

ANALYSIS

# Trade perils loom in Golden State

Fallout from Trump’s agenda could severely set back California’s globalized economy.

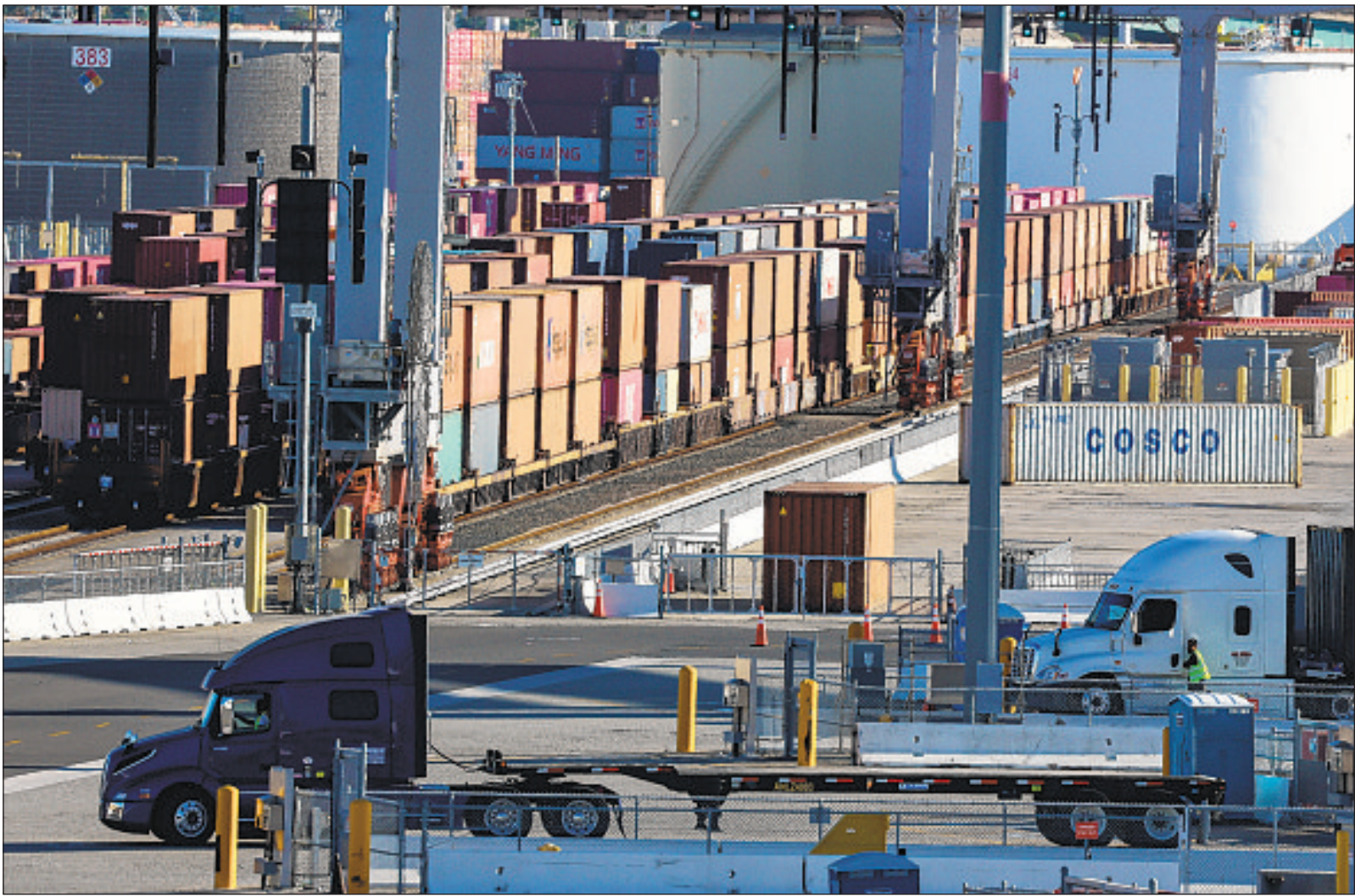
By Don Lee

WASHINGTON — When President-elect Donald Trump announced he would impose sweeping tariffs on key trading partners on his first day in office, he signaled a return to a favorite strategy: a reverse carrot-and-stick that applies the stick of dire consequences in order to force countries to give him what he wants. In this case, that means a tougher crack-down on illegal migration and the movement of drugs into the U.S.

The risk of applying this tactic to foreign trade is that the whole U.S. economy is so reliant on the status quo that any miscalculation could have damaging consequences, especially in California and other trade-dependent states.

To some extent, that happened in Trump’s first term, when selective tariff increases set off costly trade wars with China and others.

