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## Housing crisis rouses voters

In the battleground states of Nevada and Arizona, challenges of homeownership are front and center.

BY BENJAMIN ORESKES

NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Christine Dyken had just returned home after picking up her grandson from school, and she was stressed.

Dyken — who lives in a quiet corner of North Las Vegas with her daughter, Doreen, and 7-year-old Christopher — needed to move, and the process was overwhelming and expensive.

Doreen was getting divorced, and they'd been looking for a home they could move into quickly — but one that wouldn't break the bank. The 74-year-old Dyken had moved in with her daughter to help care for Christopher but also because she couldn't afford rising rents on her own.

Dyken's income from disability payments, Social Security, her late husband's pension and tax-preparation work doesn't go far in a region where housing costs have soared in recent years, echoing conditions in California.

"We're really living paycheck to paycheck," Dyken said last month, standing alongside Doreen, who works at a casino.

Home sale prices in Clark County have jumped by 50% since 2016, to about \$414,000, according to an average of the middle-third of values collected by Zillow. The news for renters is no better. Zillow computed the expected price of a lease on a single-family residence, and

[See Housing, A5]

## Dairies rush to protect herds from avian flu

'Nobody saw this coming,' a researcher says. The virus, which can jump to mammals, poses threat to cattle.

BY SUSANNE RUST

Earlier this spring, dairy farmers noted a puzzling drop in milk production in Texas, New Mexico, Idaho, Ohio, Kansas and Michigan. Weeks later, news broke that several herds in these states, as well as North Carolina, had been diagnosed with avian influenza — the same strain that has devastated bird populations across the globe and shown a troubling ability to jump to mammals.

In an effort to prevent local herds from infection, officials in California and elsewhere have imposed restrictions on cattle imports from the affected states, while the U.S. Department of Agriculture has urged livestock managers to minimize the movement of cattle as much as possible.

Although the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and

[See Bird flu, A12]



FATIH AKTAS Anadolu

**POLICE TAKE** students into custody at New York University on Monday. Recent arrests in that city have sparked further pro-Palestinian protests across the country, including at Stanford, right, on Monday.



TAYFUN COSKUN Anadolu

## Student protests grow across state

College activists back Palestinians, condemn Israel as campuses wrestle with free speech, antisemitism.

BY HANNAH WILEY, TERESA WATANABE AND JAWED KALEEM

BERKELEY — Pro-Palestinian protests swept across California colleges and universities Tuesday as tensions grew nationwide amid an expanding student-led movement that has pitted administrators and police against young activists and intensified the debate over the line between campus free speech and antisemitism.

At UC Berkeley, students have set up dozens of tents in front of Sproul Plaza — the historic hub of the campus free speech movement. They vowed to face arrest as they demanded the university divest from investments in weapons manufacturers tied to Israel's war in Gaza.

At Cal Poly Humboldt, administrators shut down the Arcata campus through Wednesday and moved classes online after dozens of students barricaded themselves with chairs in an administration building and police made overnight arrests.

And at USC, students said they planned to erect tents Wednesday at the center of campus. The school has been embroiled in controversy after canceling a pro-Palestinian valedictorian's commencement speech amid accusations that she promoted antisemitism on social media.

"We are in solidarity with students speaking up everywhere," said Malak Afaneh, a UC Berkeley law student who is part of the "Free Palestine Camp."

"We put up tents because that is how Palestinians are living now. We will not move until Berkeley divests," said Afaneh, who is Palestinian American.

Tensions have grown at colleges since the Oct. 7

[See Protests, A9]



JUSTIN SULLIVAN Getty Images

**PROTESTERS SET UP** an encampment in front of Sproul Hall at UC Berkeley on Monday. An administrator said UC Berkeley would not let the demonstration disrupt the university as the semester winds down.

## Ally served as Trump's 'eyes and ears'

Prosecution hopes tabloid publisher's testimony will bolster its assertion of ex-president's longtime ties with National Enquirer



TIMOTHY A. CLARY Pool Photo

**DONALD** Trump speaks to reporters Tuesday. Tabloid publisher David Pecker testified about his role in the 2016 campaign.

BY MICHAEL R. SISAK, JENNIFER PELTZ, ERIC TUCKER AND JAKE OFFENHARTZ

NEW YORK — A veteran tabloid publisher testified Tuesday that he pledged to be Donald Trump's "eyes and ears" during his 2016 presidential campaign, recounting how he promised the then-candidate that he would help suppress harmful stories and even arranged to purchase the silence of a doorman.

The testimony from David Pecker was designed to bolster the prosecution's premise of a decades-long friendship between Trump and the former publisher of the National Enquirer that culminated in an agreement to give the candidate's lawyer a heads-up on negative tips and stories so they could be quashed.

The effort to suppress unflattering information was designed to illegally influence the election, prosecutors have alleged in striving to elevate the gravity of the first trial of a former American president and the first of four criminal cases

[See Trial, A6]

## Millions to lose internet soon if subsidy expires

BY RUBEN VIVES AND ANDREA CASTILLO

Four years ago, Claudia Aleman and her family had only one way to get online — through their cellphones. Without internet service on a computer, her youngest daughter couldn't get homework assignments in on time, her parents couldn't keep up with online doctor visits, and the English classes she wanted to sign up for were out of reach.

Then came a game-changer: The federal government started offering a subsidy that covered \$30 of their \$80 monthly internet bill.

But while opening mail at her home in South Gate two months ago, Aleman came across a letter from the Federal Communications Commission announcing that the Affordable Connectivity Program they had come to rely on would end in May unless Congress approved more funding.

"My husband is the only one who works, and everything is so expensive right now," Aleman said. "Sometimes we don't have \$30 to spare."

"The program made a significant difference in our lives," she added. "Without it, life is going to be difficult."

[See Internet access, A7]



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

**LUIS CORONADO JR.'S** family could be offline by May without the Affordable Connectivity Program.

### Bass' budget has less for homeless

Mayor's proposal also scales back LAPD hiring, eliminates 2,100 vacant city positions. CALIFORNIA, B1

### L.A.-to-Vegas train gets closer

Groundbreaking is held for high-speed line that could open in 2028. CALIFORNIA, B1

### Netflix, Amazon want ad dollars

Streaming services vie with TV networks for a bigger share of the pot. BUSINESS, A8

### Weather

Low clouds clearing. L.A. Basin: 68/54. B6

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