



Assembly Member Celeste Rodriguez, D-San Fernando, said she was motivated by family history and the Trump administration's immigration enforcement tactics to write Assembly Bill 495.

Biblical panic over parental rights bill

Pastor's stranger-danger fears overtake legislation

By Raheem Hosseini
STAFF WRITER

As far back as she can recall, Celeste Rodriguez has been aware of her father's childhood trauma.

About 70 years ago in Pacoima, a Los Angeles neighborhood in the San Fernando Valley, Rodriguez's dad watched men he did not know put his grandmother into the back of a van. It turned out they were federal immigration authorities, intent on sending her back to Jalisco, Mexico, from where the two had emigrated ahead of the rest of the family.

The 5-year-old boy watched from his neighbor's porch as the van with his *abuela* receded. Then he fell to pieces.

"As he tells the story, he wakes up on the porch and realizes now as an adult that he cried himself to sleep," Rodriguez said. "You can only imagine how traumatic that is."

Today, Rodriguez is the mother of a 5-year-old herself and is a freshman Democrat in the state Assembly, representing the eastern San Fernando Valley as a Democrat. And a bill she introduced — to give parents taken by the Trump administration some

say over what happens to their children — has drawn the ire of an influential megachurch pastor and his large, devoted following.

Early this month, the Rev. Jack Hibbs, founder and star pastor of Calvary Chapel Chino Hills in San Bernardino County, supercharged a Christian-right panic around Rodriguez's Assembly Bill 495, the Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025.

Repeating criticisms by the Chino Hills group Real Impact, which seeks to merge biblical values with public policy, Hibbs falsely accused Gov. Ga-

Bill continues on A8

Minnesota shooter's motive probed

By Steve Karnowski, Mark Vancleave and Claudia Lauer
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS — The shooter who killed two Catholic school students and wounded more than a dozen youngsters sitting in the pews of a Minneapolis church once attended the same school and was "obsessed" with the idea of killing children, authorities said Thursday.

The shooter, identified as 23-year-old Robin Westman, fired 116 rifle rounds through stained-glass windows while the children celebrated Mass during the first week of classes

at the Annunciation Catholic School, said Minneapolis police Chief Brian O'Hara.

"It is very clear that this shooter had the intention to terrorize those innocent children," O'Hara said.

Acting U.S. Attorney Joe Thompson said videos and writings the shooter left behind show that the shooter "expressed hate towards almost every group imaginable."

The only group Westman did not hate was "mass murderers and shooters," Thompson said.

Investigators recovered hundreds of pieces of evidence from the church and three residences, the police chief

said. They found more writings from the suspect, but no additional firearms or a clear motive for the attack on the church the shooter once attended.

"No evidence will ever be able to make sense of such an unthinkable tragedy," O'Hara said.

Two children, ages 8 and 10, died in the shooting. City officials on Thursday increased to 15 the number of wounded children — ages 6 to 15 — in addition to three parishioners in their 80s who were also injured. Most were expected to survive, O'Hara said.

One child was in critical condition

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No citations yet under anti-camping law

By Sarah Ravani
STAFF WRITER

Nearly six months after Fremont passed one of the harshest anti-camping ordinances in the Bay Area, little has changed.

Despite outcry from homeless people and advocates, the City Council voted in February to prohibit people from camping and storing personal belongings on all public property. Violators now face a fine of up to \$1,000 and six months in jail.

But since the ordinance was implemented, city leaders said they have made zero arrests or citations in the city, which has the second-highest population of unsheltered people in Alameda County. Officials said the intent of the ordinance was never mass arrests or broad sweeps of encampments.

The city said its staff moved encampments "frequently," even



James Mitzner, 55, hangs onto his brother's dogs, Spike and Rusty, at a homeless encampment in Fremont.

before the passage of the ordinance. But since it passed, the city's large entrenched encampments have not been touched.

"It's true that we have not cited anyone under the camping ordinance, but we have continued to use preexisting ordinances to

mitigate smaller encampments throughout the city," said Geneva Bosques, Fremont's spokesperson.

Removing the bigger encampments will take time due to availability of staff, shelter beds and case management services, city leaders said.

"It's a tool in the toolbox," Mayor Raj Salwan said. "We never intended to do mass sweeps. It was always strategic — if somebody is causing some disruption in front of a small business or causing some safety concern, (this gives us) the right to say, 'Could you kindly move along?' And for the most part I think it's working well, most people will comply. Prior to this, people wouldn't even listen."

But the slow start has angered some business owners who say they want swifter action on removing homeless people from

Law continues on A9

AI hitting Gen Z's workers already

Study finds entry-level coding, customer service jobs decreased

By Aidin Vaziri
STAFF WRITER

A new, first-of-its-kind Stanford University study offers some of the strongest evidence yet that artificial intelligence is reshaping the U.S. job market — and it's hitting Generation Z hardest.

The report, "Canaries in the Coal Mine? Six Facts About the Recent Employment Effects of Artificial Intelligence," published Tuesday, draws on millions of anonymized payroll records from ADP, the nation's largest payroll processor, spanning late 2022 — when generative AI tools like ChatGPT surged — through mid-2025.

It found that employment for workers ages 22 to 25 in the most AI-exposed jobs, including software development and customer service, has dropped by 13% relative to less-exposed roles.

By contrast, older employees in those same occupations have seen employment remain steady or even grow.

The study highlights a clear divide.

"Employment has begun to decline for young

Jobs continues on A8

GOP's plan to split state in two shows power of Inland Empire

By Sara Libby
STAFF WRITER

The latest Republican-led attempt to let rural portions of California separate and form their own state is perhaps the least serious yet.

Not only does it face long odds of passing the California Legislature, where Democrats hold supermajorities in both houses, the idea being pushed by Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher is a resolution that would merely offer lawmakers' blessing for such a change; it would not actually create a new state.

While the proposal itself has little chance of advancing, it does underscore a new reality of California politics. Whereas previous plans to carve up the state focused on letting the rural north peel off — sometimes in combination with portions of southern Oregon or Idaho — Gallagher's plan would split the state between east and west. It's a reflection of how influential the Inland Empire region around Riverside and San Bernardino has become in driving California's Republican agenda.

"Forgotten people mostly in the inland counties of the state, they have no voice," Gallagher, R-Yuba City (Sutter County), said Wednesday at a news conference in Sacramento. "Farmers, their prices have dropped, costs have gone through the roof."

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