpha-



A Waymo autonomous vehicle outfitted with a range of sensors is parked before its Highway 101 demonstration on Friday in San Bruno.

bet and spun off from Google in 2017, would bring a “strong focus on system safety and reliability” to freeway travel.

Waymo officials said they have worked with the California Highway Patrol to ensure safe freeway deployment. On freeways, a Waymo will stay at or below 65 miles per hour, “following the flow

of traffic,” said company spokeswoman Sandy Karp, “but sometimes it might go to say, 68.”

Freeway travel will be available to early-adopting Waymo users who have opted in to new features, with more users eligible later. Full access to the expanded Peninsula ridership area will be offered within a couple of weeks,

Waymo said.

However, some local officials expressed concerns about the vehicles’ safety, including state Sen. Dave Cortese, who represents much of Santa Clara County and has chafed at local officials’ inability to regulate robotaxis. Automated taxis fall under the purview of the state Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Utilities Commission, including for freeway travel.

“That’s a tremendous risk that Waymo’s taking right now, in their ambition to scale as quickly as they can with as little local control as possible — they’re risking the ultimate tragedy,” Cortese said last week, before learning about the freeway expansion.

Waymo has hit a number of bumps along the way to becoming the nation’s leading robotaxi company, serving the Bay Area, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Atlanta and Austin. In San Francisco, where it first rolled out paid fares, emergency officials and local politicians

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HOUSE PASSES BILL

Historic shutdown finally concludes

The 43-day funding lapse saw federal workers miss multiple paychecks

By Catie Edmondson
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The House gave final passage Wednesday to a spending package to reopen the government, sending the legislation to President Donald Trump’s desk where the president signed it in a late night appearance from the Oval Office, all but guaranteeing an end to the longest shutdown in the nation’s history.

The 222-209 vote came on Day 43 of the shutdown and days after eight senators in the Democratic caucus broke their own party’s blockade and joined Republicans in allowing the spending measure to move forward, prompting a bitter back-

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VOLATILE ISSUE

New links to Epstein continue to roil Trump

Dems release emails suggesting president knew of sexual crimes

By Michael Gold
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — House Democrats on Wednesday released emails in which Jeffrey Epstein wrote that President Donald Trump had “spent hours at my house” with one of Epstein’s victims, among other messages that suggested that the convicted sex offender believed Trump knew more about his abuse than he has acknowledged.

Trump has emphatically denied



Epstein

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