

**Local:** Five battling for state Senate seat. **B1**

**Business:** Apple launches pair of budget-friendly devices. **C9**

**Sports:** Could Deebo Samuel be next for a 49ers' reunion? **C1**

**Nation:** Judge rules tariff refunds due. **A3**



The newspaper of Silicon Valley

# The Mercury News

BayArea NewsGroup

\$3.00 | THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026 | MERCURYNEWS.COM

111

FOUR-YEAR LEGAL SAGA FINALLY ENDS

## LOS GATOS MOM IS FOUND GUILTY



Santa Clara County District Attorney Jeff Rosen addresses the media Wednesday at the Hall of Justice in San Jose after Shannon O'Connor was convicted of 48 crimes related to organizing parties for teens that involved drinking and more. **DAI SUGANO — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

### Shannon O'Connor is convicted on 48 charges related to boozy teen house parties where sexual assaults reported

**By Robert Salonga**  
RSALONGA  
@BAYAREANEWSGROUP.COM

SAN JOSE — A former Los Gatos mother accused of organizing alcohol-fueled teen parties that prosecutors said led to binge drinking and sexual assaults was found guilty Wednesday of 48 crimes encompassing child endangerment and sex offenses.

After a three-month trial, jurors convicted 51-year-old Shannon O'Connor of felonies including two counts of sexual penetration, 13 child endangerment counts and one count of dissuading a witness. The sexual penetration convictions were the most serious, as prosecutors argued that O'Connor sexually assaulted the two girls by enabling them to become so intoxicated they could not legally consent.

Those convictions will require O'Connor to register as a sex offender. O'Connor faces at least 30 years in prison when she is sentenced, which is expected later this year.

For the two sexual assault counts, prosecutors contend that O'Connor acted more egregiously than simply providing the girls alcohol. One of the boys recounted O'Connor was present and urging him on when he



O'Connor, seen in November 2023, is "very, very, disappointed" with the verdict, according to her attorney, Stephen Prekoski, who called some of the charges against her "unusual." **COURTESY NBC BAY AREA**

drunkenly sexually penetrated a girl in a hot tub. The girl testified she was so intoxicated she struggled to keep her head above water during the encounter.

In another instance, a witness said O'Connor appeared unconcerned when a teen girl, identified

See **O'CONNOR** on Page A5

HOMELESSNESS

## Cleanup of camps gets new strategy

San Jose is changing guidelines for how belongings are stored

**By Devan Patel**  
DPATEL  
@BAYAREANEWSGROUP.COM

As San Jose city workers prepared to clear a large encampment along Willow Street and the Guadalupe River, they encountered a minefield of debris and assorted items — gas and oil canisters, a couch, bureau, small grill, refrigerators, boxed-up bicycle parts, empty bins, and suitcases — strewn about.

While some encampments are better kept than others, the disorganized chaos at this location represented what city workers typically encounter, and the conundrum they face when trying to handle and store personal belongings, said Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Director Jon Cicirelli.

San Jose has also faced complaints from homeless residents and advocates who have accused the city of discarding their items or making it difficult for them to pick up. Citing the city's data, Cicirelli acknowledged the retrieval rate was less than 10%.

Now, San Jose has approved changes to property-handling procedures it hopes will keep public spaces clear while upholding residents' rights, including providing

See **CAMPS** on Page A5

PARTISAN VOTING

## Senate thwarts legislation to halt war

Measure is the first to test Trump's powers as Iran conflict escalates

**By Stephen Groves, Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick**  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans voted down an effort Wednesday to halt President Donald Trump's war against Iran, demonstrating early support for a conflict that has rapidly spread across the Middle East with no clear U.S. exit strategy.

The legislation, known as a war powers resolution, failed on a 47-53 vote tally. The vote fell mostly along party lines, though Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky voted in favor and Democratic Sen. John Fetterman of Pennsylvania voted against.

The war powers resolution gave lawmakers an opportunity to demand congressional approval before any further attacks are carried out. The vote forced them to take a stand on a war shaping the fate of U.S. military members, countless other lives and the future of the region.

Underscoring the gravity of the

See **VOTE** on Page A5

CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

## U.S. submarine takes out Iranian warship

Action comes as forces step up bombardment against power symbols

**By Jon Gambrell, Elena Becatoros and Samy Magdy**  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A U.S. submarine sank an Iranian warship in the Indian Ocean, as Washington and Israel intensified their bombardment Wednesday of Iran's security forces and other symbols of power. Iran launched more missiles and drones and warned of the destruction of military and economic infrastructure across the Middle East.

The tempo of the strikes on Iran was so intense that state television announced the mourning ceremony for Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei,



Workers remove piles of rubble from a police facility that was struck by missiles during the U.S.-Israeli military campaign being waged in Tehran, Iran, on Wednesday. **VAHID SALEMI — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

who was killed at the start of the conflict, would be postponed. Millions attended the funeral of his predecessor, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, in 1989.

The U.S. and Israel launched

the war Saturday, targeting Iran's leadership, missile arsenal and nuclear program while suggesting that toppling the government is a goal. But the exact aims and timelines have repeatedly shifted,

signaling an open-ended conflict.

President Donald Trump praised the U.S. military Wednesday for "doing very well on the war front, to put it mildly." Fellow Republicans in the U.S. Senate stood with Trump on Iran as they voted down a resolution seeking to halt the war.

Israel also traded fire with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon, while Iran fired on Bahrain, Kuwait and Israel. As the conflict spiraled, Turkey said NATO defenses intercepted a ballistic missile launched from Iran before it entered Turkey's airspace.

The war has killed more than 1,000 people in Iran, more than 70 in Lebanon and around a dozen in Israel, according to officials in those countries. It has disrupted the supply of the world's oil and

See **IRAN** on Page A5

SUBSCRIPTION

Call 408-508-5554 for a subscription. To place a classified ad, call 408-920-5111. Copyright © 2025, Mercury News. 24/7 coverage at mercurynews.com

WEATHER

H: 66-68 L: 46-49  
Full report on **B10**



INDEX

Business ..... C9  
Classified ..... A8, B5  
Comics/TV ..... B8

Local ..... B1  
Lottery ..... A2  
Obituaries ..... B4

Volume 175, issue 259

Puzzles ..... B2, C6  
Sports ..... C1  
Weather ..... B10



6 40493 00001 1