



Wind expected to subside, temps in 70s

- Hang lays out plan for WeHo pg. 3
- Hochman meets with Menendez family. pg. 4

## Southland ablaze

■ Uncontrolled wildfires rage across Los Angeles

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A deadly combination of drier-than-average conditions and extreme Santa Ana wind gusts has caused at least three life-threatening wildfires across the Los Angeles area as of press time on Jan. 8. Firefighters in Pacific Palisades, Altadena and Sylmar are continuing efforts to control the fires that have forced tens of thousands of residents to evacuate their homes and have killed at least five people.

The Palisades fire has burned more than 15,000 acres in canyons and neighborhoods within Pacific Palisades, Topanga and Malibu, according to CalFire. Los Angeles County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone said in a press conference on the morning of Jan. 8 that no fatalities have been reported, however the fire has caused “significant injuries.” The Palisades fire is 0% contained as of press time. The cause remains unknown and is under investigation.

More than 1,000 homes and businesses have been destroyed in  
See **Fires** page 21



photo by Tabor Brewster

The view from Santa Monica looking north towards the Palisades fire demonstrates the magnitude of the blaze. More than 15,000 acres were scorched and over 1,000 structures burned. The fire remains at 0% containment as of press time.

## L.A. City Council gives OK to TV City plan

■ Owner aims for completion before 2028 Olympics

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles City Council unanimously approved the Television City project on Jan. 7, capping a four-year planning and entitlement process for a transformation of the historic studio property at Beverly Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue.

The approval marks a major milestone for the project, which will bring significant changes to the site. Television City owner Hackman Capital Partners plans to modernize the studio, creating 1,686,000 square feet of sound stages and production support space. The plan preserves the studio’s façade facing Beverly Boulevard, retaining buildings that have received historic-cultural status. The approved plan includes approximately 1,421,623 square feet of new construction.

Hackman Capital Partners said



photo by Edwin Folven

The Television City project includes a reconfiguration of the site, as well as more public spaces around the perimeter.

the project will provide thousands of jobs – during construction and when fully-operational – keeping entertainment production industry jobs in Los Angeles. A Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation study determined the

project will produce approximately \$5 billion in total economic output annually when operational, as well as an estimated 16,600 jobs.

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, See **TVC** page 22



photo by Karen Villalpando

The Eaton fire started in Altadena at approximately 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 7. By Wednesday afternoon, it had erupted to over 10,000 acres, evacuating the communities of Altadena, Sierra Madre, Arcadia, parts of Pasadena and Glendale, and all of La Cañada Flintridge.

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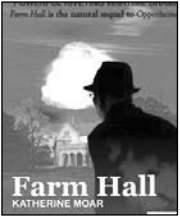
CALENDAR

LACMA art tour

Enjoy a tour of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art’s exhibit “Simone Leigh” on Friday, Jan. 10, at 1 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 11, at 2 p.m. in the museum’s Resnick Pavilion. The traveling exhibition, which closes on Jan. 20, was organized by the ICA Boston and co-presented by LACMA and the California African American Museum. It is the first comprehensive survey of Leigh’s richly layered work. LACMA’s presentation features approximately 20 years of Leigh’s production in ceramic, bronze, video and installation, as well as works from her 2022 Venice Biennale presentation. The tour is free with museum admission. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.

‘Farm Hall’

“Farm Hall,” a riveting wartime thriller by British playwright and historian Katherine Moar, makes its United States premiere with Topanga Actors Company from Friday, Jan. 10, through Sunday, Jan. 26, at the Promenade Playhouse in West Los Angeles. Six renowned German nuclear scientists are captured by Allied forces and held captive in a British manor house known as Farm Hall in the Cambridgeshire countryside. From July 1945 to January 1946, they are cut off from the world and do not realize that their conversations are being secretly recorded and transcribed. Eighty years later, what do the transcripts tell about how close the Nazis came to developing an atomic bomb? General admission is



\$27. 10931 W Pico Blvd. onstage411.com/news/show/play\_in fo.asp?show\_id=7175.

Culinary history

The Culinary Historians of Southern California is holding “Banquets of Marrakesh” on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 10:30 a.m. in the Los Angeles Central Library’s Mark Taper Auditorium. The program is the second of two related lectures by Culinary Historians of Southern California president Charles Perry. Following “Banquets of Istanbul,” held in December, the second program focuses on Morocco, the only Arab country that was never conquered by the Turks. Morocco has preserved and expanded unique culinary traditions with roots in medieval Moorish Spain and North Africa. The lecture is free and is followed by a themed reception. 630 W. Fifth St. eventbrite.com/e/banquets-of-marrakesh-tickets-1125785918989?aff=oddtcreator.

Art of Doug Aitken

Regen Projects presents “Psychic Debris Field,” an exhibition of new work by Los Angeles-based artist Doug Aitken running Saturday, Jan. 11, through Saturday, Feb. 22. The artworks interpret the landscape, ranging from large-scale sculptures created from urban debris to light and sound installations, botanic artworks and fabric works that seamlessly combine mediums. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 6-8 p.m. 6750 Santa Monica Blvd. (310)276-5424, regenprojects.com.

‘Fire Kinship’ exhibit tour

Take an exhibition tour of “Fire Kinship” on Sunday, Jan. 12, from noon–1 p.m. at the Fowler Museum at UCLA. Exhibition co-curators Daisy Ocampo Diaz and Lina Tejeda will lead a tour of “Fire Kinship: Southern California Native Ecology and Art,” which focuses on important kinship ties that connect Indigenous communities to the land and the inextricable connection between ecological knowledge, spirituality and creative expression. 308 Charles E. Young Drive North. fowler.ucla.edu/events/exhibition-walk-through-fire-kinship/?occurrence=2025-01-12.



Art of Vincent van Gogh

Getty Center is holding “Van Gogh’s Shelter: The Hospital Saint-Paul-de-Mausole in Saint-Rémy” on Sunday, Jan. 12, at 2 p.m. Teio Meedendorp, of the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, will discuss the history of the Hospital Saint-Paul de-Mausole in Saint-Rémy, France, where Vincent van Gogh admitted himself in 1889 and created more than 150 paintings. Among the paintings is “Irises,” which is the focus of “Ultra-Violet: New Light on Van Gogh’s Irises,” an exhibition on view through Jan. 19 at the Getty Museum that presents new research about how its pigments have faded over time. Tickets are free and required for entrance. The program can also be viewed online. 1200 Getty Center Drive, getty.edu/calendar/van-goghs-shelter.

Holocaust Museum L.A.

Holocaust Museum Los Angles is holding “The History of

Antisemitism,” an online class starting on Wednesday, Jan. 15, from 4-5:15 p.m. In a time of rising antisemitism, join the museum for an opportunity to learn from Dr. Michael Berenbaum. The three-part class, which will have additional sessions on Jan. 22 and Jan. 29, addresses the roots of antisemitism and its shifting context throughout time. It begins with an overview of religious-based antisemitism in Christianity and Islam. The second session will address so-called “scientific” antisemitism embraced by Nazi ideology, and the class will conclude with a session pn contemporary antisemitism. To register, visit holocaustmuseum-la.org/event-details/online-class-the-history-of-antisemitism.

Poetry of Kim Dower

Join former West Hollywood poet laureate Kim Dower for a discussion and signing of her new book “What She Wants: Poems on Obsession, Desire, Despair, Euphoria” on Thursday Jan. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at DIESEL, A Bookstore. Dower has published five collections of poetry with Red Hen Press and her work has been featured in numerous literary journals. Books are available for purchase. 225 26th St., Ste. 33, Santa Monica. dieselbookstore.com.



Hits of the 1960s

Enjoy the “60s Oldies Show” with original artists Brian Hyland, Dean Torrence of Jan & Dean and Gary Lewis & The Playboys on Sunday, Jan. 19, at the Saban Theatre. Celebrate the 1960s with some of the most memorable tunes of the decade. First up, it’s Hyland performing songs such as “Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini,” “Sealed With A Kiss” and “Gypsy Woman.” Next, enjoy “Surf City,” “Little Old Lady From Pasadena” and “Dead Man’s Curve” with Jan & Dean’s Beach Party, led by Torrence. The evening is capped by Gary Lewis & The Playboys, known for hits such as “This Diamond Ring” and “Count Me In.” Doors open at 6 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$49. 8440 Wilshire Blvd. wheremusicmeetsthesoul.com.



photo by Edwin Folven

West Hollywood has held the Rainbow Key Awards since 1993.

WeHo celebrates LGBTQ+ community with awards

The city of West Hollywood and the West Hollywood LGBTQ+ Commission will host the annual Rainbow Key Awards ceremony on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd.

The Rainbow Key Awards recognize people and groups who have made outstanding contributions to the LGBTQ+ community. The city’s LGBTQ+ Commission selects nominees through a public process. The 2024 awardees are drag superstar Jackie Beat, lesbian activist Dapper Dyke Vivian Escalante, LGBTQ+ services specialist Dr. Rebecca Gitlin, transwoman singer LZ Love and LGBTQ+ poet Brian Sonia-Wallace.

Jackie Beat has entertained audiences across the U.S. and Europe for more than 35 years. Known for her razor-sharp comedy and hysterical song parodies, she has also worked in the film and television and raises money for HIV and AIDS charities.

Dapper Dyke Vivian Escalante established Dykes on Bikes in West Hollywood and Long Beach. Her contributions to the visibility and empowerment of the lesbian community during a time of limited representation are considered remarkable.

Gitlin served as the first LGBTQ+ Services Specialist within the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health’s Anti-Racism, Inclusion, Solidarity and Empowerment Division. She currently serves as a clinical supervisor at the LACDMH Hollywood Mental Health Cooperative.

LZ Love, a legendary African American transwoman singer, is known for soul-stirring blues, gospel and dance music. She began singing at a very young age and at 16 was a background vocalist for the late disco diva Sylvester.

Sonia-Wallace founded Pride Poets, a band of LGBTQ+ type-writer poets who have collectively written thousands of free custom poems at West Hollywood Pride events since 2019, giving the community a chance to have their stories honored through poetry. He served as West Hollywood Poet Laureate from 2020-23, creating space for hundreds of LGBTQ+ writers to express themselves and build community through the APLA Writers’ Workshop, The Mic @ Micky’s and the West Hollywood Slam Team.

The city of West Hollywood has presented Rainbow Key Awards since 1993. For information and to RSVP, visit weho.org/rainbowkey.

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# Hang plans to bring West Hollywood together

■ Newly elected councilman maps out first term

BY RANCE COLLINS

West Hollywood Councilman Danny Hang is breaking barriers. He is the first Asian individual to ever be elected to the council – and, it should be noted, he is also the first Danny to make it to the dais after over a decade of every male member being named John.

“As much as I love the name John – I know a lot of good Johns, John Erickson, John Heilman, they’re all great Johns – but it’s refreshing to have a Danny on the City Council,” Hang said. “Most certainly, I feel very blessed and feel very honored to bring AAPI representation to our City Council, because to me, one of the important aspects of my campaign is inclusivity and diversity, and I think that’s what our community embodies,

and our council should reflect that as well.”

Hang was elected alongside Mayor John Erickson. The two ran as a joint ticket in a field of nine candidates, similar to how Erickson ran with former Councilwoman Sepi Shyne in 2020. But Hang said that he is not a replacement for Shyne.

“My name is not Sepi Shyne. My name is not John Erickson. My name is not Chelsea Byers. My name is Danny. I am my own person, with my own opinions, with my own values and with my own vision for the city. I’m always going to be making an independent vote according to my principles and my values that I feel will benefit the community. I’m no one’s yes vote,” he said.

Hang said that he sees qualities in each of his council colleagues that he would like to emulate. He cited Vice Mayor Chelsea Byers’ leadership skills, Erickson’s drive and Councilwoman Lauren

Meister’s ability to be thorough and ask tough questions. Hang noted that Councilman John Heilman was one of West Hollywood’s founders.

“He knows West Hollywood more than probably most, if not everybody, on the council. He has such a wealth of information and history in him that I’m hoping he’s willing to teach me some of in the next couple years,” Hang said.

He cited building new housing and helping to alleviate the homelessness crisis as chief among his goals.

“I want to, with my colleagues, take a look at our city, rezone large parts of our city to supercharge housing development. That’s the only way we’re going to meet our regional housing needs assessment numbers assigned to us by the state. And that will build more affordable units, because of our inclusionary housing. And that’ll give people the opportunity who want to live in West Hollywood to live in West Hollywood. It’ll allow workers to live near where they work,” he said.

He also noted that the West Hollywood community’s larger divisions need to be addressed, particularly between the chamber of commerce and the City Council.

“That’s my vision for the next four years, during my term, to work together to heal the divisions in the city, and most importantly, to listen to everyone. You have to be able to listen to all sides, because without all the information, a council member might not be able to make the



photo by John Viscott

Danny Hang was sworn in as a West Hollywood councilman on Dec. 16.

right informed decision,” he said.

Hang emphasized his and Erickson’s election wins as a victory for workers’ rights. West Hollywood also passed an initiative that codified the city’s minimum wage – the highest in the country – and leaves it up to the voters to make future alterations to the rate.

“It’s very important that workers are paid a fair and equitable wage with paid time off,” he said. “And I think this past election was a testament that the initiative passed, and voters feel that workers’ rights are important for that in our city. I intend to uphold that and carry that through.”

Likewise, Hang sees the city’s renters as the fabric of the community.

“I’m a renter. I don’t know if I’ll ever be able to buy a home. That’s what our city was founded on –

renters and people that are marginalized within their community,” he said. “To me, it’s all about service and giving back to the community, and I plan to do my best to be a good servant leader.”

As for Hang’s favorite place in the city he now helps lead? That would be the Sunset Plaza restaurant, Le Petit Four.

“I go there with my family at least twice a month. That’s just where our family goes to have dinner in West Hollywood. The service is great. The owners are very friendly, and the food is amazing,” he said.

Byers will be sworn in as West Hollywood’s new mayor on Monday, Jan. 13, alongside Heilman as vice mayor. After the ceremony, the next regular meeting for the City Council will be held on Jan. 21.

# Schiff appointed to key U.S. Senate committees

U.S. Senator Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) has announced his committee assignments for the 119th Congress.

Schiff will serve on the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary; U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; and the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on four committees of keen interest to all Californians. These assignments will allow me to work directly on the high cost of housing and other inflation issues, to support our critical agriculture industry, to address crime and public safety concerns, to support our small businesses, to attack fentanyl, to reform our broken immigration system, to preserve and protect our environment, to deliver vital water and transportation infrastructure, to protect our democracy, rights and our freedoms, and so much more,” Schiff said. “I’m committed to working across the aisle to deliver for Californians in the U.S. Senate and eager to get started.”

Schiff follows the footsteps of former California Sen. Barbara Boxer, a long-time member and chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Schiff previously served as a member of the Judiciary Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives and chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee in the California State Senate. Former Sens. Dianne Feinstein, Kamala Harris and Laphonza Butler previously served on the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

The U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary is responsible for conducting oversight of the Department of Justice, FBI and Department of Homeland Security. It plays a critical role in the judicial nominations process, vetting and considering nomi-



photo courtesy of Sen. Adam Schiff’s office

U.S. Sen. Adam Schiff is serving on the Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; and Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

nees to the federal bench. The committee is also responsible for considering legislation that falls within its jurisdiction, such as issues related to civil liberties, immigration, criminal justice reform, patents and intellectual property.

The U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works is responsible for legislation related to air quality, environmental policy, water pollution, solid waste and recycling, as well as fisheries and wildlife. The U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry is responsible for food security programs, forestry, inspection of livestock, meat and agricultural products, rural development, farm security and agricultural production. The U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship conducts oversight of the Small Business Administration and its disaster loan program, and small business lending and capital access programs.

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# D.A. Hochman meets with Menendez family

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman met with approximately 25 members of the Menendez family on Jan. 3. The meeting marks one of the first steps taken by Hochman in the possible resentencing of Erik and Lyle Menendez.

The brothers were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole in 1996 for the double murder of their parents, Jose and Kitty Menendez. The homicide took place in the family home in Beverly Hills in 1989. While the determination that the brothers murdered their parents has not been contested, new evidence has since come to light that the previous district attorney's office said could affect the sentencing of the brothers. Calls for their release have also grown louder due to increased attention from a recent Netflix series and documentary.

