



PALISADES FIRE survivors gather to demand better disaster planning, accountability and recovery relief. GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

OUTSIDE BUYERS MOVE IN ON BURN ZONES

Report shows high number of investors, who might delay community rebuilding.

By Terry Castleman

Last spring, Realtor Teresa Fuller saw signs that the epic task of rebuilding Altadena could be a local affair, with potential buyers wanting to place a bet on the community's future.

"Early on, the market was very active. A lot of Altadenans, a lot of La Cañadans, a lot of people wanted to be involved in the rebuild," said Fuller, a real estate agent in Altadena.

But as more and more lots hit the market, buyers and sellers both had to adjust their expectations. By midsummer, inventory had reached its high point, with around 160 active lot listings in Altadena, according to Fuller. That number fell to 75 by the end of the year as prices dropped.

Now, there are growing signs that outside investors have moved in and dominated the market, with profound implications for the future.

A new report from Redfin shows that at least 40% of lot sales in the fire-damaged areas in both Altadena and Pacific Palisades went to investors in the third quarter of 2025. This raises the likelihood, some experts say, that outsiders may hold off on rebuilding to maximize their investment.

The finding comes amid worries from fire survivors in Altadena, Pacific Palisades and Malibu that their communities will be rebuilt by investors.

In Altadena, 27 of the 61 lots that sold in July, August and September were purchased by investors, or 44%. Malibu saw a similar percentage of investor purchases, while in Pacific Palisades the ratio was 40%.

"Following these disasters, it's really difficult for residents to hold on to their homes," said Daryl Fairweather, Redfin's chief economist. [See **Investors**, A6]

Fire report sent to Bass' office

L.A.'s mayor says he did not work on changes to the Palisades "working draft." **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Complaints bring bills on insurance

State lawmakers introduce legislation to address the concerns of victims. **BUSINESS, A9**

After fires, 'the hardest year of our lives'

Anniversary draws outpouring from survivors. 'There is no right or wrong way to process grief.'

By Noah Haggerty, Hailey Branson-Potts and Melissa Gomez

One year after two of the most destructive wildfires in California's history erupted just hours apart, survivors commemorated the day in Altadena and Pacific Palisades with a mixture of anger and somber remembrance.

At the American Legion veterans post in the Palisades, hundreds gathered at a military-style white-glove ceremony to pay respects to the 12 families that lost loved ones in the Palisades fire.

Just down the street, an even larger crowd shouted the rally cry "They Let Us Burn" to demand comprehensive disaster planning, relief for families working to rebuild and accountability for government missteps that they say enabled the disaster and slowed the recovery.

In Altadena, survivors congregated at the Eaton Fire Collaborative's community center with a clear message: They were not backing down in the fight to return home.

"This year has been the hardest year of our lives," said Joy Chen, executive director of the Eaton Fire Survivors Network. "Unimaginable grief. The 31 people who died that day, and the hundreds who have died prematurely since. Home lost. Jobs lost. Incomes lost. A sense of safety and identity stripped away."

On Wednesday evening, Altadenans planned to gather at a beloved family-owned burger joint that miraculously still stands amid a sea of empty lots. The restaurant, Fair Oaks Burger, reopened an outdoor kitchen for residents and recovery workers just weeks after the fire and has become a lifeline for the neighborhood.

Jessica Rogers, who lost her home in the Palisades fire and has since become the executive director of the Palisades Long-Term Recovery Group, which organized the remembrance ceremony, said that people [See **Survivors**, A6]

Trump challenges anyone to stop him

Congress is stymied as the president acts with apparent impunity at home and abroad.

By Michael Wilner

WASHINGTON — Five years after the Jan. 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol by President Trump's supporters, the White House released a website this week attempting to revise history.

Reasserting Trump's false claim that he had won the 2020 presidential election, the administration doubled down on his decision to issue blanket pardons for the rioters, blamed



JESUS VARGAS Getty Images

THE MOTHER of a soldier killed in the U.S. operation in Venezuela cries before his funeral in Caracas.

TANKERS SEIZED: The U.S. move asserts an intent to control Venezuelan oil distribution. **WORLD, A3**

President threatens to freeze child-care funding for state

By Melody Gutierrez, Daniel Miller and Kate Sequeira

SACRAMENTO — The federal government has launched a broad attack on social services in California, raising the specter of fraud and threatening to withhold billions of dollars of funding in areas including child care, a jolt to tens of thousands of working families.

In a trio of Jan. 6 letters addressed to Gov. Gavin Newsom, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said it was concerned there had been "potential for extensive and systemic fraud" in child-care and other social services programs that rely on federal funding, and had "rea-

son to believe" that the state was "illicitly providing illegal aliens" with benefits.

