



**DIAMOND** Hyman, 19, asked to return to foster care and is staying at a transitional facility in La Verne. FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

## Finding permanency for foster youths a struggle

### Temporary shelters fall short of long-term solution

By NINA AGRAWAL

Inside a small dorm on a neatly manicured campus in La Verne, two teenage girls were flitting between rooms. One adjusted a tight-fitting tank top over her chest and checked her reflection in the mirror. The other danced to Bruno Mars' "That's What I Like" as it played from a cellphone. The teens were getting ready to run away from a temporary shelter for foster youths.

Just before 9:30 p.m. they broke into a run and headed for the campus entrance. A security guard and another staff member followed. "Why're you getting so close? Just stay right there, please," the younger one begged the guard as he caught up. "My ride's coming." A few minutes later, a silver pickup truck pulled over. The girls quickly got inside and took off. A staff member called the police. It's a scene that recurs regularly at

the David and Margaret Youth and Family Services transitional shelter care facility in La Verne. The girls are among 4,200 young people who have stayed in such a facility since March 2016, when Los Angeles County shut down its emergency "welcome centers," where foster children with nowhere else to go could stay for a day or less, and opened three-day shelters run by private providers. Some kids are entering the foster system for the first time. For them, the

## Key Disney exec goes on leave

Women complained about the behavior of John Lasseter, the creative force behind Pixar hits, sources say.

By DAVID NG AND RYAN FAUGHNDER

John Lasseter, the chief creative officer of Pixar and Walt Disney Animation Studios, is taking a six-month leave of absence, citing unspecified "missteps," a stunning reversal of fortune for a figure so influential in Hollywood he has often been compared to Walt Disney. Lasseter, the pioneering executive who built Emeryville, Calif.-based Pixar Animation Studios into an entertainment juggernaut and helped revive Disney's



**JOHN LASSETER**, shown in 2011, is so influential in Hollywood that he has been compared to Walt Disney. JAY L. CLENDENIN Los Angeles Times

once-struggling animation business, said in a memo to staff Tuesday that the decision followed a "number of difficult conversations that have been very painful for me." He added: "It's never easy to face your missteps, but it's the only way to learn from them.... It's been brought to my attention that I have made some of you feel disrespected or uncomfortable. That was never my intent." People close to the studio who requested anonymity to protect their relationships said several female employees had complained internally about their interactions with the executive. Lasseter expressed remorse over his conduct. "I especially want to apologize to anyone who has ever been on the receiving end of an unwanted hug or any

## Rose's swift firing clouds CBS morning show's future

By STEPHEN BATTAGLIO

The esteemed TV journalism career of Charlie Rose collapsed under the weight of sexual harassment allegations Tuesday, leaving a void in "CBS This Morning," the lucrative morning franchise that has flourished since he joined as co-anchor in 2012. CBS dismissed Rose less than 24 hours after the Washington Post published a report detailing the accounts of eight women who worked at PBS, alleging that Rose subjected them to unwanted sexual advances, appeared nude in their presence or groped them. On Tuesday, three additional



**CHARLIE ROSE** was fired less than a day after a Washington Post story. ROY ROCHLIN Getty Images

women reported incidents at CBS News. One woman said Rose whispered a sexual innuendo in her ear while touching her inappropriately during a company

event, the network reported on its evening news program. CBS News President David Rhodes' decisive — and rapid — action reflects heightened responsiveness from companies as more women come forward with allegations against prominent media and entertainment industry figures in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal. "Despite Charlie's important journalistic contribution to our news division, there is absolutely nothing more important, in this or any organization, than ensuring a safe, professional workplace — a supportive environment where people

## Putin says his military's role in Syria is near end

The Russian leader's meeting with Bashar Assad marks a major victory — and a humiliating U.S. loss.

By SABRA AYRES, ALEXANDRA ZAVIS AND TRACY WILKINSON

MOSCOW — To many observers, the image of Russian President Vladimir Putin sharing a warm embrace with Syrian leader Bashar Assad during a surprise meeting between the two leaders seemed to serve as a coda to a Russian military campaign that has reversed the course of a ferocious war now in its seventh year. Indeed, the two leaders have much to celebrate. When Putin dispatched warplanes and special forces advisors to Syria in 2015 to halt a rebel advance, Islamic State militants were firmly entrenched and Assad's government was teetering on the brink of collapse. President Obama was calling on

the Syrian president to resign. Today, forces loyal to Assad control more than half the country, including almost all major cities, and there is a growing diplomatic consensus that Assad's opponents will have to accept a continuation of his rule as they chart a course to end the war that has killed hundreds of thousands and displaced millions. At the previously unannounced meeting in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, made public Tuesday, Putin informed Assad that Moscow's military role in Syria is now coming to an end. "As far as our joint efforts against the terrorists in Syria, this military operation is nearing completion," Putin said. The main task now, the Russian leader said, is to launch a "political process" to push forward a peace plan, presumably one that will solidify Moscow's aims in the Middle East. The encounter marked a major victory for Putin and — though President Trump put a positive cast on it — a



**A PORTRAIT** of President Robert Mugabe is removed at the scene of a parliament meeting in Harare where his impeachment was being pursued. JEKESAI NJIKIZANA AFP/Getty Images

## Zimbabwe's Mugabe finally agrees to quit

Celebrations greet the demise of the war hero turned autocrat.

By ROBYN DIXON AND GODWIN MANGUDYA

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Robert Mugabe, the revolutionary war hero who helped end white minority rule in Zimbabwe but replaced it with decades of brutality and corruption, had always said he would give up power on his own terms and rule until he was 100. In the end, he did neither: The 93-year-old president, facing impeachment, a defiant military and angry crowds chanting for his departure, quietly relinquished power Tuesday in a letter delivered to the speaker of the parliament. "My decision to resign is voluntary on my part and arises from my concern for the welfare of the people of Zimbabwe and my desire to ensure a smooth, peaceful

and non-violent transfer of power that underpins national security, peace and stability," said the letter, which ended four days of nail-biting brinkmanship over whether he would heed calls to step aside. When Mugabe took power in 1980, Zimbabweans joyfully celebrated the liberation hero who ended decades of white minority rule. After his rule became increasingly oppressive and dysfunctional, they celebrated his departure with equal euphoria. Young Zimbabweans have never known another leader, and some seemed barely able to believe the news he had finally quit of

**From hero to global pariah** A timeline of the life and political career of revolutionary Zimbabwean leader Robert Mugabe. **BACK STORY, A2**

### Net neutrality rules targeted

The FCC chairman's proposal would allow internet service providers to charge extra for faster delivery of content. **BUSINESS, C1**



**Former teen idol David Cassidy dies** CALIFORNIA, B1

**Weather:** Record-breaking heat. L.A. Basin: 94/67. **B6**

