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31 arrested as cops clear protesters at Cal Poly Humboldt

BY ISHANI DESAI
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Law enforcement moved in early Tuesday and arrested 31 people after Cal Poly Humboldt

students barricaded themselves inside two administrative buildings for a week on the Arcata campus.

The move came as pro-Palestinian protesters, who are demanding divestment from

Israel and an end to the country's military actions in Gaza, set up several new tent encampments at colleges and universities across California as tensions escalated.

University officials said the

protesters, some of whom were students and faculty members, were arrested without incident around 2:30 a.m. and face charges of unlawful assembly, vandalism, conspiracy, assault of police officers and other charges, officials at the remote Northern California school said in a statement.

University officials said 31 people in total were arrested. By afternoon, according to the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, 11 people had posted bail.

The sweeps at California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, came several hours after police engaged the protesters late Monday night, telling as

many as 150 people over loud-speakers they had to leave. Several hours later, authorities moved in to make arrests outside Siemens Hall — which houses the university president's office — and Nelson Hall East. No injuries were reported.

"What was occurring was not free expression or a protest," the university's statement said. "It was criminal activity, and there were serious concerns it would spread even further on campus."

Many protesters and faculty thought the closure of campus was unnecessary and that the university had escalated the sit-

SEE PROTESTERS, 8A



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Nadine Yehya, left, and Majdi Abou Najm stand on Monday near a bench at Sycamore Park in Davis that memorializes their son Karim Abou Najm, a UC Davis student who was fatally stabbed one year ago, during a "Day of Remembrance" of the event. At left, a sign depicts a sculpture that will be installed at the location in his memory.

'Safe and peaceful space' honors Davis stabbing victim

BY ROSALIO AHUMADA
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Majdi Abou Najm feels like time stopped a year ago when he learned his 20-year-old son, Karim Abou Najm, was brutally killed on his way home through a Davis park.

His son was a computer science major at UC Davis student just six weeks from his graduation. He was an aspiring software engineer with an impressive academic career and two jobs lined up after his graduation that June. But all that ended April 29, 2023, on a bike path at Sycamore Park.

"The world is trying to push me back to what they call 'normal,'" the still grieving father said to over 100 people gathered Monday evening to remember and honor his son. "But what is normal? And how can anything be normal? Our society is not prepared to deal with grief, and the expectation

is that we deal with it as quickly as possible and go back to normal."

The UC Davis student was among three people stabbed, including David Henry Breaux and Kimberlee Guillory, in seemingly random attacks over

SEE STUDENT, 7A

Judge fines Trump \$9,000 for violating gag order

BY BEN PROTESS
AND JONAH E. BROMWICH
NYT News Service

NEW YORK

The judge overseeing Donald Trump's criminal trial fined him \$9,000 on Tuesday for repeatedly violating a gag order that bars him from making attacks on witnesses, jurors and others connected to the case.

Judge Juan M. Merchan issued his ruling as the former president's trial began its third week, saying that Trump's statements, including on social media, had violated the order. Prosecutors had asked that Trump be held in contempt, citing 10 public statements that they said posed a "threat" to the trial, which centers on a hush-money deal struck in the final days of his 2016 presidential campaign.

Trump, the first former president to face criminal prosecution, is accused of falsifying records to cover up the hush-money payment, which was made to a porn actor, Stormy Daniels. The \$130,000 payment — made by Trump's fixer, Michael Cohen — silenced Daniels' story of a sexual encounter with Trump.

Immediately after the contempt ruling, prosecutors resumed their questioning of Gary Farro, a banker who helped Cohen open the account that he used to pay Daniels. Trump's

SEE TRUMP, 7A

Feds score clean sweep in verdicts against Aryan Brotherhood inmates

BY SAM STANTON
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A jury in Sacramento convicted three Aryan Brotherhood prison gang members Tuesday on all counts in a weeks-long trial charging them with racketeering, conspiracy to commit murder and drug running inside California prisons.

The jury, which has been deliberating since last week in a trial that began in late February, convicted Ronald Yandell, Danny Troxell and William Sylvester on each count in a case that relied heavily on testimony from

other inmates, guards and video of bloody prison yard attacks.

Yandell was found guilty of 15 counts including racketeering and conspiracy to commit murder, distribution of methamphetamine and heroin and murder in aid of racketeering in the 2015 slaying of inmate Hugo Pinell.

Troxell was found guilty of conspiracy to conduct racketeering and conspiracy to commit murder in aid of racketeering.

Sylvester, whose presence in court was waived during jury deliberations, was found guilty of the racketeering conspiracy as well as murder in aid of rack-

eteering and drug charges.

Yandell and Troxell showed no reaction as the verdict was read before Chief U.S. District Judge Kimberly Mueller, with both staring impassively during court, where they have been under tight security and on Tuesday were flanked by five U.S. Marshals.

"Today's convictions further our effort to dismantle a violent criminal enterprise run from inside California prisons," U.S. Attorney Phil Talbert said. "The Aryan Brotherhood controlled its members, associates, and others

SEE FEDS, 7A



VICKI BEHRINGER Special to The Bee

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason Hitt holds up a knife used to kill Ronald Richardson at California State Prison, Sacramento, during closing arguments in a federal racketeering, drug and murder conspiracy case of the Aryan Brotherhood's involvement in the prison system. William Sylvester, Ronald Yandell and Danny Troxell were found guilty by a jury Tuesday.



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