

Immigration agents descend on 7-Eleven stores in 17 states

Oregon, Washington among the states

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and NOMAAN MERCHANT
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Seven immigration agents filed into a 7-Eleven store before dawn Wednesday, waited for people to go through the checkout line and told arriving customers and a driver delivering beer to wait outside. A federal inspection was underway, they said.

Within 20 minutes, they verified that the cashier had a valid green card and served notice on the owner to produce hiring records in three days that deal with employees' immigration status.

The well-rehearsed scene, executed with quiet efficiency in Los Angeles' Koreatown, played out at about 100 7-Eleven stores in 17 states and the District of Columbia, a rolling operation that officials called the largest immigration action against an employer under Donald Trump's presidency. Oregon and Washington were among the states targeted.

The employment audits and interviews with store workers could lead to criminal charges or fines. And they appeared to open a new front in Trump's expansion of immigration enforcement, which has already brought a 40 percent increase in deportation arrests and pledges to spend billions of dollars on a border wall with Mexico.

A top official at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said the audits were "the first of many" and "a harbinger of what's to come" for employers.

"This is what we're gearing up for this year and what you're going to see more and more of is these large-scale compliance inspections, just for starters," said Derek Benner, acting head of ICE's Homeland Security Investigations, which oversees cases against employers.

"It's not going to be limited to large companies or any particular industry — big, medium and small," he said.

After the inspections, officials plan to look at whether the cases warrant administrative action or criminal investigations, Benner told The Associated Press.

7-Eleven Stores Inc., based in Irving, Texas, said in a statement that the owners of its franchises are responsible for hiring and verifying



AP Photo/Chris Carlson

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents serve an employment audit notice at a 7-Eleven convenience store Wednesday in Los Angeles.

work eligibility. The chain with more than 8,600 convenience stores in the U.S. said it has previously ended franchise agreements for owners convicted of breaking employment laws.

Unlike other enforcement efforts that have marked Trump's first year in office, Wednesday's actions were aimed squarely at store owners and managers, though 21 workers across the country were arrested on suspicion of being in the country illegally.

Illegal hiring is rarely prosecuted, partly because investigations are time-consuming and convictions are

difficult to achieve because employers can claim they were duped by fraudulent documents or intermediaries. Administrative fines are discounted by some as a business cost.

Amy Peck, an Omaha, Nebraska, immigration attorney who represents businesses, said an employer crackdown will never work because the government has limited resources and there are many jobs that people who are in the country legally do not want.

"When these audits occur, the employees scatter in the wind and go down the street and work for some-

body else," Peck said. "You're playing whack-a-mole."

President George W. Bush's administration pursued high-profile criminal investigations against employers in its final years with dramatic pre-dawn shows of force and large numbers of worker arrests. In 2008, agents arrived by helicopter at the Agriprocessors meatpacking plant in Postville, Iowa, and detained nearly 400 workers. Last month, Trump commuted the 27-year prison sentence of Shalom Rubashkin, former chief executive of what was the nation's largest kosher meat-

packing operation.

Barack Obama's administration more than doubled employer audits to more than 3,100 a year in 2013, shunning Bush's flashier approach. John Sandweg, an acting ICE director under Obama, said significant fines instilled fear in employers and avoided draining resources from other enforcement priorities, which include child exploitation, human trafficking and money laundering.

Wednesday's audits arose from a 2013 investigation that resulted in charges against nine 7-Eleven franchisees and managers in New York and Virginia. Eight have pleaded guilty and were ordered to pay more than \$2.6 million in back wages, and the ninth was arrested in November.

The managers used more than 25 stolen identities to employ at least 115 people in the country illegally, knowing they could pay below minimum wage, according to court documents.

Neither 7-Eleven nor was its parent company, Seven & I Holding Co. based in Tokyo, was charged in the case.

Julie Myers Wood, former head of ICE during the Bush administration, said the most recent inspections showed that immigration officials were focusing on a repeat violator. Part of the problem, Wood said, is the lack of "a consistent signal" between administrations that the U.S. government will prosecute employers who hire immigrants without legal status.

Some immigration hardliners have been pressing Trump to move against employers. Mark Krikorian, director of the Center for Immigration Studies, said the inspections offered "a good sign" that the administration was serious about going after employers. But, he said, the administration would need to go beyond audits.

"It's important for Trump to show that they're not just arresting the hapless schmo from Honduras but also but also the politically powerful American employer," he said.

In Koreatown, agents gathered in a grocery store parking lot and drove through side streets in unmarked cars to their target location.

The manager was in Bangladesh and the owner, reached by phone, told the clerk to accept whatever documents were served. The clerk told agents he had no knowledge of documents required to prove eligibility to work and was asked to pass along brochures for voluntary programs aimed at better compliance with immigration laws.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED INDEX

NOTICES
Special Notices.....104
Public Notices.....107
Announcements.....110

PERSONALS
Lots & Found.....181
Personals.....184
Fund-raisers.....188

AUTOMOTIVE
Antiques/Classic Vehicles.....201
Automobiles.....204
SUVs/Trucks.....207-210
4WD.....213
Vans.....216
ATVs/Motorcycles.....219
Truck/Auto Parts.....222
Detailing.....225
Tires & Wheels.....228

MARINE
Boats for Sale.....251
Boating Parts & Accessories.....254
Boats Wanted.....257
Boat Trailers.....260
Marine Supplies & Equip.....266
Boat/RV Storage.....269