The letters did not detail evidence to support the claims. State officials immediately said the suggestions of fraud are unsubstantiated.

Health and Human Services said it would review how the funding had been used by the state, and was restricting access — at least temporarily — to additional money amid its inquiries. The federal government requested large volumes of administrative data and other files, including attendance documentation for child care. It also demanded beefed-up fiscal accountability requirements.

The Trump administration announced on Tuesday

plans to freeze \$10 billion in federal funds for similar programs in five Democrat-controlled states, including California. The others are Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota and New York.

Newsom and state Democratic leaders have accused President Trump of unleashing a political vendetta. Officials argued he is using unsubstantiated claims to justify a move that could jeopardize child care and social services for low-income families.

"It is unconscionable for Trump and Republicans to rip away billions of dollars that support child care and families in need, and this has nothing to do with fraud," said Robert Rivas (D-Hollister), speaker of the California Assembly. [See **Child care**, A7]

L.A. homicides drop to lowest level in decades

Decline mirrors other cities'. Experts credit first responders, social services, other factors.

By Libor Jany and Richard Winton

The city of Los Angeles just recorded its lowest homicide total in more than half a century, mirroring precipitous drops in many other large cities nationwide last year — and sparking a range of theories about what's going on.

According to tentative numbers reported by the Los Angeles Police Department through Dec. 31, the city tallied 230 homicides in 2025 — a nearly 19% decrease from the year before. Police investigators are still reviewing the circumstances of several deaths, but if the current figure holds up, it would be the fewest killings since 1966, when the population was almost 30% smaller.

Measuring per capita, it was the city's safest year since 1959.

LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell said the reduction in homicides is "not the result of any single action, but the collective work of our first re-

sponders and follow-up investigators, our community partners, and the residents who continue to step forward and engage with us."

The numbers might come as a surprise to those who visit the LAPD's website. Since switching to a new federal reporting system, the department includes more than just violent killings in its count.

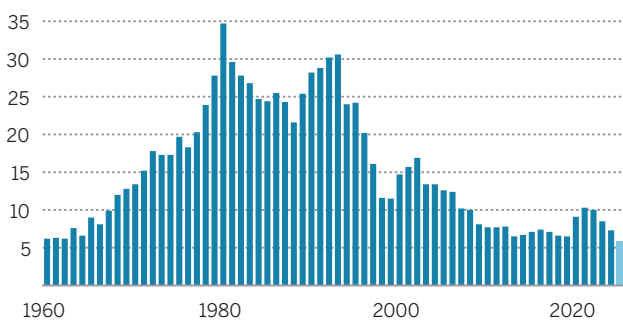
Department officials said the website data now include some traffic deaths that weren't counted under the old reporting system, such as suspected cases of vehicular manslaughter or crashes in which the driver was found to have been drunk or otherwise criminally negligent. With these "vehicular homicides" included, the total number of killings recorded citywide last year grows to 313 — a discrepancy that has some residents concerned the department isn't giving a full crime picture.

Experts have long cautioned against putting too much stock in year-to-year crime statistics, which can fluctuate based on complex, intertwined factors — including how authorities classify and count certain offenses.

[See **Homicide**, A7]

Homicides in L.A. since 1960

Homicides per 100,000 people



The final 2025 rate may increase as additional deaths are reviewed. Los Angeles Police Department

HAILEY WANG Los Angeles Times

ICE kills woman in Twin Cities

Minneapolis traffic stop turns deadly. Self-defense narrative 'garbage,' mayor says.

By Tim Sullivan and Giovanna Dell'Orto

An Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer shot and killed a Minneapolis driver on Wednesday during the Trump administration's latest crackdown on a major American city — a shooting that federal officials said was an act of self-defense but that the mayor described as reckless and unnecessary.

The 37-year-old woman was shot in front of a family member during a traffic stop in a snowy residential neighborhood south of downtown Minneapolis, just a few blocks from some of the oldest immigrant markets and about a mile from where George Floyd was killed by police in 2020. Her killing quickly drew a crowd of hundreds of angry protesters.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, while visiting Texas, described the incident as an "act of domestic terrorism" carried out against ICE officers by a woman who "attempted to run them over and rammed them with her vehicle. An officer of ours acted quickly and defensively, shot, to protect himself and the people [See **ICE**, A5]

Famed lawyer off Reiner case

Alan Jackson says ethically, he can't explain why he withdrew. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

'War' is declared on added sugar

U.S. guidelines remodel the food pyramid with protein and good fats at top. **NATION, A4**

Actors' snubs and surprises

SAG-AFTRA releases nominations after its awards show rebrand. **ENTERTAINMENT, E1**

Weather

Mostly sunny; cool. L.A. Basin: 63/44. **B6**

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