"It was a productive and important conversation, and I deeply appreciate the family's willingness to share their perspectives," Hochman said in a statement on Jan. 3. "This meeting is part of our thorough review of the facts and the law, including analyzing thousands of pages of confidential prison records, transcripts from two months-long trials and appellate decisions. In addition to speak-

ing with victim family members, we are speaking with prosecutors involved with the case, law enforcement and defense counsel in order to reach a decision on the habeas and resentencing motions that we will then defend in court."

The previous district attorney, George Gascón – who was defeated by Hochman in the Nov. 5 election – recommended the brothers be resentenced after reviewing evidence that suggests they were sexually abused by their father. Gascón also supported a clemency request for the Menendez brothers. According to the California Constitution, the governor has the authority to grant clemency in the form of a sentence commutation or pardon. Gov. Gavin Newsom recently announced he would not make a clemency decision until Hochman reviews the case.

While Hochman has begun reviewing the case, he has not yet made a statement in support or opposition of the possible resentencing or release of Erik and Lyle Menendez. During the race for the D.A.'s office, Hochman frequently criticized Gascón's actions as a last-ditch effort to drum up support in a race that he was likely to lose.

Many members of the Menendez family have been out-

See Court page 5

# Physician faces sexual assault charges

BY EDWIN FOLVEN.

Detectives with the Los Angeles Police Department's Operations West Bureau's Special Assault Section have arrested a physician for sexual assault and are asking any additional victims to come forward.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office filed eight felony charges on Dec. 23 against Dr. Babak Hajhosseini, 42, of Los Angeles, alleging he sexually assaulted a victim who was unconscious. He faces three counts of oral copulation of an unconscious or asleep person, two counts of rape by use of drugs and one count each of rape of an unconscious or asleep person, oral copulation by anesthesia or controlled substance and sodomy of an unconscious or asleep victim.

"Our office's Sex Crimes Division is working diligently to bring justice to the victim in this case," Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman said. "The case remains under investigation, and we encourage anyone with information about the defendant or

similar incidents to contact the Los Angeles Police Department."

Hajhosseini was arrested on Nov. 26 after a victim reported the alleged crimes to police. He was released on Nov. 29 on \$2.1 million bail. Hajhosseini pleaded not guilty to the charges on Dec. 27 and is scheduled to return to court on Jan. 13.

Hajhosseini founded the Wound and Burn Centers of America, which has an office at 8631 W. Third St. in a building adjacent to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Police said he also works as a visiting specialist at Catalina Island Health and has practiced medicine in Northern California and New York. A spokesperson for Cedars-Sinai said Hajhosseini is not connected to the medical center.

"Dr. Hajhosseini's office is located in a privately-owned medical office tower adjacent to Cedars-



Sinai Medical Center, but he is not employed by nor affiliated with Cedars-Sinai," read a statement from the medical center.

Investigators allege Hajhosseini used job recruiting websites and offered high hourly wages to entice victims. He invited employees to work overtime after hours at his residence, which is located in the Wilshire area, Detective Brent Hopkins said. Police said Hajhosseini pressured one victim into consuming an alcoholic beverage while at his residence and after consuming the beverage, the victim was rendered unconscious. Hajhosseini allegedly sexually assaulted the victim and recorded her.

The charges against Hajhosseini all stem from the assault of one victim, police said. However, investigators believe there are other victims who have not come forward. Detectives released his photograph and are asking any additional victims to call the LAPD West Bureau's Special Assault Section at (213)473-0447. During weekends and off-hours, call the LAPD's hotline at (877)LAPD247.

# Driver sought for hit-and-run that injured pedestrian

Investigators with the Los Angeles Police Department's West Traffic Division are asking for the public's help in identifying a driver involved in a hit-and-run collision that severely injured a 22-year-old female in October.

The collision occurred around 3:41 a.m. on Oct. 16. A gray sedan, possibly a Toyota Camry, was traveling north on Western Avenue approaching Clinton Street when it struck a female pedestrian. The sedan continued northbound on

Western Avenue without stopping to identify themselves or render aid, as required by law. Video of the incident has been posted at lapdonline.org. Anyone with information is urged to call detectives at (213)473-0233 or (213)473-0238.




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# Ice forecasted for West Hollywood Park

## ■ Rink offers family fun for January

BY RANCE COLLINS

West Hollywood is skating through January with a special treat for residents. An ice rink is opening in the city's park Friday, Jan. 10, for all looking to capture a bit of wintry fun.

“For more than a decade, we’ve had the idea of bringing an ice rink to the city of West Hollywood to give us that special winter feeling, though ice skating in the California sunshine is a unique winter experience, to be sure,” Mayor John Erickson said. “It’s a unique recreational opportunity to encourage residents, visitors and people of all ages to enjoy West Hollywood Park ... on ice!”

JJLA, the event company that also helps the city put on its annual multi-day WeHo Pride, is serving as the vendor. The rink will be open through Jan. 26 on the West Hollywood Park Great Lawn.

“As someone who grew up with four actual seasons in Ripon, Wisconsin, I love the idea of bringing the magic of ice skating to a community that doesn’t typically experience snow or freezing weather. Ice skating conjures up a wonderful feeling of wintertime and, just as we saw last year when West Hollywood hosted a roller rink in West Hollywood Park, I think people will love coming together on ice skates for our ice rink experience,” Erickson said.

The mayor added that if the community embraces the pop-up, he'd love to see it become an annual event.

While an RSVP is not required, guests can book in advance at [go.weho.org/icerink](http://go.weho.org/icerink). Sessions are 90-minutes and cost \$15 for children ages 3-14 and \$20 for people 15 and older. Skate rentals are included. In conjunction with the event, a winter village, photo opportunities and a

general store are also open to visitors.

The park will host a “Winter Wonderland” celebration on Jan. 25 from 1-4 p.m. which will add to the skating fun with activities, creative crafts, music, games and, of course, hot chocolate and festive treats.

On Jan. 26, the city will have a polar plunge pool party from 4-6 p.m., with activities set for the heated recreational pool. In addition to swimming, children and adults alike can enjoy arts-and-crafts, apple cider, games and give aways. To register, visit [anc.apm.activecommunities.com/weho/activity/search/detail](http://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/weho/activity/search/detail)

/38071?onlineSiteId=0&from\_original\_cui=true.

“The temporary ice rink at West Hollywood Park should be a fun venue for the community,” Councilman John Heilman said. “Ice skating is a popular sport in the gay community as well as with the Russian-speaking community in West Hollywood. I hope people will come out and enjoy the fun. The rink is also a great opportunity for community organizations to host fundraisers. And I know some people are already planning to invite friends to celebrate birthdays and other special occasions at the rink.”



photo by Jon Viscott

West Hollywood also transformed the park into a winter wonderland in December 2023.

# Court hearing scheduled on Jan. 30

From page 4

spoken in their support for the release of the two brothers.

In a court hearing on the possible resentencing on Nov. 25, two of the brothers' aunts – Jose Menendez's sister Terry Baralt and Kitty Menendez's sister Joan VanderMolen – asked that the judge release the Menendez brothers.

VanderMolen, who turned 93 on Nov. 26, argued that they should be released based on the alleged repeated abuse committed by Jose Menendez.

“No child should have to endure what Erik and Lyle went through at the hands of their father,” VanderMolen said in court. “It breaks my heart that my sister Kitty knew and did nothing about it.”

Hochman did not reveal any details of his conversation with the family members.

"I appreciate the opportunity to engage with the Menendez family and will continue to approach this matter with the utmost care and diligence," he said.

The next resentencing hearing is scheduled for Jan. 30.



# 100-year-old cement plant clears way for 34-story development

BY RANCE COLLINS

Equipment from the former site of a cement processing plant at 1000 La Brea Ave. was removed, clearing the path for a 34-story development. The mixed-use building, with commercial businesses on the ground floor and 514 residential units, would be the tallest in West Hollywood – and likely the tallest west of Koreatown and east of Century City. Additionally, there

would be two levels of subterranean parking.

The Cemex concrete plant had been at the La Brea Avenue location for roughly a century. The CIM Group, which owns the property, has been planning the new build for several years. Now, with the property cleared, the process is expected to accelerate. According to West Hollywood’s acting planning manager Antonio Castillo, the draft environmental impact report is

readying for release. “We’re at the tail end of process before it gets published for public comment review,” Castillo said. “We’re anticipating later this month [the EIR] goes out for public review before the final EIR is completed, and subsequent steps would include the project being reviewed by the design review subcommittee [of the planning commission], as well as the planning commission at a public hearing, and then, even further, the City Council at a subsequent public hearing.”

Castillo said that the city is working with CIM Group to ensure that the number of affordable units exceeds the minimum standard of 20%.

“We’re working with the applicant as part of a public benefit component to increase that number,” he said.

CIM Group first vice president Lina Lee, who serves as the project lead, said that the building would be a welcome addition to the city.

“The project replaces an outdated industrial use without direct benefit to the community, with active commercial ground floor uses and much needed housing density, including 128 proposed affordable rental units,” Lee said. “This site is commercially zoned, at the eastern and outer perimeter of the city away from single family and other low density housing stock. Its location near La Brea and Santa Monica Boulevard also makes it suitable

from a transit standpoint.”

CIM Group owns the adjacent property, 1040 La Brea Ave., which was also a part of the cement plant. This address, however, is a earmarked for a separate project and is located in the city of Los Angeles.

“That’s a project that was approved a few years ago and is

currently in the check process with the city’s building and safety division, and they own other properties within that neighborhood,” Castillo said.

“If the project approvals are secured in 2025 as anticipated, construction would be expected to last through early 2028,” Lee said.



photo by Edwin Folven

A large-scale project is planned for the La Brea Avenue address.

## Runners encouraged to register for Griffith Park Run

Participants can register for the Griffith Park Run Half Marathon and 5K on Sunday, Feb. 2.

The annual event benefits the Los Angeles Parks Foundation and Los Angeles city parks. It is open to runners and walkers of all ages and abilities, as well as people with pets. The half marathon course takes participants through the scenic trails of Griffith Park. As the only half marathon covering all main trails in Griffith Park, participants can enjoy the backdrop of landmarks including the Old Pony Ride, Merry-Go-Round, Travel Town, L.A. Zoo and Autry Museum. Prizes will be given to the male and female runners who are first to reach the final peak.

The 5K route is flat, scenic and shaded, taking participants around the Crystal Springs Picnic Area. All finishers will be awarded medals designed by Los Angeles-

based artist Beatriz Mojarro.

The Griffith Park Run Half Marathon and 5K start and finish at the Autry Museum of the American West, 4700 Western Heritage Way. The half marathon begins at 7:30 a.m. and the 5K run begins at 10 a.m. Registration fees include a raffle, commemorative medal, T-shirt and sampling booths.

The Griffith Park Run is first of several in 2025 benefiting the Los Angeles Parks Foundation, including the return of the Venice Beach Run on July 19 and an inaugural run at Cabrillo Beach in San Pedro on Oct. 4. All proceeds benefit Los Angeles Parks Foundation, which was founded in 2008 to enhance, expand and preserve public parks, recreation and open space in Los Angeles. For information and to register, visit [rungr.com](http://rungr.com).



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its meeting to be held on **Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard**, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, will hold a public hearing to consider:

**AN APPEAL OF STAFF’S SEPTEMBER 12, 2024 INCOMPLETE APPLICATION DETERMINATION, PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65943(c), PERTAINING TO THE REVIEW OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PROPOSED 14-STORY MIXED USE BUILDING AT 9229 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD.**

The proposed project is a new 14-story, 163’ tall, mixed use building at 9229 Wilshire Boulevard. The proposal includes 116 rental units inclusive of 24 units allocated for lower income households, and a 60-room hotel located on floors 11 through 14. A total of 140 parking spaces are proposed within a three-level subterranean parking structure. The applicant has filed applications to initiate the review of the proposal as a “Builder’s Remedy” project, which relies on the provisions of the Housing Accountability Act (HAA), codified in Government Code §65589.5, and the related filing of a preliminary application pursuant to Government Code §65941.1. This project is currently under review by the City and no action regarding a decision on the project has occurred.

Scott M. Kalt, Esq., on behalf of the property owners (Hamburg Properties LLC, Frosenfelt LLC, Mimilee Properties LLC, Barry & Beth Rosenbloom Properties LLC, KDR Golden LLC, Double Decker Partners LLC, JD Tower LLC, and Reggio Mayo LLC) has filed an appeal of City staff’s determination that the project application is incomplete and related determinations as detailed in the City’s letter issued on September 12, 2024.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15378(b)(5)), administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, including determinations of application completeness, are not considered projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project is currently under review and the City has not performed an environmental analysis of the project, as project details may change in response to the City’s comments during project review. Environmental review of the project will be performed and publicly available prior to any decision on the project being issued.

#### HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Please be advised that pre-entry metal detector screening requirements are now in place at City Hall. Members of the public are requested to plan visits accordingly. Members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending in-person or telephonically, and may view the meeting through live webcast or BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable. City Council meetings are broadcast on local Beverly Hills television and on other media platforms. Anyone

who participates at the meeting and/or enters the City Council Chamber is subject to having their image displayed. These recordings will remain publicly accessible in perpetuity.

#### Public Comment Participation:

- Oral Comment/Listen only: (310) 288-2288
- Email: [cityclerk@beverlyhills.org](mailto:cityclerk@beverlyhills.org)
- Video (during public comment only): <http://beverlyhills.org/comment>
- To Watch Video Live: <http://beverlyhills.org/live> or
- On-Demand: <http://beverlyhills.org/citycouncilmeetings>
- In-Person: Submit a Speaker Card to the City Clerk at the meeting

#### How to Submit Public Comment (Email/Video):

It is recommended that public written comments be submitted to the City Clerk’s office by 12:00 p.m. on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the City Council/Parking Authority. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item Number or Topic in the subject line of the email. The City Clerk will read only the first three minutes (approximately 350 words) of a written comment. In the event of a large number of written comments on one item, written comments may be summarized by the City Clerk’s Office. The entire written comment shall be archived in full as part of the record.

If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Public comment via video conference will be no longer than three (3) minutes per each individual comment, subject to City Council discretion based on the anticipated length in the meeting. In-person speaker cards may be submitted to the City Clerk directly during the meeting.

Any interested person may participate in the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the City Council. According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the Council’s action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

#### In Person Participation:

All interested persons are invited to attend and speak on this matter in person. Please see the above information on the location and time of this meeting.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Judy Gutierrez, Senior Planner** in the Planning Division at **(310) 285-1192**, or by email at [jgutierrez@beverlyhills.org](mailto:jgutierrez@beverlyhills.org). Please also contact us to add your email to the interested parties list for this proposal, so that important updates and notifications may be sent to you.

HUMA AHMED  
City Clerk



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-2400 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.



# 107 more women join lawsuit against Cedars-Sinai, former OB-GYN

BY TABOR BREWSTER

■ Total number of alleged victims reaches 167

An additional 107 former patients of a former Cedars-Sinai OB-GYN have filed a lawsuit against the doctor, Barry J. Brock, for alleged sexual abuse spanning more than 40 years. The patients are also suing Cedars-Sinai – which they allege covered up the abuse while allowing Brock to continue exploiting patients – and two private health clinics where Brock was employed – Beverly Hills OB-GYN and the Rodeo Drive Women’s Health Center.

The lawsuit is the third of its kind against Brock and Cedars-Sinai. The 107 women joined an existing 60 former patients who already filed litigation against Brock and the health centers, bringing the total number of alleged victims to 167.

“Patients should be able to focus on protecting themselves against medical conditions, not medical providers,” the plaintiffs’ attorney Anthony T. DiPietro said. “Cedars-Sinai Medical Center knew about Barry Brock’s sexual exploitation and abuse of patients for decades. But instead of protecting their

patients, the only thing Cedars did was lie, gaslight and help cover up Brock’s misconduct – while exposing a countless number of new and unsuspecting patients to a known serial sexual predator. Cedars-Sinai must be held accountable for enabling, and covering up, Barry Brock’s crimes against women.”

The offenses listed in the lawsuit include sexual misconduct, rape, criminal sexual acts, forcible touching and predatory sexual assault while Brock was a doctor at Cedars-Sinai, where he began working in the 1980s. The lawsuit also alleges the doctor performed unneeded procedures while denying other surgeries, such as Cesarean sections. Brock has repeatedly denied the allegations.

“Our office has already been contacted by over 200 former patients of Barry Brock. For the past two decades, Cedars knowingly exposed thousands of women and girls to this serial predator – and our court filings are just the beginning of the larger effort to expose the full extent of this cover-up,” DiPietro said. “Institutions must be held accountable for the role they play in enabling and covering up this kind of abuse.”

