



MORE THAN 1,200 trucks have obtained new registrations this year to move cargo at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, shown in 2023. About 92% of those trucks had diesel-powered engines.

With inaction at EPA, diesel trucks skirt state ban at ports

More than 1,000 diesel-powered cargo trucks — which should’ve been banned from serving California ports — were granted access to the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach due to inaction from the Biden administration, according to harbor records.

In April 2023, the California Air Resources Board voted to ban fossil-fuel-powered big rigs from obtaining new registrations to serve the state’s 12 major seaports, a landmark rule that was due to go into effect on Jan. 1.

But one year later, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has not granted a waiver for California’s so-called Advanced Clean Fleets rule. As a result, state air regulators have been unable to

Federal agency has yet to clear a California clean-air rule, letting in over 1,000 polluting vehicles

By Tony Briscoe

enforce the regulation, which has allowed trucking companies and independent operators to continue adding diesel-snorting big rigs that can pollute port communities for up to a decade.

Since the start of the year, more than 1,200 trucks have obtained new registrations to move cargo at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, according to data obtained by The Times. About 92% of the newly registered trucks had diesel-powered engines, which are known to emit cancer-causing particles and planet-warming carbon emissions.

The Advanced Clean Fleets rule is one of eight clean-air policies that California regulators are still waiting for the Biden administration to [See Trucks, A12]

Rental projects alter dream of homeownership

Firms are creating developments for tenants, changing how people live and build their wealth

By Liam Dillon

LA QUINTA, Calif. — Chelsey and Spencer Marks’ home in Cathedral City was becoming more trouble than it was worth.

The young couple had just spent \$15,000 repairing their air conditioning system, essential in the resort town where summer temperatures average more than 100 degrees. Soon, they feared, their three-bedroom house would need new windows and a replacement pump to clean the pool. And even after three years in their home, they had not gotten used to the desert winds howling at all hours outside their doors.

“I was like, I can’t do this anymore,” said Chelsey, 41. “One day I came home and I was like, ‘We’re selling the house.’”

But rather than find another property to buy, the Marks decided to abandon homeownership.

They’ve joined the growing numbers of people across the country who’ve chosen to rent a new single-family home in a subdivision designed only for tenants.

In January, the Marks became two of the first residents of SolTerra, a 131-home community in La Quinta, 15 miles from their former property. They sacrificed their home equity and a low mortgage interest rate in exchange for wiping out their credit card debt, pumping up their savings and paying for a trip to Italy this fall.

Plus, now on the rare occasion something in their three-bedroom rental breaks, a maintenance person comes to fix it.

“Come over here and look at this place,” said Chelsey, pointing at her open-concept kitchen filled with stainless steel appliances. “I don’t need to own it to be living that life that I want to live.”

As high home prices [See Renters, A9]



CHELSEY and Spencer Marks at their home in the SolTerra housing development in La Quinta.



OLENA Aliabieva and Myroslava Koshtura, far right, wait for their turn to perform during a rehearsal of “King Lear” in Stratford-upon-Avon, England.

COLUMN ONE

A wartime feat on Bard’s turf

Ukrainian troupe, made up of amateur actors displaced by Putin’s invasion, brings a classic tragedy to hallowed Shakespearean ground

By Laura King
REPORTING FROM STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, ENGLAND

The stage set was haunting in its stark simplicity. Panels of jagged crossbeams evoked skeletal ruins. Lengths of white fabric fluttered like shrouds.

For almost any theater troupe in the world, it would be daunting to stage a Shakespeare production in

Stratford-upon-Avon — the Bard’s birthplace, home of the venerable Royal Shakespeare Company, hallowed ground to devotees of the playwright and his works.

All the more so if the players in question were amateur actors. Even more if the play happened to be “King Lear” — one of Shakespeare’s greatest tragedies,

and also one of the thorniest and most challenging.

And finally: if the performance was entirely in Ukrainian. Without subtitles.

That’s the task a provincial Ukrainian theater company set for itself — a wartime feat that sprang from luck and determination, warm collaboration and cool nerves, taxing logistics and small, hard-won triumphs over trauma.

Outside, a soft rain fell. Inside, a storm raged. On a stylized heath, the mad king howled his wounded howl.

“Blow, winds!” shouted actor Andrii Khomik, as [See Troupe, A4]

Gascón’s legal battles with staff dominate his first term

The district attorney faces more than a dozen civil suits as he seeks reelection.

By James Queally

He was elected to be Los Angeles County’s top prosecutor, but George Gascón has spent a considerable amount of his first term as a defendant.

In his first week in office in December 2020, Dist. Atty.

Gascón sent a political ally to the Compton Courthouse to order a veteran prosecutor to drop criminal charges against three protesters. That mission ended with the county paying a seven-figure sum to the prosecutor to settle a civil claim.

This year, Gascón settled a civil rights lawsuit for \$5 million from a company at the center of a bungled prosecution that he later had to dismiss amid concerns the charges were based on the word of conspiracy theorists

who deny the results of the 2020 presidential election.

Gascón has been named in more than a dozen other civil suits, nearly all of which were filed by his own employees. In total, 20 prosecutors have accused Gascón of workplace retaliation, alleging he pushed them out of leadership positions or into undesirable assignments because they challenged his progressive policies or pointed out portions of his Day 1 directives that they consider to be illegal.

[See Gascón, A7]



DACA AND MORE
President Biden hugs DACA recipient Javier Quiroz Castro at an event marking 12 years of that program. Biden also unveiled protections for immigrant spouses of U.S. citizens. NATION, A5

No cellphones for LAUSD students

The Board of Education approves a ban and is weighing litigation against social media firms. CALIFORNIA, B1

EV maker files for bankruptcy

Fisker is in Chapter 11 after failing to partner with a major carmaker to secure new financing. BUSINESS, A8

Weather
Clouds, then sun.
L.A. Basin: 79/60. B6

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