

\$3.66 DESIGNATED AREAS HIGHER © 2025 WST



COREY ARNOLD For The Times

**A FEMALE** black bear and her cub scour a neighborhood in search of food in South Lake Tahoe, Calif.

## Woman's death inflames debate over problem bears

Patrice Miller, 71, lived by herself in a small yellow house beneath towering mountain peaks on the edge of a burbling river in this Sierra County village. She doted on her cats and her exotic orchids, and was known to neighbors for her delicious homemade bread. One fall afternoon in 2023, after Miller had failed for several days to make her customary appearance at the town market, a store clerk asked authorities to check on her.

A short time later, a sheriff's deputy found Miller's lifeless body in her kitchen. Her right leg and left arm had been partly gnawed off. On the floor around her were the large paw prints of a bear.

Months after her death, officials would make a stunning disclosure,

As human-animal encounters rise in California, some rural areas want leeway on rules for hunting

By Jessica Garrison and Lila Seidman  
REPORTING FROM  
DOWNEVILLE, CALIF.

revealing that an autopsy had determined that Miller had likely been killed by the animal after it broke into her home. It marked the first known instance in California history of a fatal bear attack on a human.

But amid the contentious politics around black bears and other apex predators in California, not everyone accepts the official version of how she died.

"We don't believe the bear did it," said Ann Bryant, executive director of the Bear League in the Tahoe Basin. "And I will go on record as saying that ... We've never had a bear kill anybody."

The story of Miller's grisly end — and the increasingly heated battles around predators in California — [See Bears, A8]

## 1 killed in blast outside Palm Springs clinic

The facility provides fertility and IVF services. Its website touts its work with LGBTQ+ families.

BY JEANETTE MARANTOS, LIAM DILLON, GINA FERAZZI, SONJA SHARP AND NATHAN SOLIS

**PALM SPRINGS** — A suspected bomb blast that authorities believe was "an intentional act of violence" outside a fertility clinic left one person dead and at least four reportedly injured in Palm Springs on Saturday.

FBI assistant director for Los Angeles Akil Davis said the agency's joint terrorism investigators were on the scene. He described the incident as a significant blast that caused damage several blocks away.

The blast was reportedly felt more than two miles away and severely damaged the clinic and several other buildings. The incident occurred just before 11 a.m. at North Indian Canyon Drive near East Tachevah Drive, Palm Springs officials said.

Photos from the scene showed extensive damage to American Reproductive Centers, a fertility clinic and in vitro fertilization lab

across the street from Desert Regional Medical Center. An office building two blocks from the blast had its windows blown out, as did a Denny's restaurant five blocks away.

Palm Springs officials said the explosion came from either inside or near a car parked on Indian Canyon outside the clinic.

"The blast appears to be an intentional act of violence," Palm Springs Fire Chief Paul Alvarado said.

Authorities said they are still trying to identify the deceased person. Davis declined to comment on whether that person is considered the possible suspect.

Alvarado said one person was killed, and their identity was unknown. ABC 7-TV reported that at least five people were injured.

Numerous law enforcement agencies were on scene, including Palm Springs police, the FBI and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Investigators, bomb technicians and an evidence response team from the FBI were being deployed, the agency said in a statement on X.

By midafternoon, emergency officials had blocked off roads near the blast and white police trucks were stationed in front of the build- [See Explosion, A7]

**Voices** MARK SWED CLASSICAL MUSIC CRITIC

## How to describe L.A.'s musical style?

Hear Now festival explores the city's marvelous sonic juxtapositions

The composer and critic Virgil Thomson once defined American music as music written by Americans. There is no arguing with that. Less obvious, however,

is figuring out what, if anything, describes L.A. music.

Los Angeles is the home of film music. The two most influential classical composers of the first half of the 20th century, Stravinsky and Schoenberg, lived here. (In

Stravinsky's case, the Russian composer spent more of his life in L.A. than in any other city.) The composer with the most radical influence on the second half of the 20th century, John Cage, was born and grew up here.

Ferretting out L.A.'s bearing on jazz and the many, many aspects of popular music, as well as world music, is a lifetime's effort.

Yet these seeming incongruities of musical life are [See Music, A10]

## L.A. residents ask: What's the plan?

Months after the fires, there's mounting frustration with the city's lack of clarity in the rebuilding process.

BY MATT HAMILTON

Carol Parks, the chief of Los Angeles' Emergency Management Department, sat before a budget committee last year and painted a dire picture.

Although tasked with responding to crises in the nation's most disaster-prone region, her department had received just a tiny fraction of the city's budget and was

getting by with a staff of roughly 30.

There was no staffer devoted full-time to disaster recovery, which meant that if an earthquake or major wildfire struck, the city would have to scramble.

But the City Council and Mayor Karen Bass balked at devoting more money to the department.

Seven months later, flames tore through Pacific Palisades and nearby communities, destroying more than 6,000 structures and displacing tens of thousands.

Now, the Emergency Management Department is in charge of coordinating the monumental task of re- [See Rebuild, A11]

## Trump's visit to the Middle East produced little for Palestinians

He dealt with gulf states, Syria and Iran, not Gaza

BY NABIH BULOS

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — President Trump's four-day visit to the Middle East was marked by a flurry of activity: Billion-dollar trade deals, a meeting with Syria's new president and diplomatic efforts to resolve the nuclear standoff with Iran.

But the fate of Palestinian people and the war in Gaza, where the dead are piling up in recent days under an Israeli onslaught, appears to have received short shrift.

[See Trump, A4]



ABDEL KAREEM HANA Associated Press

**PALESTINIANS** struggle to get donated food at a community kitchen in Khan Yunis, Gaza, on Friday.

### Storms kill more than two dozen

Apparent tornadoes sweep across the Midwest and South, with at least 18 dead in Kentucky. **NATION, A6**

### Pasadena schools have tainted soil

Months after Eaton fire, tests reveal lead and arsenic are at levels that exceed the allowable limits. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Weather

Warmer. L.A. Basin: 73/56. **B10**

### Opinion Voices ..... A16



## MOTEL

California

**It's the summer of the motel**

Our guide to the best roadside havens in California is included in today's newspaper for print subscribers. It is also available for purchase at [latimes.com/store](http://latimes.com/store).



Every story. Every section. Every feature. Subscribers get unlimited app access. Download now.

