

LAPD shootings are up sharply in 2025

Mayor Bass says she is ‘deeply concerned’ about rise, wants to reduce such incidents.

By Libor Jany

Shootings by Los Angeles police officers have increased dramatically this year, prompting Mayor Karen Bass to issue a statement Friday that said she is “deeply concerned” and seeking an explanation.

LAPD officers have fired their weapons in 46 incidents so far this year — killing 14 people and wounding 23 others — a roughly 70% increase compared with 2024 and the highest annual shooting total by the department since 2015.

The uptick in LAPD shootings comes despite crime rates in the city continuing to fall, and with officers registering fewer interactions with members of the public than in previous years.

The number of shootings by LAPD officers also stands in stark contrast to the similarly-sized L.A. County Sheriff’s Department, whose deputies have shot 11 people so far in 2025, killing nine of them. The data appear to contradict the explanation given by LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell, who has said his department’s rise in shootings is the result of heightened violence against law enforcement officers.

In a video released Friday evening, McDonnell said he shared concerns over the recent uptick in shootings. [See Shootings, A5]

Holiday rainstorm may pose dangers

Possible deluge before and during Christmas could bring slides, downed trees, floods.

By Rong-Gong Lin II and Tony Briscoe

The Pineapple Express storm bearing down on Southern California could bring heavy rain and strong winds throughout Christmas week, potentially triggering mudslides, downing trees and flooding not only freeways but also homes and businesses.

If the forecasts are right, this could be one of the stormiest Christmases in recent memory for Southern California. There’s an 80% chance downtown Los Angeles will get 2 or more inches of rain from Tuesday through Christmas Day. The last time downtown got 2 or more inches of rain over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was in 1971.

The storm is expected to deliver 4 to 8 inches of rain between Tuesday and Saturday throughout most of Los Angeles County, Orange County and the Inland Empire. The high desert could see 2 to 3 inches of rain. But the most precipitation — 6 to 12 inches — is expected to fall over parts of Southern California mountain ranges, which could trigger mudslides and debris flows in recent burn scars.

Meteorologist Devin Black from the National Weather Service Office in Oxnard said that the latest weather models show the region’s heaviest rainfall totals — from half an inch to 1 inch [See Rain, A7]



Photographs by JULIANA YAMADA Los Angeles Times

A SHOPPER at a Ralphs store this month in West Hollywood, top. Its customers seek out bargains. In Beverly Hills, above, people leave a Ralph Lauren store.

A DIVERGENT TALE OF 2 RALPHS

K-shaped economic model demonstrates the high earner-blue collar divide

By Caroline Petrow-Cohen

John and Theresa Anderson meandered through the sprawling Ralph Lauren clothing store on Rodeo Drive, shopping for holiday gifts.

They emerged carrying boxy blue bags. John scored quarter-zip sweaters for himself and his father-in-law, and his wife splurged on a tweed jacket for Christmas Day.

“I’m going for quality over quantity this year,” said John, an apparel company executive and Palos Verdes Estates resident.

They strolled through the world-famous Beverly Hills shopping mecca, where there was little evidence of any big sales.

One mile away, shoppers at a Ralphs grocery store in West Hollywood were hunting for bargains. The chain’s website has been advertising discounts on a wide variety of products, including wine and wrapping paper.

Massi Gharibian was there looking for cream cheese and ways to save money.

“I’m buying less this year,” she said. “Everything is expensive.”

The tale of two Ralphs shows how Americans are experiencing radically different realities this holiday season. It represents the country’s K-shaped economy — the growing divide between those who are affluent and those trying to stretch their budgets.

Some Los Angeles residents are tightening their belts and prioritizing necessities such as groceries. Others are frequenting pricey stores such as Ralph Lauren, where doormen hand out hot chocolate and a cashmere-silk necktie sells for \$250.

In the K-shaped economy, high-income households sit on the upward arm of the “K,” benefitting from rising pay as well as the value of their stock and property holdings. At the same time, lower-income families occupy the downward stroke, squeezed by inflation and lackluster income gains.

The model captures the country’s contradictions. Growth looks healthy on paper, yet hiring has slowed and unemployment is edging higher. Investment is booming in artificial intelligence data centers, while factories cut [See Ralphs, A10]

A TIMES INVESTIGATION

Schools’ abuse settlements hid from the public

Victims in districts across state are muzzled despite transparency laws

By Matt Hamilton and Harriet Ryan

The Visalia Unified School District’s public board meeting in March was a festive and upbeat affair with a performance by a student chamber music group and a commendation for a high school cheer squad.

