



Photographs by CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times
BRANDON AND SWEA ZAMEL visit a neighbor's burned property in Tahitian Terrace mobile home park in Pacific Palisades. Zamel's father moved into the seaside park in 1983, and he and his sister grew up there.

A middle-class dream by the beach goes up in flames

Tahitian Terrace mobile home park, a rare affordable enclave in Pacific Palisades, is gone — and residents fear for the future

BY HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

From Pacific Coast Highway, the mobile home park was mostly hidden by a steep, terraced hillside. Residents — many in their 80s and 90s — felt as if they were in on some great secret of wealthy Pacific Palisades, with their little houses on little rented lots with grand ocean views.

They lived on palm-lined cul-de-sacs with names such as Aloha Drive, Kiki Place and Bali Lane. Their mobile home park, just across from Will Rogers State Beach, was called Tahitian Terrace.

It's gone now. When it destroyed all but one of the 158 mobile and prefabricated homes in Tahitian Terrace on Jan. 7, the Palisades fire wiped out something rare in affluent, celebrity-studded Pacific Palisades: an affordable beachfront neighborhood.

[See Dream, A6]



THE ZAMELS embrace after arriving at their destroyed house. Swea was desperate to see it before the rains made everything soggy.

Family nest eggs also were casualties

It took a decade of scrimping and saving for the Ramirez sisters to buy their first house, a fixer-upper in Altadena. Nine years later, they bought another, and after a few more years, a third, all within a few blocks of one another.

By 2013, the three single women all had their own homes, and they enjoyed watching their properties rise in value to more than \$1 million each — the kind of wealth that their immigrant father, a California bracero, could never have imagined.

Now, after the Los Angeles fires burned all three homes to the ground,

Homeowners face daunting challenge of trying to rebuild and recover generational wealth lost in flames

BY DON LEE AND ANDREW KHOURI

the Ramirez sisters are back to square one.

They are once more living together in one house, a four-bedroom rental in San Fernando, paying almost \$8,000 a month. And they're again pooling their funds as they look to buy a house together: Their goal, just as before, is to continue living together until each rebuilds her own home — and regains the wealth they have lost.

That's a daunting challenge, and how close the Ramirez sisters come to success may determine how bright the future of much of Los Angeles turns out to be. [See Rebuilding, A12]

School reopenings near fire zones stir doubts

District officials say campuses close to Palisades and Eaton blazes are safe, but parents want proof.

BY DANIEL MILLER AND HOWARD BLUME

Chris Dennis walked up Palm Street and down Lincoln Avenue in west Altadena, past charred husks of houses and cindered carcasses of cars.

The Eaton fire had destroyed his family's nearby home, but his son's school



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times
PRINCIPAL John Maynard greets students at Don Benito Fundamental School in Pasadena last week.

was still standing. And Dennis wanted to see it.

The route he took Jan. 25 was the same one he used each morning when he'd walk his kindergarten son to Odyssey Charter School. Now, though, "It's just wasteland," Dennis said.

"The wind picked up and I got ash in my eyes," he said. "That school is downwind from a war zone."

Dennis, 43, said he wasn't prepared to have his son return to Odyssey. Far from it. He has many questions — about the scope of campus cleanup efforts and the results of environmental tests conducted there, to name [See Schools, A7]

ANALYSIS

President bucks law, decorum to push agenda

Trump's moves to grab power face two big problems, expert says, including riling ordinary Americans.

BY KEVIN RECTOR

Standing before a mourning nation after a tragic commercial airline crash that killed nearly 70 people in Washington, D.C., President Trump offered his somber condolences and said everyone was "searching for answers."

He then insinuated, without evidence, that diversity hiring practices at the Federal Aviation Administration — and the politics of his Democratic predecessors — were to blame.

"I signed something last week that was an executive order, very powerful one, re-

storing the high standards of air traffic controllers — and others by the way," Trump said. "We have to have our smartest people. It doesn't matter what they look like, how they speak, who they are."

In an instant, Trump had gone from consoling leader to partisan firebrand and turned a national tragedy into one more opportunity to push his favorite political narrative — that diversity-minded, "woke" liberalism is ruining the country and that he alone can end it, namely through unilateral executive orders from the Oval Office.

It was a breach of presidential decorum — and right in line with the rest of his tumultuous first two weeks back in the White House.

In that time, Trump has repeatedly bucked the Constitution and other legal limits on executive power, pursuing a conservative [See Analysis, A8]

Tariffs may cause 'pain,' Trump says

It will be 'worth the price' for Americans, he adds, though any inflation would break a promise to voters.

BY JOSH BOAK

PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Trump said Sunday that Americans could feel "some pain" from the emerging trade war triggered by his tariffs against Canada, Mexico and China, and claimed that Canada would "cease to exist" without its trade surplus with the United States.

The trade penalties that Trump signed Saturday at his Florida resort caused a mix of panic, anger and uncertainty, and threatened to rupture a decades-old part-

nership on trade in North America while further straining relations with China.

"Canadians are perplexed," the country's ambassador to the U.S. said. "We view ourselves as your neighbor, your closest friend, your ally."

By following through on a campaign pledge, Trump may have simultaneously broken his promise to voters in last year's election that his administration could quickly reduce inflation. That means the same frustration he is facing from other nations might also spread domestically to consumers and businesses.

"WILL THERE BE SOME PAIN? YES, MAYBE (AND MAYBE NOT!)," Trump said in a social media post. "BUT WE WILL MAKE AMERICA GREAT [See Tariffs, A9]



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

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Protest targets Trump policies

Thousands rally in downtown L.A. against president's crackdown on illegal immigration. CALIFORNIA, B1

Weather

Partly sunny. L.A. Basin: 68/49. B6

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Blockbuster trade may mean the end of James' era, Bill Plaschke writes. SPORTS, D1

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