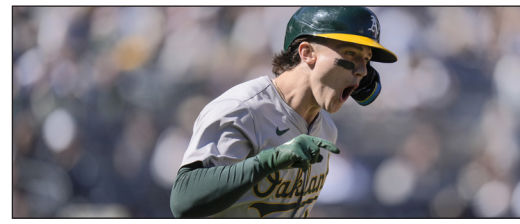
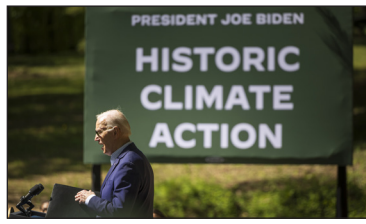


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## SWEEPING CHANGES ON THE WAY?



ARIC CRABB — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Homeless advocates rally in front of the Phillip Burton Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco on Monday to demand that the Supreme Court keep in place current restrictions on how cities are able to deal with encampments.

# JUSTICES WADE INTO HOMELESS DISPUTE

Case before Supreme Court that would allow cities to clear encampments even without other beds being available will have impact on Bay Area and California

By Ethan Varian  
evarian@bayareanewsgroup.com

Against the backdrop of growing public frustration over homelessness, the U.S. Supreme Court could soon make it easier for cities in the Bay Area and across the West to clear homeless encampments, even when beds aren't available in shelters.

Since 2018, federal court rulings have prevented local governments in nine states from arresting or fining people for living on the street if they have nowhere else to go. As a result, when officials move to shut down encampments on public property, they are generally expected to offer shelter or housing. But few cities have the resources to do that.

On Monday, the high court heard oral arguments for an appeal challenging the rulings. The much-anticipated case could have sweeping implications for the rights of homeless people nationwide.

In California, home to an estimated 181,000 homeless people, officials are anxiously awaiting the outcome of the case, expected by the end of June. Those supporting the appeal, including Gov. Gavin Newsom, contend lower court rulings have hamstrung efforts to close unsafe tent and vehicle camps and made the crisis worse. They've asked for more flexibility in clearing and managing encampments.

"The Supreme Court has an opportunity to strike a balance that allows officials to enforce reasonable limits on public camping while treating folks with compassion," Newsom said



NHAT V. MEYER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A homeless encampment is seen just south of Highway 85 in San Jose in 2022.

Monday on social media.

The main question before the court is whether broad no-camping bans in Grants Pass, Oregon, amount to cruel and unusual punishment prohibited by the Eighth Amendment. During Monday's hearing, justices appeared split along ideological lines. The court's three liberal justices seemed inclined to deny the city's appeal and strike down the bans, while the conservative majority appeared sympathetic to the notion that such "difficult policy questions" should be left up to local officials instead of judges.

"Why do you think these nine people are the best people to judge and weigh those policy judgments?" asked Chief Justice John Roberts, a conservative justice.

In recent years, homeless advocates have seized on the precedent set by the federal court decisions to sue cities throughout the Bay Area over plans to clear encampments. In San Jose and Oakland, judges halted efforts to remove hundreds of people from massive encampments near the San Jose Mineta International Airport and along Wood Street in West Oakland until city officials could provide shelter for those living in the camps.

More recently, a federal court limited San Francisco's ability to clear encampments until the city could add more beds for its estimated 4,397 homeless residents who live outdoors or in vehicles. That case is on hold

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## TRUMP ON TRIAL

# Lawyers lay out divergent scenarios

Prosecution says former president used 'corrupt' tactics, but defense says hush-money case is baseless

By Michael R. Sisak, Jennifer Peltz, Eric Tucker and Jake Offenhartz  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK » Donald Trump tried to illegally influence the 2016 presidential election by preventing damaging stories about his personal life from becoming public, a prosecutor told jurors Monday at the start of the former president's historic hush-money trial.

"This was a planned, coordinated, long-running conspiracy to influence the 2016 election — to help Donald Trump get elected through illegal expenditures to silence people who had something bad to say about his behavior, using doctored corporate records and bank forms to conceal those payments along the way," prosecutor Matthew Colangelo said. "It was election fraud, pure and simple."

A defense lawyer countered by assailing the case as baseless and attacking the integrity of the onetime Trump confidant who's now the government's star witness.

"President Trump is innocent. President Trump did not commit any crimes. The Manhattan district attorney's office should never have

TRUMP » PAGE 5

## ALAMEDA COUNTY

# Judge rebukes DA's office for the blatant racism used in death penalty prosecutions

By Nate Gartrell  
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OAKLAND » In a ruling that calls into question numerous Alameda County death penalty convictions, a federal judge on Monday found "strong evidence" that prosecutors here made a conscious effort to keep people off of juries based on their race and religion.

The order by U.S. District Judge Vincent Chhabria suggests evidence that systemic racism and antisemitism was hiding in plain sight, within prosecution notes in the case file for a man named Ernest Dykes who was sentenced to death after a 1995 jury trial. It was only brought to Chhabria's attention in 2023, by a county prosecutor assigned by Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price to review Dykes' conviction.

"These notes — especially when considered in conjunction with evidence presented in other

JURIES » PAGE 5

## UC BERKELEY

# Pro-Palestinian protesters vow to stay in tents until university divests from Israel

Campus official says school is prioritizing academics over disruptions for now

By Kristin J. Bender and Sierra Lopez  
Staff writers

Pro-Palestinian students and their allies set up about 15 tents on the steps of UC Berkeley's Sproul Plaza on Monday afternoon, vow-

ing to stay put until the university system officially calls for an end to the deadly Israel-Hamas war, cuts its study-abroad program with Israel and divests from companies with ties to the country.

Some of the several hundred protesters, many wearing the traditional Palestinian keffiyeh around

their heads and some waving "boycott, divest, sanction" signs, said they plan to camp out until the university system meets their demands and challenged police to arrest them. By late afternoon, about 50 to 100 people were sitting, reading poetry and chatting.

"We've been out here, and we'll continue to be out here," said Matt Kovac, a spokesman for UC Berkeley Divest Coalition, which organized

PROTESTS » PAGE 5



JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pro-Palestinian protesters set up tents in front of Sproul Hall on the UC Berkeley campus Monday. "We'll continue to be out here" until the group's demands are met, one student said.

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