

Cloud of questions over Ohtani

Dodgers superstar is linked to a federal investigation. MLB is likely to do its own.

By Kevin Rector

Uncertainty suddenly surrounds one of Major League Baseball's biggest stars, with Shohei Ohtani mired in recent days in a growing scandal linked to a federal investigation into illegal sports gambling.

The public so far has only a fragmented picture of the case. But more facts could emerge in coming days and weeks, legal experts said, as federal prosecutors try to make sense of competing claims about Ohtani's money being used to pay down gambling debts with a suspected illegal bookmaker in California. One key question — but not the only one — is whether the Japanese slugger was, as his representatives claim, the victim of a “massive theft” by his interpreter and right-hand man, Ipppei Mizuhara.

“If there has been a ‘massive theft,’ you would expect Ohtani's people to cooperate with federal investigators,” said Jeff Ifrah, a former federal prosecutor and sports betting expert who now works as a defense attorney, including for professional athletes. “They will figure out whether or not the interpreter is lying, and whether or not Ohtani is a true victim.”

Meanwhile, the federal investigation will almost certainly inform a separate, internal inquiry by Major League Baseball into whether — potential crimes aside — there were any violations of league policies around players gambling on sports other than their own, experts said.

[See Ohtani, A6]

Ohtani needs to grow up fast

The firing of star's interpreter should be a wake-up call, Dylan Hernández writes. **SPORTS, B10**



MARCELA LOPEZ zips up her tent as she leaves for school with brother Mateo on Skid Row on Wednesday. Their family, including single mom Nubia Reyes and another sibling, came from Honduras by way of Texas. Photographs by BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

Migrant families struggle to survive on Skid Row street

An area with screaming, stench and open drug use around them — ‘not what I wanted my kids to experience,’ one mother says

By Ruben Vives and Doug Smith

When the big green sanitation trucks rumbled up, eight of the 10 children living in the Skid Row encampment were away at school, easing the stress on the four sets of parents as they stuffed their belongings into plastic bags and storage boxes and dismantled their tents.

Sanitation workers told them they couldn't keep a canopy that sheltered their cooking area or the plastic pallets they used to keep their bedding off the cold concrete. Those minimal comforts were soon swallowed up by the trucks.

But they didn't have time to stew over the loss. Nubia Reyes and Grecia Galecio had taken strawberries on consignment from a nearby broker and needed to sell them. They headed out.

[See Migrants, A5]



REYES washes dishes. Her family and others ended up here after leaving Union Rescue Mission. They couldn't afford a fee that the shelter charges after 90 days.

APPLE IS TARGET OF SUIT BY U.S., 16 STATES

California is among those accusing firm of trying to monopolize smartphone market.

By Hannah Fry

The U.S. Justice Department and 16 state attorneys general, including California's, filed a sweeping antitrust lawsuit against Apple on Thursday, alleging that the technology giant attempted to monopolize the smartphone market to boost its business.

The complaint, filed in U.S. District Court in New Jersey, alleges that Cupertino, Calif.-based Apple violated antitrust laws by engaging in practices that were intended to keep consumers dependent on the iPhone, which for years has been the cornerstone of the company's multitrillion-dollar empire.

Apple has done this, the lawsuit alleges, by preventing other companies from offering applications that compete with Apple's products, such as its digital wallet; by suppressing the use of “super apps” and cloud-based games; as well as by diminishing functionality between iPhones and non-Apple devices. The lawsuit comes after a years-long investigation into the company's business practices.

California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta said Thursday that Apple has been taking unlawful steps for at least 15 years to tighten its hold on the smartphone market, shortchanging consumers in the process.

“Apple has created a moat around its kingdom and trapped customers into continuing to use iPhones and buy more iPhones, which are the leading revenue driver in Apple's business model, and keeping out other types of technologies or services that could provide a better user experience,” Bonta said. “They are

[See Apple, A5]

A \$1-trillion tab for greener trucks

Study, which excludes vehicles' cost, adds to supply chain concerns

By Russ Mitchell

Fossil-fuel burning trucks spew alarming amounts of greenhouse gases, dangerous nitrogen oxides, lung-clogging particulate matter and a toxic stew of other pollutants.

Getting rid of them will be costly — nearly \$1 trillion, according to an industry study released Tuesday.

Sponsored by the freight-hauling truck fleet industry, it concludes that charging infrastructure for a nationwide fleet of 100% electric trucks — from delivery trucks to big rigs — will cost \$622 billion.



CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

THE infrastructure to charge electric trucks nationwide will cost \$622 billion, an industry study finds.

Add to that an additional \$370 billion on electric utilities to upgrade or install electric substations, overhead and underground lines, transformers, poles and fixtures to supply truck chargers. Electricity providers “would need to spend nearly the equivalent of what was spent on the entire system during the past 15 years,” the report says, pegging the previous cost at \$450 billion.

Not covered in the report: the expense of the trucks themselves. Electric big rigs today cost hundreds of thousands of dollars each, or three to four times more

[See Trucks, A6]

A mystery grows in top Napa vineyards

A death, a land deal and waste issues add to questions over feds' subpoenas of records on wineries, agencies.

By Jessica Garrison

ST. HELENA, Calif. — Highway 29 winds along the floor of the Napa Valley through Yountville and St. Helena and up into Calistoga, passing by vineyards that produce some of the most celebrated and expensive wines in the world.

The road, lined with rows of grapevines planted along sun-dappled hills, is justly famous for its stunning beauty — and the stunning number of Michelin-rated restaurants, spas and boutique inns that have popped up among the vineyards.

And lately, for locals anyway, it is also the source of a pressing mystery: Why are so many of the fancy wineries along this route — and

their rich and powerful owners — named in federal subpoenas that were served late last year to Napa County?

“Please provide any and all documents relating to the following individuals, entities, and/or projects,” one subpoena says, before unspooling a roster that reads more like a high-end tourist brochure than what is normally found in a court docket.

Among the glittering names whose county records are being sought are Hall Wines, known for its bold Cabernets and luxe St. Helena winery with a towering statue of a silver rabbit. Kathryn Hall, a former U.S. ambassador to Austria, is also named, as is her husband, Craig Hall, a former part-owner of the Dallas Cowboys whose art collection is so well regarded that portions went on loan to the Jeu de Paume arts center in Paris.

Caymus Vineyards, whose Cabernet is a frequent favorite of Wine

[See Napa inquiry, A9]

An 11th-hour plan to avert shutdown

Lawmakers unveil a \$1.2-trillion package they hope to pass Friday to keep key federal agencies running. **NATION, A4**

State puts off deficit planning

Facing a huge shortfall, governor and lawmakers announce vague cuts — and vow to discuss them in April. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Mental health overhaul passes

Voters' narrow approval of state Proposition 1 marks a historic victory for the homeless, Newsom says. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather
Low clouds.
L.A. Basin: 70/53. **B6**

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