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That's Fit to Print"

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$6.00



Maria Elena Hernandez attempted to pack but her grandson, Michael, 2, had other ideas. She and her husband were self-deporting.

From California Back to Mexico, but on Their Own Terms

By ORLANDO MAYORQUÍN

BLOOMINGTON, Calif. — Enrique Castillejos and his wife stopped at a Winchell's Donut House. It was part of their after-church routine on Friday nights.

That evening's sermon had been about finding peace in God in turbulent times, and they felt it spoke directly to them. Enrique, 63, and his wife, Maria Elena Hernandez, 55, were undocumented immigrants. Like millions of others in Southern California, they had been looking over their shoul-

ders as federal agents conducted immigration sweeps.

Freedom, they felt, had become impossible in the land of the free. They had made a decision: Leave America and move back to Mexico.

The process has the sterile, bureaucratic name of self-deportation. For Enrique and Maria Elena, it resembled a long, slow-motion goodbye. It took an emotional, spiritual and logistical toll on everyone around them, including their three children and two grandchildren. They had to decide what to do with their old, beloved

A Long Goodbye After 30 Years in the U.S.

dog and their trucking business. They had to suddenly cut ties with their church and their neighbors. Visitors bearing gifts dropped by unannounced.

Maria Elena had suggested to Enrique that he leave for Mexico first, while she waited for her broken foot to heal. "No," she recalled Enrique telling her. "Together we came and together we go."

Their decision to go came long before the Trump administration's crackdown in Minneapolis, and long before federal operations intensified in their own San Bernardino County neighborhood. Returning to Mexico had always been in the cards. But they had wanted to go on their own terms, retiring there someday. The Trump administration's crackdown had prompted them to make that "someday" now.

The couple's departure hit the family hard. They watch the news now with conflicting emotions, as

Continued on Page 18

Do Americans Want to Party Like It's 1976?

By STEVEN KURZT

Garland Pollard was 11 in 1976, the year the United States celebrated its 200th birthday, and was living in Virginia Beach with his parents.

"We were a Nixon family," Mr. Pollard said. "I remember all the dinner party talk about Watergate. There were race riots at that time. It was pretty feisty — there were arguments at the dinner table."

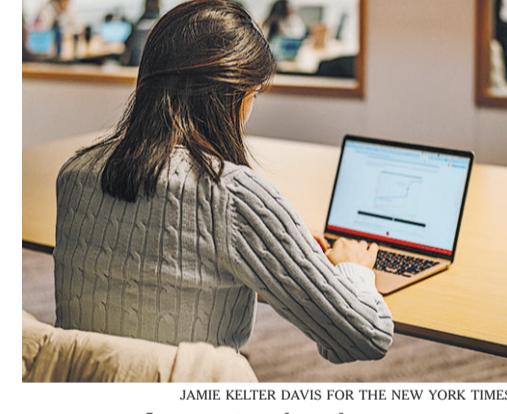
Yet as Mr. Pollard, 60, wrote in an editorial last summer in Boca Beacon, the Florida newspaper he edits, in that bicentennial year "there was a wave of patriotism that came seemingly out of nowhere."

This time around, as America commemorates its 250th anniversary, there will be a government-sponsored mixed martial arts bout on the White House lawn and plenty of debate about what it means to celebrate the birth of a nation that finds itself arguably more divided than it was in 1976.

Final plans for the biggest celebrations, including a nationwide block party this summer, are coming together amid protests against federal agents in U.S. cities and international unease over President Trump's stated desire to take control of Greenland. In short: Are Americans in the mood to celebrate the semiquincentennial?

"In the back of my mind, that question does come up," said Rosie Rios, the chair of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, a nonpartisan group that has been charged by Congress to plan festivities under the banner Amer-

Continued on Page 20



JAMIE KELTER DAVIS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



RUTH FREMSON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

WISCONSIN International students stay away.



RUTH FREMSON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

ALASKA A frontier town sees a global future.



LILY LANDES FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

VERMONT Fewer Canadians visit and shop.

Remaking America

When President Trump vowed a "tide of change" in his Inaugural Address last year, he was not exaggerating.

One year in, those changes are everywhere, often turbulent and polarizing, manifestations of the sharp right turn that Mr. Trump promised for the country and the world.

The president has declared that his power is constrained only by his "own morality."

That sentiment has made itself felt in the aggressive immigration enforcement in Minneapolis and other cities, which has led to deaths.

The New York Times found evidence of change, welcome and not, in all 50 states and in Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. The list is not complete, by any means.

Then again, Mr. Trump says that he is far from finished.

SPECIAL SECTION

INTERNATIONAL 4-11

Trump Warns Iran, Again

The president threatens more strikes against the regime, but could be risking a regional war. News Analysis.

PAGE 14

NATIONAL 12-22

Washington Post C.E.O. Quits

The departure of Will Lewis, who was also the newspaper's publisher during a stormy tenure, came days after 30 percent of the staff was cut.

PAGE 14

A Fake Post Spreads Online

The forgery appeared to describe President Trump's rationale for deleting a racist video that he had shared.

PAGE 22

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