

Sports: 49ers' Saleh has something to say. C1



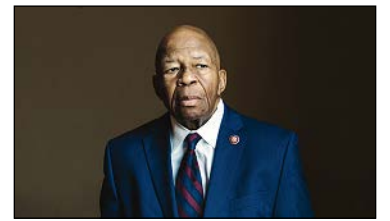
Business: Juul stops sale of fruit, dessert flavored e-cigarettes. C7



Local: San Jose actor receives Emerging Artist award. B1



Nation: Rep. Cummings dies at age 68. A5



The newspaper of Silicon Valley

The Mercury News

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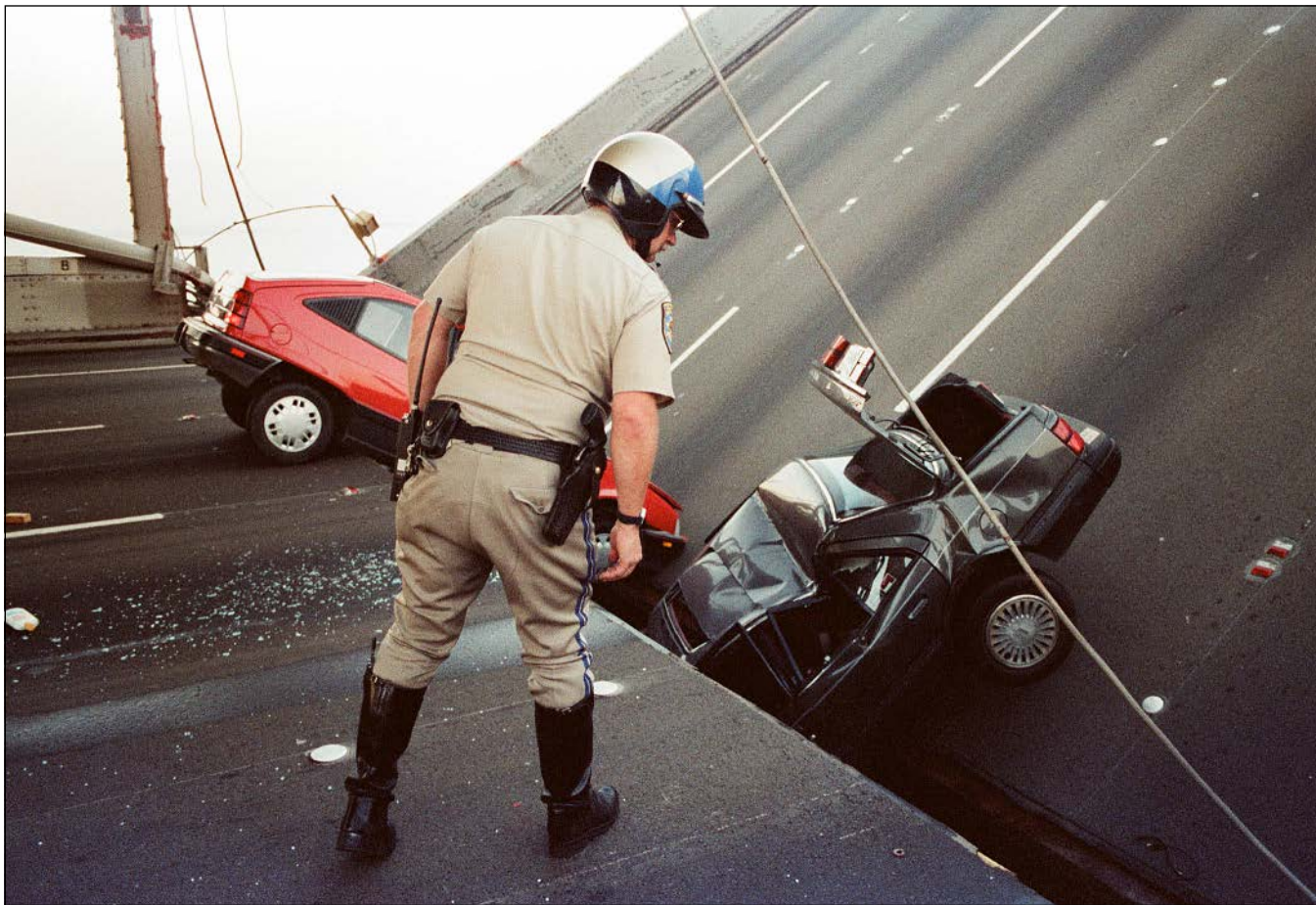
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NEWSOM: 'A WISE AND APPROPRIATE INVESTMENT'

'Big leap forward': California debuts quake warning system



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A California Highway Patrol officer checks the damage to cars that fell when the upper deck of the Bay Bridge collapsed onto the lower deck during the Loma Prieta earthquake on Oct. 17, 1989.

MyShake app, developed at UC Berkeley, sends early alerts to cellphones

By Paul Rogers

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California on Thursday — the 30th anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake — became the first state in the nation to roll out a statewide earthquake early warning system.

Years in the making, the system is based on hundreds of sensors across the state that measure ground motion.

When an earthquake starts, the sensors pick up its early energy and send an instant signal to U.S. Geological Survey computers in Pasadena.

