



PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOMAS OVALLE FOR THE TIMES
BRYAN TUNE, right, a nurse practitioner with Clinica Sierra Vista, gives a shot to **Cynthia Crump** on Santa Clara Street in Fresno. The street has long had a heavy concentration of homeless campers.

Fresno taking a harder line on homelessness problem

Arrests climb under camping ban as officials block efforts to build affordable housing.

By **MELISSA GOMEZ**

FRESNO — Dez Martinez greeted the homeless dwellers of Santa Clara Street on a recent October afternoon with open arms and a warm smile. As she walked through Fresno's version of Skid Row, homeless residents waved in greeting from the tents and tarps lining both sides of the street.

"I need help," one man told her as she offered him a hug. She gave him her cellphone number and email.

She also offered a warning: He should be ready to leave at a moment's notice. The city was preparing to sweep the street encampment, and this time would be arresting people under a new ordinance that bans camping in public spaces.

Martinez has been advocating for Fresno's homeless population for a decade. She's angry and deflated at the city's aggressive move to label homelessness a crime. More than 160 people have been arrested and charged with misdemeanors since the ordinance took effect in September, and could face up to a year in jail or a \$1,000 fine if they turn down shelter or treatment.

[See **Fresno**, A6]



FAMILIES walk along Santa Clara Street, which is close to Poverello House, a nonprofit that offers three meals a day and access to services.

'I have no understanding of why they would proactively block housing. That could delay the creation of those units by years.'

— **JESSICA HOFF BERZAC**, a developer of the Libre Commons project

Solar power glut in California is a bane here, but a boon elsewhere

Such farms have had to curb production, and other states' utilities are paid to take excess electricity.

By **MELODY PETERSEN**

California is making so much solar energy that large commercial operators are increasingly forced to stop production, raising questions about the state's costly plan to shift entirely to carbon-free sources of electricity.

In the last 12 months, California's solar farms have curtailed production of more than 3 million megawatt-hours of solar energy, either on the orders of the state's grid operator or because prices had plummeted because of the glut, according to an analysis of data by The Times.

That's enough to power 518,000 California homes for a year, based on average electricity usage.

The amount of curtailed solar power has more than doubled from 1.5 million megawatt-hours in 2021, state records show, and is up eight times from levels in 2017.

The waste would have been even larger if California had not paid utilities in other states to take the excess solar energy, documents from the state's grid operator show. That means green energy paid for by California electricity customers is sent away, lowering bills for residents of other states.

Arizona's largest public utility reaped \$69 million in savings last year by buying from the market California created to get rid of its excess solar power. The utility returned that money to its customers as a credit on their bills.

[See **Solar**, A9]

Will mayor-elect fix San Francisco?

Daniel Lurie ran as the nonpolitician who could reset City Hall. Scion of old-money family is no outsider.

By **HANNAH WILEY**

SAN FRANCISCO — In his victory speech three days after winning election, surrounded by hundreds of supporters in Chinatown, Mayor-elect Daniel Lurie declared a new day in San Francisco.

"Your call for accountable leadership, service and change has been heard," Lurie, 47, said to great cheers and applause.

That same enthusiasm vaulted Lurie, a centrist Democrat who has never

held elected office, to an upset victory this month in his mayoral bid against incumbent London Breed and three other City Hall veterans.

Lurie's opponents underestimated his appeal, calling out his lack of political experience as a disqualifying factor when it came to leading a landmark American city known for its tangled bureaucracy and Machiavellian politics.

It turns out his status as the nonpolitician is exactly why voters like him.

In an election seen as a referendum on the city's post-pandemic-emergency struggles with homelessness and street crime, Lurie pitched himself as a change agent who could lead San Francisco into an era of recovery.

[See **Lurie**, A8]

Election leaves trans Americans in fear

Trump won after campaigning against their rights, and many dread what's next

By **KEVIN RECTOR**

Avery Poznanski was excited for a new chapter.

The nonbinary transgender senior at UCLA had decided last month, after years of personal discovery and long discussions with their family and doctors, to start testosterone therapy. The first few weeks felt exciting, fulfilling.

Then Donald Trump, after running a virulently anti-transgender campaign, won the presidential election — which felt "really frightening" and "disheartening," Poznanski said.

"I'm sort of still stunned about how big of an issue trans expression and rights became on Trump's side, and how hard they campaigned on it," the 21-year-old Murrieta native said the day after the election. "I'm just feeling scared, honestly."

Across the U.S., transgender and other queer people are grappling with the fact that Americans voted in large numbers for a candidate who openly ridiculed them on the campaign trail, and a political party that spent millions on anti-LGBTQ+ attack ads.

For many, Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris' loss to Trump is not just upsetting but deeply threatening. They are looking for reasons to be optimistic, such as Sarah McBride's election in Delaware, which will make her the first out transgender member of Congress. But most just feel gutted — in part because they believe Trump will carry through on his promises to strip away their rights.

"It's a scary time to be a trans person, and to hear so

[See **Transgender**, A12]



PROTESTERS at the Indiana Statehouse last year demonstrate against a state ban on gender-affirming healthcare for minors. Trump pledged to stop such care.

Fluoride debate is intensifying

Practice of adding substance to tap water to protect teeth has come under increased scrutiny. **NATION**, A5

Mountain fire's toll on workers

The agriculture damage extends to those who depend on paychecks from picking crops. **CALIFORNIA**, B1

Bruins score a historic upset

Women's basketball team beats top-ranked South Carolina, ending Gamecocks' 43-game win streak. **SPORTS**, D1

Weather

Cloudy, a shower.
L.A. Basin: 70/55. **B5**

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