



Shutdown threatened U.S. leafy greens

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The Tien Rong Gift Shop in Newark, New Jersey, which sells everything from stuffed animals to imitation jewelry, has reported weeks of sluggish sales. NICHOLAS P. BROWN/REUTERS

Hispanic shoppers turn to online buying

Economists cite fear of Trump immigration raids

Siddharth Cavale
and Nicholas P. Brown
REUTERS

NEW YORK – In Newark’s heavily Latino Ironbound district, Rosa Ludena works the register of the electronics shop she’s owned since 2003. A wall of phone cases appears on display behind her, but few shoppers are around to buy them. Traffic has slowed, and some of her customers have told her they fear leaving the house due to a spate of high-profile anti-immigration raids championed by President Donald Trump.

Those actions – including a headline-grabbing raid of a fish market in January a few blocks from her store – have scared people into doing more

shopping online, Ludena said. “In this area, it’s a lot of Hispanics, and they are afraid to go out because of immigration raids,” says Ludena, 51, a U.S. citizen who emigrated from Ecuador in 1999. “If sales decrease, how will I pay rent?”

The Trump administration has conducted high-profile raids nationwide at Home Depot stores where day laborers often congregate, Walmart parking lots, strawberry and peach farms, and a Hyundai Motor battery plant.

The expanded approach to immigration enforcement has changed the routine for some Hispanic consumers, and businesses are seeing it, according to interviews and statements from two dozen people, including business owners, community leaders, analysts and CEOs of publicly traded companies.

“A shift to online purchasing in certain communities is unsurprising given

concerns over changing immigration policies and their enforcement,” said Mark Mathews, chief economist at the National Retail Federation.

The White House, in response to Reuters’ reporting, reiterated that its immigration enforcement operations are focused on anti-crime efforts and that “making American communities safer will create an environment in which all businesses can thrive in the long term and their customers can feel safe.”

Sharp decline after raids

The trend is hurting business owners who lack an online presence, according to community advocates. Oliver de la Garza of Proyecto Azteca, a

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5-year-old with autism facing charges

Case filed after incidents at Tennessee school

Rachel Wegner and Evan Mealins
Nashville Tennessean
USA TODAY NETWORK

NASHVILLE – A 5-year-old boy with autism is facing assault charges, according to records obtained by The Nashville Tennessean.

Larry Burke, a school resource officer at H.B. Williams Elementary School in White House, Tennessee, filed for charges of aggravated assault and simple assault against the kindergartner in

early September, records show. The boy is accused of throwing chairs, overturning furniture and tossing items around a classroom. One child was struck with a plastic hourglass while others were hit with glue sticks, a toy and a flexible piece of furniture, according to the documents.

The report said the boy later pushed a child to the ground at recess and struck the child on the arm.

No injuries were listed in the report, which also said the children were all cleared by the school nurse. The report said the Sumner County District Attorney’s Office and county juvenile court

swiftly declined to prosecute the case, meaning the charges were dismissed.

But now the child is facing assault charges through what’s known as private prosecution, a process by which people can bring criminal charges against a juvenile and argue the case themselves. Parents of two of the boy’s classmates are pressing charges, records show. The case is pending in the county juvenile court. The county prosecutor’s office is not involved in this prosecution, said Assistant District Attorney Eli Freeman.

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IU prof removed from class

Student complained about white supremacy graphic listing MAGA

Cate Charron
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

BLOOMINGTON — An Indiana University lecturer says she was removed from teaching a class after a student complained to U.S. Sen. Jim Banks’ office about course content and the school deemed her lecture could violate state law.

The investigation into Jessica Adams centers around a graphic about white supremacy that she presented during her graduate-level social work class titled “Diversity, Human Rights and Social Justice.”

A letter from administrators said she potentially violated Indiana’s “intellectual diversity” law. Under Senate Enrolled Act 202, a professor must embrace free expression and intellectual diversity and may not lecture about political views unrelated to their field.

“During class, the instructor spoke on White Supremacy and showed a graphic that listed Make America Great Again (MAGA) as worse than police killing people of color and stated that MAGA is socially unacceptable white supremacy,” the complaint reads. “Also lists Columbus Day and ‘colorblindness’ as White Supremacy.”

Adams maintains that the graphic was misinterpreted and that she gave an explanation of why it was presented in class. She said the complaint should have been found to be without merit since she was teaching within her discipline and the scope of the course.

“I feel that my academic freedom has been stifled,” Adams said at a Nov. 7 news conference in Bloomington. “I feel that I have not been treated with care or allowed due process, and I do feel that my students are suffering and their education has been compromised.”

Two students said during the news conference that they were not adequately notified about the removal of their professor and for what reason. In the past several weeks, they said, assignments have gone ungraded while guest lecturers step in to teach.

IU spokesperson Mark Bode said the university does not comment on personnel matters. Banks’ Senate office did not respond to a request for comment.

Earlier this semester, Indiana University’s Bloomington campus was likely the first university to sanction a professor under the new state law. Germanic studies professor Ben Robinson was punished after a dean found an anonymous complaint had merit — though Robinson claims an investigation never occurred.

White supremacy graphic

Several social work organizations, including the Grand Challenges for Social Work and the National Association of Social Workers, cite racism and oppression as key issues to address in a profession that often confronts them head on.

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