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## Protests intensify in Los Angeles

BY ERIC THAYER, JASON DEAREN AND JAKE OFFENHARTZ  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Tensions in Los Angeles escalated Sunday as thousands of protesters took to the streets in response to President Donald Trump’s extraordinary deployment of the National Guard, blocking off a major freeway and setting autonomous vehicles on fire as local law enforcement used tear gas, rubber bullets, and flash bangs to control the crowd.

Some police patrolled the streets on horseback while others with riot gear lined up behind Guard troops deployed to protect federal facilities including a detention center where some immigrants were taken in recent days.

The clashes came on the third day of demonstrations against Trump’s immigration crackdown in the region, as the arrival of around 300 federal troops spurred anger and fear among some residents.

By midday, hundreds had gathered outside the Metropolitan Detention Center in downtown Los Angeles, where people were detained after earlier immigration raids. Protesters directed chants of “shame”

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## No votes on green jobs don’t faze many

BY LISA FRIEDMAN  
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

CEDARTOWN, Ga. — Outside the husk of a shuttered yarn factory, thousands of old solar panels lie stacked on the gravel. Local leaders say they can see the future here: 1,200 people recycling millions of those panels each year and making the glass to build new ones.

This is no field of dreams. A company, Solarcycle, has spent about \$50 million of \$500 million it plans to invest to turn the empty space into a recycling operation and build an adjacent glass manufacturing plant. Land has been purchased, permits have been secured, and hiring for jobs starting at \$40,000 annually could be just months away.

It’s the kind of project that scientists say could ultimately reduce carbon emissions and that economists call a major step in bringing manufacturing back to the United States from China. And it spells opportunity in Cedartown, Georgia, a city of about 10,000, where Pirkle’s Deli on Main Street does a brisk lunch business but other establishments see little foot traffic. Once operational, Solarcycle would be the area’s largest employer.

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STAFF PHOTO BY MATT HAMILTON

From left, Gov. Bill Lee, state Sen. Bo Watson, Hamilton County Mayor Weston Wamp and Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly listen Thursday during an event at Ross’s Landing. Watson said a tax refund benefiting Chattanooga companies was meant to help the state avoid lawsuits.

## Getting money back

### See which Chattanooga companies will get slice of \$1.5B state tax refund

BY DANIEL DASSOW  
STAFF WRITER

Several major Chattanooga companies will get tax refunds of \$10,000 or more from the state of Tennessee, though some said the refunds are not major compared with the taxes they pay each year.

The state legislature revised the tax code last year to remove a company’s property holdings from the calculations of the franchise tax, which it levies against certain companies for the privilege of doing business in Tennessee.

Lawmakers said the change would help the state avoid potentially costly litigation on the grounds the tax burdened interstate commerce, treating out-of-state companies differently than in-state companies. The change came with the added perk of removing a barrier to recruiting companies and lifting a business tax.

It was also a costly change, and the state budgeted around \$1.5 billion for three-year refunds to more than 58,000 companies that applied between May 15, 2024, and Dec. 2, 2024. The tax cut will cost the state around \$410 million in revenue



STAFF PHOTO BY ROBIN RUDD

The Chattanooga Volkswagen plant is seen in 2024. Volkswagen was one of several major Chattanooga employers to apply for and receive a business tax refund over \$10,000 from the state.

annually.

After the House and Senate deliberated about public disclosure of the refunds, the state’s Revenue Department published the names of each company in a searchable list on May 31 that will remain online until

June 30.

While the exact amount of each refund remained hidden, companies were sorted into categories of refunds under \$750, between \$750 and \$10,000

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## Pope Leo criticizes political nationalism, prays for peace

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VATICAN CITY — Pope Leo XIV criticized the surge of nationalist political movements in the world as he prayed Sunday for reconciliation and dialogue — a message in line with his pledges to make the Catholic Church a symbol of peace.

The pope celebrated Sunday Mass in St. Peter’s Square in front of tens of thousands faithful, and asked the Holy Spirit to “break down barriers and tear down the walls of indifference and hatred.”

“Where there is love, there is no room for prejudice, for ‘security’ zones separating us from our neighbors, for the exclusionary mindset that, tragically, we now see emerging also in political nationalisms,” the first American pontiff said.

He did not name any specific country or politician.

Leo also recalled the words of late Pope Francis, who — on the feast of Pentecost in May 2023 — observed that in our world “we are all connected,

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AP PHOTO/ANDREW MEDICHINI

Pope Leo XIV caresses a girl Sunday as he arrives to celebrate a Mass for the Jubilee of New Religious Associations on Pentecost Day in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican.