



Photographs by GINA FERRAZZI Los Angeles Times  
**JOAN AND KIRK BULLARD** sit under the awning of Roy's. Other than two salt mines outside town, the store and gas station is the only operational business in Amboy, Calif., once a desert destination on Route 66.

# Saving a patch of Americana

Amboy, population 0, has faced crises for decades. Its owner is determined to make his father's dream survive.

By Alex Wigglesworth  
REPORTING FROM AMBOY, CALIF.

It's a Friday afternoon in mid-May and a Czech biker is eating an ice cream cone at the counter of a gas station along a desolate stretch of the Mojave Desert. Outside, his entourage crowds around a towering Atomic Age sign for a group photo before speeding away along Route 66.

A British couple sip hot tea, though the mercury is pushing 100 degrees. A young woman in a crop top sits cross-legged in the middle of the street while a man films her, seemingly oblivious to the traffic whizzing by. On some days, small planes land on the dirt airstrip so



**ROY'S** neon sign is reflected on a vintage car. "You sink into the '60s here," travel guide Jan Kuzelka says.

their occupants can grab a root beer float or chili dog.

"It's in the middle of nowhere in the desert, but you see a multitude of different types of people in Amboy," said Kyle Okura, 31, who owns Roy's gas station, along with the rest of the ghost town, after inheriting it from his father last year. "That's what's so amazing. You hear stories from all different parts of the world."

Amboy has long served weary travelers — first as a railroad station, and later as a roadside attraction that's especially popular with people touring the Mother

[See Amboy, A6]

# San José is 1st in state to allow ADU sales

The city's action was authorized by a 2023 law that aimed to spur homeownership.

By Jon Healey

Accessory dwelling units are multiplying across California, boosted by permissive state laws that aim to increase the supply of affordable housing.

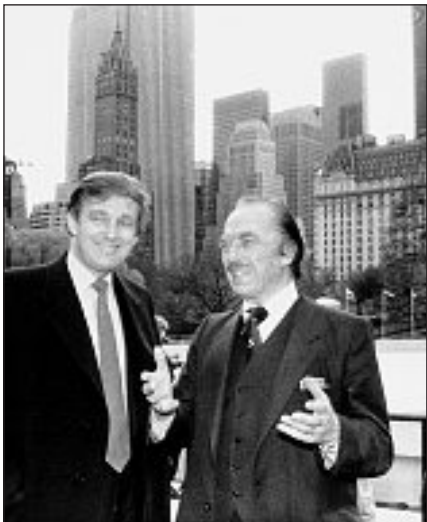
Now, a handful of cities are moving to let homeowners sell their backyard cottages and converted garages separately from the houses they live in, potentially transforming ADUs into a new generation of starter homes that cost a fraction of a full-size house on a full-size lot. The first to act was the San José City Council, which approved an ordinance Tuesday authorizing the separate sale of ADUs as of mid-July.

Housing advocates say that Sacramento and Berkeley are also working on measures to allow separate sales of ADUs, and San Diego County is exploring it. Local

[See ADU sales, A5]



Biden Archives



New York Daily News via Getty Images

**JOE BIDEN** with Joseph Robinette Biden Sr. and **Donald Trump** with Fred Trump Sr. Biden speaks of his dad far more than Trump mentions his.

# BIDEN, TRUMP AND 2 VERY DIFFERENT DADS

Democrat honors father for promoting dignity; Republican's 'tough' patriarch taught dealmaking

By James Rainey

To the long list of things dividing the two leading candidates for president of the United States, add this: what they've said — or not said — about their dads.

President Biden has used his time in the White House to talk repeatedly about the profound influence of his father. Former President Trump spoke much less during his time in Washington about his dad, and typically in admiring but less sentimental terms.

On this Father's Day, the Biden ad-

ministration is likely to issue a proclamation recognizing dads in general, and presidential father Joseph Robinette Biden Sr. in particular.

The younger Biden has repeatedly invoked his father — crediting Biden Sr. with, for example, planting the seeds of his loathing of antisemitism, inspiring his support of paid family medical leave and firing his determination to put an end to human trafficking.

