



ALEX WONG Getty Images

**HUNDREDS** of U.S. military leaders were summoned to Quantico, Va., this week by the secretary of Defense.

# U.S. cities as training grounds

## President tells military leaders to fight the ‘invasion from within’

By BEN FINLEY,  
KONSTANTIN TOROPIN  
AND EVAN VUCCI

QUANTICO, Va. — President Trump on Tuesday proposed using U.S. cities as training grounds for the armed forces and spoke of needing American military might to combat what he called the “invasion from within.”

Addressing an audience

of military brass abruptly summoned to Virginia, Trump outlined a muscular and at times norm-shattering view of the military’s role in domestic affairs. He was joined by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, who declared an end to “woke” culture and announced new directives for troops that include “gender-neutral” or “male-level” standards for physical fitness.

The dual messages

underscored the Trump administration’s efforts not only to reshape contemporary Pentagon culture but to enlist military resources for the president’s priorities and decidedly domestic purposes, including quelling unrest and violent crime.

“We should use some of these dangerous cities as training grounds for our military,” Trump said, naming several U.S. cities led by Democrats, including Port-

land, Ore., which he described as “a war zone.” Trump has announced plans to send troops to Portland, against the wishes of Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek and city officials. He noted at another point: “We’re under invasion from within. No different than a foreign enemy but more difficult in many ways because they don’t wear uniforms.”

Hegseth called hundreds [See Defense, A7]

# Why state is lagging in bioenergy

California needs the technology to reach wildfire goals, but projects keep leaving.

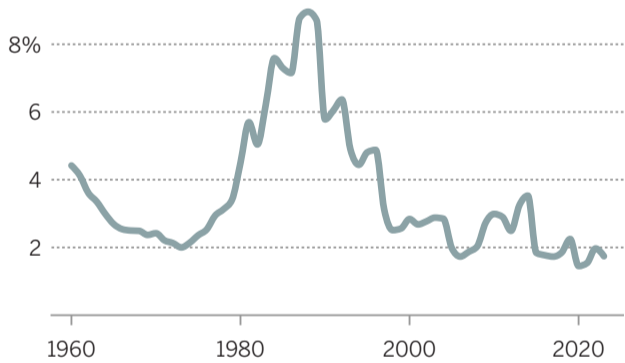
By NOAH HAGGERTY

Arbor Energy is, essentially, a poster child of the kind of biomass energy project California keeps saying it wants.

The state’s goal is to reduce wildfire risk on 1 million acres of wildlands every year, including by thinning overgrown forests, which is expected to generate roughly 10 million tons of wood waste annually. Arbor hopes to take that waste, blast it through a “vegetarian rocket engine” to produce

## Biomass energy peaked in the late 1980s in California

Toward the end of the 1980s, biomass generated nearly 9% of the state’s residential energy.



U.S. Energy Information Administration

NOAH HAGGERTY Los Angeles Times

energy, then sequester all of the carbon the process would generate underground.

California has billed Arbor — and the handful of other similarly aimed projects it’s financed — as a win-win-win: wildfire mitigation, clean energy and carbon sequestration all in one.

Yet, after Arbor initially won state financial backing for a pilot project in Placer County, the El Segundo-based company’s California ambitions fell through, like many biomass projects before it.

Instead, it’s heading to Louisiana.

California, biomass energy advocates say, has struggled to get past its distrust of the technology, given tradi-

[See Bioenergy, A8]

# U.S. may resume processing new DACA requests

Proposal, which needs a judge’s OK, would reopen the program in every state but Texas.

By ANDREA CASTILLO  
AND RACHEL URANGA

WASHINGTON — For the first time in four years, the federal government plans to begin processing initial applications for DACA, the Obama-era program that grants deportation protection and work permits to immigrants brought to the U.S. as children.

The move, outlined in a proposal Monday by the Justice Department, would reopen DACA to first-time applicants in every state except Texas. The proposal was filed in response to an ongoing lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Brownsville, Texas.

According to the filing, Texas residents who already have DACA could continue receiving protection from deportation but would no longer qualify for employment authorization.

Lawsuits over DACA, or

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, have been ongoing since President Trump moved to end the program during his first term.

Under the government’s proposal, DACA recipients who move into Texas would risk losing their legal ability to work, while moving out of Texas could allow them to resume qualifying for a two-year work permit. Unlike beneficiaries in other states, those with DACA in Texas “will not be considered lawfully present” in the U.S., according to the proposal.

The proposal is pending a final decision by U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen.