Cedars-Sinai banned Brock from practicing at the hospital in September 2024.

“The type of behavior alleged about Dr. Barry Brock is counter to Cedars-Sinai’s core values and the trust we strive to earn every day with our patients,” read a statement from Cedars-Sinai. “Dr. Brock no longer has privileges to practice medicine at Cedars-Sinai, and we have reported this matter to the California Medical Board. We recognize the legal process must now take its course, and we remain committed to Cedars-Sinai’s sacred healing mission and serving our community.”



photo courtesy of Cedars-Sinai

Barry J. Brock worked at Cedars-Sinai for more than 40 years.

## ABFF honorees include Keke Palmer

The seventh American Black Film Festival has announced the honorees of its annual awards ceremony recognizing excellence in the motion picture and television industry. Presented by NICE CROWD, the 2025 ABFF Honors will take place on Monday, Feb. 17 at the SLS Hotel in Beverly Hills hosted by actress and comedian Zainab Johnson. The intimate, non-televised dinner will feature ABFF honorees and festival partners.

The Excellence in the Arts Award (Female) will be awarded to Oscar-nominated actress Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor, acclaimed for her portrayal of Oracene Price in “King Richard,” which earned her numerous awards and nominations. Ellis-Taylor currently stars in “Nickel Boys,” adapted from Colson Whitehead’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. The award recognizes a highly acclaimed artist for their body of work and distinguished career achievements

Excellence in the Arts Award (Male) will be given to Emmy-nominated and award-winning actor, director and producer Giancarlo Esposito, celebrated for his role as Gustavo “Gus” Fring in “Breaking Bad” and “Better Call Saul.” Esposito has earned multiple accolades including Critics’ Choice and NAACP Image Award. The award recognizes a highly acclaimed artist for their body of work and distinguished career

achievement.

The Renaissance Award will go to Emmy award-winning multi-hyphenate entertainer Keke Palmer (“Nope,” “Turnt Up With the Taylors”), a singer/songwriter, producer, author, television host and passionate voice of the millennial generation. The award is presented to a trendsetting content creator in recognition of their outstanding work and commitment to championing diversity, equity and inclusion in the motion picture and television industry, through their work.

“For decades, these incredible ABFF honorees have captivated audiences and shaped the cultural landscape with their groundbreaking work,” said NICE CROWD CEO and president Jeff and Nicole Friday. “It’s a privilege to honor Aunjanue, Giancarlo and Keke for their extraordinary contributions to both the industry and our shared culture. This year is particularly special as we welcome Zainab Johnson as the host of the ABFF Honors, celebrating her inspiring journey from winning the 2013 ABFF Comedy Wings Competition to now leading this incredible celebration. We look forward to recognizing their remarkable achievements and coming together with our amazing ABFF community to honor their lasting impact.”

For information about ABFF Honors visit [abffhonors.com](http://abffhonors.com)



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Friday, January 17 at 6:15PM

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ON THE CLOOBECK STAGE

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# WeHo beautifies elementary school for MLK Day of Service

West Hollywood residents, visi-

Details are available on West Hollywood's Community Engagement and Volunteer Opportunities website page at

weho.org/volunteer where community members interested in participating can register for the day of service. Volunteers are required to register in advance and must be 13 years of age or older to participate. All registered volunteers will receive confirmation and check-in details.

This year's West Hollywood Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service will also include a three-week virtual donation drive to benefit the West Hollywood Homeless Initiative. It will run from Friday, Jan. 10 through Friday, Jan. 31. Visit [weho.org/volunteer](http://weho.org/volunteer) for details; donations can be made directly online at [secure.qgiv.com/for/homeless](http://secure.qgiv.com/for/homeless).

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Day federal holiday was designated as a National Day of Service by Congress in 1994. Each year, West Hollywood participates in this call to action. For information about #MLKDay of Service activities and recognitions across the nation, visit [americorps.gov/serve/volunteer/mlk-day](http://americorps.gov/serve/volunteer/mlk-day).

For information about West Hollywood's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service event, contact Larissa Fooks, the city's community programs coordinator, at (323)848-6413 or at [lfooks@weho.org](mailto:lfooks@weho.org). For people who are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711 or 1(800)735-2929 (TTY) or 1(800)735-2922 (voice) for California Relay Service assistance.



photo by Joshua Barash

Each year, West Hollywood community members and leaders mark Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service by helping to beautify West Hollywood Elementary.

## New parking lot opens in WeHo

The city of West Hollywood has opened its newest parking lot – Municipal Lot #9 to be known as the Crescent Heights Lot – on the southwest corner of Santa Monica Boulevard at N. Crescent Heights Boulevard. The lot will feature 66 parking spaces including two for people with Disabled Person placards or plates, and four electric vehicle chargers.

The Crescent Heights Lot will be open daily 8 a.m.-2 a.m. at a parking rate of \$2 per hour. Permanent

lighting and landscaping will be completed in the coming weeks. The city will hold a small, informal dedication with members of the West Hollywood City Council on Saturday, Jan. 11 at 10 a.m. Interested members of the public are welcome to attend.

The Crescent Heights Lot joins multiple city parking facilities throughout the 1.9-square-mile footprint of the City of West Hollywood, including the parking garages at City Hall, Kings Road,

and West Hollywood Park and Library, Hart Park and Plummer Park North and South lots, and the Bonner, La Jolla, Melrose, Orange Grove, Robertson, and Sunset lots. In total, City-owned/managed parking facilities offer more than 1,179 parking spaces. Rates and hours of operation vary. For information, visit [weho.org/city-government/city-departments/public-works/parking-services/parking-facility-directory](http://weho.org/city-government/city-departments/public-works/parking-services/parking-facility-directory).

For information about the Crescent Heights Lot, contact Vince Guarino, the city's parking services manager, at (323)848-6426 or at [vguarino@weho.org](mailto:vguarino@weho.org).



photo by Jon Viscott

Chelsea Byers will serve as West Hollywood's next mayor.

## WeHo to install Byers, Heilman as mayoral representatives

The city of West Hollywood is inviting the community to its annual City Council Reorganization and Installation Meeting and Oath of Office Ceremony. Chelsea Byers will become the next mayor and John Heilman will become the next vice mayor.

The meeting and ceremony will take place on Monday, Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. at the city's Council Chambers/Public Meeting Room, located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. A reception will immediately follow at the adjacent West Hollywood Park Aquatic and Recreation Center Respite Deck. The meeting, ceremony and reception are free and open to the public. Limited validated parking will be available at the West Hollywood Park five-story structure.

At its regular meeting on Monday, Dec. 16, the West Hollywood City Council voted on

the selection of the city's next mayor and vice mayor. West Hollywood City Council members serve for a term of four years and are elected at large. The council annually selects members to serve as mayor and vice mayor; these positions rotate among the councilmembers.

The meeting and ceremony will be live-broadcast and streamed as part of the regular City Council meeting and will be available by tuning into Channel 10 on Spectrum within West Hollywood, by visiting West Hollywood's website at [weho.org/wehotv](http://weho.org/wehotv), or by visiting the city's WeHoTV YouTube channel at [youtube.com/wehotv](http://youtube.com/wehotv). In addition, City Council meetings can also be viewed on Amazon Fire TV, Android TV, Apple TV and Roku streaming platforms by searching "WeHoTV" within the search functions of these services.

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**INTERMISSION SOUNDBATH 11:00-11:30 am**

**JANUARY 12**

**SIERRA SELLERS**  
12:00-1:45pm

**PAUL SMITH & ETHAN SHERMAN**  
2:30-4:15pm

**JANUARY 19, 2025**

**ECLECTICALS STORY TIME 11:00-11:30 am**

**JANUARY 19**

**MICHAEL PAIK**  
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**HUNTER & BRADEN**  
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opportunity at the KCCLA.

- ✓ Entry Deadline Feb 16th,  
10:59 PM PST
- ✓ [https://launchla.org/  
opencall/](https://launchla.org/opencall/) for more  
information

**K-FESTIVAL**



**Valley Lunar New  
Year Celebration**

Join us for a day of  
fun and tradition!  
Enjoy Hanbok, Korean  
games, delicious food,  
crafts, freebies, and  
so much more.

- ✓ Jan 18th, 11 AM
- ✓ Northridge Park
- ✓ WALK-IN

**K-FESTIVAL**



**LANKERSHIM  
Lunar Block Party**

Celebrate the Lunar  
New year with us!  
Experience Hanbok and  
a warm cup of Tea.

- ✓ Jan 25th, 12 - 4 PM
- ✓ 5108 Lankershim Blvd
- ✓ WALK-IN

5505 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, California 90036

(323) 936-7141



# Boys and Girls Club and Giving a Smile Foundation bring relief to families in need

This holiday season, Boys and Girls Clubs of West San Gabriel Valley and Eastside partnered with Giving a Smile Foundation – founded by esteemed Beverly Hills dental specialists Dr. Rodney Raanan and Dr. Justin Raanan – to support low-income families in the Ramona Gardens community. The Foundation provided 120 families with turkeys and food baskets to bring relief and joy to club families

in need.

“Thank you to our partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of West San Gabriel Valley and Eastside to provide smiles this holiday season in the form of holiday meals,” said Dr. Justin Raanan.

Beyond holiday giving, Giving a Smile Foundation is committed year-round to addressing critical needs, including essential oral healthcare. The Foundation pro-

vides free dental care to over 75 BGCWSGV Club members annually, addressing critical oral health needs often neglected in underserved communities. These services include general cleanings, wisdom teeth extractions and braces. The Foundation also offers club members free guaranteed annual checkups until they turn 18 to ensure access to long-term quality oral healthcare.

Research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows disparities in oral health among low-income children. Approximately 60% of children ages 6 to 9 years from lower-income households have cavities in their baby or permanent teeth, compared to 40% from higher-income households. These disparities impact physical health, academic performance and overall quality of life.

Giving a Smile Foundation's partnership with BGCWSGV helps close the gap by providing essential dental care and resources to support the health and well-being of underserved children. From distributing

holiday food baskets to offering essential dental care throughout the year, the foundation helps equip Boys and Girls Club youth with the resources they need to thrive and succeed.

"The generosity of Giving a Smile Foundation, from their holiday giving to their year-round dental services, is invaluable to the families and youth we serve," said JR Dzubak, CEO of Boys and Girls Clubs of West San Gabriel Valley and Eastside. "Through their contributions, we can give our members the support they need for a healthier, more successful future."

For information, visit [wsgvbgc.org](http://wsgvbgc.org).

# Winter concerts series takes the Pendry stage

The city of West Hollywood 2025 Winter Sounds Free Indoor Concert Series will take place on select Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. between Saturday, Jan. 25- and Saturday Feb. 22 at The Sun Rose at Pendry West Hollywood, located at 8430 Sunset Blvd. Doors open at 6 p.m. and concerts begin at 7 p.m. Early arrival is suggested.

On Saturday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m. the Winter Sounds Concert Series will kick-off with MAE.SUN and Gengis Don and the Empire. MAE.SUN (aka Hailey Niswanger) is a multi-instrumentalist, vocalist and composer who creates immersive, meditative sonic worlds. Gengis Don is a dynamic force in today's music scene, known for his innovative approach as a drummer, producer, songwriter and engineer.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. the next concert in the series will feature Chien Chien Lu and Danny Janklow + Elevation Band. Chien Chien Lu is a vibraphonist, percussionist, and composer whose distinctive approach to contemporary jazz reflects her Taiwanese roots, classical music training and love

for groove-driven rhythms. Saxophonist Janklow is an influential voice in contemporary music, blending the language of jazz with elements of R&B, funk, and indie soul. His performances are deeply personal, rooted in themes of equality, justice and love.

On Saturday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. the Winter Sounds Concert Series finale will feature Theo Croker. Croker is a storyteller who communicates through the voice of his trumpet.

West Hollywood's 2025 Winter Sounds Free Indoor Concert Series is organized by West Hollywood's Arts Division. Winter Sounds concerts are free and guests must be 21 years of age and older to attend. RSVP is recommended but does not guarantee admittance. Seating is first-come, first-served, limited to availability. Early arrival is suggested. \$15 validated valet parking at Pendry West Hollywood is available for attendees. Street parking may also be available, read local street signage. Rideshare is suggested. For information about the performers and to view the series, visit [weho.org/wintersounds](http://weho.org/wintersounds).

## PlayGround-LA expands on Shakespeare

PlayGround-LA presents "The Shakespeare Sequels" in association with the Independent Shakespeare Co. on Monday, Jan 13, at 7 p.m. at the Broadwater Second Stage in Hollywood.

In the spirit of past PlayGround-LA productions such as “Shakespeare’s Prequels” and “Shakespeare Multiverse,” the theater company’s writers are taking on a new sector of the Bard’s previously unexplored canon. What happens after the joyous wedding at the end of every comedy, who cleans up the bloodbath at the end of each tragedy and might audiences see some alternative histories, post-Act V?

The plays include “Awaken From Midsummer” by Damien Alejandro Arteaga, “Thirteenth Night” by Summer Broyhill, “Don’t Eat Pie” by Amy Ellenberger, “The Storm After the Storm” by Rachel Harner,” “The Revenge of the Shrew” by Cara

Sanchez and “Good Romans” by Baylee Shlichtman.

“We’re pleased to announce our local Shakespeare company partners, bringing their decades of expertise in producing the Bard to our special round of ‘Monday Night PlayGround: Shakespeare Sequels,’” co-founder and artistic director Jim Klienmann said. “As we have with past Shakespeare themed events, these partnerships will make our celebration of new work inspired by the classics even more special.”

As part of PlayGround's commitment to accessibility, "Monday Night PlayGround" offers free admission (donations accepted) for online reservations and on the day of the show at the door. Advance in-person reservations require a \$10 fee. The Broadwater Second Stage is located at 6320 Santa Monica Blvd. For a complete schedule and to reserve tickets, visit [playground-la.org/monday](http://playground-la.org/monday).



photo courtesy of Playground-LA

Enjoy "The Shakespeare Sequels" on Jan. 13.

# Run for the Mid City West Neighborhood Council

The Mid City West Neighborhood Council is encouraging candidates to run for a 2025-27 term on the board. The deadline to file for candidacy runs through Jan. 27.

Residents and stakeholders are qualified to run if they live, work, own property or have a vested interest in the Mid City West community, which has general boundaries of Willoughby Avenue to the north, La Brea Avenue to the east, San Vicente and Olympic boulevards to the south and the Beverly Hills and West Hollywood borders to the west.

Qualified candidates can own a business, go to school, have children in school or regularly participate or volunteer at a religious institution or nonprofit in the area. MCWNC has a 36-member board.

For information, email [elections@midcitywest.org](mailto:elections@midcitywest.org).

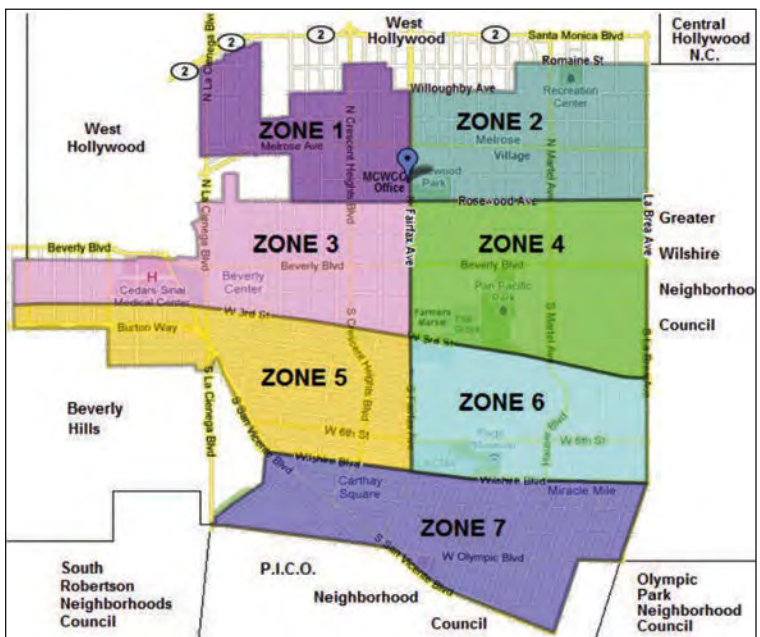


photo courtesy of MCWNC

The Mid City West Neighborhood Council represents the Melrose area, Beverly Grove, Beverly-Fairfax District and the Miracle Mile.

