



BRANDON BELL/Getty Images

MIGRANT ENCOUNTERS with U.S. agents at the border have plunged since President Biden's crackdown on asylum seekers. But the issue is key for Arizona voters, and Kamala Harris has toughened her stance in response to Donald Trump's rhetoric.

Battleground along border wall



JEFFREY FLEISHMAN/Los Angeles Times

TUCSON SAMARITANS volunteer Alma Schlor passes sneakers and a rosary across the border to young migrants.

Heat, vultures, rosaries abound in Arizona, a key state where the debate over migrants will matter.

BY JEFFREY FLEISHMAN

SASABE, Ariz. — The men and the boys scanned the Mexican desert from the shade of a tree. They walked down a hill toward the border wall to pick up water, socks and rosaries. The heat hit hard and the men and the boys, who had been on foot for months, blended in with scrub brush and cactus, keeping an eye on the cartel gunmen camped on a ridge beneath a blue sky where vultures circled.

"We came from Guatemala," said a sturdy man with a gold tooth, stopping a few feet from American soil. "I want to work over there at whatever I can."

"Make sure you wear socks or you'll get blisters," Alma Schlor, a volunteer with Tucson Samaritans, told one of the boys, handing him a rosary and a pair of sneakers across a low spot in the wall. The migrants thanked the Samaritans and returned to the shade, passing scattered pieces of identities dropped by those who had come before — passports, licenses and phone numbers from Nepal, Cameroon, Brazil, India and other distant places.

They would wait under the tree on a late September day until [See Border, A8]

How Combs' empire allegedly enabled him to prey on women

BY AUGUST BROWN AND STACY PERMAN

In the summer of 2004, Tamiko Thomas, a Bad Boy Entertainment executive, brought an aspiring entertainer named Adria English to Sean "Diddy" Combs' mansion in East Hampton, N.Y. The rap mogul, bon vivant and tabloid fixture was throwing one of his exclusive, celebrity-filled bacchanals known as a "White Party."

English claims that Thomas hired her to work as a go-go dancer. But over the next five years, she says, she was forced to participate in

"grotesque, inexcusable, exploitative and criminal" activities at multiple White Parties held in various locations, including Combs' home on Star Island in Miami.

In a recent 114-page lawsuit that she filed against Combs, Thomas and others, English alleges that she was plied with drugs and ecstasy-laced liquor and "passed off" by Thomas and Combs to be "sexually assaulted as part of their ongoing corrupt sex trafficking organization."

Further, she said in the lawsuit, a team of Combs' handlers and associates co-

[See Combs, A11]



ALLEN J. SCHABEN/Los Angeles Times

PROSECUTORS say Orange County Supervisor Andrew Do, shown in 2020, funneled COVID relief funds to his family instead of paying for meals for the needy.

O.C. supervisor will resign and plead guilty to bribery

Do raked in \$550,000 in exchange for OKing millions for nonprofit group, prosecutors say.

BY SALVADOR HERNANDEZ

Orange County Supervisor Andrew Do has agreed to resign and plead guilty to accepting more than \$550,000 in bribes to direct millions of dollars to a family-connected nonprofit, federal prosecutors announced

Tuesday.

At one point a rising and influential figure in Orange County politics, Do, 62, had been under scrutiny for months since the Board of Supervisors had learned he had voted to approve millions of dollars in COVID-19 relief funds to a nonprofit without disclosing it was connected to his daughter.

"This money was intended to provide meals to the people who needed most in our community," said U.S. Atty. Martin Estrada during a news conference at the federal courthouse in Santa

Ana on Tuesday. "The scheme essentially functioned like Robin Hood in reverse."

Instead, federal investigators said, Do funneled some of that money to his family to enrich himself and buy them homes in the county.

Do agreed to plead guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit bribery concerning programs receiving federal funds.

Do has been absent from Board of Supervisors meetings for months, and in an [See Corruption, A9]

Bid to expand reach of rent control

Prop. 33 would let cities and counties cap increases on newer units if they choose.

BY ANDREW KHOURI

Seeking to wield the power of government to keep rents low amid an affordability crisis, San Francisco officials last week passed a measure to dramatically expand the city's rent control law to cover newer buildings than it does now.

The thing is, the expansion may never happen. The city first needs help from voters statewide.

That's because California law currently bans local jurisdictions from placing rent control on buildings constructed after Feb. 1, 1995, and in some cities, such as San Francisco and Los Angeles, even earlier.

Voters twice rejected attempts to overturn the prohibition in recent years, but they once again have the issue before them next month in what's become the most expensive statewide fight on the ballot.

Proposition 33, like previous attempts, is sponsored by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which has contributed more than \$46 million toward the measure. It would repeal a state law known as the Costa-Hawkins Act that limits how expansive local rent control laws can be, at a time when most tenants face financial burdens and tens of thousands of people sleep on the streets.

"This will give us another tool to address the unaffordability of the city," said Los Angeles City Council member Hugo Soto-Martinez. He wants L.A., like San Francisco, to look into expanding its rent control rules if Proposition 33 passes. "Local municipalities should be the ones that decide policy for our residents."

As in the previous repeal attempts, the real estate industry is outspending supporters, worried the measure will harm investments. So far, real estate groups in opposition have raised more than \$100 million to fight Proposition 33. They argue that by opening the door to greater limitation on profit, it would reduce the quality and availability of housing, making the state's affordability problems even worse.

"Californians understand the answer to our housing crisis is more housing, but Prop. 33 would do the opposite," said Nathan Click, a spokesman for the No on 33 campaign. "It would be a crushing blow to our ability to build affordable housing, market rate housing and housing of all kinds."

At its most basic, a yes vote bans the state from limiting the right of local jurisdictions to "maintain, enact, or expand residential rent control."

In practice, Proposition 33 could mean big changes. Costa-Hawkins not only bans cities and counties from putting rent control on buildings built in recent decades, but also bars them from capping rent on single-family houses of all ages.

Under current state law, when a unit subject to rent control becomes vacant, the [See Rent, A6]

World Series concerns for Dodgers

In the New York Yankees, L.A. faces a team with superstars to rival its own. **SPORTS, B10**

S. Korea's plan to boost birthrate

Seoul hopes bringing in minimum-wage nannies from abroad will spark a baby boom. **WORLD, A3**

Weather

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