

Street vendors risk arrest, family breakup to work

These immigrants say they are afraid, but they have bills to pay, people to take care of.

By RUBEN VIVES AND DAKOTA SMITH

Any day now, Noemi Gongora knows, Border Patrol agents could snatch her up from the streets and send her back to El Salvador, a country she fled more than 30 years ago.

But every morning she steps out of the small bedroom she rents for \$550 a month and goes to work for a street vendor selling cocteles de curiles — clam cocktails.

The stand is one of dozens that make up an informal market that sits along a busy road near the border of Koreatown and Pico Union, two densely populated neighborhoods with a large number of Korean and Central American immigrants, an area likely to be targeted by federal agents.

Gongora, 64, knows this — and that the \$50 she makes a day is not worth the risk of deportation — but there is still a life to be lived and bills to pay. And above all, she needs the money for the medication she uses to manage her cholesterol and diabetes. Medicine that is starting to run out.

Every day, thousands of street vendors set up shop on a piece of pavement in Los Angeles and beyond to make a living and create a path out of poverty or to have their own bricks-and-mortar one day. These self-starters are American citizens and immigrants living in the country legally and illegally, and are part of a \$504-million industry in L.A., according to estimates from the Economic Roundtable, a nonprofit public policy research organization.

But the immigration raids that are taking place across the city — sparking protests, sporadic violence and the deployment of the National Guard and U.S. Marines — have brought

[See Immigrants, A8]



FATEMEH BAHRAMI Anadolu



ARIEL SCHALIT Associated Press

IN TEHRAN, top, people celebrate the ceasefire between Iran and Israel. In Tel Aviv, Ayelet Samerano, center, mourns her son, slain hostage Yonatan Samerano.

DOUBT CAST ON DAMAGE TO IRAN

Report says nuclear sites were stricken but far from, as Trump asserted, ‘obliterated.’

By NABIH BULOS

BEIRUT — An initial damage assessment by the Pentagon found that U.S. military strikes over the weekend failed to fully destroy Iranian nuclear sites, setting back Tehran's nuclear program by only a few months.

The Defense Intelligence Agency's classified report, which was first reported by CNN, casts doubt on the narrative President Trump and his officials have repeated since Sunday's raid: that nuclear installations in Natanz, Fordo and Isfahan were “completely and totally obliterated.”

On Tuesday, Trump insisted yet again that Iran would not be able to salvage anything of its nuclear program. “That place is under rock,” he said. “That place is demolished.”

Trump administration officials acknowledged the assessment's existence but pooh-poohed its findings, with White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt saying in a statement it was “flat-out wrong.”

The damage assessment came the same day Trump excoriated both Israel and

[See Iran, A4]

Most detained in L.A.-area raids had no criminal record

Immigration sweeps hit working-age Mexican men hardest, an analysis reveals.

By RACHEL URANGA

As Los Angeles became the epicenter of President Trump's crackdown on undocumented immigrants, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem flew to the city and held a news conference, saying the government's objective was to “bring in criminals that have been out on our street far too long.”

But data from the days leading up to that June 12 appearance suggest a majority of those who were arrested were not convicted criminals. Most were working-age men, nearly half Mexican.

From June 1 to June 10, Immigration and Customs Enforcement data show that early in the crackdown 722 were arrested in the Los Angeles region. The figures

were obtained by the Deportation Data Project, a repository of enforcement data at UC Berkeley Law.

A Times analysis found that 69% of those arrested during that period had no criminal conviction and 58% had never been charged with a crime. The median age of someone arrested was 38, and that person was likely to be a man. Nearly 48% were Mexican, 16% were from Guatemala and 8% from El Salvador.

“They're not going after drug kingpins, they're chasing hardworking people through swap meets and Home Depot parking lots,” Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass told The Times. “You can see the impact of these random raids everywhere in our city — families are scared to go eat at restaurants, kids are scared their parents aren't going to return from the store. The fear is there because they've seen videos of people being shoved into unmarked vans by masked men refusing to identify themselves.”

[See Raids, A8]

U.S. to revoke forest protection rule

2001 policy bars road projects and timber harvests in designated federal wild areas.

By HAYLEY SMITH

The United States Department of Agriculture on Monday announced that it will rescind a decades-old rule that protects 58.5 mil-

lion acres of national forestland from road construction and timber harvesting.

