



SHARON HERTZMAN, right, is reunited with a relative on Saturday at Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan, Israel. Hertzman and daughter Noam, 12, were released after being held by Hamas militants since Oct. 7.

U.S. girl, 4, is among 17 more hostages released by Hamas

Israel frees 39 Palestinians as Biden seeks to extend 4-day truce

BY WAFAA SHURAF
AND SAMY MAGDY

DEIR AL BALAH, Gaza Strip — The fragile, temporary cease-fire between Israel and Hamas was back on track Sunday as the militants freed 17 more hostages, including 14 Israelis and the first American, in a third set of releases under a four-day truce that the U.S. said it hoped would be extended.

In turn, Israel released 39 Palestinian prisoners.

Most hostages were handed over directly to Israel, waving to a cheering crowd draped in flags as they arrived at an air force base. Others left through Egypt. Israel's army said one was airlifted to a hospital. President Biden said the elderly woman was "very sick and was in need of immediate medical help."

The hostages ranged in age from 4 to 84 and included Abigail Edan, a 4-year-old [See **Hostages**, A4]



ISRAA JAABIS, center, a Palestinian prisoner released by Israel, is welcomed home in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Jabal Mukaber early Sunday.

A milestone for disability studies



LEROY MOORE, 56, a graduate student in anthropology at UCLA, is founder of Krip-Hop Nation, an association of artists with disabilities.

New major at UCLA is first of its kind at California's public universities, which have long been leaders in the field.

BY SONJA SEARP

UCLA junior Vivek Chotai doesn't plan to pursue his school's new disability studies major — the first of its kind at any public university in the state — or even take classes in it.

Yet for the 21-year-old leukemia survivor and thousands of other disabled students across the University of California and California State University systems, the program is a critical victory in a decades-long battle for visibility and recognition.

"We're judged by our medical histories," Chotai said. "[We're] told that we won't graduate, that we won't be healthy, that we are not able to live the lives we want to. Any effort that advances the understanding of our community ... is education that can be used to create change."

California's state universities nur- [See **Major**, A8]

Disney reels from 3 suicides in year. Will it erect barriers?

Anaheim resort is mum on what steps it's taking. Effectiveness of fences is debated.

BY EMILY ALPERT REYES
AND CORINNE PURTILL

In San Francisco, a safety net is under construction at the Golden Gate Bridge to prevent future tragedies.

In New York City, college officials opted for metal screens at a library where students had died. And in Missouri, fencing and steel mesh went up at a Columbia parking garage after a public outcry.

Across the nation, the installation of fencing, nets or other physical barriers at tall structures has become a recognized strategy for preventing suicides. As the Disneyland Resort reels from the third such death in a

year, many advocates say that such safety barriers have been shown to save lives.

Experts say that such barriers or obstructions can help buy time for someone to intervene or for a person's suicidal impulse to dissipate. That can be crucial because such feelings can soon evaporate: Most people who survive a suicide attempt do not go on to die of suicide later, studies have found.

Since its most recent death, Disneyland has not publicly announced the installation of new fencing or other barriers, and has not answered questions from The Times about whether it was considering such a move.

"In an effort to deter this type of tragedy, we have long had multilayered security protocols in place at our parking structures, which we have substantially en- [See **Suicides**, A7]

How California, Florida COVID policies diverged

BY RONG-GONG LIN II,
LUKE MONEY
AND SEAN GREENE

When California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis take the stage Thursday for their much-hyped televised debate, it will be perhaps the starkest visual representation of the divide between the two states.

While many social, political and economic factors contribute to that gulf, perhaps no topic better encapsulates the bicoastal conflict than the states' respective responses to the COVID-19 crisis — the ramifications of which are still resonating and being debated half a year after the end of the pandemic's emergency phase.

On one side was California, which "trusted in science and data," as Newsom has put it, and was "the first state to issue a stay-at-home order, which helped us avoid the early spikes in cases." It was part of a strategy the Democratic governor reasoned was worth the sacrifice: "People are alive today because of the public health decisions we made."

And on the other was Florida, whose approach DeSantis touted as mindful of economic health — attacking temporary business closures and vaccine mandates.

"We refused to let our state descend into some type of 'Faucian' dystopia, where people's rights were curtailed and their liveli- [See **COVID**, A8]



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NEW TENANTS

William Escribano and dog Dabs move into their new apartment. He and 19 others gave up RVs for permanent housing. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

College students shot in Vermont

Three 20-year-old men of Palestinian descent are targeted in possible hate attack. **NATION, A7**

What led to a Fox News debate

Sean Hannity set up Gov. Gavin Newsom-Gov. Ron DeSantis matchup. **CALENDAR, E1**

Weather

Partly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 73/49. **B6**



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