RVs & Trailers
RVs & Travel Trailers.....301-307
Campers, Utility Trailers.....310-313

REAL ESTATE
Open Houses.....501
For Sale.....504-513
Lots & Acreage.....516
Income Property.....519
Manufactured Homes.....522
Commercial Property.....525
Real Estate Wanted.....531

RENTALS
Properties for Rent.....601-613
Rooms & Roommates.....616
Commercial Rental.....619
Vacation Rentals.....622
Storage Space.....628
Wanted to Rent.....634
RV/Mobile Home Space.....637

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
Business Opportunities.....643
Business for Sale.....644

HELP WANTED
Help Wanted.....651
Work Wanted.....652

SERVICES
Childcare/Adult Care.....661
Services.....664

PETS/LIVESTOCK
Animal Boarding.....701
Feed-Hay-Grain.....704
Pets & Supplies.....710
Horses & Tack.....713

MISCELLANEOUS
Fuel, Heating & Firewood.....807
Furniture & HH Goods.....810
TV & Electronics.....811
Antiques & Collectibles.....813
Jewelry.....814
Arts & Crafts.....816

APPLIANCES & EQUIP.
Tools & Heavy Equipment.....851
Lawn & Garden Equipment.....854
Appliances.....860
Medical Equip. & Supply.....866
Farm Equipment.....923

WE GET RESULTS

CALL DANIELLE TODAY TO PLACE YOUR AD
503-325-3211
or 800-781-3211 x231
Email: classifieds@dailyastorian.com
Web: www.dailyastorian.com

THE DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS is 1 p.m. the day before your ad is scheduled to run
All classifieds require pre-payment

251 Boats for Sale

2018 27LOA XT24DV Long Cabin Offshore pilothouse tuna boat. Stout construction! Large Alaska Following. Now launching in WA and OR. Need seed boats, will entertain demo discounts for the right buyer. www.xtaeroboats.com Call for details. \$149,000. Tacoma, WA. Call 907-342-2141

613 Houses for Rent

Sm 2/bd in Country Immediately Available \$700/mo 1st/last/deposit Include personal history, references, contact info to: Blind Box 45 c/o The Daily Astorian P.O. Box 210 Astoria, OR 97103

619 Commercial Rental

Two great retail spaces for rent separate or together: 402SF+303SF. 255 N. Hemlock next to CB Distillery. Cannon Beach, OR 360-608-3109

Retail spaces for rent at 810 Broadway: 700, 1110, or 850 SF. Warehouse space 3600SF. Call Blain. Seaside, OR 360-589-8381

651 Help Wanted

Adult Foster Home is looking for a full-time and part-time Caregiver. Must pass background check, experience required. Call 503-791-6420

Bookkeeper-Immediate Full-time G/L Bookkeeper for a busy accounting office in Seaside. Knowledge of computers useful. Call 503-738-9543 for an interview.

Early Childhood Educators for Head Start centers in Seaside, Warrenton and Astoria

Teachers and Assistant Teachers to carry out developmentally appropriate activities. To promote the health, nutrition and education of the children and to attend to their safety and welfare and to facilitate kindergarten readiness for all children. Go to www.nworheadstart.org for application process and to review job duties and qualifications. Salary plus health and education benefits.

651 Help Wanted

Landscape Maintenance Person
1-Year experience Valid Driver's License Must be able to lift heavy objects
P.O. Box 2573 Gearhart, OR 97138 503-738-2936

Maintenance Person for vacation rental homes in Cannon Beach. Must be self-starter skilled in basic home repairs. Position is full time and permanent.
Send Resume to: Cannon Beach Vacation Rentals P.O. Box 723 Cannon Beach, OR 97110

Planning to move? Sell those items you can't take with you with a classified ad in The Daily Astorian!

651 Help Wanted

Now Hiring
Full-Time Employment NW Staffing is hiring crab processors for the 1/15/18 crab season. No exp required. Weekly pay. \$13/hr. 971-219-0240 Chinook, WA. 503-468-8298 wsanchez@nwstaffing.com

LOOKING FOR VACATION HOME CLEANERS!

Experience preferred, but we will train the right person. Must be detail oriented, able to work on your own and have your own vehicle.
Please provide a resume to Kathy at PO Box 723 Cannon Beach. We will not be accepting phone inquiries.

519 Income Property

Duplex Townhouse-style, 1&2 bedroom units, large bonus rooms, garages. Close to downtown, beach. \$480,000. See at: 364/366 S. 4th Place, Manzanita, OR, 503-357-5557 denfeld.c@gmail.com

Reach the entire North Oregon and Southwest Washington coasts with our classified package options! Call 503-325-3211 for more information.

www.DailyAstorian.com

616 Rooms & Roommates

3 months, maybe longer, for 1 quiet person. No intoxicants/smoking \$595/month. Private bath. 503-325-0000

Don't have a Daily Astorian subscription? Call 503-325-3211 and let one of our friendly circulation representatives assist you!

619 Commercial Rental

Astoria: 3925 Abbey Lane, 800 SF and up. Starting at \$.50/SF and up. (503)440-6945

651 Help Wanted

Customer Service Representative
Full-time position with benefits and excellent starting salary. Must possess excellent customer service skills, computer/data entry, file, fax, answer phones. Must be dependable, organized, self-motivated, and a team player.
Submit a resume and cover letter to North Coast Home Care. Email kevin@nchc.net or fax (503) 325-1437

Classified Ads work hard for you!