

Developer appeals denial of 8844 Burton Way project

■ City Council will decide fate of development

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The developer of a 26-story builder's remedy project at 8844 Burton Way that was denied by the Beverly Hills Planning Commission has appealed the decision to the City Council.

The Planning Commission voted 3-2 on Nov. 5 to deny the project. Commissioners expressed concerns over the project's feasibility, reduction in affordable housing units and alleged fire safety concerns due to its size.

However, in its appeal letter

dated Nov. 17, the developer argued that the project was unlawfully denied, and added that the City Council must overrule the decision under California housing law.

Dave Rand, an attorney representing the developer, highlighted two letters from the the California Department of Housing and Community Development to the city of Beverly Hills. HCD most recently sent the city a letter on Oct. 28 stating that certain requests from the Planning

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rendering courtesy of Crescent Heights

The project would be 309 feet tall and 26 stories.

Signs of life detected at Cinerama Dome

■ Neighborhood council recommends liquor license approval

BY RANCE COLLINS

It has been more than five-and-a-half years since the Arlight Hollywood and Cinerama Dome site shuttered its doors. While other entertainment landmarks in Los Angeles came back eventually from the pandemic, the iconic movie theater has remained closed, with cracks between the boarded-up windows still showcasing 2020 films such as "The Invisible Man." But a sign of life was detected at the venue.

The Hollywood Neighborhood Council recommended approval for a conditional use permit for alcoholic beverages at its Nov. 17 meeting. But it still has to go before the Los Angeles City Council for final approval.

"The liquor license for this

property has not been approved, it was just applied for at the end of October," Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District, said. "It will still need to go through a public hearing, which as far as we know is not scheduled yet."

Ben Steinberg, who founded the grassroots campaign Save the

Cinerama Dome, said that the owners, the Forman family, indicated at the meeting – through a representative – that reopening could be imminent.

"[The Forman family] opened the [neighboring] Blue Note jazz

See **Cinerama** page 26



photo by Rance Collins

The Cinerama Dome has been closed since March 2020.

Project Angel Food volunteers bring Thanksgiving meals to people in need

■ New Hollywood kitchen to open Dec. 16

BY TABOR BREWSTER

For many gathering around the table on Thanksgiving, eating healthy can be a challenge. After all, it can be hard to resist an extra slice of pumpkin pie, spoonful of sweet potato casserole or leftover turkey leg. But for people living with critical and life-threatening illness, finding a nutritious meal that fits medical needs can be particularly challenging on the holiday. This Thanksgiving, local nonprofit Project Angel Food is rallying the Hollywood community to prepare and deliver thousands of medically-tailored turkey dinners to those with serious illnesses.

The organization's CEO Richard Ayoub said that for clients who are struggling and often homebound, a hand-delivered Thanksgiving dinner can be a lifeline. On Thanksgiving Day, beginning at 5 a.m., approximately 100 volunteers will gather at Project Angel Food's temporary kitchen in Lincoln Heights to cook, pack and deliver meals that are individually suited to meet every client's nutritional requirements.



photo courtesy of Project Angel Food

Many celebrities have supported Project Angel Food's mission at Thanksgiving events, including "Weird Al" Yankovic and Amy Yasbeck.

The volunteers will include Hollywood celebrities like Yvette Nicole Brown, Loni Love, Will Sasso, Amy Yasbeck, Michael Hitchcock and many others. Ayoub said while a familiar face can help bring attention to the nonprofit, the tradition of Hollywood icons lending a helping hand to Project Angel Food goes further than just a photo-op.

"These celebrities who come to us, they aren't just celebrities who are taking photos and leave. They actually want to roll up their sleeves, and they want to cook some meals," Ayoub said.

"Many of these celebrities, people don't realize it, they also donate to the charity ... I'm just so blessed that we have people that are true supporters."

