

Harsher tactics ahead for ICE

In a shake-up, the more aggressive Border Patrol will run some field offices.

By Andrea Castillo and Rachel Uranga

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is initiating a leadership shake-up at a dozen or so offices of Immigration and Customs Enforcement to bring more aggressive enforcement operations across the U.S.

Some of the outgoing field office directors at ICE are anticipated to be replaced with leaders at Customs and Border Protection, according to news reports. Among the leaders targeted for replacement are Los Angeles Field Office Director Ernesto Santacruz and San Diego Field Office Director Patrick Diver, the Washington Examiner reported Monday.

The stepped-up role of Border Patrol leaders in interior enforcement — which has historically been ICE territory — marks an evolution of tactics that originated in California.

In late December, Gregory Bovino, who heads the Border Patrol's El Centro region, led a three-day raid in rural Kern County, nabbing day laborers more than 300 miles from his typical territory. Former Biden administration officials said Bovino had gone "rogue" and that no agency leaders knew about the operation beforehand. Bovino leveraged the spectacle to become the on-the-ground point person for the Trump administration's signature issue.

The three-decade veteran of Border Patrol, who has used slick social media videos to promote the agency's heavy-handed tactics, brought militarized operations once primarily used at the border into America's largest cities.

In Los Angeles this summer, contingents of heavily armed, masked agents bef



SANDY HUFFAKER AFP/Getty Images



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

A MEMBER of the Navy joins others in his community, top, waiting to receive food in San Diego last week. National Guard troops deployed to food banks by Gov. Gavin Newsom include Army Spc. Jazmine Contreras, shown Friday in L.A.

Mexico president condemns U.S. boat strikes in Pacific

By KATE LINTHICUM

MEXICO CITY — The Trump administration has widened its war against alleged drug traffickers, killing 14 people in attacks on four boats off Mexico's Pacific coast, a move condemned by Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum.

The Pentagon said Tuesday that it carried out the strikes in international waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean on Monday. The U.S. and Sheinbaum initially said that one survivor had been rescued by Mexico's navy, though the navy later clarified that its search for the

lone survivor was ongoing. Sheinbaum denounced the strikes and ordered officials from her administration to discuss them with the U.S. ambassador to Mexico. "We do not agree with these attacks, with how they are carried out," Sheinbaum said. "We want all international treaties to be complied with."

The Pentagon did not give exact coordinates of the attacks. Sheinbaum said only that they occurred in "international waters." In a post on X, Mexico's navy said that at the behest of the U.S. Coast Guard it was conducting a search-and-rescue operation 400 miles south of

the Pacific resort city of Acapulco.

The Pentagon declined to share the nationalities of the victims, any evidence that they were in fact trafficking drugs and whether they were suspected of allegiance to a particular cartel.

The latest strikes mark a new escalation of the U.S. military campaign against alleged Latin American drug runners, which White House officials have branded "narco terrorists." In recent months, President Trump has formally designated several drug cartels as terrorist groups and the military has ordered thousands

For millions, food aid runs out this week

Families scramble and state braces for deluge of need as shutdown cuts off SNAP funds.

By Kevin Rector, Jenny Gold, Ana Ceballos and Rebecca Plevin

Michaela Thompson, an unemployed mother in the San Fernando Valley, relies on federal assistance to afford the specialized baby formula her 15-month-old daughter needs because of a feeding disorder. At \$47 for a five-day supply, it's out of her reach otherwise.

But with the federal shutdown blocking upcoming disbursements of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits — previously known as food stamps — Thompson said she doesn't know how she's going to fill her daughter's bottles.

"It feels like the world is kind of crumbling right now," she said. "I'm terrified for my family and my daughter."

Millions of low-income families who rely on SNAP benefits to put food on the table in California and across the country — about 1 in 8 Americans — are confronting similar fears this week, as federal and state officials warn that November funds will not be issued without a resolution to the ongoing federal shutdown and Congress shows no sign of a breakthrough.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and state Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta announced Tuesday that California is joining other Democrat-led states in suing the Trump administration to force SNAP payments through the use of contingency funds, but the litigation — even if successful — won't prevent all the disruptions.

It is already too late for some of the 5.5 million California residents — including 2 million children — who rely on such benefits to receive them in time to buy groceries after Friday, when many will have already used up their October benefits, state officials said. Advocates warned of a tidal wave of need as home pantries and CalFresh cards run empty — which they said is no longer a risk but a certainty.

"We are past the point at which it is possible to prevent harm," said Andrew Cheyne, managing director of public policy at the organization End Child Poverty California.

About 41.7 million Americans were served through SNAP per month in fiscal 2024, at an annual cost of nearly \$100 billion, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

State officials, local governments and nonprofit organizations are scrambling to get the word out to families and to redirect millions of dollars in emergency funding to stock more food at local food banks or load gift cards for the neediest families, but many say the capacity to respond is insufficient — and are bracing for a deluge of need.

