



Photographs by GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

MIGRANT children play in front of tents they share along Towne Avenue on Skid Row. More than 200 children now live in the area.

Improving life for Skid Row kids

Simply getting children to school is daunting, and advocates say demands for services will stay high in a city where affordable housing is scarce

BY PALOMA ESQUIVEL

In the mornings, just past 7:30, dozens of children on Skid Row start making their way to school in the June gray.

For younger ones, the trip is somewhat easier.

A yellow bus pulls up not far from Union Rescue Mission and picks up kids who attend Ninth Street Elementary, a Los Angeles Unified School District school.

The middle schoolers study on the same campus. But theirs is a charter school and they don't have a bus. To get to school, they walk several blocks, past tents and tarp shelters, careful not to step on discarded needles or human waste.

Skid Row, if it must be said, is not a place for children. And yet there are more than 100 families living there now, with more than 200 chil-



JAIDELIN Chacon and her daughter Celeste, 5, are from Colombia and have lived on Skid Row for almost six months.

dren. The large majority stay at the mission — a privately funded shelter that is the only one in the neighborhood that accepts families.

A smaller number live in tents, often on Towne Avenue, which has become the place of last resort for families that have run out of options.

Advocates say they believe the number of children in the neighborhood isn't going down any time soon, as families in desperate need of shelter confront a city with insufficient options. And some are asking whether there are immediate steps that city and other officials should take to improve the quality of life for children on Skid Row as long as they remain.

In a city with a school district that has 1,300 buses, could someone ensure that all children have access to bus transportation for school? Is [See **Skid Row**, A6]

ANALYSIS

They revived the box office. Will Hollywood take note?

Black, Latino fans give 'Bad Boys' sequel a big start

BY GREG BRAXTON

Just over two years after Will Smith slapped Chris Rock across the face during the Academy Awards, he's getting a robust pat on the back from moviegoers and Hollywood insiders alike.

Prompting a huge sigh of relief from exhibitors shaken

by the lackluster start to the summer film season, this past weekend's \$56-million domestic launch of "Bad Boys: Ride or Die," reuniting Smith and co-star Martin Lawrence for the fourth entry in the franchise, shows that audiences have put Smith's shocking attack on Rock in the rearview mirror. But more important, the

triumphant debut demonstrates the power of Black and Latino filmgoers, a demographic long overlooked and underserved by Hollywood — even as people of color make up the majority of opening weekend ticket sales for most top-performing movies.

Industry analysts report [See **Box office**, A10]



HANNAH MCKAY Associated Press

FRENCH PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron saw his party trounced by the far-right National Rally.

ANALYSIS

Political earthquakes as far right advances

European Parliament elections yield victory for centrists but also gains for nationalists.

BY LAURA KING

BERLIN — Raucous cheers erupted, and far-right leaders beamed into the camera lenses. The vote was in: The ultranationalist Alternative for Germany — for many here, a ghostly echo of the Nazi past — was

anointed as the country's second-largest political party.

Across Europe, far-right political groupings notched strong gains in elections for the European Parliament in four days of balloting that ended Sunday.

As predicted, centrist parties won the largest share of votes overall across the 27-nation European Union, but in several countries — notably, France and Belgium — the robust nationalist-populist showing [See **Europe**, A4]

Grossman gets 15 years to life

Philanthropist is sentenced for murder of two boys she struck with speeding SUV.

BY RICHARD WINTON

A judge on Monday sentenced Rebecca Grossman to 15 years to life in prison for the murders of two brothers she struck while speeding through a Westlake Village

crosswalk four years ago, saying her actions were "reckless and unquestionably negligent."

After hearing Nancy Iskander, the mother of 11-year-old Mark Iskander and 8-year-old Jacob Iskander, angrily ask for the sentence to reflect the deaths of her boys, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Joseph Brandolino sentenced the philanthropist to two concurrent terms, plus three concurrent years for fleeing

the scene of the fatal crash.

"She is a coward," Iskander said of Grossman.

But Brandolino said Grossman is "not a monster as the prosecutors portrayed her to be."

Appearing in court with her hair pulled back in a ponytail and wearing a brown shirt over a white T-shirt and slacks, Grossman agreed to pay \$47,161.89 in restitution to the Iskander family. Her lawyers say the [See **Grossman**, A6]

Research points to worse flooding potential

Sediment samples show deluges more epic than 1862 event that reshaped Central Valley and L.A. Basin.

BY GRACE TOOHEY

The Great Flood of 1862 — a megastorm that remains among California's worst natural disasters — has been used as a benchmark for state emergency planners and officials to better prepare for the future.

A dreaded repeat of the flood — which killed at least 4,000 people and turned the Central Valley into a 300-mile-long sea — would probably eclipse the devastation of a major California earthquake and cause up to \$1 trillion in damage, some experts say.

Yet even as California scrambles to cope with the effects of climate whiplash and increasingly extreme weather, new research suggests the potential magnitude of such events could be far greater than that of the 1862 deluge.

After analyzing layers of sediment at Carrizo Plain National Monument, researchers at Cal State Fullerton say they have identified two massive, unrecorded Southern California flood events within the last 600 years.

Shockingly, their analysis suggests the deluges were far larger than the Great Flood, which reshaped much of the Central Valley and Los Angeles Basin.

Researchers based their conclusions on multiple core samples taken from a "sag pond" along the San Andreas fault in the southeastern corner of San Luis Obispo County. Analysis of the core samples revealed signs of two epic floods — one occurring sometime between 1470 and 1640 and the other between 1740 and 1800.

What they could not find in the core samples, however, was a sign of the Great Flood, suggesting perhaps [See **Flood**, A10]

Lakers' brand losing its luster

Dan Hurley's rejection to be the team's coach is the latest humiliation, Bill Plaschke writes. **SPORTS, B10**

LAUSD is fined for staff issues

District is penalized for having too many students, too few aides in some young classes. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Apple has deal with OpenAI

New operating system will have AI capabilities including access to ChatGPT. **BUSINESS, A7**

Weather Turning sunny. L.A. Basin: 76/58. **B6**

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