# All Saints' Beverly Hills

## Chamber Music Concert Series

Music of  
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Featuring masterworks by the 19th century Czech master,  
including the Piano Trio No. 4 (Dumky), and Piano Quintet, Op. 81.

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# Dropping your kid at the airport curb

My daughter Rapunzel made street tacos the other night. What does a redhead like her know of street tacos?

Well, like most L.A. kids, she's grown up eating them, ranking them, chugging them down over beer with friends. So, yeah, she knows a little about tacos.

The proof is on my plate. Used to be my mom cooked the best meals. Then my late wife. Now it's my three kids.

This taco dinner is a sendoff for her little brother, Smartacus, who is heading back for his winter term up at the University of Trees.

By the way, most of the oxygen we consume here in California comes from a single stand of giant redwoods near the quad at the University of Oregon. I don't know this for sure, yet I still know this. I feel it in my heart, my lungs.

So, good luck, young Smartacus. Good luck with that upper-level marketing class, and with your nine mouthy and hungover roommates.

Good luck with the rather brittle atmosphere you now see on so many American campuses, where anything goes unless one very loud person doesn't like it very much.

Look, I like college campuses even more than I like saloons, battling cages and hockey ponds. I love them in outlandish proportions to what they actually are. To me, campuses are mythic, in that overblown American way. Like Gatsby. Or Beyoncé. Or the Fourth of July.



Of course, Gatsby didn't get the girl, one of the ironies of American literary history. Generally, the rich stud gets what he wants in America – it's in our Constitution. Yet, not every time. Such are the vagaries of love, law and literature.

Trust me. Haven't had a good night's sleep since I learned that.

Of course, I've tried to impress all this on Smartacus. There are no guarantees, no justice, only chronic temptation. And for every temptation, a hundred broken dreams.

Oh, Gatsby ...

I tell my son that you hedge your bets by leading the most moral life possible, foster friendships, cherish your fam. Tuck away some money to care for your dad when I'm a little older, that sort of thing.

In the end, life is pretty karmic. You grind and grind. You reap what you sow. Good deeds, strong heart, a dash of hope, a wisp of wisdom ...

I think Smartacus understands. He's the scion of this remarkable and occasionally cursed family, a band of cranks, Mexican cooks and

self-appointed intellectuals, not a musician or beatnik among us, somehow.

My kids are the pied pipers of a lot of things though. Sports stats for one, relationship advice for another. Plus babies, discount travel, keto diets, 17th-century art, astral navigation, paying for dinner with your phone. My kids seem to know it all.

And who am I to argue with them? They're younger and prettier than me. Every jury, every court of public opinion, would side with them. Quite literally, I'm yesterday's newspaper.

FYI, when I dropped Smartacus at the Burbank airport on Sunday, I assured him that no one knows it all, not his best professors, not his shrillest classmates, not even his book-worm dad.

I told him that he was put on this planet with certain advantages, and it is now up to him to find his way, try new things, stretch his comfort zones, hop a train into the future.

Not quite yet, of course. Today he merely hops Avelo flight 107, Gate B3, nonstop to Eugene.

And today, I just want to give him a hug, as he darts out of the SUV at the busy airport, everybody late for their flights.

Just one big hug, to get me through January when (as Joyce wrote) the soul of the commonest object seems radiant.

Me, radiant? Well, maybe come February.

You know, we've been through a lot together, Smartacus and I. Honestly, these post-holiday departures still take the wind out of me. And leave the old house a little hollow.

So, bye buddy. You know, the



photo by Chris Erskine

What does a redhead like my daughter know of street tacos?

dog will blame me for weeks for this. The dishwasher will go silent again. The car won't need near so much gas.

With you gone, who's going to leave their dirty socks just everywhere? Suzanne? She doesn't even wear socks.

In the meantime, send us some of that famous Oregon rain, will you?

And I'll mail you all the new Christmas clothes you couldn't cram into your carry-on, even when I sat on it.

See you in June, if not before, you gifted little Gatsby, you newly minted man.

Love, Dad.  
For more posts, please got to [ChrisErskineLA.com](http://ChrisErskineLA.com)



photo by Chris Erskine

My son's sun-kissed winter break is over. Now it's back to the University of Trees.






photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

# BH Mayor is golden at the Globes


Mayor Lester Friedman and his wife Simone attended the 82nd annual Golden Globe Awards on Jan. 5 at the Beverly Hilton. The awards ceremony was hosted by Nikki Glaser and honored excellence in film and television.

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# Metro work stays steady into the new year

Metro is moving forward with subway work in January and is advising about lane reductions and traffic delays. Ongoing work includes construction in the underground stations, at cross passages in the tunnels and at street level along Wilshire Boulevard.

Street restoration work is ongoing at the eastern end of the project at Wilshire/Western. Throughout

January, Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction between Oxford Avenue and St. Andrews Place. Left turns are prohibited from Wilshire Boulevard to Western Avenue and from eastbound Wilshire Boulevard to northbound St. Andrews Place.

Street restoration work is also ongoing at the Wilshire/La Brea station. La Brea Avenue will be

intermittently reduced to one lane in each direction between Sixth and Eighth streets through Jan. 12. A K-rail work zone will be in place in the middle of Wilshire Boulevard between Courtyard Place and Masselin Avenue through March for construction in the tunnels below Wilshire Boulevard.

At Wilshire/Fairfax, crews are restoring streets and sidewalks. Farther west, a K-rail work zone will be in place on the west side of the Wilshire/La Jolla intersection through March for work on a tunnel cross passage. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction at the intersection.

Restoration of Wilshire Boulevard is ongoing in January at Wilshire/La Cienega. A work zone has been implemented along the east side of La Cienega Boulevard, north of Wilshire Boulevard. During the work, Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards, and northbound La Cienega Boulevard is reduced to two lanes just north of Wilshire Boulevard.



photo by Edwin Folven

Crews are working at the Wilshire/La Cienega station and are restoring surrounding streets.

The traffic control supports ongoing civil restoration work including new curbs, sidewalks, pedestrian ramps and tree wells, as well as construction on the La Cienega station structure.

At the Wilshire/Rodeo station, deck removal and street restoration work may start as early as the first quarter of 2025, requiring up to 18 full weekend street closures of Wilshire Boulevard between Crescent and El Camino drives from 8 p.m. on Friday through 7 a.m. the following Monday. Beverly Drive will also be closed at Wilshire Boulevard when the work takes place. Detour routes will be

implemented for eastbound and westbound traffic on Wilshire Boulevard.

At the Century City /Constellation station, construction is ongoing in January. Motorists are advised of daytime lane closures on Constellation Boulevard and Century Park East. Storm drain construction and work on the subway station are ongoing.

For questions and concerns about the D Line Extension project, call the 24-hour project hotline at (213)922-6934, email the project team at [purplelineext@metro.net](mailto:purplelineext@metro.net), or visit [metro.net](http://metro.net).

## Notable Quotes

*“People cut themselves off from their ties of the old life when they come to Los Angeles. They are looking for a place where they can be free, where they can do things they couldn’t do anywhere else.”*

Mayor Tom Bradley (1917-1998)

The team at the Beverly Press is sending all of our prayers and hopes to those affected by the devastating fires.

\*source: [theysaidthat.com](http://theysaidthat.com)



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, **January 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard**, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, will hold a public hearing to consider:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING SHORT TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS (TRANSIENT USES) FOR SINGLE FAMILY AND MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONES, AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

The City Council will consider adoption of an ordinance to amend the short term rental regulations applicable to single-family and multifamily residential zones, which are referred to as “single-family and multifamily transient uses” in the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC). The Planning Commission previously reviewed this topic at the August 8, 2024 study session and adopted Planning Commission Resolution No. 2076 unanimously recommending the City Council adopt the draft ordinance at their November 14, 2024 regular meeting. The draft ordinance includes, but is not limited to the following changes:

- A prohibition on short term rental uses in any residential zone of the City, including the use of accessory features such as pools or tennis courts;
- A minimum initial lease term of one year for the rental of units in single-family residential zones and a minimum initial lease term of 6 months for multifamily units in the City; and
- Changes to other sections of the BHMC related to short term rentals, such as a penalty fee structure specific to short term rentals.

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the draft ordinance.

### ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. Since the project does not authorize construction, and actually imposes greater use restrictions on certain properties to protect the public health, safety and general welfare, there is no possibility that it may have a significant effect on the environment. In addition, the project reflects minor changes in land use limitations, and do not result in changes to land use or density. Accordingly, the City Council will consider a recommendation to find the project categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15305 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Please be advised that pre-entry metal detector screening requirements are now in place at City Hall. Members of the public are requested to plan visits accordingly. Members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending in-person or telephonically, and may view the

meeting through live webcast or BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable. City Council meetings are broadcast on local Beverly Hills television and on other media platforms. Anyone who participates at the meeting and/or enters the City Council Chamber is subject to having their image displayed. These recordings will remain publicly accessible in perpetuity.

### Public Comment Participation:

Oral Comment/Listen only: (310) 288-2288  
Email: [cityclerk@beverlyhills.org](mailto:cityclerk@beverlyhills.org)  
Video (during public comment only): <http://beverlyhills.org/comment>  
To Watch Video Live: <http://beverlyhills.org/live> or  
On-Demand: <http://beverlyhills.org/citycouncilmeetings>  
In-Person: Submit a Speaker Card to the City Clerk at the meeting

### How to Submit Public Comment (Email/Video):

It is recommended that public written comments be submitted to the City Clerk’s office by 12:00 p.m. on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the City Council/Parking Authority. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item Number or Topic in the subject line of the email. The City Clerk will read only the first three minutes (approximately 350 words) of a written comment. In the event of a large number of written comments on one item, written comments may be summarized by the City Clerk’s Office. The entire written comment shall be archived in full as part of the record.

If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Public comment via video conference will be no longer than three (3) minutes per each individual comment, subject to City Council discretion based on the anticipated length in the meeting. In-person speaker cards may be submitted to the City Clerk directly during the meeting.

Any interested person may participate in the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the City Council. According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the Council’s action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

### In Person Participation:

All interested persons are invited to attend and speak on this matter in person. Please see the above information on the location and time of this meeting.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Chloe Chen, Principal Planner** in the Planning Division of the Community Development Department at **(310) 285-1194**, or by email at [cchen@beverlyhills.org](mailto:cchen@beverlyhills.org). Please also contact us to add your email to the interested parties list for this ordinance, so that important updates and notifications may be sent to you.

HUMA AHMED  
City Clerk



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-2400 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.



RESTAURANT NEWS

Lunar New Year celebrated at Peninsula

The Peninsula Beverly Hills has partnered with renowned Dim Sum House Lunasia to launch Lunar New Year festivities. The afternoon tea Lunar New Year experience will be held from Jan. 13-31. Guests can celebrate the Year of the Snake in The Living Room. Here, a special afternoon tea can be found featuring sweet and savory delights, including a signature egg custard pastry from Dim Sum House Lunasia that pairs perfectly with specialty teas and a glass of Laurent Perrier Champagne. Reservations can be made via at [exploretock.com/the-living-room-beverly-hills](http://exploretock.com/the-living-room-beverly-hills). The exclusive Lunasia Dim Sum menu has delicious Lunar New Year cuisine offering an elevated dim sum experience, created in collaboration with acclaimed restaurant, Lunasia. Starting Jan. 13 and avail-

able at all dining venues, guests can choose from an exclusive dim sum menu featuring signature items like shrimp har-gow, supreme beef balls and decadent egg yolk sakura. For information, visit [peninsula.com/en/beverly-hills](http://peninsula.com/en/beverly-hills). The Peninsula Beverly Hills is located at 9882 Santa Monica Blvd.

It's Veganuary for WeHo

West Hollywood is inviting the community to participate in the global Veganuary campaign which encourages people to try plant-based eating during the month of January. Any effort to try eating plant-based meals in January is welcomed – whether that means eating plant-based all month, once a week, or one meal a day. The official Veganuary campaign website, located at [veganuary.com](http://veganuary.com), has a variety of resources available including recipes for breakfast, lunch, dinner

Baby Blues offers perfect game day BBQ

Feed your game day crowd effortlessly with Baby Blues BBQ's Family Style Takeout, designed for groups of four or more. Perfect for kickoff or halftime of the football playoff season, these hearty feasts feature a mix of house-smoked proteins and classic fixins that'll satisfy everyone. This Venice favorite takes pride in its scratch-made dishes, from tender brisket and pulled pork to creamy mac & cheese, collard greens, cornbread and its famous banana pudding. Every spice rub and barbecue sauce – four varieties to choose from – is crafted in-house. Each Family Style feast includes an assortment of proteins, cornbread and sides like coleslaw, baked beans, sautéed okra and potato salad – over a dozen fixin' options in all. Add a slice of key lime pie, chocolate pie or



photo courtesy of Baby Blues BBQ  
Co-owner Liz Qulash serves up ribs and cornbread at Baby Blues BBQ.

banana pudding to complete the feast. Baby Blues BBQ is open daily from 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. with easy online ordering for takeout and catering – whether it's for birthday

parties, holidays, corporate events, weddings or game day. For information, visit [babybluesbbq.com](http://babybluesbbq.com) or call (310)396-7675. Baby Blues BBQ is located at 444 Lincoln Blvd., Venice.

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and snacks, as well as nutrition tips and impact reports. A 2010 United Nations report stated that a global shift towards a vegan diet is vital to save the world from hunger, energy poverty and the worst impacts of climate change. Eating vegan food is more energy efficient and produces fewer greenhouse gas emissions than raising animals to consume.

For information about West Hollywood's Veganuary initiative, contact Andi Lovano, the city's community and legislative affairs manager, at (323)848-6333 or [alovano@weho.org](mailto:alovano@weho.org).

Cassoulet's back at A.O.C.

Chef Suzanne Goin and Caroline Styne are thrilled to announce the eagerly anticipated return of Cassoulet Night at A.O.C. on Sunday, Jan. 19. This winter celebration of the Southern French country classic features the traditional slow-cooked dish of duck confit, sausage and white beans. The event marks its 21st anniversary and pays homage to the annual tradition at Lucques since its inception. It promises to be a delightful evening, filled with the

rich flavors of this beloved dish, as guests gather to celebrate two decades of culinary excellence.

The three-course menu features a Salad of Young greens and Saint Agur with local walnuts, banyuls and wild-flower honey; cassoulet de maison with duck confit, pork confit, garlic sausage and thyme breadcrumbs; and Paula Wolfert's tarte aux noix à la masseube with crème fraîche and armagnac prunes. Expect exceptional wines by the glass or bottle to pair with the menu selected by Styne.

Cassoulet Night is priced at \$95 per guest, menu only; advance ticket purchase required. To reserve, contact A.O.C. at (310)859-9859 or book online at [opentable.com/r/aoc-3rd-street-los-angeles](https://opentable.com/r/aoc-3rd-street-los-angeles). Cassoulet Night at A.O.C. is served from 5-10 p.m. for one night only.

Want to enjoy Cassoulet at home? Cassoulet to Go is priced at \$55 per guest and may be ordered online by Sunday, Jan. 12, at [toasttab.com/online/a-o-c](https://toasttab.com/online/a-o-c). Note that take-out orders are for the Cassoulet only and do not include the prix fixe menu. Orders may be picked up or scheduled for delivery only on Monday, Jan. 20 and Tuesday, Jan. 21, from 2-8 p.m.

A.O.C. is located at 8700 W. Third St. For information, visit [aocwinebar.com/west-hollywood](https://aocwinebar.com/west-hollywood).

Non-alcoholic SoHo menu expanded

Soho House has extended its drinks offerings to include an expanded selection of No & Low cocktail alternatives for its members to enjoy. The latest No & Low cocktail menu in North America has been curated by Erin Davey, head of bars for the U.S., who is passionate about creating a diverse, thoughtful selection of non-alcoholic cocktails for Soho House members to enjoy. All cocktails are non-alcoholic.

Highlights include the Pick Me Up, crafted with Seedlip Spice, it's a non-alcoholic spirit with an aromatic blend of all-spice and cardamom as well as fresh citrus. The Palomar, a 0% take on a Paloma, is made with Pentire Adrift, a plant-powered, smokey non-alcoholic spirit. The Three Spirit Livener is a gut-healthy elixir, while the SFW, a member favorite, delivers a juicy flavor with a hint of



photo courtesy of Soho House

New mocktail options are available at the members-only club Soho House.

bitter orange and herbs for added dimension. The Eastern Standard Fizz highlights the award-winning Seedlip Garden 108 with cucumber, mint and lime for a fresh herb-forward take on a house classic, and the Bero is a premium non-alcoholic beer cre-

ated by actor Tom Holland, now served on tap.