"People really don't understand the scale and scope of what is happening and the ripple effect it will have on the economy and with people just meeting their basic needs," said Angela F. Williams, president and chief executive of United Way.

Already, United Way is seeing an uptick in calls to some 211 centers from people looking for help with groceries, utility bills and rent, Williams said. "There's a critical crisis that has been brewing for a while, and it's reaching a fevered pitch."

Cheyne said many families are well aware of the looming disruption to aid and scrambling to prepare, [See SNAP, A7]

BILLIONS IN HEALTH CUTBACKS, STATE SAYS

Despite efforts to fill federal fund gaps, millions of residents will be affected.

By Katie King

SACRAMENTO — The state does not have the fiscal capacity to make up for the massive, oncoming federal cuts to healthcare programs used by millions of vulnerable Californians, a stark reality that will force state lawmakers to consider reducing benefits and eligibility and swell the number of residents without medical insurance.

That blunt assessment, released by the state's Legislative Analyst's Office, comes at a time when California faces ongoing budget deficits — with a \$17-billion shortfall estimated for the next fiscal year — and imminent cuts to food support programs, such as SNAP, caused by the federal government shutdown.

On Tuesday, Gov. Gavin Newsom said the combined fallout from the shutdown and the Republican-backed "Big, Beautiful Bill" has left states in the lurch.

We're looking at "the largest cuts to Medicaid in American history," Newsom said at a news conference. "They supported the largest cuts to food stamps and SNAP in American history — \$186 billion over the next 10 years — before this manufactured crisis, this decision they are making not to provide the contingency funds to mitigate the impacts."

The governor said that he's working with state legislators to identify additional resources to help offset the cuts, but that there's only so much states can do.

Top California health of

Fans have rituals they believe help Boys in Blue

Candles, dirty shirts and even avoiding the games

By Karen Garcia

If Los Angeles is acting a little superstitious this week, blame it on the Dodgers.

For many die-hard fans, it's simply not enough to pay more than \$1,000 for a night at Dodger Stadium, to fly the True Blue flag on your car and at your home, to dress your dog like a member of the starting lineup.

For the regular season, maybe. But this is the World Series, and that requires extreme measures.

So they wear the same unwashed Dodgers shirt each game. Eat the same meal every night. Sit in the same chair the entire time (even when the game

lasts more than six hours). Praying to a Dodgers altar that features a Vin Scully bobblehead, a 1953 World Series program and a photo of Jackie Robinson signing his first contract.

There is that certain hat. That certain song. That certain bar. A lucky spoon. Every bit helps, right?

For Altadena resident Tom Horner, it was a votive candle that was not allowed to go out during Monday night's marathon game.

His sister gave him the candle "after the magic of Freddie Freeman winning the World Series," Horner told The



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

DODGERS READY FOR AN ENCORE

Shohei Ohtani and Co. follow up 18-inning win with Game 4 of World Series. Visit latimes.com or latimes.com/enewspaper.



WALK-OFF HERO, AGAIN

Freeman's homer may spark title, Bill Plaschke writes. **SPORTS, D1**

A deputy dead, a dramatic chase

Experts back his colleague's actions to stop suspect fleeing on a motorcycle on 210.

By Richard Winton, Hannah Fry and Clara Harter

As the motorcyclist reached speeds of nearly 150 miles an hour, tailed by a phalanx of police cars on the 210 Freeway, he was putting distance between himself and the home where, according to authorities, he had just shot and killed a sher-

iff's deputy.

With viewers watching on live television Monday afternoon, he easily evaded a motorcycle officer who tried to stop him. He appeared to lift both hands off the handlebars as he pulled the slide back on a gun.

His attempt at a quick escape ended when he plowed into a gray Toyota Camry, flipping over the front of his bike and launching at least 10 feet in the air.

It quickly emerged that the driver of the Camry was a San Bernardino County narcotics deputy who was off duty when the pursuit started, went back on duty

and deliberately swerved into the motorcyclist, later identified as 47-year-old Angelo Jose Saldivar.

Saldivar was captured by television cameras sitting up on the pavement before being airlifted to a hospital, where he was in stable condition Tuesday. He is expected to be charged in the coming days in the death of San Bernardino County Sheriff's Deputy Andrew Nunez, 28, who had worked for the department for six years and leaves behind a 2-year-old daughter and a pregnant wife.

Three policing experts

California crab season sees delay

Whale entanglements and a toxin push the start of commercial Dungeness fishing to January. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Amazon slashes 14,000 jobs

The online retail giant cuts corporate positions as it invests billions in artificial intelligence race. **BUSINESS, A8**

Weather

Very warm. L.A. Basin: 92/62. **B5**



RAMON ESPINOSA Associated Press

STORM PREPAREDNESS

Cubans evacuate before the arrival of Hurricane Melissa, which pummeled Jamaica. **WORLD, A4**