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# ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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North Main Street in Cottonwood on Jan. 22. A U.S. flag hangs from the former Colt Grill location, left. Maria Cristina Tapia Cornejo worked here as a dishwasher before being detained by ICE in a 2025 raid. MARK HENLE/THE REPUBLIC

## Arizona great-grandma in ICE center 10 months

**71-year-old is fighting deportation to Mexico**

**Daniel Gonzalez**  
Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

It's been more than 10 months since federal immigration authorities raided four Colt Grill restaurants in northern Arizona and a fifth location in Foley, Alabama.

The targets of the raid were the husband-and-wife owners of the restaurants, Robert and Brenda Clouston. They were arrested on charges accusing the couple of conspiring to smuggle undocumented immigrants from Mexico to work at their popular restaurants at below minimum wage and harboring them in apartments they owned.

After pleading not guilty to the charges, the Cloustons were released on their own recognizance shortly after their arrests under the stipulation they not leave the state, documents filed in U.S. District Court in Arizona show.

But the Cloustons, 62, have left Arizona several times while they remain free awaiting

See **GRANDMA**, Page 6A



**Maria Cristina Tapia Cornejo, who worked as a dishwasher at a Colt Grill in Cottonwood, with her great-granddaughter.**  
PROVIDED BY CARINA CARDENAS

**2 ex-Colt Grill workers admit to role in hiring undocumented workers**

**Daniel Gonzalez**  
Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

Two employees of the Colt Grill restaurants in northern Arizona face sentencing in June after admitting their role in the hiring and harboring of dozens of undocumented workers at four Colt Grill restaurants in Yavapai County and one in Foley, Alabama.

Luis Pedro Rogel-Jaimes and Iris Cristal Romero-Molina each pleaded guilty in April to a misdemeanor charge of a pattern and practice of hiring undocumented workers and a felony charge of conspiracy to harbor undocumented immigrants, court documents filed in U.S. District Court of Arizona in Phoenix show.

Rogel-Jaimes is scheduled to be sentenced on June 15. Romero-Molina is scheduled to be sentenced on June 22, court documents show.

As part of a plea agreement, they each face a sentence of 12 months in prison. Both are

See **HIRING**, Page 6A

## Negotiators reach Iran agreement

**But Trump, Tehran must still sign off on the deal**

**Jana Choukeir, Enas Alashray and Phil Stewart**  
REUTERS

Negotiators for the United States and Iran have reached a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and extend the 60-day ceasefire while discussions continue over Tehran's nuclear program, according to an American official.

President Donald Trump has yet to approve the deal, though, the official said. Iran's leadership also hasn't signed off yet, according to a regional official who said the American proposal was given to Pakistan, which gave it to Iranian negotiators.

The potential agreement requires unfettered shipping through the Strait of Hormuz without tolls, and Iran must remove mines from the waterway within 30 days, according to the United States official. In return, the United States would end a blockade of Iranian ports and waive some sanctions on oil sales.

Under the memorandum, which was first reported by Axios, Iran would agree not to develop a nuclear weapon and would enter into negotiations over how to dispose of its enriched uranium, the official said. The U.S. would agree to consider further easing of sanctions.

The latest diplomatic maneuvers come after Trump signaled over the weekend that a peace accord was imminent but then lowered expectations for a quick deal after blowback, saying he told negotiators not to rush. Meanwhile, hostilities have flared back up, with the United States and Iran trading military strikes.

The U.S. military carried out strikes May 25 targeting boats attempting to lay mines and missile launch sites in Iran, according to U.S. Central Command, which described the strikes as defensive efforts "to protect our troops from threats posed by Iranian forces."

On May 27, CENTCOM accused Iran of an "egregious ceasefire violation," saying Tehran launched a ballistic missile toward Kuwait that was intercepted and five attack drones around the Strait of Hormuz that also were shot down. A sixth drone was prevented from launching.

Trump has expressed optimism about securing a peace deal as the Iran war reached the three-month mark,

See **IRAN DEAL**, Page 11A

**SUN DEVILS HEADED TO REGIONAL 1B**



ASU's Sean Fitzpatrick reacts after striking out a batter during the May 22 game. JOSEPH RONDONE/ARIZONA REPUBLIC

## Mitcham sentencing mistrial

After twice telling the judge they could not reach a unanimous decision on whether Ian Mitcham should be put to death, the jury in his death penalty sentencing trial was declared hung, ending the sentencing phase in a mistrial. 3A

## Waiver not helping gas prices

**Analysis:** President Donald Trump's waivers allowing foreign-flagged ships to move oil and fuel between U.S. ports have had little impact on high domestic gas prices. 7A



People drive past a political billboard featuring President Donald Trump and the Strait of Hormuz in Tehran, Iran. ATTA KENARE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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