



IN BOYLE HEIGHTS, crews continue cleanup efforts after a June blaze engulfed a cold storage warehouse. ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

Deadline for fire cleanup comes and goes

Lineage fights city on timeline as stench persists and residents anxiously await relief.

By Salvador Hernandez

Boyle Heights was reaching a breaking point as a deadline passed to clean up 88 million pounds of rotten food from the burned-down warehouse and residents begged for relief from the nauseating stench.

The city says Lineage failed to meet the deadline Friday, while the company says it should have more time. Residents say the end can't come soon enough and that the cold storage industry behemoth has already worn out its welcome.

Martin Ramirez, who owns a repair shop next door to the warehouse, says he cares little whether the date was Friday or next week.

"All they want to do is to keep pushing the dates to appease people," Ramirez said. "We don't want them there anymore."

Nearly two months after the fire was first ignited in the roof of the Lineage cold storage warehouse in Boyle Heights, Ramirez said his business, a car repair and body shop, is still struggling. Clients have delayed or canceled work. Some customers have outright walked away because they can't stand the stench of the rotting food that remains. Swaths of stubborn flies bother his mechanics as they work, and he's had to redo paint jobs and clear coats tainted by the thick dust from the warehouse.

When he opened up the shop Friday morning, Ramirez said, he found larvae on the sidewalk and nearby trees.

"People don't want to go here, they don't want to be here," he said in Spanish. "Well, none of us want to be here. All of this is very inconvenient."

In missing the city-imposed deadline, Lineage could face legal action, fines, or liens against the property, according to a call for action from Mayor Karen Bass' office.

But Lineage officials insist the company still has another week to complete the [See Lineage, A7]

Families, lawmakers seek answers on sailors' plight

Trump dismisses concerns as USS Lincoln heads back to San Diego after record-long deployment

By Christopher Buchanan and Ana Ceballos

Democratic lawmakers and military families are pressing the Pentagon for answers after reports emerged that thousands of sailors aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln have endured food shortages, plumbing failures and severe fatigue during deployment that has stretched more than 260 days.

The roughly 5,000-person crew, which left San Diego in November and has been stationed in the Middle East to support the U.S. war against Iran, has spent a record amount of time at sea without a port visit, according to Stars and Stripes. Now, families of those on board have begun speaking out publicly,

describing concerns about mental health and supply problems aboard the aircraft carrier.

Since those reports — which Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth characterized as "completely misrepresented" — the U.S. military announced plans to send the USS George Washington, a Pacific-based aircraft carrier, to relieve the USS Abraham Lincoln.

But when asked Friday for a reaction, President Trump downplayed families' concerns and characterized the length of the deployment as "not nearly long enough."

The president's remarks stand in contrast to the concerns raised by lawmakers and military families, including reports by the Military Times and the Stars and Stripes that sailors tried to

jump overboard as the deployment kept going.

"The plans in the works to relieve the USS Lincoln are not enough," Rep. Mike Levin (D-San Diego) wrote in a letter to Hegseth on Thursday. "We need clear and honest information from the Department of Defense about the operational failures that led to the problems aboard the USS Lincoln to ensure this never happens again."

Morale aboard a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier already is difficult to maintain without a record-breaking stint, said Julie Roland, a retired veteran Navy lieutenant commander who worked briefly on the USS Lincoln.

Between the lack of sun below deck for some non-pilot personnel and rooms packed with triple-bunk [See Sailors, A8]



THE Automated People Mover runs without passengers during testing in April. CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

LAX people mover is 99% done but faces uncertainties

By Colleen Shalby

The long-awaited Automated People Mover train at Los Angeles International Airport is expected to transform traffic ahead of the 2028 Summer Olympics. Visitors to the airport have been able to watch the trains in action, but travelers have yet to benefit.

Despite months of test runs and finishing touches near completion, the people

mover, dubbed Skylink, faces financial scrutiny and new uncertainty as the project approaches a final deadline amid escalating tension between the airport and the contractor.

Fitch Ratings recently moved the credit rating of the project's \$1.2-billion senior bond to its negative watch list. The California Municipal Finance Authority's bond issued on behalf of project contractor LAX Integrated Express Solutions,

known as LINXS, was downgraded deeper into junk territory, from BB+ to BB, a move that highlights the project's vulnerability to default risk as it gets closer to the drop-dead date of completion, or longstop.

