



DIAMON BAULDWIN, who lives in a tent in Phoenix, is experiencing severe health problems after running out of insulin months ago. Arizona's homeless population is one of the nation's largest on a per capita basis. Photographs by GINA FERRAZZI Los Angeles Times

## A novel homeless strategy goes on Arizona's ballot

The measure would give property owners tax refunds for damage caused by encampments if cities fail to enforce laws

BY NOAH BIERMAN

PHOENIX — From their modest apartment buildings alongside a block-long strip of gravel and scrub grass, the residents can see the tents and tarps and empty Mountain Dew bottles, hear the late-night fights and occasional gunshots, and smell the strident, slightly sweet odor of burning fentanyl.

"It brings the value of the properties down," said Shawn Matthews, a 46-year-old medical services driver who lives in one of the buildings. "But where else are people going to go?"

It's the question communities throughout the West and the rest of the country are struggling to answer. Last month the Supreme Court heard arguments about a law in Oregon that allows police to forcibly clear homeless encampments.

Here in Arizona, a novel response has emerged, one [See Homeless, A6]



LISA WHITE looks out her second-story window at an encampment. Most of Arizona's homeless people are living on the streets rather than in shelters.

## More than 100 are arrested at UCLA and UC San Diego

Police crackdown on Gaza protests seems to signal heightened enforcement on college campuses.

BY GRACE TOOHEY, TERESA WATANABE, ANGIE ORELLANA HERNANDEZ AND SUMMER LIN

Heightened and quick-moving police actions against protesters unfolded Monday at UCLA and other campuses, as university officials said there will be little tolerance for demonstrators who disrupt campus and violate laws and student conduct codes in the wake of last week's violence and tensions at pro-Palestinian encampments.

At UCLA on Monday, campus police arrested 44 pro-Palestinian protesters

gathered in a parking structure — actions students called harassment and intimidation — as they assembled before a peaceful protest. Other protesters were ordered to disperse when they entered a campus building. On a day when campus was supposed to be fully open, instead classes were moved online for the rest of the week as a security precaution.

The action came after UCLA officials vowed to improve security after a violent mob attacked a pro-Palestinian encampment last week, which was later torn down by law enforcement. The UCLA police chief has come under intense criticism for the violence and failure to bring in police fast enough to quell the melee.

At UC San Diego, 64 people, including 40 students, were arrested and a growing pro-Palestinian encampment was declared illegal by [See Universities, A8]

## Fast-food operators have no beef with AI

Restaurants turn to human-eliminating technology to offset California's minimum-wage hike.

BY DON LEE

It didn't take long for Harshraj Ghai to respond to the impact of California's new \$20-an-hour minimum wage on his 3,700 fast-food employees.

Ghai and his family operate 180 Burger King, Taco Bell and Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen restaurants across the state, and one of the first things they did after the law took effect April 1 was to cap workers' hours to avoid overtime pay. They're also closing some outlets earlier and opening others later to avoid

paying workers for less-profitable periods.

But the biggest action Ghai and his family are taking does not directly involve workers at all: They've sped up and expanded their use of technology, especially artificial intelligence.

They've moved up by several years their plans to install self-service kiosks at all locations, including 25 out of state. But what has Ghai most hopeful about offsetting higher labor costs is having AI handle orders made at the drive-through. He's testing the machine-learning system this month at a few locations and hopes to roll it out companywide by this time next year.

Drive-throughs are quintessentially California, with its car culture and fast lifestyle. With AI coming on to the scene in a big way, the [See Fast food, A11]

## L.A. Times' ex-film critic wins Pulitzer

Justin Chang's prize is for 'evocative' work at paper; staff a finalist in breaking news.

BY MEG JAMES

Former Los Angeles Times film critic Justin Chang was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for criticism on Monday for his "richly evocative and genre-spanning film criticism that reflects on the contemporary movie-going experience," according to Pulitzer judges.

Chang was honored for his work published last year, led by an article in August that defended director Christopher Nolan's controversial decision to avoid depictions of the horrific atomic bombings of the Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Nolan's epic movie "Oppenheimer." The film



RICARDO DEARATANHA L.A. Times CRITIC Justin Chang left The Times in January for the New Yorker.

went on to win the Academy Award for best picture.

Chang was a critic with The Times for nearly eight years; he left the paper in late January to become a film critic for the New Yorker magazine. He began his career at Hollywood trade magazine Variety, where he spent 12 years, starting as an [See Pulitzer, A14]

### Hamas accepts cease-fire terms

The breakthrough comes hours after Israel ordered civilians in Rafah, Gaza Strip, to evacuate. **WORLD, A3**

### Judge fines Trump again

Juan M. Merchan warns of jail time for future gag order violations in the hush-money trial. **NATION, A5**

### L.A. pushes for foreign tourists

Chinese visitors are key for the city, which will pitch itself at a travel conference this week. **BUSINESS, A10**

**Weather** Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 74/56. **B5**

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## Winter hangs around in May with biggest snowfall



PALISADES Tahoe resort had its second-highest 24-hour snowfall of the season this weekend.

Weekend storm drops 2 feet, sets seasonal record in parts of Northern California.

BY SUMMER LIN AND HAYLEY SMITH

A rare late season storm dumped up to 2 feet of snow or more on some regions of Northern California over the weekend, breaking at least one daily snowfall record.

The storm, which swept in from the Gulf of Alaska, dropped about 31 inches of snow on Lower Lassen Peak, 26 inches at Palisades Summit and 22 inches at Soda Springs Ski Resort and 16 inches at Kingvale, according to the National Weather Service's Sacramento office.

The UC Berkeley Central Sierra Snow Laboratory at [See Snow, A8]



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