The USDA, which oversees the U.S. Forest Service, said it will eliminate the 2001 “Roadless Rule” that established lasting protection for specific wilderness areas within the national forests. Research has found that building roads can fragment habitats, disrupt ecosystems and increase erosion and sediment pollution in

drinking water, among other potentially harmful outcomes.

In a statement, USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins described the rule — which applies to about 30% of national forestland — as outdated and overly restrictive.

“Once again, President Trump is removing absurd obstacles to common-sense management of our natural resources by rescinding the overly restrictive ‘Roadless Rule,’” Rollins said in a statement. “This move opens a new era of consistency and sustainability for our nation's forests. It is abundantly clear that properly managing our forests preserves them from devastating fires and allows future generations of Americans to enjoy and reap the benefits of this great land.”

More than 40 states are home to areas protected by

[See Roadless, A7]

Hedge funds gamble on fire

State officials raise alarm as Wall Street seeks to buy claims against SoCal Edison.

By MELODY PETERSEN

In a high-stakes gamble, Wall Street hedge funds are offering to buy claims that insurers may have against Southern California Edison if the utility is found liable for causing the devastating Eaton fire in Altadena.

The solicitations are legal, but have alarmed California state officials — who loathe the idea of investors profiting from a disaster that claimed 18 lives and destroyed more than 9,400 homes and other structures.

“I think everyone in this room looks at a catastrophe, like what happened in Southern California, and our natural instincts are to say, ‘What can we do to help?’” Tom Welsh, the chief executive of the California Earthquake Authority, which manages the state's wildfire fund, said at a recent public meeting. “There are other actors in the environment who look at that situa-

[See Edison, A11]



DAVE MARION

AN OVERTURNED boat floats Saturday in choppy waters near Tahoe Keys Pier.

‘A tragic day on Lake Tahoe’

Clear skies, then a freak storm, catching hundreds of boaters unprepared — how deadly disaster unfolded

By GRACE TOOHEY

On Saturday morning across South Lake Tahoe, winds were light. Skies were clear. Temperatures began to climb into the upper 50s.

The day before, the National Weather Service had issued a wind advisory, but Saturday it appeared that the weather had finally calmed. Forecasts showed a chance of rain and an even smaller possibility of thunderstorms, but that

wasn't out of the ordinary for regular boaters at the High Sierra lake.

Hundreds of boaters and anglers headed out.

Initially, it appeared to be a good day out on the water. Joby Cefalu said he and his group almost immediately caught four fish when they stopped along the lake's eastern shores, where he recalled glassy waters.

But around 2 p.m., something changed.

Cefalu — a lifelong Tahoe boater and co-owner of Mile

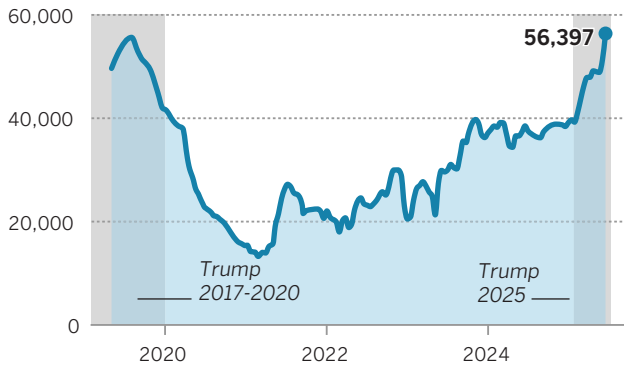
High Fishing Charters — noticed some whitecaps forming. The wind also was quickly picking up, blowing in from the north, which wasn't typical.

“I told my customers, ‘Essentially, we're looking at probably 2- or 3-foot chop by the time we get a half an hour from here, and from there it's going to probably be a little bit worse,’” Cefalu recalled saying as he headed the boat he was piloting back toward the marina. “Within 15 min-

[See Lake, A7]

ICE detentions have increased since Trump retook office

Total population of ICE detention centers



Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse

LORENA ELEBEE Los Angeles Times

Palm Springs bombing suspect dies

Daniel Park, accused of helping the bomber procure materials, was found in his cell. CALIFORNIA, B1

‘Wayne’s World’ store to close

Famed Cassell’s Music in San Fernando will fade out after 78 years. ENTERTAINMENT, E1

Weather
Coastal clouds clearing.
L.A. Basin: 80/61. B6

Markets A11
Opinion Voices A12

Historic movie studio up for sale

The sellers of Occidental, which dates to 1913, are asking \$45 million. BUSINESS, A9

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