In its report, Fitch said further delay "leaves the project in a precarious position with a limited margin of safety before it could breach the lenders' longestop of Oct. 8, 2026, and the project [See People mover, A7]

California rejects offshore fracking project

Facing federal threat, Coastal Commission asserts its clout on the issue for the first time.

By Rosanna Xia

SANTA CRUZ — Just days after the Trump administration launched proceedings that could limit California's ability to protect its iconic shoreline, the state's top coastal officials reasserted their authority by voting unanimously against an oil company's controversial bid to restart underwater fracking operations.

This is the first time the California Coastal Commission has officially reviewed the issue of offshore fracking. Until now, the practice had been quietly rubber-stamped by the federal government without the state's knowledge.

The proposed fracking plan would quadruple production on an aging offshore platform in the Santa Barbara Channel. The process of hydraulic fracturing ekes out oil from older wells, and involves cracking the bed-

rock several thousand feet below the seafloor by injecting chemical fluids with intense pressure.

"This is just simply one of those cases where the juice isn't worth the squeeze," said Coastal Commissioner Ray Jackson at a meeting Thursday in Santa Cruz County. "This creates far too many opportunities for something to go wrong, and when something does go wrong, it's our oceans, beaches, wildlife and coastal economy that pay the price."

The rejection of the plan comes at a time when Trump officials have sought to open the California coast to more offshore oil drilling, more rocket launches and possibly even floating nuclear reactors. The administration's latest attempt to wrest local control from California officials has homed in on stripping authority granted to the state by the Coastal Zone Management Act, or CZMA. The federal law gives coastal states the right to review and object to any project in federal waters that clashes with state policy.

Citing California's "environmental extremism," Trump officials earlier this [See Fracking, A9]

and the state public health officer, said of vaccines. And she credited California's robust vaccine requirements as a condition of enrollment for schoolchildren as a reason why the state so far has kept a lid on the huge outbreaks of measles seen in other parts of the nation.

Her full-throated defense comes after President Trump issued an executive order Monday recommending that the singular measles, mumps and rubella, or MMR, vaccine should be separated into three and that all childhood immunizations should be given at separate visits "to the maximum extent feasible."

"We want it in three separate vaccinations, given at separate times," he said during the signing ceremony. "Together, there could be a possibility they're quite lethal. And separately it looks like they are not at all lethal, but just very effective."

The American Academy [See Vaccinations, A9]

Mangione admits gunning down CEO

By Michael R. Sisak, Larry Neumeister and Jennifer Peltz

NEW YORK — Luigi Mangione pleaded guilty Friday to federal stalking charges in the killing of UnitedHealthcare Chief Executive Brian Thompson, admitting matter-of-factly that he trailed the executive to an investor conference and gunned him down on a New York City street in 2024.

Mangione, 28, said he made a gun with the aid of a 3-D printer, traveled to New York and used a ruse — posing as an investor at a multi-billion-dollar firm — to contact the company for details on the event.

"On the morning of Dec. 4, 2024, I shot Mr. Thompson in Manhattan, and he died," Mangione said in the Manhattan federal courtroom, which he entered shackled at the feet but not handcuffed in his beige jail uniform.

Listening in the audience, Thompson's wife, Paulette, took several deep



DAVID DEE DELGADO Pool Photo
LUIGI MANGIONE still faces a New York state murder prosecution.

breaths and repeatedly wiped tears from her eyes.

Prosecutors plan to seek a life prison term at Mangione's sentencing, set for Dec. 18. When U.S. District Judge Margaret M. Garnett asked whether he understood that he could spend the rest of his life behind bars, Mangione answered neutrally: "Yes."

In a statement, Thompson's family called the plea "an important step toward justice" and noted that Mangione still faces other cases, including a New York state murder prosecution. It [See Mangione, A6]

U.S. move stokes Mexico's rage

President Sheinbaum vents anger at Trump administration, citing "meddling" in a visa dispute. **WORLD, A2**

Fewer options for DACA recipients

A federal ruling has narrowed the pathway to citizenship for those married to American citizens. **NATION, A5**

Malibu to clear homeless camps

Citing fire risk due to dangerously dry brush, city declares emergency to sanction immediate sweeps. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather

Partly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 83/67. **B8**

