



TOMAS OVALLE FOR THE TIMES

**COWS REST** at a dairy in Tipton, Calif. On some farms, cows seem unaffected despite having bird flu. At others, they're dying in droves.

## A steep price to solve an urgent problem

A \$22-billion estimate to fix homelessness gives L.A. leaders a choice: Double down or change strategies.

BY LIAM DILLON AND DOUG SMITH

City of Los Angeles officials are finally confronting a question that has seemed too big to answer: How much would it actually cost to get every person living on the street today indoors and make sure that no one languished there for years again?

The answer, in a report now circulating through City Hall, is a whopper: \$21.7 billion over a decade. And since less than \$7 billion of that sum is budgeted, local, state and federal governments would have to pony up three times what they're planning.

The report presents a stark and sobering picture of how far the city is from solving its most pressing problem, according to homelessness experts who reviewed the report at The Times' request. It leaves Mayor Karen Bass and other city officials with three paths, they said: Drastically ramp up existing programs and convince elected leaders and voters to fund that \$21.7 billion, change course to less expensive programs or continue muddling through in the hopes that larger economic, political and real estate forces improve the housing situation.

Though the experts recommended the report for attempting to grapple holistically with an intractable issue, some thought its focus on government subsidies failed to account for the primary cause of homelessness: an inadequate supply of affordable housing in the marketplace.

Margot Kushel, a professor of medicine at UC San Francisco and director of the school's Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative, said that the figures in [See Homelessness, A7]

## Dead cattle pile up as bird flu rises

Dairy farmers knew the virus was coming but weren't prepared for the devastation.

BY SUSANNE RUST

TIPTON, Calif. — There's a sickness hovering over Tulare County's dairy industry.

On a recent 98-degree afternoon, dead cows and calves were piled up along the roadside. Thick swarms of black flies hummed and knocked against the windows of an idling car, while crows and vultures waited nearby — eyeballing the taut and bloated carcasses roasting in the October heat.

Since the H5N1 bird flu virus was first reported in California in early August, 124 dairy herds and 13 people — all dairy workers — had been infected as of Friday.

And according to dairy experts, the spread of the virus has yet to abate.

"I'm surprised there are that few reported," Anja Raudabaugh, chief executive of Western United Dairies, a California dairy trade organization, said recently after being told the latest case number was 105. "This thing is not slowing down."

A similar observation was made by Jimmy Andreoli II, spokesman for Baker Commodities, a rendering company with facilities in Southern California. He said his workers are picking up a surge of dead cows throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

"There's definitely been an increased number of fallen animals lately, and some of that has got to be attributed to the long, hot summer we've had. And some of it, you know, certainly is attributed to the H5N1 virus," he said, noting that one of his drivers picked up 20 to 30 animals at one farm in one day.

Andreoli said that at some farms the cows are intentionally being left on the roadside to reduce contamination. [See Bird flu, A10]

## DODGERS RETURN TO THEIR OCTOBER FIELD OF DREAMS

After some classic falls, the franchise is back in the Fall Classic, where it will again meet its storied rival Yankees

BILL PLASCHKE

Home, at last.

Home, after three rocky Octobers and two embarrassing collapses and deep blue scads of doubt.

Home, where Jackie Robinson is still stealing home and Sandy Koufax is still throwing shutouts and Kirk Gibson is still pumping that fist.

Home, to the World Series. On a rollicking Sunday night at Dodger Stadium, the Dodgers silenced the critics, embraced their birthright and returned to



their personal promised land with a 10-5 victory over the New York Mets that gave them a four-games-to-two triumph in the National League Championship Series.

After three consecutive Octobers filled with classic falls, the Dodgers have returned to the Fall Classic for the fourth time in eight seasons, the 13th time in Los Angeles history and 22nd time overall.

And guess who's waiting there? For the love of Larsen, here come the New York Yankees!

Yep, those damn Yankees, their oldest of October rivals, their nastiest of playoff nemeses, the pinstriped pains who have haunted the Dodger franchise for

more than a century.

Beginning Friday at Dodger Stadium, baseball's two most legendary franchises will meet for the 12th time in a World Series, the most prolific Series matchup in baseball history even though they haven't shared this stage in 43 years.

The Yankees have won eight of their previous 11 meetings in games that have contained some of the greatest moments in World Series history. From Robinson's steal of home to Larsen's perfect game to Reggie Jackson's three homers, the next two weeks will summon the ghosts of greatness past. [See Plaschke, A5]

## These voters still making up their minds

RACINE, Wis. — It's hard to believe after the Fox News interviews, the daily barrage of screaming ads and all the history on these two candidates that anyone would be left undecided with less than three weeks until election day.

Yet there they were, surprisingly easy to find, drinking lattes at a strip mall Starbucks, browsing magazines at Barnes & Noble and eating eggs with their spouses at a pancake restaurant. Some were leaning toward former President Trump or Vice President Kamala Harris but were waiting on family meetings or a final round of online research. Others were hoping for inspiration on the drive to the precinct on Nov. 5.

I spent three packed days last week in three industrial states that have proved critical in deciding the presidency during the Trump era — Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — on and off the campaign trail with Harris, talking to voters along the way.

The number of those undecided is small, but might be key to the election in the 'blue wall' states, where their influence looms large

BY NOAH BIERMAN



JACQUELYN MARTIN Associated Press

**VICE PRESIDENT** Kamala Harris campaigns in Pennsylvania, one of the three "blue wall" states.

Polls show the race a dead heat in the three so-called blue wall states, along with the four other battlegrounds, with about 5% of voters undecided. But it's difficult for broad surveys to capture the complexities and contradictions that run through voters' minds as they process an unprecedented election that involves a candidate who tried to overturn his 2020 election loss and would be the first president in history with multiple indictments and felony convictions.

I found Democrats battling insomnia and altering travel plans, Republicans who were friendly to a reporter but suspicious of the mainstream media and an overriding sense of disillusionment.

"Both of them are not good," said Amgad Fram, a 61-year-old engineer from a Detroit suburb called Novi who was meeting for coffee with a friend.

He started the conversation by saying he would vote [See States, A7]

### Succession plan far off at Disney

Entertainment giant aims to name CEO Bob Iger's heir in early 2026, later than many expected. **BUSINESS, A6**

### Newsom backs Musk in dispute

Billionaire finds unlikely ally after state agency rejects plan to launch more rockets. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### A sunny symbol now paved over

Orange groves helped define the region, but now they are mostly gone, Patt Morrison writes. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Weather

Sunny, very warm. L.A. Basin: 86/61. **B6**

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