“These proposals do not limit DHS from undertaking any future lawful changes to DACA,” the filing states.

The Department of Homeland Security did not respond to a request for comment.

Juliana Macedo do Nascimento, deputy director of federal advocacy for United We Dream, said misinformation was circulating Tuesday on social media.

“We’ve seen a lot of folks saying initial applications [See DACA, A14]

# New apartments taper off in L.A.

Demand is high, but building new rental units isn’t profitable, developers say.

By ROGER VINCENT

Los Angeles developer Cliff Goldstein just completed a plush new apartment complex on the Westside, but that’s the last one he’s going to build for the foreseeable future.

Even though demand for housing in the region is red-hot, many people who build apartments for a living have paused putting shovels in the ground because, they say, it’s just too hard to turn a profit.

“It’s a needle in a haystack to find an opportunity that makes financial sense to build today,” Goldstein said.

Ari Kahan used to have multiple projects with as many as 800 total units being built in Los Angeles at any given time. No more, he says.

“We haven’t bought a site with the intention to develop it in over two years,” he said. “I don’t know when we will be

building in L.A. next.”

The supply of fresh rental units, which make up the bulk of new housing in Los Angeles, is petering out despite robust demand. The vacancy rate is among the lowest in the country, while rental rates are among the highest nationwide.

Still, the number of new units under construction in Los Angeles has been falling each quarter since early last year and is set to dive to a more than 10-year low, according to real estate data provider CoStar.

Under 19,000 apartments were under construction in the three months through September. That’s 30% fewer than three years earlier, according to CoStar’s count.

Developers say they can’t raise the money they need to build as many of their biggest backers — think pension funds, insurance companies and other institutions looking for long-term investments — don’t want to park their money in L.A. because the rapidly changing rules make it impossible to predict profits.

The years since COVID-19 have demon-

[See Apartments, A11]



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

**TOURISTS** traverse the celebrity stars on Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles.

# A rough summer for tourism

## L.A. sees less foot traffic, fewer international visitors

By CERY S DAVIES

Months of negative news have triggered a tough summer for tourism in Los Angeles, deepening the economic woes for a city buffeted by natural disasters and immigration raids.

International tourist arrivals fell by 8% in the three months through August, according to data released Monday from Visit California. That is more than 170,000 fewer global tourists

than last year.

In August alone, arrivals slipped by 7.5% compared with 2024.

The region’s economy and image suffered significant setbacks this year. Shocking images of the destructive Eaton and Palisades fires in January, followed by the immigration crackdown in June, made global news and repelled visitors. Meanwhile, President Trump’s fickle tariff policies and other geopolitical posturing have con-

vinced many international tourists to avoid America.

On Hollywood Boulevard, there are fewer tourists, and the ones who show up spend less, says Salim Osman. He works for Ride Like a Star, an exotic car company that rents to visitors looking to take a luxury vehicle for a spin and snap the quintessential L.A. selfie.

Last year, crowds lined up to rent its Ferraris and Porches for around \$200 an

[See Tourism, A10]

# Robocars allowed to dodge tickets

By SUHAUNA HUSSAIN

Police in San Bruno, Calif., were patrolling for drunk drivers when they observed a car traveling erratically.

But this couldn’t be chalked up to an impaired or distracted driver. There wasn’t anyone behind the wheel at all.

Officers were bewildered to see the car — a self-driving Waymo robotaxi — make an illegal U-turn at a traffic light right in front of them, the San Bruno Police Department said in a social media post Saturday.

“It was a first for both officers,” the department wrote in the post, which included photos of an officer peering through the front window at the empty driver’s seat.

Because the car did not have a human driver, officers could not issue a ticket, police noted.

Instead, officers contacted the company to let it know about the “glitch,” they said.

[See Waymo, A14]



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

## DODGERS-REDS ONLINE

The Dodgers warm up for Game 1 of their NL wild-card series against the Reds. For coverage, visit [latimes.com/dodgers](https://latimes.com/dodgers) or [latimes.com/enewspaper](https://latimes.com/enewspaper).



## U.S. government faces shutdown

After a funding bill failed in the Senate, the disruption was set to begin at 12:01 a.m. EDT Wednesday. **NATION, A6**

## Weather

Partly sunny.  
L.A. Basin: 78/60. **B6**

**Markets** ..... **A11**  
**Opinion Voices** ..... **A12**

## Students return to burned school

They’re glad to be back at Palisades campus, even in temporary rooms. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

For the latest news, go to [latimes.com](https://latimes.com).



7 85944 00200 5