



**GENARO MOLINA** Los Angeles Times

VOLUNTEERS with My Friend's House Foundation give the homeless food and clothing in skid row. Despite a drop in homelessness, officials say the number of people living on the streets for the first time has increased.

# Homelessness declines in L.A. and countywide

### Slight dip gives some hope new funding is having an effect

By Doug Smith AND GALE HOLLAND

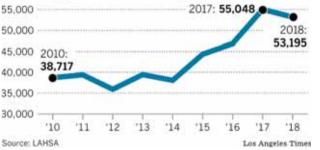
After three years of precipitous increases, homelessness dipped slightly this year, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority reported Thursday, providing a hopeful sign that new money flowing into housing and services is having an effect.

But in releasing results of the 2018 count, officials also warned that the number of people falling into homelessness for the first time increased, holding back the potential gains.

And the report noted that three out of four home-

### Homeless population shrinks a bit

L.A. County recorded a slight drop of about 3% in its homeless population over the last year.



#### Giving the homeless shelter

New York City mayor is ripping up the playbook on how it treats the destitute. ON THE GROUND, A2

less people in the county live on the streets, a figure unchanged from last year.

"I'm not happy every day walking through the city, knowing that there's as many people that are homeless, but I think it's showing our strategies are working," Mayor Eric Garcetti said. "It's good news, it's real results, it's real progress, but there's a real challenge.'

Garcetti joined two county supervisors at the East Hollywood headquarters of the homeless services agency PATH to make the announcement with a mixture of celebration and restraint.

[See Report, A8]

# Amid fallout, **USC** trustees pick Caruso to lead board

In first act as chair, he announces review of gynecologist scandal and pledges that it will finish by fall semester.

#### By MATT HAMILTON, HARRIET RYAN AND THOMAS CURWEN

The University of Southern California's board of trustees has elected mall magnate Rick Caruso to be the new chair of the board, giving fresh leadership as the university navigates a wideningscandalinvolvinga longtime campus gynecologist.

The move marks the lat-est effort by USC to address the case, which has sparked a criminal investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department and dozens of civil lawsuits. More than 400 people have contacted a hotline that the university established for patients to report their experiences with Dr. George Tyndall.

In his first act as chairman, Caruso announced that the white-shoe L.A. law firm O'Melveny & Myers would conduct a "thorough and independent investigation" into the gynecologist's conduct and "reporting failures" at the clinic. He set an ambitious timeline for the review, pledging it would conclude before students return for the fall semester.

The attorney who will oversee the investigation into the Tyndall case is Apalla Chopra, an O'Melveny partner who is considered an expert in labor, education and employment law.

The probe comes six days after USC President C.L. Max Nikias announced his resignation. Nikias, who had been president since 2010, had faced withering criticism in the wake of a Times investigation that found Tyndall had been the subject of numerous complaints of inappropriate comments and touching during his nearly three decades at USC. Tyndall has strongly denied ever mistreating patients.

William Tierney, a professor in USC's Rossier School of Education who had denounced the university's response to the Tyndall accusations, called Caruso's election a "positive step."

"I think he recognizes, as I'm sure the board does, that we need to move aggressively to not only solve the problems that hit us but to reaffirm the importance of USC moving forward rather than treading water," Tier-[See **USC**, A7]

**TARIFFS SPARK** FEAR OF TRADE FIGHT



KENA BETANCUR AFP/Getty Images SECRETARY OF STATE Mike Pompeo talks with reporters after his meeting with Kim Yong Chol.

### Pace is picking up for nuclear summit with North Korea

Pyongyang envoy concludes New York talks, will meet Trump at the White House.

By BARBARA DEMICK AND TRACY WILKINSON

NEW YORK — One of North Korea's most powerful figures will meet President Trump at the White House on Friday as high-level talks in New York wrapped up with growing signs that the stalled nuclear disarmament summit between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un could take place in less than two weeks.

Kim Yong Chol, a North Korean spy chief and fourstar general who is under U.S. sanctions, will deliver a personal letter to Trump from Kim Jong Un, the president told reporters in the latest whirlwind of highstakes diplomacy aimed at

reviving the proposed summit.

"I look forward to seeing what's in the letter," Trump said. Asked if an arms control deal was coming together, he said: "I think it will be very positive .... The meetings have been very positive."

Trump said he still hoped to sit down with Kim Jong Un in Singapore on June 12, as originally scheduled, but he suggested follow-up meetings may be necessary to hammer out a disarmament deal.

