



JESSIE ORTIZ practices his roping skills outside his family’s ranch house in rural Bloomington, home to 23,000 in the Inland Empire. Photographs by ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

Community in developer’s shadow

Bloomington residents weigh trade-offs of a proposed warehouse complex

By REBECCA PLEVIN

BLOOMINGTON — Benjamin and Christine Granillo bought their 2.25-acre property in San Bernardino County four decades ago. They built their home by hand and surrounded it with a lush grove of avocado, orange and lemon trees.

“We thought we’d be here for the rest of our life,” Christine Granillo, 77, said as she tended to her trees on a recent afternoon.

But their neighborhood in unincorporated Bloomington is rapidly transforming, as developers convert the 10 Freeway and its adjacent communities into a logistics corridor connecting goods shipped into Southern California ports with online shoppers across the na-



MANY HOMES have been razed to make way for Howard Industrial Partners’ 213-acre industrial park, where online shoppers’ items will be stored and moved.

tion. An industrial real estate company based in Orange County is demolishing 117 homes and ranches in rural Bloomington to make way for more than 2 million square feet of warehousing space. The project will serve as yet another distribution center dedicated to storing and moving the products consumers want delivered to their doorsteps.

All the neighbors across the street from the Granillos sold their homes to the developer, and many have already been bulldozed. The Granillos opted not to sell — and now look out their stately front gate at the rubble, soon to be supplanted with a 479,000-square-foot fulfillment center. Their street will become a busy truck route. Next door will [See **Bloomington**, A10]

ANALYSIS

Biden’s border rule may not be a political fix

With limit on asylum claims, he’s playing defensively and interfering with his attacks on Trump.

By NOAH BIERMAN

WASHINGTON — President Biden has been trying to frame the November election around two subjects: his legislative accomplishments and whether former President Trump is fit to serve.

But Biden’s own vulnerabilities have been getting in the way. High among them for many voters is a sense that the country is in chaos, fueled in part by images of an overwhelmed southern border that have flooded television screens and social media feeds during his time in office.

“The fentanyl that is coming across the border is

coming into our communities,” Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto — a Democrat from Nevada, where Biden is an average of 6 percentage points behind Trump in polls — said in an interview. “The human trafficking that happens at the border comes into our communities.”

That helps explain why Biden took executive action this week that severely limits the rights of migrants to seek asylum — an order that surprised and angered many allies on the left and could very well be struck down in court.

“He did what he had to do, not just because it is a huge campaign issue, but because it’s a genuine problem,” said David Axelrod, who served as a top advisor to former President Obama. “He probably should have done it sooner.”

Biden, Axelrod, Cortez Masto and other Democrats have been laying the border [See **Analysis**, A6]



A SATELLITE image shows smoke plumes from wildfires near the towns of Manavgat, left, and Alanya, right, along the coast of southern Turkey in 2021.

Inside a booming ‘space race’ to combat the world’s wildfires

By HAYLEY SMITH

As the threat of wildfire worsens in California and across the world, a growing number of federal agencies, nonprofit organizations and tech companies are racing to deploy new technology that will help combat flames

from a whole new vantage point: outer space.

New satellite missions backed by NASA, Google, SpaceX, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and other groups were announced last month, and promise to advance early wildfire detection and help reduce fire damage by monitoring Earth from above.

Collectively, the roster of big names, billionaires, government groups and non-governmental organizations reflects a considerable interest in using new technology to solve some of humanity’s biggest problems. [See **Wildfires**, A8]

Juvenile officers’ reports under scrutiny

Questions are raised after video from fight shows discrepancies from written account by probation staff.

By JAMES QUEALLY

The report from L.A. County probation officer Tanesha Brooks described a series of fights during breakfast at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall in December. One teenager, she wrote, got into eight separate altercations in just seven minutes.

But key details were missing from the document. Brooks’ report said nothing about injuries, the presence of other officers, or how one youth could get into so many fights in such a short time span.

Video footage, published last month by The Times, revealed some of what Brooks failed to mention.

The 17-year-old, who suffered a broken nose, defended himself as one attacker after another assaulted him with punches and kicks. Six other officers stood by while Brooks appeared to be checking her watch, as if timing how long each round of violence would be allowed to last. A seventh officer could be seen smiling and shaking hands with one of the aggressors.

The case is one of several publicized in recent years in which a probation officer’s written description differed greatly from a recording of an incident, leaving defense attorneys, oversight personnel and even some prosecutors questioning whether they can trust reports coming from the county’s beleaguered juvenile halls.

The reports can influence whether juveniles remain incarcerated and at what security level. They often go unchallenged in court unless an attorney seeks video footage, said Milinda Kakani, a member of the probation oversight committee. Without hard evidence to contradict the officers, she said, the D.A., [See **Juvenile**, A8]

New allegations target Trump

Ex-contestant on “The Apprentice” says the future president used racially charged words in 2010. **NATION**, A5

‘Junk fees’ may stand at eateries

Measure would allow service charges if restaurants note them “clearly and conspicuously.” **BUSINESS**, A7

High-rises to house homeless

Nonprofit hopes three Skid Row towers will help the unhoused and elevate neighborhoods. **CALIFORNIA**, B1

Weather Morning clouds.

L.A. Basin: 75/60. **B8**

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