



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

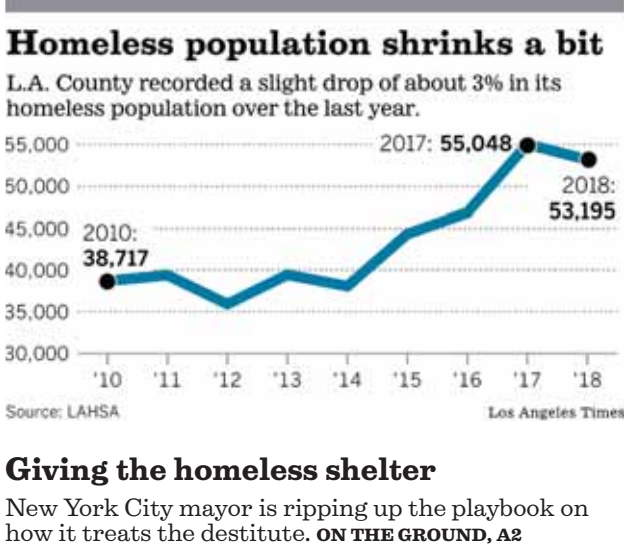
Slight dip gives some hope new funding is having an effect

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-



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 widening scandal involving a longtime campus gynecologist.

The move marks the latest 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.

cation 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," Tierney said.

[See USC, A7]

TARIFFS SPARK FEAR OF TRADE FIGHT

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 its once-delayed tariffs 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 counter-tariffs 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]



SECRETARY OF STATE Mike Pompeo talks with reporters after his meeting with Kim Jong 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 Jong Chol, a North Korean spy chief and four-star 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 high-stakes 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-

brated its 60th anniversary. Initially, the nominees for the 2018 Grammys were hailed as a progressive move forward, as they honored many R&B and hip-hop acts in the major categories.

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 SKALLI 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**



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