



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

TUSTIN is among the growing number of once-modest municipalities to join California’s long list of “million-dollar cities.” “It’s a family-type place,” one resident said. “A community that you don’t see in other parts of Orange County.”

State’s housing crisis creating boom in ‘million-dollar cities’

When you think of towns with \$1-million-plus homes, places such as Beverly Hills, San Marino, Newport Beach and Palos Verdes Estates might come to mind.

But as California housing values keep rising, some cities that until recently had reputations for working-class modesty are joining the list of communities with median home values of more than \$1 million.

The most recent additions include Placentia, Orange and Tustin in Orange County, Bonita in San Diego County and Cerritos and San Gabriel in Los Angeles County.

Among the new cities on the list, Bonita and Tustin had the highest growth rates, each with home values jumping nearly 12% in a

It has added 12 this year, for 210 with a median home value of at least \$1 million, according to Zillow

BY TERRY CASTLEMAN

year, according to an analysis by real estate listing site Zillow.

Tor Black, 55, has lived in Tustin for the last five years. The real estate agent and his wife, Iris, found their “forever home” in Tustin Meadows, the first planned urban neighborhood in Orange County, he said.

The value of the couple’s home has shot up from \$800,000 at the time of purchase in 2022 to \$1.3 million today — an increase of more than 60%.

Black said Tustin has little undeveloped land, so most people who move there buy older homes and fix them up, increasing property values.

[See Cities, A12]

State deficit may stall projects

Gov. Gavin Newsom is proposing cuts to programs that benefit foster kids, public defenders and more.

BY MACKENZIE MAYS

SACRAMENTO — Just a few years ago, California’s budget was overflowing with a record high surplus, spurring the creation of a slew of programs reflecting the state’s liberal ideals.

Democrats who control the state Capitol funded pilots to test new ways to support foster youth, help oil workers transition to cleaner industries and prevent more Californians from becoming homeless — just some of the ambitious ideas that became reality when the budget was flush.

Now, as the state faces an enormous budget deficit that the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office predicted in February could be as much as \$73 billion, some of those programs could come to a screeching halt.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and Democratic lawmakers are considering significant cuts to some of the very initiatives they recently helped launch while promising to “protect our progress.”

It’s both a reflection of California’s wild budget fluctuations and what can happen in a one-party state known as a progressive policy trailblazer when financial times are good.

For Republicans, it’s an “I told you so” moment.

“The surpluses were absolutely abnormal. They should have put much more

[See Deficit, A7]



CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

THE WATER DISTRICT for the Coachella Valley estimates it will have to spend over \$500 million to meet the new standard. Some say the limit should be stricter.

State leads nation with limit on toxic chemical in water

Heavy metal chromium-6 is linked with health risks

BY IAN JAMES

After years of analysis and debate, California regulators have adopted a nation-leading drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium, a carcinogen found in water supplies across the state.

The dangers of the toxic

heavy metal, also known as chromium-6, became widely known in the 1990s after a court case that then-legal clerk Erin Brockovich helped develop against Pacific Gas & Electric for contaminating water in the town of Hinkley in the Mojave Desert. The story of tainted water in that case, which led to a \$330-million

settlement, inspired an Oscar-winning movie starring Julia Roberts.

The California Legislature in 2001 called for the state to develop a drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium. But the path to finalizing a standard involved years of debates over the health hazards and the

[See Water, A9]

Despite Harris’ moment, voters still are not sold

BY NOAH BIERMAN

PHOENIX — When a group of crossover voters was asked during a focus group about Vice President Kamala Harris, their assessments were brutal: *If she is helping Biden, you don’t see it. She rubs me the wrong way. She was picked be-*

cause she is a demographic. The big things she had, she failed.

The comments, fair or not, represent a problem for President Biden and for Harris, echoed in interviews with voters here in Arizona, a key swing state where Harris spoke on Friday. More than three years into the oldest president in history’s

first term, his understudy has failed to win over a majority of voters or convince them that she is ready to step in if Biden falters, according to polls.

“Swing voters don’t like her,” said Gunner Ramer, political director for a group called Republican Voters Against Trump, which al-

[See Harris, A7]

Palestinian hopes quashed at U.N.

U.S. vetoes bid for full membership, citing the lack of prerequisites such as a treaty with Israel. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

Netflix password targeting pays off

Streaming giant posts first-quarter earnings and subscriber growth that beat analysts’ estimates. **BUSINESS, A8**

Weather

Clouds, then sun. L.A. Basin: 70/54. **B6**

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JEENAH MOON Pool Photo

TRUMP JURY SEATED

Opening statements in his hush money trial can start after alternate jurors are selected. Prosecutors say he’s still breaking a gag order. **NATION, A6**



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