For information, visit [soho-house.com/en-us/houses/soho-house-west-hollywood/food-and-drink](https://soho-house.com/en-us/houses/soho-house-west-hollywood/food-and-drink). SoHo House locations include 9200 Sunset Blvd. and 8465 Holloway Drive.

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# POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Dec. 25 and Jan. 3. The information was compiled from crimemapping.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-0476, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8850, and the Beverly Hills Police Department (310)550-4951.

Beverly Hills Police Department

**Dec. 29**

At 7:23 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Wilshire and La Cienega.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of S. Beverly at 4:50 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9900 block of Durant.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1000 block of N. Roxbury at 9:30 p.m.

**Dec. 30**

At 6:05 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of N. Swall at 7:45 p.m.

At 10:05 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

**Dec. 31**

At 2:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of N. Swall.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8900 block of Wilshire at 4:20 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 9800 block of Santa Monica.

**Jan. 1**

At 12:46 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 8300 block of Wilshire.

An assault was reported in the 800 block of Serra at 1:46 a.m.

At 7:44 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Charleville and Almont.

A vandalism incident was reported near Virginia and Rodeo at 10 a.m.

At noon, an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of S. Swall.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9600 block of Wilshire at 5:28 p.m.

**Jan. 2**

At 10:55 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of S. Reeves.

An unknown suspect committed a vehicle burglary in the 1200 block of Beverly Green at 4 p.m.

**Jan. 3**

At 1:15 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of S. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of S. Arden at 9:38 p.m.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

**Dec. 29**

At 12:28 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson at 12:30 a.m.

At 4:42 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7300 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Robertson at 8:17 p.m.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1100 block of N. La Brea.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 10:50 p.m.

**Dec. 30**

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of Wetherly at 3 a.m.

At 1 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Fairfax and Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1300 block of N. Laurel at 10 p.m.

**Dec. 31**

At 2:30 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1000 block of N. Curson.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8000 block of Santa Monica at 3:30 p.m.

**Jan. 1**

At 1:45 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9200 block of Sunset.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1000 block of Westmount at 3 a.m.

At 8:30 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1200 block of Hayworth.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of N. Palm at 8 p.m.

At 9:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 700 block of Westbourne.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near Hammond and Sunset at 9:25 p.m.

**Jan. 2**

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8600 block of Holloway at 12:30 a.m.

At 8 p.m., an assault occurred in the 100 block of Carol.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of N. Ogden at 10 p.m.

Los Angeles Police Department

**Dec. 27**

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 5400 block of Edgewood.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 100 block of The Grove at 7 p.m.

At 11:59 p.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 1700 bloc of Vine.

**Dec. 28**

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Mansfield at 5:20 p.m.

At 6:41 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of The Grove.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 5600 block of Wilshire at 7:30 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. La Brea.

**Dec. 29**

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 6500 block of Selma.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of The Grove at 1:56 p.m.

At 3:25 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6400 block of Selma.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 6300 block of Third at 4:30 p.m.

## CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the West Hollywood City Council will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following item:

<b>LOCATIONS:</b>	<b>Citywide, West Hollywood, California</b>
<b>REQUEST:</b>	<b>The City Council</b> will hold a public hearing to consider proposed speed limit reductions, enabling municipal code changes, and the associated designation of safety corridors and business activity districts, as recommended in the WeHo Target Vision Zero Action Plan.
<b>PERMIT(S):</b>	Municipal Code Amendment, and any other required permits.
<b>APPLICANT(S):</b>	City of West Hollywood
<b>TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:</b>	<b>Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.</b> West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90069
<b>ZONES:</b>	Citywide
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:</b>	Categorically exempt per CEQA Section §15061(b)(3) (Review for Exemption)

**Complete digital agenda packets** will be available on Wednesday, Wednesday, January 15, 2025, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at [www.weho.org](http://www.weho.org)

**IF YOU CHALLENGE** this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in the written correspondence delivered to the West Hollywood City Council, via the Community Development Department at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

**To comply with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990**, If you require special assistance to participate in this meeting (e.g., a signer for the hearing impaired), you must call, or submit your request in writing to the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 848-6800 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

**ALL INTERESTED PERSONS** are invited to participate in said Public Hearing to express their opinion in this matter.

For further information regarding this item, contact David Fenn, Senior Planner at (323) 848-6336; or via email at: [dfenn@weho.org](mailto:dfenn@weho.org)

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

**Мы сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информации на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826.**



# Descanso opens flagship in former Callender’s location

Descanso Restaurant, a modern taqueria founded in Costa Mesa in 2018, will open its highly anticipated Los Angeles flagship location on Thursday, Jan. 23. Located at the former Callender’s in the historic SAG-AFTRA Plaza, the new venture marks a significant milestone as Descanso expands beyond its Orange County roots into the vibrant city of Los Angeles.

“Descanso’s grand opening in Los Angeles is about celebrating the artistry of Mexican cuisine, where every dish tells a story, and every bite is a tribute to Mexican heritage and contemporary creativity,” founder and owner Rob Arellano said. “Los Angeles is a melting pot of cultures and serves as the perfect stage for culinary exploration. We’re thrilled to contribute our unique interpretation of Mexican fare to this dynamic food landscape.”

The new 9,000-square-foot Descanso accommodates 240 guests and features a central bar, a main dining room, two open-air patios and the celebrated Plancha room, where Descanso’s signature Plancha dining experience comes to life. In

this one-of-a-kind space, Planchero chefs prepare multi-course meals right before guests at a communal table, offering an interactive and unforgettable experience that brings the vibrant energy of street-side vendors to the dining table. For those seeking a more intimate setting, the Private Plancha Room, designed for up to 10 guests, offers a bespoke Chef’s Table experience with a tailored menu of exquisite dishes, perfect for special occasions.

The new restaurant will showcase vibrant artwork by local Los Angeles artists, with muralist Daniel Felechner, Erica Friend and JP Mural (Juan Reyes) contributing striking pieces that reflect Mexico’s rich cultural heritage. Friend’s works, such as Coatlicue Mother of Gods and Sunflower Eclipse, explore Aztec mythology and celestial themes, while Reyes honors Frida Kahlo with a mural celebrating her legacy, strengthening the restaurant’s connection to both L.A.’s dynamic art scene and Mexico’s cultural legacy.

At the heart of the space, the show-stopping 38-seat bar will

serve a variety of expertly crafted cocktails, including Margaritas Especiales like the classic El Descanso with Milagro Reposado, agave and fresh lime, and the spicy Bad Hombre with Herradura Reposado, lime, pineapple, serrano and a salt-and-pepper rim. Refreshing options such as the Sandía-Rita and Cucumber y Sal will also be available.

Guests can also join Descanso’s Casillero Club for exclusive access to the very finest limited-release agave spirits available. Members will have the opportunity to purchase rare tequilas and mezcals, with the option to store the fine spirits in a secure private locker at the restaurant. Membership also includes priority reservations, first access to limited releases, and special gifts from the kitchen or bar with every visit.

Under the leadership of corporate executive chef Jose Angulo, who joined Descanso in Costa Mesa in 2021, the menu fuses Mexico’s culinary traditions with modern techniques. Highlights include the Seafood Tower with oysters, poached lobster tail, Peruvian scallops, snow crab claws, shrimp cocktail, ceviche campechano, caperberries, morita cocktail sauce, cucumber-serrano mignonette and lemon. The Enchiladas de Langosta



photo courtesy of Descanso Restaurant

The new Descanso Restaurant features a showstopping bar.

feature butter-poached lobster in tortillas, and the Taquitos de Camarón are made with marinated shrimp, blue corn tortillas, shredded lettuce, morita aioli and mango-habanero salsa. For a customizable experience, the guest favorite, Alambre, allows guests to choose from steak, al pastor, chicken, shrimp or seasonal vegetables, complemented by bacon, onions, bell peppers, tres quesos frito, avocado toreado, serranos, micro cilantro and flour tortillas. To view the full Descanso LA menu, visit [descansorestaurantla.com/menu](https://descansorestaurantla.com/menu).

Descanso will serve lunch Monday-Friday from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., dinner Monday-Thursday from 3-10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 3 p.m.-midnight, and Sunday from 3-10 p.m. Brunch will be available on weekends from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and happy hour specials, featuring exclusive menu items and discounts on select food and beverages, are offered Monday-Friday from 4-6 p.m.

For information about Descanso Los Angeles, located at 5773 Wilshire Blvd., visit [descansorestaurantla.com/home](https://descansorestaurantla.com/home).

# Fowler opens ‘Fire Kinship’ exhibit



photo courtesy of the Fowler Museum

The exhibit will run from Jan. 12-July 13.

“Fire Kinship: Southern California Native Ecology and Art,” the second PST ART exhibition at the Fowler Museum at UCLA, opens Jan. 12. The exhibition reintroduces fire as a generative force, one that connects us to our past and offers a collective path toward a sustainable future, challenging us to rethink attitudes of fear and illegality around fire – a reconsideration with potentially profound implications for California, a state frequently braced for uncontrolled wildfires.

On view through July 13, the objects, images, and stories in the exhibition make a case for fire (kút in the Payómkawichum and Cahuilla language, ‘aaw in Kumeyaay, and cha’wot in Tongva) to be perceived as an elemental relative who creates a cycle that gives all living things a fresh beginning.

Included in “Fire Kinship” are loaned object-relatives that Native communities used and continue to use in partnership with the land, place, and fire: baskets, ollas, rabbit

sticks, bark skirts and canoes. Fire tempers and hardens clay vessels used for cooking and storing food. It helps cultivate plant materials employed in the making of baskets, blankets, capes and skirts – pánul, se’ill, súul and sélet (yucca, juncus, deergrass, and sumac in Wanakik Cahuilla language): fire thins out

juncus patches, allowing new shoots to grow. It also softens the tar that, when spread on cottonwood canoes, makes them seaworthy.

For information, visit [fowler.ucla.edu/exhibitions/fire-kinship](https://fowler.ucla.edu/exhibitions/fire-kinship). The Fowler Museum is located at 308 Charles E. Young Drive N.

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# Spelling Thai Bistro knows how to spell ‘delicious’

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Winter is the perfect time of year to visit Spelling Thai Bistro, a new restaurant in the heart of Los Angeles. With a sleek yet casual atmosphere, Spelling Thai has just about everything needed during a not-so-cold winter season – the hot curry will warm up those chilly nights, the Thai iced tea will give you the energy needed to curb your post-holiday slump and the roasted duck is, well, just delicious.

The bistro is somewhat hidden on La Brea Avenue, with wood paneling on the exterior that encloses a cozy patio with low-top tables and televisions. Inside, the small dining room has a clean, modern and elegant look, that is comfortable, warm and inviting. Perhaps it’s the plush booth that lines the wall of the restaurant – providing ample space to relax. Or maybe it’s the open kitchen, where you can see the chefs preparing your meal, much like if you were to visit a street vendor during a late night out in Bangkok.

The menu features many staples found throughout Thailand – from street food to fine dining – in addition to fusion dishes common in many Asian American restaurants.

The first dish I tried was roasted duck over rice, a simple yet sumptuous treat. Similar to Peking duck – a more well-known Chinese dish – this Thai-style roasted duck is tender on the inside with a slightly crispy skin. Whenever I see duck on a menu, I order it. The fattier, juicer, richer bird is superior to chicken in every way – and this dish is a shining example. It’s served with two sauces – a rich gravy-like jus and a spicy pepper sauce.

Next up were the egg rolls. Often overlooked, egg rolls can be an opportunity for any Asian restaurant to really set itself apart. In my opinion, an egg roll is best judged not by the crispiness of its outside layer, but the tastiness of its filling. Far too often, the inside of an egg roll tastes like ... well, nothing at all. A poorly seasoned mushy mess. These, however, were full of flavor. Stuffed with freshly shredded cabbage, carrots, glass noodles and celery, they were savory and seasoned to perfection. The owner later informed me that Spelling Thai’s egg rolls are so successful that they sell them at grocery stores – so keep an eye out next time you’re shopping.

My favorite Thai dish is rather predictable – pad Thai. Spelling

Thai’s take on the national dish of Thailand, made with stir-fried rice noodles, scrambled eggs, peanuts and a sweet sauce, hits all of the bases – sweet, tangy, spicy, crunchy and moist without being too wet. The crushed peanuts, red pepper flakes, bean sprouts and lime are served on the side, allowing guests to customize their noodle experience. You can also choose a protein, and I chose shrimp, another classic pad Thai topping. The shrimp were delightfully large, but to my surprise they were accompanied by tiny counterparts – dozens of dried shrimp. If you’ve ever had dried shrimp, then you know that – maybe paradoxically – they taste even “shrimpier” than regular shrimp. With a more umami-heavy fishy taste, just a small amount can add a wonderfully rich layer to sauces, curries or in this case, noodles.

The highlight of the night was the Thai basil duck. Yes, duck again, and it was the showstopper. Sautéed in a sweet and spicy sauce, the duck was chopped and mixed with minced chili, green beans, bell peppers and Thai basil – an herb that’s firmer, spicier and more aromatic than regular basil. It’s served with a side of white rice and a savory, fish sauce. The Thai basil dish is avail-



photo by Tabor Brewster

The Thai basil duck at Spelling Thai Bistro finds the perfect balance between sweet, spicy and tender.

able with your choice of protein – chicken, pork, veggie, tofu, beef, shrimp or combo. But once again, I strongly recommend the duck.

To top it all off, I tried the mango sticky rice. A traditional dessert in southeast Asia, it’s essentially exactly what it sounds like – a freshly sliced mango beside sticky rice pudding. The sweet flavors and soft textures of the two items pair together perfectly, transporting you to a Thai beach on a warm afternoon.

Spelling Thai is the perfect desti-

nation in the Miracle Mile for a casual Thai lunch or dinner. And stay tuned, because the owner told me the restaurant will soon be offering beer and wine, as well as breakfast and brunch, in the coming months.

Spelling Thai Bistro is open from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. for lunch and 5-8 p.m. for dinner seven days a week. To make a reservation or order takeout, call (323)592-3211.

Spelling Thai Bistro is located at 320 S. La Brea Ave.

# ‘Music in the Mansion’ returns to Greystone on Jan. 19

The city of Beverly Hills’ Community Services Department announced the return of the “Music in the Mansion” chamber concert series at the historic Greystone Mansion and Gardens. The series kicks off on Jan. 19 with an exciting

lineup showcasing a diverse range of musical compositions, spanning classical to jazz, featuring Astral Mixtape.

Following the inaugural concert, the series will continue with two performances on Feb. 16, featuring

pianist Filippo Lugnan at 2 p.m. and the VART Duo at 4 p.m. On March 23 the duo Olivia Jeongah Kim and HyeJin Kim will perform at 2 p.m., followed by Magic Strings at 4 p.m.

For over 30 years, Music in the Mansion has celebrated exceptional music-making, highlighting the winners of the annual Beverly Hills National Auditions, and supporting emerging talent from around the globe. The series is curated and produced in collaboration with Laura Schmieder, director of iPalpiti Artists International, Inc.

The opening day on Jan. 19 will feature two concerts with Astral Mixtape at 2 p.m. and Isaac Ko 4 at p.m. Astral Mixtape is a groundbreaking ensemble that blends classical instruments with modern electronics, creating a unique musical language that reflects their diverse

influences and classical training. They are the proud winners of the 2023 Astral Artists Competition, and the 2024 Beverly Hills National Auditions. In February, they will release their album, Biolumy, showcasing several original works.

Isaac Ko, also a winner of the 2024 Beverly Hills National Audition, promises to captivate audiences with his virtuosic performances and distinctive musical style at. A former artist with the Korean Embassy in France, Ko graced stages such as Notre Dame des Vertus and the France Paris Organ Festival. He recently earned second place at the 2024 Music International Grand Prix and has trained at the Conservatoire d’Aubervilliers and the Conservatoire Henri Dutilleux in Paris. Ko has performed extensively in Korea, blending saxophone with traditional Korean music.

The Feb. 16 concert will feature the Italian pianist, Filippo Lugnan, known for his expertise in Romantic and virtuoso repertoire, alongside the VART Duo which aims to bring Armenian and Georgian folk music to a global audience. Their mission is to promote cultural heritage, by merging tradition and innovation, reintroducing classical and folk music with fresh energy.

