



STUDENTS Zach Zimmerman, at left, and Lauren Simons embrace at a Utah Valley University vigil for Kirk.

Trapped for 13 days in ICE’s ‘basement’

Pasadena resident, a green card applicant, recounts traumatizing, unsanitary conditions.

By JASMINE MENDEZ

Rami Othmane was driving to the supermarket to pick up ingredients to make dinner when he noticed a car following closely behind. “I thought [the driver] was just being aggressive, but a few moments after, they blocked my way,” Othmane said. “They ordered me to leave my car. But I kept asking them — who are you?”

Othmane is a 36-year-old Pasadena resident from Tunisia, and his wife is Dr. Wafaa Alrashid, chief of medical staff at Huntington Hospital in Pasadena, whom he was speaking with as federal agents descended. “I was surrounded by like

five or six masked people in unmarked cars,” Othmane told The Times. “I kept telling them I have my ID and I’m a green card applicant. ... I was following the right procedure.”

Othmane spoke with The Times this month about his July 13 arrest and subsequent 13-day detention in harsh conditions while suffering from a brain tumor. The experience, he said, left him altered.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement did not respond to The Times’ request for comment on Othmane’s case.

Othmane said that prior to the arrest he was in the process of obtaining an I-130 petition, which would allow him to stay in the country by qualifying his marriage to Alrashid — a U.S. citizen. The couple wed in March.

Othmane said he provided the agents with a receipt of his green card appli-



VISITORS try to enter the B-18 facility, a temporary immigration processing center in downtown L.A.

Santa Monica faces dire financial crisis

Santa Monica, long a beacon of economic strength in Southern California, has endured its share of struggles in recent years.

Its once-bustling downtown shopping district has taken a post-pandemic hit, with the Third Street Promenade in need of reinvention and the upscale Santa Monica Place mall about to lose its anchor Nordstrom. Other factors include post-pandemic shifts in the entertainment industry and new tariffs.

But Santa Monica finds itself on the brink of a financial crisis for another, less expected reason as well: Hundreds of millions of dollars in sex abuse settlements.

The city still faces 180 claims of sexual abuse by a former Santa Monica police dispatcher, a scandal that has already cost the city \$229 million in settlement payouts. On Tuesday, the city declared itself in fiscal distress, a move that raised concerns among city workers that cuts, and perhaps layoffs, were coming.

“The financial situation the city is dealing with is certainly serious,” said Oliver Chi, city manager for the city, during Tuesday’s City Council meeting.

The worries among city workers reached such a peak that before Tuesday’s meeting Chi sent out an email to all city employees, trying to reassure them no layoffs were being planned.

“Let me be clear,” the email, reviewed [See Santa Monica, A12]

Business is down, but city officials also point to sex abuse scandal

By Salvador Hernandez and Richard Winton



A FORMER MAYOR says Santa Monica’s financial issues go beyond legal claims and had been taking shape years ago.

State’s incarcerated firefighters may get raise to \$7.25 per hour

By LAURA J. NELSON

SACRAMENTO — In howling winds and choking smoke during the January fires that devastated Altadena and Pacific Palisades, more than 1,100 incarcerated firefighters cleared brush and dug fire lines, some for wages of less than \$30 per day.

Those firefighters could soon see a major raise. On Thursday, California lawmakers unanimously ap-

proved a plan to pay incarcerated firefighters the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour while assigned to an active fire, a raise from the current pay of about \$1 an hour.

“Nobody who puts their life on the line for other people should earn any less than the federal minimum wage,” said the bill’s author, Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Los Angeles), before the Thursday vote.

Bryan’s legislation, Assembly Bill 247, would take

effect immediately if signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom. Newsom’s office said he typically does not comment on pending legislation. But in July, he signed a budget that set aside \$10 million for incarcerated firefighter wages.

Working at one of the state’s 35 minimum-security fire camps is a voluntary and coveted job, giving inmates a chance to spend time outside prison walls, help their communities and get paroled more quickly.

[See Firefighters, A9]

Suspect arrested in fatal shooting of Charlie Kirk

Tyler Robinson, 22, is taken into custody after his relative contacts authorities.

By GRACE TOOHEY, JENNY JARVIE, RICHARD WINTON AND CLARA HARTER

OREM, Utah — Utah Gov. Spencer Cox on Friday announced the arrest of a 22-year-old suspect in the fatal shooting of conservative activist Charlie Kirk after the man confessed to family members.

“We got him!” Cox exclaimed at a morning news conference.

The suspect, identified as Tyler Robinson, was taken into custody at 10 p.m. Thursday in St. George, Utah, about 280 miles south of Orem.

A court affidavit showed he was arrested on suspicion of committing three felonies: aggravated murder, felony discharge of a firearm causing serious bodily harm and obstruction of justice.

Cox said investigators have extensive evidence linking Robinson to the shooting, including notes on the Discord chat app and markings on ammunition left with the bolt-action rifle that they believe was used in the shooting.

One of the engravings on the ammunition, Cox said, read: “Hey fascist! Catch!”

Another marking read “Bella Ciao” — a reference to an Italian song that pays tribute to the anti-fascist resistance during World War II. It has also been adopted, ironically, in recent years by the far right in an attempt to ridicule leftists.

Some of the more ob-

Respect for skills, if not for beliefs

Republicans and Democrats note Kirk’s capacity to inspire young voters. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

‘Log off, turn off’: Toxic social media spiral stirs alarm

By KAREN GARCIA, GRACE TOOHEY AND HANNAH FRY

OREM, Utah — The killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk set off three days of some of the ugliest and most divisive social media reactions America has seen, leading Utah’s governor on Friday to declare that enough is enough.

“Social media is a cancer on our society right now,” Gov. Spencer Cox, a Republican, said at a news conference announcing an arrest in Kirk’s killing. “I would encourage people to log off, turn off, touch grass, hug a family member, go out and

secure and idiosyncratic engravings Cox described suggest the suspect was steeped in online and video gaming subcultures.

“Notices bulges OWO what’s this?” according to Know Your Meme, is a phrase “parodying both furries and online roleplay subcultures, which is typically used online as a method of trolling.”

When asked about the motive of the gunman, Cox suggested the “Hey fascist” marking clearly showed the [See Kirk, A6]

A city in Utah is shaken to core

By GRACE TOOHEY

OREM, Utah — As dusk settled Thursday evening, people bowed their heads in prayer at a city park, struggling to comprehend all that had played out over the last 36 hours.

They had been planning to mark the 24th anniversary of 9/11, covering public lawns with mini U.S. flags and “Never Forget” signs. Streets were lined with large displays of Old Glory.

Instead, this conservative, religious city was thrust into a national reckoning of political violence, forced into mourning after a gunman killed Charlie Kirk, an influential right-wing activist, as he was speaking at the local university.

How could an assassination happen in a place where the official motto is “Family City USA”? Where people make a point to lend a hand to strangers and where the [See Orem, A7]

ICE officer kills driver in Chicago

Officials say the man was resisting arrest when he struck and dragged the officer with his car. **NATION, A5**

Bass withdraws ‘mansion tax’ bill

L.A. mayor had called for an overhaul of Measure ULA on property sales above \$5.3 million. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather Clouds, then sun. L.A. Basin: 80/65. **B8**



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A WORRYING THEME

Beloved amusement park Great America lays off 184 workers and shortens its season. **BUSINESS, A10**