[See Rivals' fathers, A5]

## LEGAL WEED, BROKEN PROMISES

# Your vapes and pre-rolls have a very dirty secret

An L.A. Times/WeedWeek investigation finds alarming levels of pesticides in cannabis products

By Paige St. John and Alex Halperin

Aging yuppies in neon beachwear stand before a green wall with the catchphrase "You have changed ... so has cannabis."

The social media post is part of "Real CA Cannabis," a \$5-million taxpayer-funded campaign to promote California cannabis as safe, tested and "regulated by the state to protect consumers."

In reality, that safety is far from certain.

An investigation by The Times, in conjunction with industry newsletter WeedWeek, found alarming levels of pesticides in cannabis products available on dispensary shelves across the state, including some of the most popular brands of vapes and pre-rolled weed.

Twenty-five of 42 legal cannabis products that The Times and WeedWeek purchased from retail stores and had tested at private labs showed concentrations of pesticides either above levels the state allows or at levels that exceed federal standards for tobacco. The contaminants include chemicals tied to cancer, liver failure, thyroid disease and genetic and neurological harm to users and fetuses.

Most of the pesticides found were in low concentrations that risk long-term harm by repeated use, though the extent of the health threat may not be known for years.

Vapes tested from five well-known brands had pesticide loads that exceeded federal Environmental Protection Agency risk thresholds for harm from a single exposure, The Times and WeedWeek found. Users might experience irritation to the lungs, eyes and throat, as well as rash, headache, diarrhea and abdominal pain.

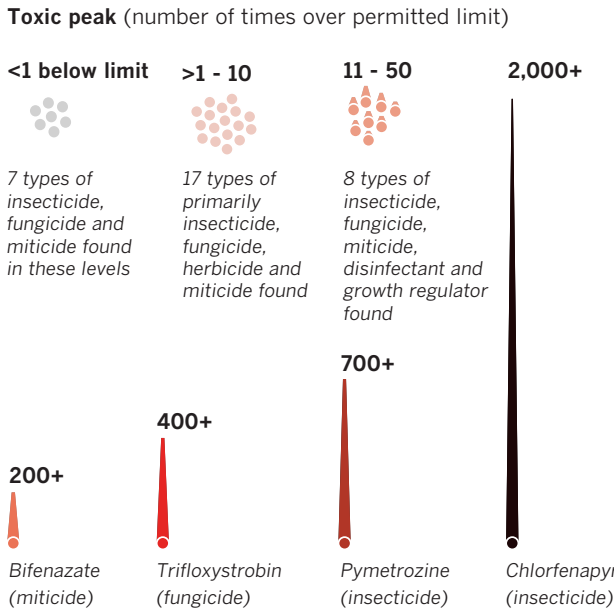
Some products contained as many as two dozen pesticides.

The findings dovetail with scores of complaints that two private cannabis testing labs have filed over the last eight months, reporting pesticides in products that were certified by other labs as safe. The results, the labs said, suggest some level of contamination in more than 250,000 vapes and pre-rolled joints on store shelves — about the number sold legally in California in a two-day period.

[See Cannabis, A8]

## Toxic chemicals in legal weed

Independent lab tests found 45 toxic chemicals in legal cannabis products, 29 exceeding either state limits for cannabis or federal tobacco standards. Below are results of 36 appearing at the highest levels and the degree to which they exceed state or federal limits.



For pesticides prohibited upon detection, a base limit of .03 part per million was used to calculate exceedances. For pesticides for which California has set no limit, U.S. standards for tobacco were used.

Times reporting: California Department of Pesticide Regulation; Russo, E.B. Current Therapeutic Cannabis Controversies and Clinical Trial Design Issues, 2016 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Paul, K.C. and others in Nature, 2023; European Commission records

PAIGE ST. JOHN and LORENA INIGUEZ ELEBEE Los Angeles Times

**Summit seeks path to Ukraine peace**  
Several world leaders meet to discuss the war, but hopes are muted by Russia's absence. **WORLD, A3**

**From film mogul to political player**  
Jeffrey Katzenberg pivots from Hollywood to Biden campaign money man. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

**What to do in Larchmont**  
The neighborhood offers village vibes and urban flavors. Here are 17 ideas for a visit. **WEEKEND, L6**

**Weather**  
Mostly sunny.  
L.A. Basin: 81/60. **B10**

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