Those computers then send an alert over California's wireless emergency alert system, which also is used to send text message notifications about severe weather warnings and Amber Alerts, the messages authorities issue for child abductions.

Under the new system, anyone with a cellphone who hasn't opted out will hear a loud tone, and a message will pop up on the screen telling them an earthquake is imminent and to "drop, cover and hold on." The idea is to provide from a few seconds to 30 seconds

of warning so people can get away from things that might fall on them, pull their vehicle to the side of the road or reduce the risk of injury in other ways.

Members of the public also can download a free app created by scientists at UC Berkeley called MyShake to their cellphones. The app provides early earthquake warnings from around the state, along with the ability to report the amount of shaking they felt.

"Today we are making a big leap forward, in terms of focusing attention on prevention," Gov. Gavin Newsom said at a news conference Thursday in Oakland near the Bay Bridge.

The statewide network of sensors, which is still being expanded, is called ShakeAlert. It was developed by the U.S.

QUAKE » PAGE 8



Gov. Gavin Newsom speaks during a news conference on the 30th anniversary of the deadly Loma Prieta earthquake at Gateway Park with the new western span in the background in Oakland on Thursday.

RAY CHAVEZ — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The MyShake app sends an alert to cellphones that an earthquake has been detected nearby.

UC BERKELEY SEISMOLOGICAL LABORATORY

IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY

Official: 'We held up the money'

Chief of staff: Trump held back Ukraine aid pending investigation of Democrats

By Michael D. Shear

The New York Times

WASHINGTON » Mick Mulvaney, the acting White House chief of staff, said Thursday that the Trump administration withheld nearly \$400 million in military aid to pressure Ukraine to investigate what the president has long insisted was Kyiv's assistance to Democrats during the 2016 election.

INSIDE

Trump will host next G-7 Summit at his Doral resort. **A4**

The declaration by Mulvaney — which he tried to take back later in the day — undercut President Donald Trump's repeated denials of a quid pro quo that linked American military aid for Ukraine to Trump's unsubstantiated theory that a server with missing Democratic emails was being held by a company based in Ukraine.

Trump had pushed Ukraine to open an investigation into an unsubstantiated theory that Ukraine, not Russia, was responsible.

MULVANEY » PAGE 8



JIM WATSON — GETTY IMAGES

White House acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney tried to take back his earlier declaration of a quid pro quo later on Thursday.

MULTIBILLION-DOLLAR PLAN

Group offers 'big vision' to tackle commuter woes

ReX express bus system would run on network of dedicated lanes

By Nico Savidge

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Imagine gliding from Walnut Creek to Mountain View at rush hour without getting stuck in traffic or settling in for a ride to San Francisco International Airport from the North Bay knowing you won't have to get up from your seat to make a transfer.

That's the vision behind a multibillion-dollar idea to ease commute times and reshape transportation in the Bay Area over the next several decades.

Called the Bay Area Regional Express Transit Network, or ReX, the concept from transportation think tank TransForm seeks to get commuters out of their cars by knitting together the region with next-generation buses that travel on an extensive network of dedicated lanes to ensure they don't get bogged down in traffic.

The group's idea is an ambitious attempt to realize a pair of goals among transit officials: creating a Bay Area equivalent of the

PLAN » PAGE 8

'IT'S A REAL GAME-CHANGER'

Facebook gives \$25M for teacher housing

Funds help jump-start project to build up to 120 units in Palo Alto

By Marisa Kendall

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PALO ALTO » In Facebook's biggest contribution yet to fighting the Bay Area housing crisis, the tech giant on Thursday said it's donating \$25 million to build up to 120 apartments for Peninsula teachers.

That money will help fund a unique development that city and county officials have

been trying to get off the ground for nearly two years. Their goal is to provide housing for the area's teachers and other school workers who often make too much to qualify for subsidized low-income housing but not enough to afford homes in the pricey neighborhoods where they work. Many of those workers are forced to commute long distances, which contributes to high turnover rates in local schools.

The issue is one Facebook has been exploring as Silicon Valley tech companies increasingly are blamed for driving up local housing and

rent prices by flooding the area with high-paying jobs.

"We heard direct feedback from the principals in our backyard saying they could not fill teacher positions," said Menka Sethi, Facebook's director of location strategy and site optimization, who oversees the company's housing efforts. "The children they are serving do not have access to consistent teachers. And we felt like this was something where we could help."

To solve the problem, Facebook has joined forces with several local public agencies to test an experimental plan.

Santa Clara County donated the land for the project — a 1.5-acre parcel at 231 Grant Ave. that currently holds an aging county-owned office building and a large parking lot. The county also contributed \$6 million, and the city of Palo Alto contributed \$3 million. County officials have asked for another \$600,000 each from five area school districts, but those commitments have not yet been finalized.

INSIDE

Zuckerberg defends Facebook's stance on free speech. **C7**

FACEBOOK » PAGE 9

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INDEX

BusinessC7
ClassifiedCA2

Comics/TVB6
LotteryA2
MoviesB2

ObituariesB5
PuzzlesB3, C6
WeatherB8

WEATHER

H: 69-72 L: 48-51
Full report on **B8**



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