On March 23, audiences can enjoy romantic showpieces performed by Olivia Jeongah Kim and Hyejin Kim, followed by Magic Strings, featuring Eastern European traditional instruments and a diverse repertoire that includes music from Ukraine, Brazil, Eastern Europe as well as classical and original compositions.

For tickets and information, please visit [beverlyhills.org/csev-ents](http://beverlyhills.org/csev-ents).

Greystone Mansion and Gardens is located at 905 Loma Vista Drive.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Astral Mixtape, an ensemble that blends classical instruments with modern electronics, will perform at Greystone Mansion and Gardens on Jan. 19.

# Rachael Harris to host ADG awards

The Art Directors Guild has announced acclaimed actress and comedian Rachael Harris will host the 29th Annual Excellence in Production Design Awards.

The ceremony celebrates outstanding production design in film, television, commercials, music videos and animation. This year’s event will also honor Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Jason Reitman with the Cinematic Imagery Award and feature Lifetime Achievement Awards for Lisa Frazza, Barbara Mesney, Dan Sweetman and J. Dennis Washington. Legendary production designer Carl Jules Weyl will be inducted into the ADG Hall of Fame.

“I am honored to host the ADG Awards this year,” Harris said. “Production designers and their teams are the unsung heroes of film and television, creating the worlds we inhabit on screen. Their artistry and craftsmanship inspire me and I’m delighted to celebrate their incredible work.”

Harris, a celebrated actress and

comedian, most recently was a lead in the Disney+ anthology series “Goosebumps,” based on the best-selling books by R.L. Stine. A veteran of improvisation and comedy, she launched her career with “The Groundlings” before becoming a correspondent on “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.” She has appeared in numerous iconic TV series, including “Friends,” “Frasier,” “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” “Modern Family,” and “New Girl.” Fans will also recognize her for her roles in “Suits” and as a series regular on the hit show “Lucifer.”

On the big screen, Harris’ credits include “The Hangover,” “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” trilogy and Christopher Guest’s celebrated “Best in Show,” “A Mighty Wind” and “For Your Consideration.”

Her award-winning performance in the indie film “Natural Selection” earned her a Best Female Lead nomination at the Independent Spirit Awards and a Breakthrough Performance award at SXSW Film & TV Festival. In

2023, she starred in Jerry Seinfeld’s “Unfrosted: The Pop-Tart Story” and the Netflix film “Mother of the Bride.”

The event will be streamed at [adgaawards29.com](http://adgaawards29.com).



photo by JSquaredPhotography

Actress Rachael Harris will lead the Production Design Awards.

# Mink stole, Peaches Christ to headline Catalina Jazz Club

“Idol Worship” is an intimate, revelatory, and heartfelt cabaret show starring living legend and cult film icon Mink Stole alongside San Francisco drag impresario, filmmaker Peaches Christ. It will perform at the Catalina Jazz Club in Hollywood at 8:30 p.m. on March 6.

Stole and Christ have been close friends for over two decades and they would like the public to join them for an evening of storytelling, film clips and live song in a wildly entertaining and uncensored exposé that is as hilarious as it is revealing.

If a fan of John Waters’ films, Divine, drag history or cult movies, this is not one to miss. For information and tickets, visit [ticketweb.com/event/idol-worship-an-evening-with-catalina-bargrill-tickets/14124763](http://ticketweb.com/event/idol-worship-an-evening-with-catalina-bargrill-tickets/14124763). The Catalina Jazz Club is located at 6725 Sunset Blvd.



photo courtesy of the Catalina Jazz Club

“Idol Worship” will perform on March 6.



# I’m not quite sure about ‘Nosferatu’

Some films require multiple viewings or at least a bit more time to let the gravity of aesthetic contributions sink in. I think back to 2006, watching “Pan’s Labyrinth” for the first time. I was so excited to see the film beforehand, but as I left the theater, I didn’t know what to think. Everyone I went with loved it, but not me. Yet.

I thought about it, talked about it, pondered it and eventually watched it again and again. A little time helped. I understood its mastery, its richness, its marvel. I can see Robert Eggers’ “Nosferatu” growing on me at some point. Not yet.

Until then, I can report that it’s a visually enticing endeavor that captures the mood and marks of the

1922 original. If the Bram Stoker estate tried to sue this adaption, the courts would be hard pressed to consider it a wholesale unlicensed copy of “Dracula.” Eggers (“The Witch,” “The Lighthouse”) ensures that.

Certain elements feel similar. Thomas Hutter (Nicholas Hoult) travels to some Transylvanian mountains to sell a dilapidated estate to Count Orlok (Bill Skarsgård), who secretly craves the solicitor’s wife, Ellen (Lily-Rose Depp). The dynamic between the count and her is unique. Ellen is susceptible to the supernatural, which means her dreams and sometimes her body are not safe from the Count, regardless of distance. She knows not what is happening

# ON SCREEN

WITH  
TIM POSADA

to her, leaving only hysteria as the “proper” diagnosis. To better understand how to aid her, Dr. Wilhelm Sievers (Ralph Ineson) seeks out Van Helsing ... I mean Professor Albin Eberhart von Franz (Willem Defoe). Defoe is a bit much, a caricature of Victorian-era monster experts. He understands and accepts science’s limits, making that point abundantly clear.

He isn’t the only caricature though. Emma (Anna Harding) and Friedrich Harding (Aaron Taylor-Johnson) – the Hutters’ close friends – serve as rational, socialized counterparts. Don’t rock the boat, Emma warns Ellen. Be more respectful of my social stature, Freddy demands. They’re plot devices more than full characters. No matter. The only three characters we need are Ellen, Thomas and that menacing count.

Unlike the villain in most traditional Dracula stories, Count Orlok is a wretched creature of the night, not a bloodthirsty bat camouflaged in formal attire. Don’t expect sexy vamps worthy of a CW series. The count is disgusting, a decaying shell once human or terribly mimicking one. Props to Skarsgård for how lost he truly becomes in the count.

He portrays yet another iconic monster in an entirely original way.



photo courtesy of Focus Features

Ellen (Lily-Rose Depp) comes under the vampire’s influence in Robert Eggers’ “Nosferatu.”



photo courtesy of Focus Features

Thomas Hutter (Nicholas Hoult) must negotiate with Count Orlok (Bill Skarsgård) in “Nosferatu.”

# ‘Brutalist’ constructs its own fascinating rumination on reality

BY RANCE COLLINS

What realities do we create to cope with the reality of what is?

There is a shocking moment roughly three hours into “The Brutalist’s” near-four-hour runtime that, for me, crystalized the theme of this beautiful, unrelenting cinematic experience. The film, populated by haggard characters seeking solace in new worlds, turned on its head as I watched a man seemingly decimate a dream – invading a space that had seemed friendly, and piercing it with corruption and ugliness. To expand on this scene further would spoil the jolt, and – uncomfortable though it may be – I believe that it is on the viewer to watch and interpret.

I mention it off the bat because most ruminations I’ve read about the movie have hinged on this plot twist – as brutal as its title foreshadows. On the surface, this title describes an architectural style. Beneath both that style and the character with which it is associated lie darker layers.

“The Brutalist” follows László Tóth (Adrian Brody), a Hungarian-Jewish Holocaust survivor who immigrates to America following World War II. He finds work with his furniture-building cousin, a man who through accent and marriage has assimilated with American culture. Tóth was a celebrated architect in Budapest, and when the cousin is hired to refurbish a library for a rich family, Tóth transforms the space into a mid-century modern showpiece. The owner, Harrison Lee Van Buren (Guy Pearce), isn’t a fan – at first – and the cousin fires Tóth, leaving him to find lowly work in construction. After a magazine features Van Buren’s library, he has a change of heart and taps Tóth to construct a mammoth community center overlooking the Pennsylvania hamlet he calls home. Later, Tóth’s wife and

niece follow him to America.

A movie about an architect may not seem like a great subject for an epic, complete with an intermission, but “The Brutalist” is, to say the very least, an astounding work of art. The opening, which showcases Tóth’s arrival at Ellis Island and the startling image of an upside-down Statue of Liberty, thrusts the audience into an immigrant’s mind. The promise of America is swiftly contrasted with the abject conditions afforded to the displaced Europeans, but Brody infuses steady, yet manic, character with a steely drive. The man is a creator, and he must create.

In Van Buren, Tóth meets his match. Overconfident and laughably insincere, the rich buffoon simultaneously admires and covets Tóth’s talent. The intensity in their exchanges, often unremarkable in content, drip in subtext – a rich man fascinated and deeply concerned by what shifts the post-war landscape might bring, and a poor man – secretly addicted to heroin – keeping his chin up while grappling with the bare canvas of a radically different society.

Even in the film’s second half, when Tóth’s wife Erzsébet, played by a forceful Felicity Jones, arrives, the energy in the rich man/poor man relationship drives the film – their inequity and their unspoken conflict.

No character in the film is satisfied with their station in life. Each suffers from a dissatisfaction in their reality. Where Van Buren seeks to buy his way out of a bastard upbringing and the death of his mother, Tóth wishes to literally construct new realities that – perhaps consciously, perhaps unconsciously – are hopelessly informed by the past in a seemingly bold push toward the future.

Each character, too, self-destructs when their false realities show cracks. When the community center’s future is threatened, Van Buren wants to rip up the plan entirely – the

perfection he imagined is not the reality. When Tóth’s wife arrives in America physically changed, he is disgusted and tempted to turn away from her entirely – the woman he idealized is not the reality his brain had conjured.

And in the shocking moment on which, I believe, the entire film hinges, one of these people goes to a point of no return, as if it is the only way they can grasp control of their false reality. And still later, another character uses this twist as a way to regain control of their own false reality.

In the epilogue, well over three hours into the film and taking place many years in the future, the look on Tóth’s aged face expresses dissatisfaction, though the scene itself suggests he has no reason to be anything but elated.

His mantra is summed up as “it’s not about the journey, but the destination.” But the movie’s thesis is the opposite. It is only in the few moments that Tóth allows himself to feel the awe of the journey that he seems to find happiness. As he, and the rest of the characters, constantly pursue the creation of a destination, they consistently ignore the delights of the journey. When Erzsébet is first introduced, she seems almost desperate to enjoy life as it is, but even she becomes caught up in the malaise of discontent.

And so, they all – like architects – work to build something else. And it’s never enough – it never buys or creates happiness. The movie, at once a tale of immigration, addiction, obsession, architecture, racism and love, may take a few hours to arrive at this destination, but its own journey challenges you to revel in the elements: the sweeping Daniel Blumberg score, the astounding VistaVision cinematography by Lol Crawley, the wit of Brady Corbet and Mona Fastvold’s dialogue, the crisp direction by Corbet.

Is it a masterpiece? Is it flawless? Only time will tell how this piece of intricate construction might be judged. At intermission, I heard praise and division amongst my fel-



photo courtesy of A24

Adrian Brody gives a stunning performance as architect László Tóth.

low theater patrons. But seeing it in its 70 mm glory, its majesty was clear – in all the inevitable debate that will accompany its newfound position as an Oscar frontrunner, this

nostalgia-soaked, daringly progressive behemoth is a movie with a capital M.


And for my money, it’s the best Movie of the year.


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# Learn about water management with West Basin

The West Basin Municipal Water District, which provides water to West Hollywood, has announced the 2025 schedule for the free Water Lab program, offering community classes, tours of the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility and online Q&A sessions with staff.

The Water Lab program provides opportunities to learn about the Southern California water supply

and water recycling operations, and discover what the district is doing to help people conserve water and save money.

“Communities in our service area have been instrumental in adopting water-wise habits and with the Water Lab program we are committed to providing these valuable opportunities for people to stay informed, conserve resources and

save money,” West Basin Board president and Division III director Desi Alvarez said. “This program will continue to empower our residents to get involved and make a difference in water conservation.”

The 2025 Water Lab program includes Know Your H2O classes, held in-person on March 26, July 16 and Sept. 3 from 6-8 p.m. at the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility in El Segundo. The classes offer an in-depth look at a range of water-related topics, from emerging technologies to practical conservation tips.

Recycled Water Facility Tours are available on Feb. 15, April 5, June 7 and Aug. 2 from 10 a.m.-noon. Join staff for a guided in-person tour of Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility to see firsthand how a water recycling facility operates.

West Basin Chats will be held on Feb. 19, May 21 and Aug. 13 from 6-6:30 p.m. The virtual 30-minute Q&A sessions focus on West Basin’s water conservation rebate programs.

For information and a complete schedule, visit [westbasin.org/water-lab](http://westbasin.org/water-lab).



photo courtesy of the West Basin Municipal Water District

Members of the public can tour the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility.

# L.A. Parks Foundation opens recreation space, beautifies city

The Los Angeles Parks Foundation announced it reached many milestones in 2024, including the transformation of 10 schoolyards into community school parks. Through a partnership with LAUSD, Trust for Public Land and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, the foundation expanded public recreation access on campuses including Harvard Elementary School, located at 330 N. Harvard Blvd., in the Wilshire Center-Koreatown community.

The Los Angeles Parks Foundation also established 20 park forests across Los Angeles, planting native tree species that are thriving at a 90% success rate, fostering environmental restoration and enhancing community well-being. More than 400 native plants from the foundation’s nursery in Griffith Park were planted, contributing to habitat restoration in more than 900 square feet of city parks.

The foundation completed major upgrades to Griffith Park’s Girls and Boys Camps, providing improved facilities for youth and families in partnership with the Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust. It hosted



photo courtesy of the LAUSD

Harvard Elementary School is among the community school parks opened in partnership with the Los Angeles Parks Foundation.

the inaugural Venice Beach Run and expanded youth programming, benefiting more than 1,000 young athletes through collaborations with partners such as Angel City Football Club and the LA84 Foundation.

For information programs and providing support, visit [laparks-foundation.org](http://laparks-foundation.org).

# AJU welcomes state leader for in-depth look at antisemitism

American Jewish University is holding a virtual program on the “State of Antisemitism in California” with Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel (D-Woodland Hills) on Thursday, Jan. 14 at noon. Gabriel will be joined in conversation by AJU president Dr. Jefferey Herbst.

The discussion will focus on the rise of antisemitism in California public universities, ethnic studies curriculums and the safety of Jewish communities. Gabriel and Herbst will shed light on the root causes of antisemitism and explain legislative efforts to combat Jewish hate. A Q&A session follows the event.

Gabriel serves as co-chair of the Legislative Jewish Caucus and chair of the Assembly Budget Committee. The program is part of AJU’s President’s Speaker Series.

For information and to register, visit [open.aju.edu/event/the-state-of-antisemitism-in-california](http://open.aju.edu/event/the-state-of-antisemitism-in-california).



photo courtesy of Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel’s office

Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel will join AJU president Dr. Jefferey Herbst for the discussion.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

The show will feature choreography and dancing by students at Beverly Hills High School.

# Beverly Hills High School Dance Company holds 2025 concert

The Beverly Hills High School Dance Company performs their annual dance concert on Jan. 15 and 16, at 7 p.m., at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

The show will feature choreography by artistic director Dana Findley, guest choreographers Sam Allen, Victoria George, Billy Goodson, Neaz Kohani and Janet Roston, as well as thirteen student choreographers – Cora

Azevedo, Charlize Behroozan, Brooke Bronson, Sapir Hoffman, Shira Hoffman, Liana Jensen, Nikka Khoshbin, Amielle Mizrahi, Bradyn Prisant, Haley Scholer, Hana Soloway, Bella Teixeira and Alexa Yeshoua. Tickets start at \$12 and can be purchased at [bhhs.bhUSD.org/dance](http://bhhs.bhUSD.org/dance).

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd.

# Venerable L.A. educator reappointed to State Board of Education

Gov. Gavin Newsom has reappointed Alison Yoshimoto-Towery, of Los Angeles, to the State Board of Education, where she has served since 2022.

Yoshimoto-Towery has been executive director at the California Institute for Law, Neuroscience and Education since 2023 and executive director at the UC/CSU California Collaborative for Neuroscience, Diversity and Learning since 2022. She held multiple roles in the Los Angeles Unified School District

from 1993 to 2022, including chief academic officer, director of instructional operations, instructional director, school principal, literacy coach, and teacher. Yoshimoto-Towery was a teacher leader at the University of California, Los Angeles Center X from 1999 to 2005 and is a member of the California Collaborative on District Reform.

The position requires Senate confirmation and compensation is \$100 per diem.

