

## Why the Time's Up CEO resigned

Lisa Borders left the organization after a woman accused her son of sexually inappropriate contact.

BY MEG JAMES AND AMY KAUFMAN

When Lisa Borders announced her resignation this week as the inaugural chief executive of Time's Up, she cited a need "to address family concerns that require my singular focus."

Borders, 61, did not explain the circumstances behind her abrupt exit, which came after just four months on the job. But the Los Angeles Times has learned that Borders suddenly found herself at odds with the core mission of Time's Up because of a desire to stand by a man — her son — facing allegations of sexual misconduct.

Borders stepped down four days after a 31-year-old Santa Monica woman alleged, in a Facebook post, that Borders' 36-year-old son had been sexually inappropriate with her. People familiar with the situation who were not authorized to comment said Borders, formerly the president of the WNBA professional basketball league and a former senior executive at Coca-Cola Co., quickly brought the allegations to the attention of the Time's Up board. The group — which seeks equality and safety in the workplace for women — and Borders, these people said, soon recognized that she was in an untenable position.

Celia Gellert told The Times that Borders' son, a [See Borders, A10]



GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

**MEMBERS** of the Banda Sinfónica de Tlaxiaco after a recent performance in Tlaxiaco, Mexico. The 65-piece band is made up of children, all Mixtecos, ages 5 to 17, and led by a demanding but beloved conductor.

### COLUMN ONE

## A band's operatic journey

'Roma' star's proud hometown has another artistic treasure

BY ESMERALDA BERMEDEZ REPORTING FROM TLAXIACO, MEXICO

**H**igh on the mountain of Yucunino, where a valley of pines leads you straight to Tlaxiaco, everyone knows about the girl.

*La Yalitza*, they call her — as if she were a storm that swept through their town. Young and indigenous, she was like so many women here, until she was plucked from her corrugated metal shanty and made a Hollywood star.

Yalitza Aparicio is now



Sources: Nextzen, OpenStreetMap PAUL DUGINSKI Los Angeles Times

up for an Oscar for her role in "Roma," and her hometown couldn't be more proud.

But as they eagerly watch to see where fame takes her, Tlaxiacoños worry about the fate of another treasure in town.

Life in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca, rain or shine, revolves around fiestas. In Tlaxiaco, brass bands boom down cobblestone paths with dancers, fireworks and papier-mache puppets up to 10 feet tall. The parades happen every week. Kids join the *calendas* as soon as they're able to walk.

[See Band, A6]

## D.C. on edge for results of Mueller inquiry

Uncertainty prevails after two years of the special counsel's Russia investigation hanging over nation.

BY CHRIS MEGERIAN, ELI STOKOLS AND DAVID WILLMAN

WASHINGTON — Over nearly two years, special counsel Robert S. Mueller III has operated like a prosecutorial submarine, abruptly surfacing without warning to release indictments or announce guilty pleas and then plunging back down to continue the Russia investigation.

He is ubiquitous and yet invisible — the last known photograph of Mueller was snapped in June 2017, a month after he was appointed. He has given no interviews, a reticence that has only stoked anticipation for his final report, which appears imminent.

But Mueller's silence and the little-used federal law under which he operates have left deep uncertainty about what lies ahead.

Under regulations written in 1999, the special counsel is required to submit a confidential report to the U.S. attorney general when he completes his probe. Everything else about the process — What will he say? How much will he write? When will it be filed? Will it become public? — is a matter of speculation, leaving official Washington on edge.

"No one really knows or can predict with any uncertainty how this is going to play out," said Andrew Coan, a University of Arizona law professor who has written a book about presidential investigations. "Not only do we not know what [See Mueller, A8]



AL SEIB Los Angeles Times

### OSCAR'S BIG MOMENT NEARS

A worker lifts an Oscar statue amid preparations Friday for the 91st Academy Awards at Dolby Theatre. Despite setbacks, such as the host's dropping out, the producers say they're ready for Sunday evening's show. **CALENDAR, E1**

## No thanks to the academy, Oscar stumbles to the stage

Public relations crises expose leadership problems

BY JOSH ROTTENBERG

On Sunday night, millions of viewers around the world will finally find out who the big winners are in this year's Academy Awards. But, after an unusually tumultuous and controversy-filled Oscar season, some would argue that one of the big losers has already been revealed before a single envelope has been opened.

Unfortunately, it's the motion picture academy itself.

The venerable institution, which prides itself on representing Hollywood's best and brightest, is heading into its most important and most glamorous night looking somewhat rudderless and half-dressed. For



### Coming Sunday: Oscars previews

Everything you need to get ready for the 5 p.m. telecast on ABC.

**THE ENVELOPE:** Includes your Oscar ballot, which comes with expert advice for picking winners.

**CALENDAR:** Times film critics Kenneth Turan and Justin Chang on who will (or should) win.

the first time in 30 years, the Oscars will have no formal host after Kevin Hart dropped out in December amid a firestorm over past homophobic tweets and jokes, leaving empty a gig that was once coveted but is now widely considered thankless.

As embarrassing as the Hart debacle was for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, though, it was just one of a number of black eyes the organization sustained in the run-up to this year's Oscars, nearly all of them self-inflicted.

As the academy has stumbled through a string of public relations crises — from a scrapped proposal to create a "best popular film" award that was widely criti-

[See Oscars, A8]

## Perris parents plead guilty in torture case

Deal spares 13 siblings from reliving horrors of abuse during trial, D.A. says. The couple face 25 years to life.

BY ALEJANDRA REYES-VELARDE AND PALOMA ESQUIVEL

The Turpin siblings were tortured and abused by their parents for years in ways so extreme, prosecutors said, it appeared to have caused malnutrition, cognitive impairment and nerve damage in some of them.

Since being freed last year from a Perris home, the 13 siblings have had to rebuild their lives.

All that time, they have also had to contend with the prospect of a trial — of being called to testify and having

to relive, in front of their parents and the public, the horrific treatment they suffered, said Jack Osborn, an attorney who represents the adult children.

"The issue of their parents' trial has always been weighing heavy with them," Osborn said.

So the siblings were relieved to learn earlier this month that their parents, David and Louise Turpin, had each agreed to plead guilty to 14 felony charges, ending the prospect of a trial, Osborn said.

The Turpins entered those pleas Friday during a short hearing in Riverside County Superior Court. They are expected to be sentenced in April to 25 years to life in prison, Riverside County Dist. Atty. Mike Hestrin said.

The charges include one count of torture, four of false imprisonment, six of cruelty [See Turpins, A10]



EARL GIBSON III Getty Images

### R. Kelly charged with sex abuse

The R&B superstar faces 10 counts, including allegations involving underage girls. If convicted on all counts, he could get 70 years in prison. **NATION, A5**

**Weather** Mostly sunny and cool. L.A. Basin: 61/43. **B6**



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