



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

**MUSIC LOVERS** gather on the first weekend of Coachella last April. Fan fatigue and festival saturation could be causing a dip in sales.

In 2015, the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival was one of the hottest tickets in town, selling out in record time: 40 minutes. AC/DC brought the house down with an electric set. Madonna planted a kiss on Drake on stage. Kanye West made a surprise appearance during the Weeknd's performance.

Ahead of Coachella's start on Friday, tickets for the second weekend of the festival were still available Thursday (it took a month for the first weekend to sell out), and resale tickets are going for well below face value on StubHub and other secondary resellers in an unprecedented year of sluggish sales — the slowest

## COACHELLA'S HOT TICKET COOLS OFF

The music festival's second weekend hasn't sold out yet. Is this an off-year or a sign of a deeper slump? Probably a bit of both.

By Kaitlyn Huamani

in a decade.

So what happened?

After the festival expanded from one weekend to two in 2012, it sold out almost every year since then — from that sub-hour whirl in 2015 to four-plus hours in 2022 in its post-COVID return. The following year marked the first time in 11 years that the event did not sell out both weekends. At full capacity, the fest drew up to 125,000 concertgoers a day.

Dave Brooks, Billboard's senior director of live music and touring, said the dip in sales and fan interest is "a natural off-cycle" for Coachella.

"I don't buy that the Coachella brand is permanently [See **Coachella**, A7]

## FEDS CHARGE OHTANI AIDE

Criminal complaint alleges that Dodgers star's interpreter stole more than \$16 million.

By Nathan Fenno, Paul Pringle and Matt Hamilton

Federal prosecutors have charged Ippei Mizuhara, the former interpreter for Shohei Ohtani, with stealing more than \$16 million from the Dodgers superstar to pay debts with an alleged illegal bookmaker, as part of a sprawling scheme that stretched over two years and involved illicit wagers of more than 10 times that amount.

The 36-page criminal complaint alleges that Mizuhara arranged wire transfers from Ohtani's bank account without his knowledge or permission and repeatedly impersonated the ballplayer during phone calls with bank employees, all to feed a worsening gambling habit that accumulated \$40 million in losses across thousands of bets.

In language that echoes dialogue from a gangster film in places, the complaint details how Mizuhara allegedly collected some \$142 million [See **Mizuhara**, A7]

O.J. SIMPSON, 1947 - 2024

## Ex-football star whose murder trial riveted, divided the nation



LOIS BERNSTEIN Associated Press

### COURTROOM APPEARANCE

O.J. Simpson at his arraignment on July 22, 1994, in court in Los Angeles, where he pleaded not guilty to murder charges.

### Debate over race and justice won't go away

Few of us understand the thought processes of people of other colors. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Silence speaks volumes about tarnished legacy

Uncertainty about what to say after his death shows how far he fell from grace. **SPORTS, B10**

Professional athlete, actor, homicide defendant and inmate fueled public drama.

By Elaine Woo

O.J. Simpson, whose rise and fall from American football hero to murder defendant to prison inmate fueled a rancorous public drama that obsessed the nation and spawned debates over race, wealth, justice and retribution, has died of cancer, according to a family member's statement on X.

It was not immediately clear where Simpson died, but his family said he was surrounded by his children and grandchildren when he died on Wednesday. He was 76.

Simpson was once the country's most admired athlete, a formidable running back who broke records with grace and determination. He became a crossover star, lending his handsome face and affable personality to the slapstick "Naked Gun" movies and classic television commercials for Hertz.

He did time at Lovelock Correction Center, 90 miles northeast of Reno, where he served nine years of a 33-year sentence after his 2008 conviction on armed robbery, kidnapping, conspiracy and other charges stemming from his attempt to recover valuable memorabilia he claimed was stolen from him. His incarceration was widely viewed as long-overdue punishment for the 1994 slayings of his ex-wife Nicole [See **Simpson**, A10]

## Home prices reach a record high

Southland average was \$869,082 last month, up 9% over a year despite high interest rates.

By Andrew Khouri

Southern California home prices hit a record in March amid sky-high mortgage interest rates, a combination that's creating the most unaffordable housing market in a generation.

The average for the six-county region reached \$869,082 in March, according to Zillow. That's up 9% from a year earlier and 1% higher than the previous all-time high in June 2022.

With rates hovering in the upper 6% range, the mortgage payment on the average home now tops \$5,500 — if you can put 20% down.

"It's bananas," Tommy Kotero, a 43-year-old refinery worker, said last weekend after touring a dated, \$899,000 house in north Torrance with visible cracks in the ceiling and walls. "The asking prices for what we are getting is crazy."

How home prices hit a record despite the high cost of borrowing is a tale of too few homes for sale, combined with a wealth gap that has equipped some buyers with reams of cash that negate the effect of high rates.

When interest rates first soared in 2022, buyers backed away en masse, inventory swelled and home prices dropped.

Then potential sellers all but went on strike, with many deciding they didn't want to move and trade their sub-3% mortgages for a loan at more than double that rate.

Inventory plunged and enough buyers returned to send home prices back up. Many of these buyers are well-heeled first-timers who aren't ditching a low-cost mortgage.

Others are holding on to their old home and buying another. Still more are sell- [See **Homes**, A5]

### Trump N.Y. trial starts next week

The former president will have to be in court for the case involving hush money allegations. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

### Salmon season canceled again

State officials put commercial and recreational fishing on hold for a second straight year. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Value of Ohtani ball is unclear

Despite not being authenticated by MLB, his first home run as a Dodger could fetch up to \$100,000. **SPORTS, B10**

**Weather**  
Not as warm.  
L.A. Basin: 71/56. **B6**

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