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# Beavan, Perez to be honored at Costume Designers awards

The Costume Designers Guild announced Jan. 3 that Jenny Beavan will be honored with the Career Achievement Award and Salvador Perez will be honored with the Distinguished Service Award at the 27th Costume Designers Guild Awards.

The Career Achievement award recognizes an individual whose career in costume design has left an indelible mark on film and television. Previous recipients of this honor include Francine Jamison-Tanchuck,

Deborah L. Scott, Michael Kaplan, Ruth E. Carter, Joanna Johnston, Jeffrey Kurland, Ellen Mirojnick, Aggie Rodgers, Sharen Davis, April Ferry, Judianna Makovsky, Eduardo Castro, Julie Weiss, Sandy Powell, Marlene Stewart, Ruth Myers, Ann Roth, Milena Canonero, Albert Wolsky, Colleen Atwood and Theoni V. Aldredge.

“I am very honored to be receiving this award! How wonderful to be recognized by such a fabulous group ... costume designers. The

best!” Beavan said.

The Distinguished Service award is a special honor which recognizes individuals whose exceptional skills and contributions have significantly advanced the art of costume design. It highlights the invaluable behind-the-scenes professionals whose dedication and expertise are essential to the storytelling process through costume design. Past recipients include Mary Ellen Fields, Betty Pecha Madden, Maggie Schpak, Sharon Day, Lois DeArmond, Edwina Pellikka and Mary Rose.

“Being a member of the Costume Designers Guild has always been a great source of pride for me. I am constantly inspired by my colleagues,” Perez said. “Having

served on the executive board of the CDG for 25 years, including nine years as president, I am so proud of the legacy we as a community have built for ourselves. To be honored for my work for the Guild is very humbling. There is no greater honor than to be included by your peers.”

On Dec. 13 the Costume Designers Guild revealed the official nominees in nine categories for the 27th CDGA, and Zoe Saldana was previously announced as the honoree for this year’s Spotlight Award. The annual awards ceremony will take place live on Thursday, Feb. 6 at The Ebell of Los Angeles, located at 743 S. Lucerne Blvd. For information, visit [costumedesignersguild.com](http://costumedesignersguild.com).



photo courtesy of CDG

Costumer designer Jenny Beavan will receive the Career Achievement Award on Feb. 6.

# Hollywood composers honored at The Wallis

The Scott Dunn Orchestra has its inaugural concert “The Hollywood Modernists - the Second Golden Age of Film Scoring” on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the Bram Goldsmith Theater at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. The new ensemble, partnering with The Wallis, creates an orchestra with the many of the finest studio musicians, dedicated solely to presenting concerts of film music

The program celebrates American and European fifties and sixties film modernist composers that include Bernard Herrmann,

Elmer Bernstein, Alex North, Jerry Goldsmith and Leonard Rosenman with music from iconic films including “A Streetcar Named Desire,” “East of Eden,” “To Kill a Mockingbird,” “Rebel Without a Cause” and “North By Northwest.”

A noted advocate for American contemporary and film music, Dunn has had a remarkable career as pianist, conductor and orchestrator. Since 2012, he has been the associate conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and regularly appears with major orchestras and headliners

throughout the U.S., U.K. and Europe.

“I’ve long been in love with film music and I’ve had the great personal fortune to know such luminaries as Leonard Rosenman, Richard Rodney Bennett, David Raksin, Elmer Bernstein, as well as such distinguished contemporary film composers as Rachel Portman and Danny Elfman,” Dunn said. “The music they produced has never been surpassed and is well worth presenting as absolute music – many are as great as any orchestral works written in our century. All of this we can remedy in con-

cert and shed light on the music of the many these great, and highly trained composers.”

“Many major cities have dedicated film music orchestras,” Robert van Leer, Wallis executive director and CEO, said, “With the Scott Dunn Orchestra, with the incredible film music legacy as repertoire, we

in the center of the film industry now have one as well.”

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. To purchase single tickets, subscriptions and for information, call (310)746-4000 or visit [thewallis.org](http://thewallis.org).



photo by Jeff Roffman

Scott Dunn also serves as the associate conductor the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra.

# Ten minute plays bring ‘Night Miracles’

The Actors’ Gang has announced “Night Miracles,” an exhilarating and inventive 10-minute play festival that will run from Jan. 9-Feb. 8 at The Actors’ Gang Theater in Culver City.

This dynamic collection of ten original plays is written, directed and performed by the ensemble members of The Actors’ Gang. Each play explores a diverse range of themes, emotions and storytelling techniques, ensuring a truly unforgettable theater experience.

In “Night Miracles,” audiences are invited to experience the boundless creativity, passion and fearless artistry of The Actors’ Gang ensemble. The festival’s fast-paced, short-form performances promise to surprise and engage, ranging from laugh-out-loud comedy to deeply poignant moments. It is an immer-

sive celebration of the human experience, crafted with precision and daring imagination.

“It was incredibly challenging to select just ten plays from the incredible creative energy that exists within this ensemble,” said Tim Robbins, artistic director of The Actors’ Gang. “This collection is a reflection of what inspires me – the raw energy, humor, and profound depth of the human experience. Each piece is a testament to the fearless imagination of our artists. I’m excited to share this bold, unpredictable journey with our community.”

Each play in “Night Miracles” is a unique exploration of life, crafted from the heart of The Actors’ Gang. Known for its bold, innovative approach to theater, the company will present new works that reflect

its rich history of artistic risk-taking and its commitment to meaningful storytelling.

The Actors’ Gang Theatre is located at 9070 Venice Blvd., Culver City. For information and tickets, visit [theactorsgang.com](http://theactorsgang.com).

# Explore the music of Dvořák at All Saints’ Beverly Hills



photo courtesy of All Saints’ Beverly Hills

All Saints’ Beverly Hills is hosting an exquisite evening of chamber music on Jan. 12.

Experience an extraordinary evening of chamber music at All Saints’ Beverly Hills on Sunday, Jan. 12, at 5 p.m. to celebrate the brilliance of 19th-century Czech composer Antonín Dvořák.

The concert features some of Dvořák’s most beloved works performed by an ensemble of renowned musicians. The program highlights Dvořák’s masterful compositions, including the Piano Trio No. 4 (Dumky), Op. 90, and Piano Quintet No. 2, Op. 81. The timeless pieces will be brought to life by violinist Andrew Sords, cellist John Walz and pianist Timothy Durkovic. From the rich harmonies of the Piano Quintet No. 2 to the soulful depth of the “Dumky Trio,” the concert offers a moving exploration of Dvořák’s genius, showcasing his ability to weave folk influences into the classical tradition.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, and are available at the door. All Saints’ Beverly Hills is located at 504 N. Camden Drive. For information, call (310)275-0123, or visit [allsaintsbh.org](http://allsaintsbh.org).

# AYSO Beverly Hills Region 76’s Kickit program returns

AYSO Beverly Hills Region 76 announced the return of its highly successful KickIt program, starting Jan. 11. The innovative initiative focuses on building skills, boosting confidence and fostering self-esteem in a supportive, non-competitive environment.

Open to participants of all skill levels, KickIt offers structured, one-hour weekly sessions led by professional trainers. The program provides a consistent schedule, helping families balance activities while ensuring young athletes develop teamwork and personal growth in a fun and inclusive setting.

“This program is a great opportunity for kids to develop their skills and confidence without the pressures of competition,” said Rich Baron, assistant regional commissioner of AYSO Beverly Hills Region 76. “We’re proud to offer a space where participants can thrive both on and off the field.”

As a trusted name in youth sports,

AYSO Beverly Hills Region 76 remains committed to creating positive experiences for local families.

For information and to sign up, visit [ayso76.org](http://ayso76.org).



photo courtesy of AYSO Beverly Hills Region 76

The one-hour weekly program is open to participants of all skill levels.



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# ‘Alta’ shares voices of changemakers in the City of Angels

The Getty Conservation Institute and London-based artist Marcus Lyon present the launch of “Alta/A Human Atlas of a City of Angels,” the latest cycle in Lyon’s series of international social impact art projects.

The project presents a “Human Atlas” of 100 people who are creating substantial positive change in Los Angeles County, charting their lives and impact through a limited-edition portrait book, exhibition, website, mobile app and podcast titled “Intersections: Los Angeles.” The full interactive project will be exhibited in the Los Angeles Central Library from Jan. 13 to April 27.

From globally celebrated comedian and Chicano art champion Cheech Marin to indigenous rights leader Janet Martinez, the project sheds light on a diverse mix of 100 “change agents” in the county. It reveals how their lives intersect with Los Angeles – past, present and future – creating a legacy work that documents and preserves a deeper narrative for future generations.

Nominees span a wide range of ages, origins and vocations, representing the exceptional diversity of the region.

Participants include veteran labor rights leader Dolores Huerta; LGBTQ+ legend Jewel Thais-Williams; Father Greg Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries; civil rights lawyer and AAPI activist Manjusha Kulkarni; Trans Latina Rights community leader Bamby Salcedo; poet and educator Luis Rodríguez; housing justice activist Scarlett Paulina De Leon; Genesis Butler, animal justice activist and great-grandniece of Cesar Chavez; activist artist Patrisse Cullors; urban planner Rudy Espinoza; ASCO creative polymath Harry Gamboa Jr.; and medical pioneer Dr. Thanh Neville.

The weekly podcast, which launched its first episode in October, features the voices of all 100 participants and is available to stream on Apple, Google, Spotify.

Lyon and his team interviewed and captured portraits of 100 nominees and analyzed their ancestral DNA. Their life stories are available in a written and oral format on the project’s app, which pairs with their images and combines with maps of their ancestral DNA to cast light on their origins.

“Part scientific research project, part art exploration, ‘Alta’ unlocks the depth of the Los Angeles region and preserves the legacy of a cohort of its most inspirational inhabitants for future generations,” Lyon said.

“We hope ‘Alta’ will activate a deep dialogue and inspire a space where the most important issues of our time are articulated, and heard, in order to create meaningful change.”

“As an important and cherished community hub, the Los Angeles Public Library strives to make a difference in the lives of Angelenos,” City Librarian John F. Szabo said. “So, we are delighted to host the ‘Human Atlas’ exhibit at Central Library that showcases individuals who contribute to positive change in our city.”

“While the GCI is a global organization, we always look for opportunities to be active in and relevant to Los Angeles,” said Tom Learner, head of science at the Getty Conservation Institute. “In this period of significant social change, we thought a ‘Human Atlas’ of L.A. would allow us to engage more directly with its diverse cultures and audiences. From a conservation perspective, this project defines and preserves a moment in time for Los Angeles, told through the images, voices, and stories of 100 individuals across the county, and we are thrilled to be collaborating with Marcus on it.”

“Alta/A Human Atlas of a City of Angels” is among more than 70 exhibitions and programs presented as part of PST ART: Art & Science Collide, presented by Getty. The Los Angeles Central Library is located at 630 W. Fifth St. For information, visit [ahumanatlas.com/artworks/alta](http://ahumanatlas.com/artworks/alta).



photo by Marcus Lyon/A Human Atlas

Father Greg Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries, is one of the many voices of Los Angeles featured in “Alta/A Human Atlas of a City of Angels.”



photo by Marco Giannavola

Brooklyn Rider will honor Philip Glass on Jan. 17.

## String quartets celebrated by Brooklyn Rider at The Wallis

For its 20th anniversary, Brooklyn Rider celebrates the string quartets of Philip Glass with Temples of Resonance, a single concert program featuring a representative selection of some of the composer's most beloved scores for the medium at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in the Bram Goldsmith Theater on Friday, Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Nearly two decades ago, the string quartets of Philip Glass were integral in the nascent days of Brooklyn Rider.

“The glowing resonances and rich emotional depth of this music coaxed us towards an ever more collective spirit in those formative years,” Brooklyn Rider, as a group, said. “While immersed in this world, our sensitivities for blend, transparency, and tone color – three of the most essential string quartet ingredients – were greatly heightened. The synergistic combination of interlocking patterns and elemental harmonies also invited broader connections as we shaped our identity as a string quartet: the gossamer-like inner voices of Schubert, the pulsating energy of our home base, New York City, or drone-based textures present in a wide web of world music traditions. All of this has led to a lasting relationship between Brooklyn Rider and this sonically diverse music, with the quartets serving time and time again as touchstones for our work on stage and in the recording studio.”

Brooklyn Rider has a long history with Glass – including recording all of the string quartets, making the first recording “Quarteting of Annunciation,” the piano quintet with pianist Paul Barnes, the single movement Quartet Satz and the suite from the film “Bent.”

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. To purchase single tickets, subscriptions and for information, call (310)746-4000 or visit [thewallis.org](http://thewallis.org).

VINTAGE  
PARKLABREA NEWS

Torch relay signals Olympic Games are coming soon

Olympic Flame Ignites L.A.

Excited Residents Line Area Streets for Glimpse of Lighted Torch

BY ROBERT L. GARD

An enduring symbol of hope made its way through Los Angeles area streets Tuesday, as the Olympic flame was passed from runner to runner, on its way to Salt Lake City for the 2002 Winter games. By the time it reaches Utah for the opening ceremonies on February 8, the flame will have traveled more than 13,500 miles domestically and been carried by more than 11,500 torch bearers in 46 states.

The flame, which was ignited in Olympia, Greece, by

The Olympic Torch passed through the community on its way to the Winter Games in Salt Lake City in these photographs in the Jan. 17, 2002, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News. Runners carried the Olympic Torch on a 13,500-mile relay run across the United States that year leading up to the start of the Games. Businessman Dai Lee, above, carried the torch during a segment of the relay run on Vermont Avenue, and former Olympian and legendary Los Angeles Lakers star Earvin “Magic” Johnson carried the torch along La Brea Avenue. Approximately 200,000 people applied for a chance to be a torch bearer that year and 11,500 people were selected nationwide. Los Angeles will host the Olympic Games for the third time in 2028 and plans are being formulated for events, including the torch run. For information about the 2028 Olympic Games, visit [la28.org](http://la28.org).

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# Fires burn with no containment

From page 1

the Palisades fire, including iconic restaurants along the Pacific Coast Highway such as the Reel Inn. The Getty on Jan. 8 confirmed that the Getty Villa, a museum located in Pacific Palisades, remained “safe and intact.”

“While vegetation on the property has burned, Getty structures have been unaffected, and thankfully, both staff and collections are safe,” a statement from the Getty read.

The Beverly Hills Fire Department sent personnel and resources to the Palisades fire to assist with fire mitigation efforts, according to the city. Within Beverly Hills, first responders are monitoring for any potential danger from high winds and nearby fires.

“While the city of Beverly Hills is not directly impacted, the BHFD is monitoring the situation closely,” the city wrote in a social media post on Jan. 8. “BHFD has augmented its staffing with additional firefighters and is currently patrolling the areas throughout the day.”

For emergency information in Beverly Hills, visit [beverlyhills.org/emergency](http://beverlyhills.org/emergency).

The Eaton fire – located in the Angeles National Forest, Altadena, Pasadena and La Cañada Flintridge areas, has burned at least 10,000 acres, according to CalFire. Marrone said on the morning of Jan. 8 that the fire has caused at least five civilian deaths and many significant injuries. The Eaton fire is 0% contained as of press time. The cause remains unknown and is under investigation. At least 100 structures have been destroyed.

The Hurst fire, which erupted in the Sylmar area, has burned at least 500 acres and is 0% contained as of press time, according to CalFire. The cause remains unknown and is under investigation.

First responders from Nevada, Oregon and Washington state have also been deployed to assist with firefighting efforts.

On Tuesday, Jan. 7, at approximately 10:51 a.m., firefighters contained a brush fire in West Hollywood near Sunset and La

Cienega boulevards.

“The city of West Hollywood is working to ensure that we’re staying vigilant as the news changes regarding the fires,” West Hollywood Mayor John Erickson said on Jan. 8. “We are experiencing some power outages and downed trees, but no reports of major fires or other incidents. Our L.A. County Sheriff’s personnel [are] continuously connected with regional response teams. Additionally, our facilities and field services team has assessed city facilities and is continuing to do a survey of neighborhoods, and all is well at this time. Our economic development team is also working with the Area A regional response team on connecting fire evacuees to any available hotel rooms in West Hollywood and we’re in response with our neighboring cities. We’re extremely grateful to our fire responders and emergency personnel working tirelessly to keep everyone safe and battling these fires.”

Authorities are asking that residents in all areas of Los Angeles avoid all non-essential travel to allow emergency vehicles to access roadways. Residents in areas where smoke is present are advised to use KN95 or other suitable masks to prevent smoke inhalation.

