



**PALESTINIAN** boys inspect the windshield of a vehicle they say was smashed by Israeli settlers in Wadi Tiran, West Bank, last month.

# ‘It’s our land. But nobody listens’

## Palestinians in West Bank say war has intensified attacks by Israeli settlers

BY JEFFREY FLEISHMAN

QAWAWIS, West Bank — Jibreen Abu Aram was born on this rocky land to be a shepherd. He planted an olive grove, married and had nine children. He buried his brother here in 1966 after an Israeli tank round fell on their fields. But, he said, nothing in all his time in the West Bank has tormented him as

much as the Jewish settlers who over the years have beaten him, poisoned his sheep, kept him from harvesting his olives, buzzed him with drones and threatened to kill his family. He pointed to a figure in the distance, a settler who was grazing sheep on his land. Aram called the police. They arrived, but nothing was done. Aram was not surprised. Settlers had earlier chased him

from his home and stole his smartphones. “I haven’t slept there since the war began,” he said. “I’m too scared. We do shifts through the night to keep watch in case the settlers come for us.” Aram braced against a cold wind. His friend, Taleb Mohammed Ahmad Neeman, sat on a rock yelling and gesturing at the settler. “We are surrounded,” he said. “They use our land whenever they want.

They come in uniforms so you can’t tell the difference between settler and soldier.” He called up documents stored on an iPhone. “These court rulings say it’s our land. But nobody listens.” Neeman made a call, rage and dust gathering around him. Aram watched the settler wander east up the hill toward Mitzpe Yair, a Jewish outpost with a well-armed militia. [See West Bank, A4]

# Newsom-DeSantis feud gets personal

California governor is put on defensive in Fox News debate with Florida rival. A clear contrast emerges.

BY NOAH BIERMAN AND TARYN LUNA

California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis turned their feud over blue and red state policies personal Thursday,

clashing for more than 90 minutes over crime, taxes, COVID-19 pandemic policies, immigration, book bans and other divisive issues in an unorthodox debate that both men hoped would propel their national political ambitions. California has “failed because of his leftist ideology,” DeSantis said of Newsom, whom he called a “slick politician.” “There’s one thing ... that we have in common,” Newsom said. “Neither of us will [See Governors, A10]



**A PRESS ROOM** view of the debate between Govs. Gavin Newsom and Ron DeSantis in Alpharetta, Ga.

**New rules in the works for pipes**  
EPA targets lead in drinking water with the biggest proposed overhaul in more than three decades. **NATION, A5**

**Weather**  
Mostly sunny.  
L.A. Basin: 67/47. **B6**

**Voters to decide on redistricting**  
In L.A., an independent commission could get the final say on city’s maps. **CALIFORNIA, B1**



**SAN DIEGO-BASED** EnergySource, which runs a geothermal plant at the Salton Sea, signed a contract earlier this year to sell lithium to Ford Motor Co.

**BOILING POINT**

# Salton Sea has more lithium than previously understood

Companies look for best way to extract ‘white gold’

**SAMMY ROTH**

**W**ant to produce a huge amount of lithium for electric vehicle batteries — and also batteries that keep our homes powered after sundown — without causing the environmental destruction that lithium extraction often entails? Then the Salton Sea may be your jam. Companies big and small have been swarming California’s largest lake for years, trying to find a cost-effective way to pull out the lithium dissolved in scorching hot fluid deep beneath the lake’s southern end. Now a blockbuster federal analysis suggests even more of the valuable metal is buried down there than we previously understood.

The new analysis — shared exclusively with The Times by researchers at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory who led the effort — finds we may be able to extract 18 million metric tons of “white gold” from the heated underground pool, which is not connected to the surface lake. That’s the first thoroughly documented public estimate of how much lithium is available at the Salton Sea, said Alex Prisjatschew, an engineer with the U.S. Department of Energy, which funded the analysis — and it’s higher than past guesses. “It’s going to be roughly the equivalent of 382 million electric vehicle batteries,” Prisjatschew told me. There are fewer than 300 million cars and trucks registered in the United States today. [See Roth, A10]

**IMMIGRANT DREAMS**

# Lives left in limbo by U.S. policies

Millions constrained by the complex and even irrational twists of migration laws.

BY KEVIN BAXTER

One day. For Judith Ortiz, whose parents brought her to this country from Durango, Mexico, when she was 2, a mere 24 hours have made the difference between a life of freedom and opportunity and one constrained by limits and obstacles. Ortiz and her twin sister, Janette, were raised in suburban Dallas, where Judith was her high school’s valedictorian, graduating with a 3.96 GPA. Both girls had remained in the country illegally as toddlers when their family overstayed a tourist visa. When they turned 18, they became eligible for benefits under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, the Obama-era program designed to shield from deportation many young people brought to this country illegally as children. Because the girls have the same birth date, the same address and the same surname, their lawyer suggested Judith mail her application. [See Immigrants, A7]

# Woman charged in Latt slaying

Suspect in killing of social justice advocate had been accused of stalking a director.

BY NOAH GOLDBERG AND RICHARD WINTON

When production wrapped on the film “A Thousand and One,” Jameelah Michl, an extra in the movie, made a kind gesture: She sent a gift box to the film’s director, A.V. Rockwell. More than a year later, when the film won the grand jury prize at the Sundance Film Festival, Michl sent an email to a producer about how brilliant Rockwell and the film were, according to court documents. But when Rockwell did not return Michl’s attentions, her emails took on a different tone. Michl became threatening, said she would kill herself and told Rockwell that she owned a gun and wasn’t afraid to use it. “My Glock is loaded as I write this,” said one handwritten letter, delivered in April. “One pull of the trigger and I’ll be free.” On Monday, Michl acted on her threat to use the weapon, police say. She didn’t turn the firearm on herself or the director, but on Michael Latt, a social justice [See Charges, A10]



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