



Photographs by GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times
GORDON LEON, 72, stands near a house propped up by metal braces in the Abalone Cove neighborhood of Rancho Palos Verdes. He is determined to keep fighting a landslide that geologists don't fully understand.

COLUMN ONE

He's not ceding any ground to a worsening slide

Rancho Palos Verdes residents like Gordon Leon aren't ready to give up

BY GRACE TOOHEY

Gordon Leon dodged low-hanging trees as he crisscrossed his way up to yet another battle in his war against this unpredictable hillside. The incline isn't especially steep, but the path is uneven and narrow, at times even precarious. Still, the 72-year-old Leon easily handled the 10-minute climb to reach a makeshift dam he and a determined crew of neighbors had pieced together with bags of concrete below a small spring. "Fifteen gallons per minute running out of what geologists call a 'seep' in the canyon," he explained.

[See **Landslide**, A18]



GETTING AROUND in the landslide area has become difficult with closures like this one at Dauntless and Exultant drives.

In our season of gloom, Democrats turning to joy

As Harris-Walz ticket rides 'happy warrior' theme, GOP casts it as irrational exuberance.

BY JAMES RAINEY

The campaign for the presidency overflowed for months with dark ruminations about the furies to be unleashed should the other side win: World War III, another Great Depression and even the possible ascent of a dictator. Into this season of gloom enters a onetime high school teacher and football coach and a corn dog lover, who has introduced a revolutionary alternative — joy. "Thank you for bringing back the joy," Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz said to Vice President Kamala Harris, as the two made their first appearance last week as the new Democratic ticket for the White House. If he won his role as Harris' No. 2 in part because of his framing of former President Trump and Ohio Sen.

JD Vance as "weird," Walz extended his meme-making role by bringing a decidedly lighter tone to the presidential race. "All the things that make me mad about those other guys and all the things they do wrong, the one thing I will not forgive them for is they tried to steal the joy from this country," said Walz, 60, at a Detroit rally Wednesday. "But you know what? ... Our next president brings the joy! She emanates the joy!" The unexpected turn has delighted Democrats and infuriated Republicans. Democrats have seen fundraising surge and poll results tick upward since July 21, when President Biden gave up his bid for a second term and Harris stepped forward. The trend has continued since Tuesday, when she named Walz as her vice presidential pick. Republicans complain about what they see as irrational exuberance among their opponents and fawning coverage in the media. In myriad interviews and social media posts they have de-

[See **Walz**, A10]

'El Mayo,' from jail, tells a story of murder, corruption

In a rare public statement, drug lord contradicts Mexican account of his capture.

BY KEEGAN HAMILTON AND KATE LINTHICUM

The reclusive drug kingpin Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada was famous for staying out of the public eye, ruling a multibillion-dollar narcotics trafficking empire from remote mountain hideouts and speaking to the press just once over the course of his decades-long criminal career. But on Saturday, Zambada thrust himself into the spotlight, issuing a remarkable statement from jail in the United States, where he is being detained after an alleged betrayal by

another cartel trafficker seeking to cut a deal with authorities. In a two-page document in English sent to The Times by his attorney, Frank Perez, the Sinaloa cartel leader said he was kidnapped by the son of Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, flown to a small airport near El Paso and handed over to authorities. He claimed that a prominent politician in Sinaloa was killed in the process. Zambada, 76, the cartel's co-founder, was long believed to have police, soldiers and political leaders in his pocket. But the new statement includes unprecedented admissions of those ties. He described how a state police official served as his personal bodyguard and said he had agreed to leave his hideout at the request of 38-year-

[See **'El Mayo'**, A4]

PARIS OLYMPICS

L.A. plans (almost) 'no-car Games'

BY DAVID WHARTON

PARIS — Rush hour all but disappeared. There was less traffic on the freeways and not as much stop-and-go on surface streets. Longtime residents of Southern California remember that, in terms of driving, the 1984 Summer Olympics felt something like heaven. Businesses switched to stag-

gered schedules. Lots of people left town for a few weeks. Now, with the world's biggest sports competition set to return in four years, Mayor Karen Bass wants to go a step further. "A no-car Games," she said. Doubling down on something she discussed with The Times in April, Bass told reporters at the 2024 Paris Olympics that she en-

visions expanding public transportation to a point where fans can take trains and buses to dozens of sports venues, from Crypto.com Arena downtown to SoFi Stadium in Inglewood to the beaches of Santa Monica. "That's a feat in Los Angeles — we've always been in love with our cars," she said at a news conference Saturday, adding that people

"will have to take public transportation to get to all the venues." The LA28 organizing committee — a private group charged with staging the Games — prefers to say it is planning a "public-transit-first" Games. Some venues will have ample parking, others will not. Organizers say no one will be told they cannot drive to a competi-

[See **Olympics**, A6]

Israel kills 80 at Gaza shelter, officials say

Military's airstrike on school-mosque site wounds dozens more and draws international concern. **WORLD, A3**

Susan Wojcicki dies at age 56

The early Google and YouTube exec shaped how fortunes and fame are created on the internet. **OBITUARIES, B5**

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U.S. teams will bring home gold

Mallory Swanson scores sole goal as women win in soccer. Stephen Curry leads men's basketball past France. **SPORTS, D1**

Intuit Dome? Let's get into it

The architecture dazzles — to a point. A review of the Clippers' new arena. **ENTERTAINMENT, E6**

Weather
Sunny and warm.
L.A. Basin: 89/66. **B10**



Why some Europeans want you to stay away

As social media draws more tourists, many cities, residents have reached their limit.

BY LAURA KING

AMSTERDAM — For people who live in particularly picturesque quarters of charming European cities, the words "Instagrammable" or "Tik-Tok famous" can feel like harbingers of doom. Or harbingers, at the very least, of intense annoyance. Across the continent,



GRAFFITI greets visitors to Barcelona, Spain, in June after protests against tourism's local impact.

this has been a summer of visitor-related discontent. The stresses of over-tourism sometimes spur irate displays directed at outsiders — such as attention-grabbing anti-tourist protests in Barcelona last month, with demonstrators wielding water pistols, or hostile graffiti popping up in places like Athens. In some of the more iconic way stations on Europe's tourist trail — Amsterdam and Santorini, Prague and Bruges, Dubrovnik and Florence — the downsides of being all-too-

[See **Europe**, A6]



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