Local leaders urged residents who live near the fires to stay alert and prepare for an evacuation. Residents in all areas can prepare by creating a “go bag” to get ready for a potential evacuation. According to CalFire, an emergency go bag should include a three-day supply of non-perishable food, three gallons of water per person, a map with at least two evacuation routes, necessary medications, a change of clothes, essential belongings such as car keys, credit cards and cash, a first aid kit, flashlight and battery-powered radio with extra batteries, copies of important documents such as passports and pet food and water.

“My heart goes out to everyone impacted by the devastating wild-



photo by Tabor Brewster

The Pacific Palisades fire has burned more than 15,000 acres as of press time, and is visible from the beaches in Santa Monica.

fires raging in the greater Los Angeles area,” U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu (D-Los Angeles County) said in a statement. “I am eternally grateful for the bravery of our first responders who are doing everything in their power to contain these fires, save lives and protect property. My staff and I are closely monitoring the situation and are in regular touch with federal, state and local officials. This is an ongoing and dangerous situation so I encourage everyone to sign up for emergency notifications through Ready L.A. County at [ready.lacounty.gov](http://ready.lacounty.gov). For those close to the fires, you should prepare important documents and items in case you’re asked to evacuate quickly. We will continue to provide updates as we have them and encourage residents to continue to follow the instructions of local officials.”

Project Angel Food, a nonprofit which provides medically-tailored meals to thousands of elderly, disabled and sick residents throughout Los Angeles County, said it

remained committed to its mission.

“The ongoing fires in Los Angeles have created a dire situation for many of the seriously ill individuals we serve at Project Angel Food,” CEO Richard Ayoub said. “For 86% of our critically ill clients living with chronic diseases, we are their primary food source. Despite the adversity of smoke, road closures and even our own staff facing evacuations, it’s imperative that we continue to deliver essential meals. Our heroic drivers and volunteers are tirelessly working to ensure our vulnerable clients in Palisades, Santa Monica, Pasadena, Altadena, Palmdale and Lancaster receive their meals. Today, we are proactively reaching out to each of the 2,700 individuals currently relying on our services. Illness and age can lead to isolation, but we want them to know that Project Angel Food is steadfast in our commitment to support them, especially during these challenging times.”

He added that Project Angel

Food is seeking volunteers to deliver food to those who need it most. To join the efforts, call (323)845-1816. He also asked people to consider donating by visiting [angelfood.org/donations/donate](http://angelfood.org/donations/donate).

President Joe Biden – who was in Southern California for a planned national monument designation in the Coachella Valley – received a briefing from CalFire officials at Santa Monica Fire Station No. 5 on Jan. 8.

“It’s going to be a hell of a long way,” Biden said, standing alongside Gov. Gavin Newsom and Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.). “It’s going to take time. But we’re in it. The federal government is here to stay as long as you need us and everything you need.”

Biden approved a Major Disaster declaration for California on Jan. 8, which allows “survivors to immediately access funds and resources to jumpstart their recovery,” according to the White House.



photo by Karen Villalpando

The Eaton fire raged in La Canada Flintridge causing a full evacuation of the city.

## Flames scorch hillside along Sunset Strip

A brush fire erupted on a hillside along Sunset Boulevard in West Hollywood on Jan. 7. Despite strong winds, firefighters extinguished the flames in a little more than 30 minutes. The Los Angeles County Fire Department received a call about a brush fire in the 8500 block of Sunset Boulevard at 10:11 a.m. and arrived at the scene at 10:19 a.m. The blaze was initially believed to be a structure fire, but firefighters located approximately one-quarter acre of brush burning on a hillside behind a row of buildings. The fire spread to approximately three acres before it was extinguished. No structures were damaged and the cause remains under investigation.



photo by Jefferson Hendrick

Flames burned approximately three acres of brush in the 8500 block of Sunset Boulevard.



# TVC approved by L.A. City Council

From page 1

5th District, supported the project and spoke during the City Council meeting about the benefits it will create. She cited her work with Hackman Capital Partners to reduce the project’s size and scope.

“When CBS put this site up for sale several years ago, the future of Television City as a production campus was far from certain. It was entirely possible, in fact, that a buyer might have chosen to tear it down and replace it with a shopping mall or a massive office park or luxury condos, or all of the above,” Yaroslavsky said. “The preservation of this iconic production campus and the thousands of jobs it supports was never guaranteed. From my first days as a councilmember, I focused on one goal: shaping a project that will support L.A.’s signature industry while also respecting the historic Beverly-Fairfax neighborhood and addressing the concerns of the community.”

Yaroslavsky spoke directly about reductions and compromises she said will allow the project to be successful while mitigating impacts on the surrounding neighborhood.

“We scaled the project way back. We reduced the total building size by nearly 200,000 square feet. We reduced general office space by 200,000 square feet. We shifted an additional 12,000 square feet from general office to production office,

ensuring more space for production uses,” Yaroslavsky said.

The approved plan requires that at least 150,000 square feet of the site remain dedicated to sound stages, production support and production office space in perpetuity, and that general office space be prioritized for entertainment uses. The plan stipulates that a maximum of 500,000 square feet is permitted for office space.

A timeline for construction has not been released. However, Hackman Capital Partners is eager to start work on the project and hopes to complete it prior to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

“We believe in Los Angeles. Our customers want to film in Los Angeles. And we are proud to make this historic investment into the Los Angeles entertainment industry,” Hackman Capital Partners founder and CEO Michael Hackman said. “We are grateful to Councilmember Yaroslavsky and the entire City Council for this vote, allowing us to preserve this iconic studio and transform it into a truly modern media ecosystem. We are proud to create good-paying jobs close to where individuals and families live and believe this project will improve the quality of life and safety of residents and businesses in the Beverly-Fairfax community.”

Yaroslavsky also announced that

Hackman Capital Partners will contribute \$6.4 million for community benefits.

“This project doesn’t just need to fit in the neighborhood, it must benefit it directly. The development agreement includes \$2 million for traffic improvements, \$1.5 million for streetscape and bike infrastructure upgrades, \$1 million for improvements to adjacent Pan Pacific Park, \$1 million for the creation of a Beverly-Fairfax Business Improvement District, which we so desperately need, [and] \$1 million to fund affordable housing in the community,” Yaroslavsky added. “I know the project hasn’t addressed every single concern. I respect the passionate voices of those who continue to oppose it. This is a compromise, one that balances the preservation and modernization of an iconic production campus with the need to protect the character of Beverly-Fairfax.”

The Television City project was previously approved by the Los Angeles City Planning Commission and was supported by many business organizations, residents and community groups. Supporters include the Mid-City West Neighborhood Council, Park La Brea Residents Association, Fairfax Business Association, Melrose Business Improvement District, Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce, West Third Street Business Association, Holocaust Museum L.A., Los Angeles Conservancy and Los Angeles Parks Foundation.

Opponents of the project include



rendering courtesy of Foster + Partners and Television City

Hackman Capital Partners plans to expand and update the historic Television City studio to meet the needs of modern production companies.

Caruso and The Grove, the A.F. Gilmore Company and Original Farmers Market, the Broadcast Center Apartments, the Beverly Fairfax Community Alliance, Save Beverly Fairfax, Miracle Mile Residential Association, Beverly Wilshire Homes Association and Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development. Opponents said they are disappointed by the City Council’s approval and are weighing next options, including litigation. Some opponents believe the site will not ultimately be used as a studio, and called the city’s approval a “blank check.”

“Hackman’s own application calls the studio one possible development scenario, and we remain skeptical that it will ever get built. On a project of 1.7 million square feet, having a requirement for just 150,000 square feet of production

capacity hardly adds up to a big investment in the industry,” said Shelley Wagers, co-founder of Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development, which has been a voice of the project’s opposition. “Television City already has almost 600,000 square feet of production capacity, so 150,000 shrinks the studio by almost 75%, even if the studio never gets built. The city approved a specific plan that overrides city code entirely, and it has very broad entitlements for development.”

Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development co-founder Danielle Peters said she does not believe the planning process was fair.

“I think that we were listened to as a matter of the steps that you have to do in listening to the public, but I don’t think we were heard at all,” Peters added.

## Norovirus spreads in L.A. County

BY RANCE COLLINS

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is providing information to the public regarding the norovirus, which has had an uptick in infections in recent weeks.

The department noted “high levels” across the county, which has been indicated through outbreak investigations and wastewater surveillance. Symptoms include diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, stomach pain, fever, headache and body aches.

“A number of my friends and family members came down with norovirus,” West Hollywood Councilman John Heilman said. “The virus definitely ruined some holiday plans. Because it seems so prevalent right now, people need to make sure they are following medical advice by watching hands frequently and isolating if infected.”

Public Health recommended washing hands regularly with soap and water, especially after using the bathroom, changing a diaper, or before eating and preparing food.

“Hand sanitizer does not work

well against norovirus,” the department wrote in response to an inquiry from the Beverly Press. “Wash fruits and vegetables well and cook food thoroughly; clean and disinfect surfaces using bleach and follow the instructions on the product’s label; and avoid preparing food if you are sick.”

There is no specific treatment for norovirus. Antibiotics do not help treat the infections since it is viral and not bacterial. Severe cases may need intravenous fluid repletion at a healthcare facility, but most sick people will get better on their own within one to three days.

“Norovirus is very common and tends to resolve on its own. Follow the prevention practices listed above and notify your doctor if you have signs of dehydration, fatigue and/or can’t keep food down,” the department said.

It noted that symptoms of dehydration include decreased urination, dry mouth and throat, feeling dizzy when standing up, crying with few or no tears, and unusual sleepiness or fussiness. Public Health said anyone who experience symptoms of dehydration should visit a healthcare facility.

“Anyone can get infected and sick with norovirus and people of all ages get infected during norovirus outbreaks. Children younger than 5 years old, older adults and people with weakened immune systems are more likely to develop severe infections,” the department wrote. “Norovirus is very contagious and can spread for two weeks or more after you feel better. Residents should take preventive steps to protect themselves and others.”

For information on the norovirus, visit [cdc.gov/norovirus](https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus).



photo courtesy of the Carter Center

The board recognized former President Jimmy Carter, shown in 2014, for his leadership and humanitarianism.

## County observes day of mourning for President Carter

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is recognizing former President Jimmy Carter on Jan. 9, closing all non-emergency county offices.

Aligning with President Joe Biden’s proclamation of a national day of mourning, Los Angeles County will pause to reflect on Carter’s enduring contributions. The board approved a motion on Jan. 7 authorizing the county’s day of mourning. Essential services will remain uninterrupted to meet the needs of communities.

“President Carter exemplified the highest ideals of leadership, dedicating his life to promoting global peace, uplifting the marginalized, and fostering hope through humanitarian efforts,” said Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger, 5th District. “His life set a standard for integrity and service

that continues to inspire. [The] unanimous vote to declare a day of mourning demonstrates our shared commitment to paying tribute to a leader who embodied values we hold dear – compassion and service.”

“President Jimmy Carter led our country compassionately and with a kindness that championed human rights and made significant strides in environmental justice and education. His values reflected the very best of humanity,” added Board Chair Pro Tem Hilda L. Solis, 1st District. “We dedicate Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025, as a day of mourning in his honor. May we reflect on his long and fulfilling lifetime and tremendous career in public service with admiration and pride, and as a resounding collective commitment to uplift peace and prosperity for our country.”

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY HOSPITAL CLOSURE

Effective January 1, 2025

This is to provide public notice that DOCS Surgical Hospital, located at 6000 San Vicente Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036, will be closing temporarily on January 1, 2025, in order to complete construction of an entirely new hospital facility to replace the existing facility. The new facility, which will be a state-of-the-art hospital facility located at the same address and which will meet all seismic safety and other legal requirements, is expected to open after approximately one year.

The three nearest facilities offering comparable services are as follows:

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center  
8700 Beverly Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Kaiser Permanente  
West Los Angeles  
Medical Center  
6041 Cadillac Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90034

Southern California Hospital at Culver City  
3828 Delmas Terrace  
Culver City, CA 90232

DOCS Surgical Hospital provides services to Medicare patients, as do all of the above facilities.

Further information regarding the Hospital’s temporary closure may be obtained by contacting the facility or its owner:

Facility:  
DOCS Surgical Hospital, LLC  
6000 San Vicente Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
Tel. (323) 930-1040

Owner:  
DOCS Surgical Hospital, LLC  
8436 W. Third St. Suite 900  
Los Angeles, CA 90048  
Tel. (310) 746-5918  
Attn: Khawar Siddique, Co-CEO

This notice is provided in compliance with California law.

### Answers From Page 23



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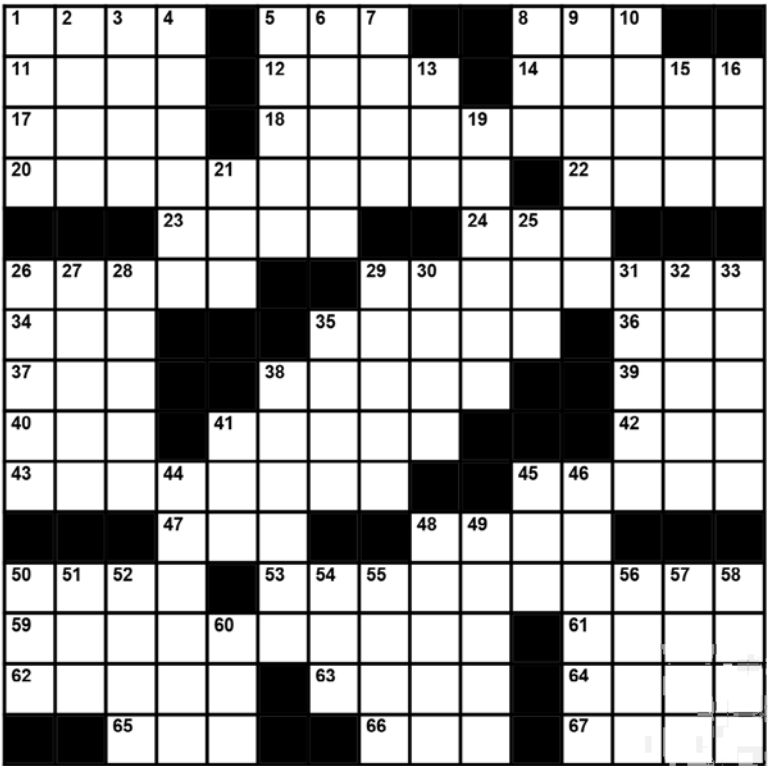
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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

- Across
1. Resting place
5. Rd. intersector
8. PC rival
11. Outback birds
12. Insurer for military personnel
14. "Survivor" group
17. Green stuff
18. Demand from a broker
20. Some bills
22. Have the \_\_\_\_ for (get a crush on)
23. They may provide relief
24. Looker
26. Change, in a way
29. Market figure
34. Going public letters
35. Pricey
36. Hail, classically
37. Expression of delight
38. Arctic, for one
39. Shuteye
40. Angular head?
41. Little rascal
42. Hot car
43. Arouses interest in
45. Philharmonic instruments
47. Dean's e-mail address ender
48. Grotto sound
50. Money
53. Inexpensive investment option
59. Usual law school stint
- Down
1. Religious offshoot
2. Actor Sharif
3. Combine
4. "Ain't It \_\_\_\_" (Fats Domino hit)
5. Put in a nutshell
6. Peter I and Paul I
7. It's a wrap!
8. Denali or Whitney, e.g.
9. Roman building features
10. "Ta-ta!"
13. Act your \_\_\_\_
15. Diner sandwich
16. Two-time U.S. Open champ
19. Gets revenge
21. Declare
25. "Sure"
26. Mazda \_\_\_\_
27. Painting style
28. Like very few games
29. Pieces
30. Tide type
31. Lively Argentine export
32. Not perfectly round



33. Bank takebacks
35. "Shoo!"
38. Take up
41. Unfortunate
44. Quote
45. Surprised gasps
46. Glass receptacle
48. Company that was the subject of the book "Power Failure"
49. Skin abnormalities
50. Letter, for short
51. "What have we here?!"
52. Like testimony, usually
54. "We need to get a cat!"
55. Second introduction?
56. Eye, at the Eiffel Tower
57. Newlyweds' car attachments
58. Artist Paul
60. Roush of baseball fame

answers on page 22



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(left to right) Dylan Dordick, Esq., Taylor Dordick, Esq., Gary A. Dordick, Esq., Nava T. Dordick, Esq., Michelle Dordick, Esq.

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