"I want it to be meaningful," Trump said of a possible summit. "It doesn't mean it gets all done at one meeting. Maybe you have to have a second or a third. And maybe we'll have none."

The cliffhanger approach further highlights how Trump has tossed out the conventional playbook for his nuclear summitry. Aides say Trump believes his personal commitment and ne-[See Summit, A4]

## He told women 'step up'; now he's stepping down

Neil Portnow, who sparked protest with remark, will leave helm of Recording Academy in 2019.

By RANDY LEWIS AND CHRISTIE D'ZURILLA

Earlier this year, when women protested the dearth of female winners at this year's Grammy Awards, Recording Academy President and Chief Executive Neil Portnow responded that the music industry was open to more diversity but that women had to "step up."

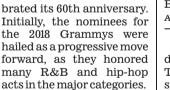
It was not a popular answer and on Thursday, the Recording Academy announced that Portnow would be stepping down. His



CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times **NEIL PORTNOW** apologized for his "step up" comment, but the backlash was intense.

current contract, which ends in July 2019, will not be renewed.

The news follows months of criticism leveled at Portnow and the academy over those comments and came after the Grammys cele-



Yet the narrative quickly changed after January's ceremony. Of the nine awards handed out during the televised portion of the Grammys, only one went to a solo female; meanwhile, a USC study released around the same time highlighted that the awards have been far from diverse in the major categories.

'There's an overall stewardship issue with Neil Portnow in this position," Britney Spears' manager, Lou Taylor, told The Times on Thursday. "We're not seeing the evolution of the Recording Academy come into to-

[See Portnow, A9]



#### WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

#### **KERSHAW RETURNS**

Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw gave up one run in five innings Thursday in his first game since returning from the disabled list. SPORTS, D1

### Trump pardons Dinesh D'Souza, hints at more

Clemency actions could also signal a pardon for associates implicated in the Russia inquiry. NATION, A5

#### Videos point to shooting intent

In cellphone recordings, the Parkland suspect declared his goal of killing at least 20 people. NATION, A8

Weather

Low clouds, then sun. L.A. Basin: 75/59. **B6** 



Canada and Mexico react angrily and retaliate; head of EU Commission decries 'protectionism.'

By KATE LINTHICUM and Don Lee

WASHINGTON - President Trump's decision Thursday to slap tariffs on steel and aluminum from Canada, Mexico and the European Union sharply escalated global trade tensions and widened a rift with America's closest allies.

The Trump administration's announcement that once-delayed tariffs its would take effect starting Friday was met with swift condemnation and promises of dollar-for-dollar retaliation as well as a multilateral challenge at the World Trade Organization.

Canadian leaders reacted particularly angrily to the tariffs, 25% on steel and 10% on aluminum. Trump had justified the import levies on the grounds of national security — a line of reasoning that Canadian officials called absurd, illogical and illegal.

Canada, the largest exporter of steel and aluminum to the United States. said it would apply countertariffs of 25% and 10% on \$16.6 billion worth of American metals, farm goods and other products, to take effect July 1.

'That Canada could be a national security threat to the U.S. is inconceivable,' said Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, noting the many Canadians who have died alongside U.S. soldiers in joint military operations over the years. "These tariffs are an affront to the longstanding security partnership between Canada and the United States."

Mexico responded to the news by announcing immediate retaliatory tariffs on [See Tariffs, A6]

# Rick Caruso is named chair of USC trustees

[**USC,** from A1] ney said.

Caruso replaces Colorado energy mogul John Mork as board chair. Mork, a close friend of the president, had expressed "full confidence in President Nikias" leadership, ethics, and values" just days before Nikias stepped down.

It was Caruso, not Mork, who last week informed the university community of Nikias' planned departure.

Caruso, a 1980 graduate whose private company owns the Grove and other iconic shopping complexes, has been the most visible of USC's 59-member board of trustees since the scandal broke. Few other trustees have publicly spoken about the controversy.

In a letter to "members of the USC family" on Thursday, Caruso pledged to be transparent and vowed to institute more checks and balances in university affairs. He broadcast a special email address where alumni, staff and students could contact him, signaling trustees' accessibility. And he said trustees will begin selecting "a new world-class president for our university.

"This will be an orderly, seamless, painstaking and intelligent process," he said.

A Times investigation last month revealed that Tyndall had been the subject of repeated complaints during his time as the sole full-time gynecologist at the student health clinic. He continued to practice until 2016, when a clinic nurse reported him to the campus rape crisis center.