When the seven-member board went into closed session, the agenda was decidedly grimmer: Six former students were suing the district over sexual abuse they said they suffered decades earlier at the hands of a kindergarten teacher.

Out of public view, the board unanimously approved a \$3-million settlement with provisions intended to keep the community in the dark forever.

Under the terms of the agreement, the women, their lawyers and families were prohibited from disclosing any aspect of the deal, including the amount they were paid.

“The Parties agree that they will respond to any inquiries they may receive from any third parties regarding the lawsuit by stat-

ing only that ‘the matter has been resolved’ without any further elaboration, discussion or disclosure,” the settlement instructed.

It was Visalia’s fifth secret settlement in the last three years, one of a flurry that districts are quietly approving statewide.

A Times investigation found that California’s public schools, faced with a historic surge of sex abuse lawsuits, are increasingly using nondisclosure agreements and other tactics that celebrities and big corporations rely upon to protect their reputation.

At least 25 districts have resolved suits or other claims in ways that hinder taxpayers from learning about the allegations, the cost of settling them or both, The Times found. These hidden settlements total more than \$53 million. Legal experts say that these settlements may be in violation of state law, and that some should be investigated by the state attorney general. [See Payouts, A6]

Schizophrenia drug linked to Reiner son

Sources say he was prescribed medication for mental health before parents’ deaths.

By Richard Winton

Nick Reiner had been prescribed medication for schizophrenia at some point before he allegedly killed his parents, Hollywood legend Rob Reiner and photographer Michele Singer Reiner, according to two sources with knowledge of the criminal investigation.

It is unclear what the name of the drug was and how long he had been prescribed it. No other details were available. The sources spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly.

Reiner, 32, was charged with two counts of murder on Tuesday and could face life in prison or the death

penalty if convicted.

Reiner appeared in court Wednesday wearing a blue suicide prevention smock frequently worn by defendants who pose a risk of self-harm. A judge approved attorney Alan Jackson’s request to continue Reiner’s arraignment to Jan. 7. He did not enter a plea.

Reiner had struggled for years with addiction and spoken publicly about his challenges.

As a teenager, he said in interviews, he became addicted to heroin, cycling in and out of rehabilitation centers and experiencing bouts of homelessness.

It’s unclear what role the medication and his drug challenges will play in the case. Family friends told The Times that Reiner suffered from mental health struggles for years and that his parents were tireless in trying to get him help.

Authorities have offered few specifics — including an [See Reiner, A9]

A food fight in Mexico over its beloved bolillo

British chef’s ‘ugly rolls’ remark stokes gentrification controversy

By Patrick J. McDonnell and Cecilia Sánchez Vidal



LISETTE POOLE For The Times

THE IDEAL bakery in Mexico City draws large crowds. Gentrification is reshaping neighborhoods.

MEXICO CITY — Don’t mess with my bolillos!

That was the universal message here after disparaging remarks about Mexican bread surfaced from a British celebrity chef who ridiculed the beloved bolillo: An oval-shaped, white bread roll that is a culinary and cultural staple, a mainstay in tortas (sandwiches), pan con chocolate (bread with chocolate) and other essentials, a go-to comfort food with a spiritual caché.

Mexicans “don’t really have much of a bread culture,” the chef, Richard Hart, who runs a popular Mexico City bakery, said in a podcast that recently resurfaced online. He labeled Mexican wheat “not good ... highly processed, full of additives,” adding: “They make sandwiches on these white, ugly rolls that are pretty cheap and industrially made.”

That frontal assault on el bolillo came just as many Mexicans are getting ready to stock up on the fluffy loaves for the holidays. Judging by the reaction, [See Bolillo, A3]



MATT PATTERSON Associated Press

CHARGERS ROLL AGAIN

Justin Herbert passed for 300 yards and accounted for three scores in a 34-17 rout at Dallas as L.A. continued its playoff push. **SPORTS, D1**

LAFD report irks its author

Battalion chief who wrote Palisades after-action draft says he wasn’t consulted on changes. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather

Low clouds clearing. L.A. Basin: 68/55. **B6**

Opinion Voices **A13**

Scene-stealing celebrity books

A selection of the year’s standout memoirs from the famous and the famously off-kilter. **ENTERTAINMENT, E1**



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