

Freeway closure brings anger, traffic

The shutdown of the 10 after a huge blaze backs up roads in surrounding areas.

By NATHAN SOLIS, ASHLEY AHN AND THOMAS CURWEN

Four days after a massive fire erupted under the 10 Freeway in downtown Los Angeles, shutting down one of the country's busiest commuting corridors, morning traffic rumbled through the intersection of Whittier Boulevard and Soto Street.

Cars and trucks that would ordinarily take the freeway were winding their way Wednesday through Boyle Heights, where 78-year-old Tony Zapata sat with his friends inside Big Jim's Donuts.

"Especially in the mornings and evenings with people coming to work and getting off work, the traffic is terrible," said Zapata, who has lived in the neighborhood for 36 years.

From inside the shop, Zapata watched a semitrailer slowly turn and block the road. With all the trucks in the area, he said it feels like more vehicle exhaust is lingering in the air.

"You can smell the pollution," he said. "You can feel it. It's all over."

While arson investigators search for answers about the fire that damaged the overpass at Alameda Street, the [See [Spillover](#), A7]



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times



BRIAN VANDER BRUG Los Angeles Times

UCLA STUDENTS and others, top, rally on campus in support of Israel on Oct. 10, three days after Hamas attacked the country. Above, pro-Palestinian students prepare to march on Nov. 8 at the university.

Mideast war roils UC; free speech tested

University leaders are pressed by both sides to condemn rallies, political statements.

By TERESA WATANABE

At UC Davis, a professor posted warnings to "zionist journalists" with emojis of weapons and dripping blood. At UCLA, some students beat a piñata of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu while a teach-in about "the crisis in Palestine" drew so many threats the organizers moved it online. At UC San Diego, UC Santa Cruz and UCLA, academic departments have issued political statements variously condemning Israel or the militant group Hamas, locked in a war that has killed thousands of civilians in the land both claim as their rightful home.

Across the University of California, scores of students on both sides are reporting harassment, intimidation and profound anxiety over their safety during what many longtime UC faculty and administrators say is the most emotionally charged time they've ever experienced on campus.

Five weeks into the Israel-Hamas war, the repercussions are roiling the nation's premier public university system — and raising challenging questions over the line between free speech and [See [UC](#), A9]

Biden, Xi promise to reduce tensions

Confrontation would result in 'unbearable consequences,' China's leader says.

By COURTNEY SUBRAMANIAN, TRACY WILKINSON AND LAUREL ROSENHALL

WASHINGTON — Breaking a yearlong silence between them, President Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping met Wednesday in Silicon Valley and vowed to reduce tensions in the world's most important bilateral relationship.

"For two large countries like China and the United States, turning their back on each other is not an option," Xi told Biden at the beginning of their talks on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. "It is unrealistic for

one side to remodel the other, and conflict and confrontation has unbearable consequences for both sides."

Biden told Xi it was "paramount" the two leaders, who have known each other for decades, understand each other clearly and "ensure that competition does not veer into conflict."

The highly anticipated meeting was the first time Biden and Xi have spoken since November 2022 at the Group of 20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, where they promised to "manage" their relationship amid disagreements over economic competition, China's territorial disputes with its neighbors, technology and human rights issues.

But in the year since, relations have deteriorated further over the self-governing island of Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own. [See [Superpowers](#), A7]



IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

"I HAVE PTSD," said Teri Ostlie, whose Crestline home was red-tagged after back-to-back storms dumped almost 10 feet of snow earlier this year.

In mountain enclaves, scary climate realities

Still trying to rebuild from last winter's storms, residents worry about a strong El Niño ahead

By Grace Toohey, Summer Lin and Nathan Solis

As the snow piled up in late February, Teri Ostlie did her best to continue shoveling.

The 71-year-old tried to keep her deck clear and maintain a route to the road — what she started to call a "gurney path" — as she worried about keeping up with the task of heaving shovelfuls of snow over shoulder-high banks.

She held strong. But her Crestline home did not.

Under the weight of almost 10 feet of snow from back-to-back, unprecedented winter storms, her walls started buckling,

pulling off beams and granite countertops. Cracks grew across her ceiling, the house creaking loudly as it fractured.

San Bernardino Mountain residents are used to snow, but the magnitude of those late-season storms was unlike anything the region has seen in recent history.

Eight months later, recovery is ongoing. And worry is spreading that a predicted strong El Niño winter may bring more punishment, along with anxiety about how the local infrastructure can [See [Mountains](#), A12]

Israel raids key hospital in Gaza

Military says troops found weapons, but search yields no sign of a Hamas hide-out.

By NAJIB JOBAIN, JACK JEFFERY AND SAMY MAGDY

KHAN YUNIS, Gaza Strip — Israeli troops on Wednesday stormed into the Gaza Strip's largest hospital, searching for traces of Hamas inside and beneath the facility, where newborns and hundreds of other patients have suffered for days without electricity and other basic necessities as fighting raged outside.

Details from the daylight raid remained sketchy, but officials from Israel and Gaza presented different accounts of what was happening at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City: The Israeli army released video showing soldiers carrying boxes labeled as "baby food" and "medical supplies," while Palestinian health officials spoke of staff and patients terrified by the sight of troops moving through the buildings.

After encircling Shifa for days, Israel faced pressure to prove its claim that Hamas had turned the [See [Gaza](#), A4]

A question of weather's role in deaths

San Bernardino County rules only one of 13 fatalities amid big blizzard was storm-related. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Small businesses are harassed

Palestinian American companies say the Israel-Hamas war has sparked hostility against them. **BUSINESS, A8**

Weather
Morning showers.
L.A. Basin: 71/55. **B6**

Angels introduce new manager

Ron Washington has feisty first media session, vowing to shake up AL West. **SPORTS, B10**



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