A university investigation determined that Tyndall sexually harassed patients with inappropriate pelvic exams and sexually suggestive remarks. He was allowed to resign quietly with a payout. His patients, who number in the tens of thousands, were not in-

formed of the findings. A longtime trustee of

USC, Caruso has been a prominent donor, and his family's name graces the university's center for Catholic students. He has also served on the board of commissioners overseeing L.A.'s Department of Water and Power, and as president of the Los Angeles Police Commission.

Former LAPD Chief William Bratton was among those who offered plaudits to Caruso in a USC news release issued Thursday.

"I can think of no person better suited to transition the culture of an institution in crisis, and lead its turnaround," Bratton said.

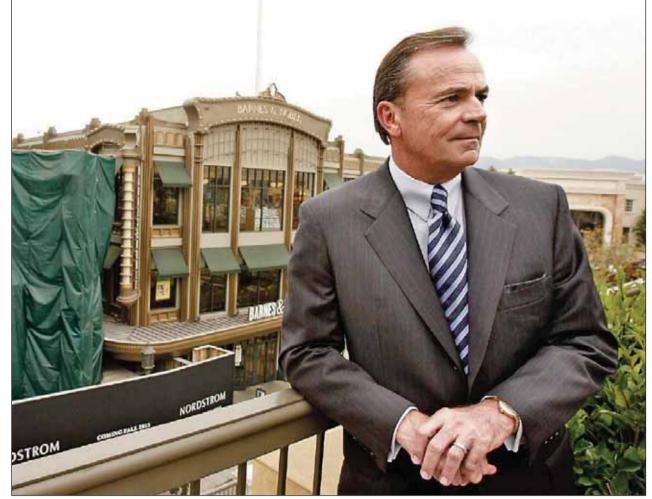
Hours before Caruso's announcement, USC Provost Michael Quick addressed donors at the Trojan Legacy Circle luncheon at USC's Town & Gown venue. Quick expressed hope that the university can fix problems and restore trust.

"This university has been through a lot of crises in the last 138 years," he told the group. "We will weather this storm and emerge stronger, as we have with every crisis we have confronted."

Quick acknowledged the pain and anger that the campus community feels.

"I remember times when my parents were hurt, pained, sad, exasperated, frustrated, angry and disappointed in me ... because they knew that I failed to live up to, not their expectations, but my own expectations and my own potential," he said. "I think a lot of us are going through that right now and rightly so. The great university of ours is better than what we have shown over the last year."

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GARY FRIEDMAN Los Angeles Times

**USC TRUSTEES** have elected mall magnate Rick Caruso, pictured at one of his shopping centers in 2013, to lead the board as the university weathers a scandal over longtime campus gynecologist Dr. George Tyndall.

## Equal Rights Amendment nears goal

Approval from one more state is needed after Illinois' backing.

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Illinois has become the 37th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, putting the country only one state away from a possible landmark change to the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing equal rights for women.

The passage Wednesday was nearly half a century in the making and came 38 years after supporters staged hunger strikes and floor sit-ins in a futile attempt to persuade the Illinois Legislature to approve the proposal by what was a congressionally set deadline. The Illinois House ap-

proved the amendment 72 to 45 on Wednesday. The Senate approved it 43 to 12 in April.

State Rep. Lou Lang, a Democrat who sponsored the proposal, called the vote a historic moment for lawmakers to make a difference for women across the nation.

"Is the Illinois House for or against adding 161 million American citizens to the U.S. Constitution where they absolutely belong?" he asked before the vote. "A 'no' vote is a vote against the right of women in the United States of America."

The ERA, proposed in 1972, guarantees equal rights for all citizens regardless of sex. Ratification requires the assent of 38 states, but there's some legal debate over whether it's too late for additional states to join those that acted years earlier.

Illinois was one of 15 states not to ratify before the 1982 deadline. The push to ratify took center stage once more after Nevada voted for the amendment last year.

Opponents have argued that passing the amendment would give women unrestricted access to abortion, among other things.

While those arguments still persisted this year, many Republicans remained quiet, instead yielding their time to their black colleagues on the other side of the aisle who expressed concerns that the fight for women's rights has largely been championed by white women, many of whom did not consider black women their equal.

"When the women finally got their right to vote, black women did not get our rights," said Rep. Mary Flowers, a Chicago Democrat. "You want to say something [the ERA language] written in 1923 is going to protect me?"

Other Democrats, many of whom are also black, emphasized that ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment is more important than ever in the era of President Trump.

Rep. Emanuel "Chris" Welch, a Democrat, said he was concerned the president could roll back protections against women unless those rights were guaranteed in the Constitution.

"I would rather rely on our U.S. Constitution than Donald Trump," Welch said.

