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111

WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

## PALESTINIANS FLEE CARNAGE



Displaced Palestinians flee northern Gaza on Tuesday along the coastal road toward the south after Israel's military expands its operations to Gaza City and is warning residents to leave the region. **ABDEL KAREEM HANA — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

### Israel attacks Gaza City with offensive that leaves some residents buried in rubble and thousands of others scrambling to escape

By **Melanie Lidman, Jon Gambrell and Samy Magdy**  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israel launched its offensive in Gaza City on Tuesday, vowing to overwhelm a city already in ruins from nearly two years of war as thousands of Palestinians fled in vehicles strapped with mattresses and other belongings that clogged a coastal road.

The operation into the largest Palestinian city escalated a conflict that has roiled the Middle East and likely pushed any ceasefire with Hamas farther out of reach. The military would not offer a timeline for the offensive that aims to crush the militant group's ability to fight, but Israeli media suggested it could take months.

"Gaza is burning," Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz declared as the opera-



An Israeli armored vehicle moves along the Israeli-Gaza border on Tuesday as the country's leaders say they are targeting Hamas. **LEO CORREA — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

tion began. Heavy bombardment pounded the city, and troops began moving in from the outskirts after weeks of airstrikes and buildup toward the renewed assault.

The offensive began the same day that independent experts commissioned by the

United Nations Human Rights Council accused Israel of committing genocide in Gaza. Israel rejected the allegation, calling the report "distorted and false."

One woman, Saud al-Sakani, said her daughter, son-in-law and their children

were killed in a strike that flattened their home with about 40 people inside. "An entire family!" she cried, weeping over their bodies at Shifa Hospital's morgue. "Many are still under the rubble."

On a brief visit to the region, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio warned that there was a "very short window of time in which a deal can happen" to end the war.

The new assault did not deter another invitation to the U.S. for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He said Tuesday that President Donald Trump invited him to the White House on Sept. 29, after the Israeli leader addresses the United Nations General Assembly. It will mark Netanyahu's fourth visit since Trump took office in January.

Meanwhile, a missile fired

See **GAZA** on Page A5

'MONUMENTAL' ACHIEVEMENT

## Transit housing bill gets consent

Buildings up to seven stories to be allowed near rail stations, except in Contra Costa County

By **Kate Talerico**  
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California lawmakers have passed a bill to allow taller housing developments near major transit hubs, which they hope will create needed housing and boost transit ridership. But to get the bill over the finish line, it will also include exemptions, including a loophole that allows Contra Costa County to avoid the law.

The bill, SB 79, is the culmination of an eight-year effort by Democratic Sen. Scott Wiener of San Francisco to pass a "transit-oriented development" bill. The new law gives developers permission to build multifamily housing as high as seven stories within a quarter-mile radius of BART or Caltrain, or up to six stories within a half-mile radius. Land along light-rail and certain bus lines will also be up-zoned to allow for buildings up to six and five stories high.

Gov. Gavin Newsom is expected to sign the measure in the coming weeks.

"Decades of overly restrictive policies have driven housing costs to astronomical levels, forcing millions of people away from jobs and transit and into long commutes from the suburbs," Wiener said in a statement. "Building more homes in our most sustainable locations is the key to tackling the affordability crisis and locking in California's success for many years to come."

But the final version is narrower than Wiener's original 2018 proposal, having been whittled down to meet the demands of suburban lawmakers

See **HOUSING** on Page A5

CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS

## Literacy bill on verge of being realized

Evidence-based reading to be part of instruction if signed by Newsom

By **Molly Gibbs**  
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A landmark literacy bill awaits Gov. Gavin Newsom's signature after unanimously passing the Senate floor with a 38-0 vote.

If signed, AB 1454 moves the state one step closer to implementing evidence-based reading instruction in California classrooms — a decades-long, highly contentious state debate.

Authored by Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, who represents Salinas, and Assemblymembers Al Muratsuchi of Torrance and Blanca Rubio of Baldwin Park, AB 1454 would adopt new evidence-based reading instructional materials and training. Also known as the "science of reading," evidence-based reading teaches students how to read by emphasizing skills like phonics and vocabulary rather than word recognition and memorization.

"This is a turning point for California's children. Every child deserves the chance to succeed, and reading is the foundation for success," Rubio said. "AB 1454 will give California's teachers the tools they need to teach literacy and our students the skills they need to tackle reading. This bill confronts the staggering literacy gaps we've seen in California."

AB 1454 previously passed the Assembly Educa-

See **LITERACY** on Page A5

OBITUARY

## Actor Robert Redford dies at 89

Legendary actor, director and activist portrayed the best of Americana

By **Jake Coyle**  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Born during the Great Depression with sun-kissed California looks, Robert Redford never failed to epitomize something quintessential and hopeful about the American character.

Redford, who died Tuesday at the age of 89, left a movie trail etched into land. He seemed to reside as much across the American landscape as he did on movie screens. He was in the

Rocky Mountains of "Jeremiah Johnson," the Wyoming grasslands of "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," the Washington, D.C., alleyways of "All the President's Men" and the Montana streams of "A River Runs Through It."

"From the time I was just a kid, I was always trying to break free of the bounds that I was stuck with, and always wanted to go outside," Redford told The Associated Press in 2018.

Redford, a movie-star

See **REDFORD** on Page A5



Robert Redford, seen in 2017 prior to an awards ceremony at the Venice Film Festival, died Tuesday at 89. He was known for taking on a variety of roles. **JOEL RYAN — INVISION/AP ARCHIVE**

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WEATHER

H: 85-93 L: 65-67  
Full report on B8



INDEX

Business . . . . . C7  
Classified . . . . . A8, B5  
Comics/TV . . . . . B6  
Local . . . . . B1  
Lottery . . . . . A2  
Obituaries . . . . . B4

Volume 175, issue 90

Puzzles . . . . . B2, C5-6  
Sports . . . . . C1  
Weather . . . . . B8



6 40493 00001 1