



An injured woman lies on the pavement during a No Kings rally in June in Los Angeles. Mass raids in the region by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement prompted huge protests that month.

# Trump policies on immigration hit hard

2025 saw arrests rise in state, fewer asylum approvals in S.F. court

By Sara DiNatale and Christian Leonard  
STAFF WRITERS

President Donald Trump’s mass deportation campaign — which has targeted people without legal status as well as those in the process of obtaining it — slashed the number of immigrants present in the United States by more than 1 million halfway through the year, the most recent benchmark for which numbers are available.

It was the first time since the 1960s that the number of immigrants within the country declined. And the administration appears intent on slashing the number even further as it cuts off legal pathways to citizenship and ramps up arrests and detentions.

In 2025, the federal government dramatically expanded the list of countries from which it mostly bans immigration, fired immigration judges and added massive fees to certain visas. Asylum approvals plummeted as Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrests climbed — across the country and in California. Trump even took the unprecedented step of attempting to cut off birthright citizenship, a ploy that every court has so far shut down but will go before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2026.

“The second Trump administration has taken unprecedented steps when it comes to immigration enforcement,” said UC Davis law pro-



Demonstrators participate in a one-day work stoppage while protesting outside ICE’s San Francisco field office on Sansome Street in October. The protest followed news of federal agents arriving at a U.S. Coast Guard base between Alameda and Oakland for an enforcement operation that later was called off.

fessor and immigration policy expert Kevin Johnson. “Those steps all together have terrorized the immigrant community, have terrorized Latinos generally and have left a lasting impression that will take us generations to recover from.”

In many instances, courts have ordered the administration to rein in its efforts. In the face of growing deportations, Bay Area residents have largely stood together to “defend the America we believe in,” said Aarti Kohli, an immigration attorney and

executive director of the Asian Law Caucus, which is based in San Francisco.

Protesters in October blocked Border Patrol agents from entering a U.S. Coast Guard base near Oakland as the administration prepped for a massive enforcement operation that was ultimately called off. Local faith leaders recently chained themselves to an immigration office in San Francisco and shut it down for the day.

Community groups have kept

*Migrants continues on A8*

# Grid power restored by PG&E in S.F. district

Noisy generators used after huge outage had tormented neighbors

By Kate Talerico  
STAFF WRITER

San Francisco residents near 24th Avenue and Balboa Street can sleep a little easier.

A week after Pacific Gas and Electric Co. brought in seven roaring, diesel-fueled generators to its substation in the Richmond District following a massive outage that began Dec. 20, the utility company transferred back to grid power around midnight Sunday.

## INSIDE

PG&E transformer fire triggers another unplanned power outage in S.F. **A7**

The transition coincided with more power outages. Around 7:45 p.m. Sunday, a transformer caught fire around 12th Avenue and Balboa, plunging more than 11,200 customers in the Richmond District into darkness, according to PG&E’s outage map. San Francisco Fire Department crews responded until PG&E crews arrived. PG&E’s map showed that power was restored around 11 p.m.

Another outage — this one planned as the utility transferred about 6,000 customers remaining on the generators back to grid power — came around 11:50 p.m. and lasted about 10 minutes.

“We appreciate our customers’ patience

*Outages continues on A7*

# Rose Parade float blooms with help from many hands

By Sam Whiting  
STAFF WRITER

When Tara Dade heard there would be a San Francisco-themed float in the Rose Parade, she knew what action she’d have to take. She loaded up her husband and two kids, and fought the weekend Christmas traffic from Oakland to San Francisco to join a float decorating party at Union Square.

“It’s very exciting, and to be able to do a piece of it is an honor,” said Dade, who waited in line with her daughter, Mila Dade, 9, for the privilege of gluing a white bean onto a frame to form “S” and “F.”

Dade is 42, so she was not alive the last time San Francisco entered a civic float in the parade, in 1978. Before that, the city had a regular parade entrant going back to 1917. To be appointed to the float committee by the mayor’s office was a high honor that carried the responsibility of traveling to Pasadena for three nights of high-society cocktail parties leading up to the inspection of the city float on New Year’s Eve.

San Francisco was represented 43 times, but in 1978 the required cash infusion of a few hundred thousand dollars was deemed extravagant. The float was canceled, never to return until Anna Maria Presutti, president and CEO of San Francisco

*Float continues on A9*

# AI gold rush a boon to S.F. restaurants

By Elena Kadvany  
STAFF WRITER

In early December, a San Francisco artificial intelligence company bought out the Happy Crane, one of the city’s hottest restaurants, to celebrate its booming revenue.

The company marked the occasion with Peking duck and \$180 bottles of 2016 Howell Mountain Red Cap Cabernet Sauvignon, an extremely limited production with only 300 bottles available directly from the winery, said general manager Justin Chin, who could not disclose the name of the company.

About half of the Happy Crane’s private dining requests now come from AI companies, with some requesting standing

monthly reservations for the private room, which costs approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000 total, depending on the number of people and beverage requests.

It’s not just the Happy Crane. In 2025, restaurants across the city saw soaring demand from AI companies, whose rapid growth has made San Francisco the global epicenter of the industry. What’s being characterized as the third major tech boom is flush with money. In 2025, AI-related capital expenditures contributed about 1% to GDP growth. The Santa Clara-based Nvidia, which recently leased its first San Francisco office, became the first company in history to hit \$5 trillion in market value, in October. Amid

*Dining continues on A9*



Via Aurelia, the latest restaurant from the Che Fico team, is located in the Mission Rock development, where multiple artificial intelligence or AI-adjacent companies have offices. The Italian restaurant features multiple private dining rooms.