The fallout from tariffs could have major damaging effects on California’s globally integrated economy, affecting thousands of businesses and many more jobs, consumer prices and choices of goods. And, if trading partners retaliate, tariff increases could hurt the state’s sales of farm goods, electronics, transportation equipment and other leading exports. Mexico and Canada are the top two destinations for California goods.



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

**PRESIDENT-ELECT** Donald Trump has threatened higher tariffs on goods from Canada, Mexico and China. Above, the Port of L.A.

# Anxiety rises over tariff threats



ARMANDO SOLIS Associated Press

**AVOCADOS** at a packing plant in Uruapan, Mexico. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum avoided direct criticism of Trump but warned of retaliatory levies.

Mexico, Canada and China react to Trump’s comments. They and economists wonder if he’s serious.

By Kate Linthicum and Patrick J. McDonnell

MEXICO CITY — Bluff? Negotiating tactic? Or existential menace?

World leaders, economists and investors are struggling over how to view President-elect Donald Trump’s repeated threats to impose broad tariffs on imports to the United States.

That question took on new urgency this week when Trump announced that he would hit the top three U.S. trading partners hard on his first day in office.

In a post Monday on his Truth Social platform,

Trump said he would levy a 25% tariff on goods from Canada and Mexico “until such time as Drugs, in particular Fentanyl, and all Illegal Aliens stop this invasion of our Country!”

In another post, Trump threatened a 10% tariff on all goods from China, which he blamed for not doing enough to stop clandestine manufacture of the deadly synthetic opiate fentanyl — which U.S. authorities say is mostly produced in Mexico from chemicals imported from China.

Trump’s posts were the most serious indication yet that he intends to follow

# Hit men killed on a budget, police say

Alleged assassins from Chicago left trails of evidence in cases with links to gang disputes.

By Matthew Ormseth and Libor Jany

Julian Bynum walked out of a townhouse in North Hollywood, oblivious to the man crouched behind a car with a gun.

The Chicago native was having problems with a roommate. Each accused the other of theft. The roommate was missing a gold chain; Bynum was out a Rolex. To settle the issue, police suspect, the roommate turned to a professional killer.

The same suspect is also charged with killing three people and wounding six more in the upscale Westside neighborhood of Benedict Canyon in 2023.

Both cases trace their origins to Chicago, according to records reviewed by The Times. And this month, in an unrelated indictment brought by federal prosecutors in Los Angeles, the Chicago rapper Lil Durk was charged in an alleged murder-for-hire plot that left a man dead near the Beverly Center.

The alleged hit men in all three cases are not the urbane assassins of James Bond or Jason Bourne films. According to court records, they flew on Spirit Airlines and slept five to a single hotel room.



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

**HACIENDA HEIGHTS** resident Larry Arnold, examining a phone line, is among area residents who have gone without landline service for six months.

# Town’s copper wire thefts put landline calls on hold

By Nathan Solis

For six months, Hacienda Heights resident Michael Weiner could not get a dial tone on his landline.

He tried to get an answer from his phone company, Frontier Communications, but was told that it was a technical issue. He continued to get billed even though he couldn’t make a call.

Weiner, 79, eventually learned that his service, like the phone lines of many of his neighbors, had been interrupted by copper wire thieves who tampered with utility poles.

The problem has even temporarily forced students out of school.

Weiner and his neighbors are the latest victims of a surge in copper wire theft throughout Los Angeles County.

But Weiner and other Hacienda Heights residents are especially steamed that Frontier hasn’t kept them informed about the service cuts and the progress to get the lines operating again.

“No one contacted us to let us know. I had wasted so many hours trying to contact them,” he said about Frontier. “We live in a kind of a fire zone, so we’re always concerned about

# Israel and Lebanon declare a cease-fire

Deal aims to end the conflict launched by Hezbollah militants in support of Gazans.

By Nabih Bulos and Tracy Wilkinson

AMMAN, Jordan — Israel and Lebanon agreed Tuesday to a cease-fire aimed at ending a nearly 14-month conflict between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah that has left more than 3,000 people dead and threatened to ignite a wider regional war.

President Biden announced the agreement from the White House on Tuesday afternoon.

“Effective 4 a.m. tomorrow local time, the fighting across the Lebanese-Israeli border will end. Will end,” Biden said. “This is designed to be a permanent cessation of hostilities. I applaud the courageous decision made by the leaders of Lebanon and Israel to end the violence.”

[See Cease-fire, A4]

## Thieves, vandals hit schools again

There have been 171 incidents at L.A. Unified this semester, officials say. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

## Weather

Low clouds may clear. L.A. Basin: 68/51. **B6**

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## Disney to settle pay-bias lawsuit

Company would shell out \$43.3 million over wage disparity alleged by women. **BUSINESS, A8**

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