Project Angel Food was founded in 1989 to deliver meals to people living with HIV/AIDS. Since then, the nonprofit has expanded to deliver 1.5 million meals annually to individuals across Los Angeles living with illnesses like diabetes, heart disease and cancer. While Project Angel Food is not a food bank, many of its clients – who also

See **Thanksgiving** page 26

Santa returns to Hollywood

■ Christmas parade marches on Nov. 30

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Before taking to the skies on Christmas Eve to deliver presents around the world, Santa Claus will roll down Hollywood Boulevard on Sunday, Nov. 30, during the 93rd Hollywood Christmas Parade.

Santa will be joined in the parade by dozens of marching bands, dance and cheer groups, equestrian units, celebrity guests, floats and oversized balloon characters. Actor Luke Wilson will serve as the 2025 parade grand marshal and actor Anthony Anderson will be recognized as Humanitarian of the Year. Numerous other celebrities and local government officials are scheduled to participate in the parade. The family-friendly event supports Marine Toys for Tots.

"I'm honored to serve as the grand marshal of this year's Hollywood Christmas Parade, joining an esteemed list of Hollywood legends, and excited to support Marine Toys for Tots to bring joy to children in need this holiday season," Wilson said.

"I am so thrilled to be honored with the humanitarian award for this year's Hollywood Christmas Parade," Anderson added. "This is a tremendous honor and I am so thankful to be acknowledged for my charity work by such a respected establishment in the Hollywood community."

The parade starts in front of the Chinese Theatre at the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Orange Drive, and heads east along Hollywood Boulevard to Vine Street. The parade then heads south on Vine Street and west on Sunset Boulevard,

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CALENDAR

‘Years To The Day’

Don’t miss the final weeks of “Years To The Day” from Friday, Nov. 28, through Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Beverly Hills Playhouse. The production is written and directed by Allen Barton and stars Jeff LeBeau and Peter Zizzo. It offers a timeless treatise on the nature of friendship and how it can survive a world that seems to change more quickly with the passing years. Showtimes are 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 7 p.m., Sunday. General admission is \$35; \$15 for students. 254 S. Robertson Blvd. bhplayhouse.com/shows-tickets.

Art of Barry E. Jackson

Artist Barry E. Jackson’s first major solo show “Public Strangers” opens on Saturday, Nov. 29, at TAG Gallery. Jackson’s art is known for its distinctive visual style from his celebrated career in film and animation. He created artwork for “Shrek,” “The Nightmare Before Christmas” and “The Ant Bully.” With “Public Strangers,” the artist turns his attention to the fine art world, exploring the beauty and loneliness of urban life. The exhibition runs through Dec. 19. An opening reception will be held on Nov. 29 from 5-8 p.m. 5458 Wilshire Blvd. taggallery.net.

‘Mary Poppins’ book

Book Soup welcomes author Todd James Pierce for a discussion and signing of his book “Making Mary Poppins: The Sherman Brothers, Walt Disney, and the Creation of a Classic Film” on Monday, Dec. 1, from 7-8 p.m. The book reveals the extraordi-

nary true story behind the creation of one of the most beloved films of all time, and the two songwriters who helped make it possible. Author and Disney historian Pierce traces the unlikely path that brought the Sherman brothers to Walt Disney’s attention, and how their personal history, musical genius and emotional lives shaped the film’s unforgettable songs and surprising storyline. 8818 W Sunset Blvd. booksoup.com/event/2025-12-01/todd-james-pierce.

Beverly Hills Chamber

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce is holding its December “Get to Know Your Chamber” event on Tuesday, Dec. 2, from 8:15-10 a.m. Learn about the benefits and opportunities available to members and what the chamber is doing to assist them. New, current and future Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce members are welcome. Participation is free; registration is required. 9400 S. Santa Monica Blvd., Second Floor. members.beverlyhillschamber.com.

Wreath making workshop

Join a Holiday Wreath Making Workshop on Tuesday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m.-noon at the Virginia Robinson Gardens. Participants will start by making a beautiful frame and will use an array of winter greens, magnolia and special touches customized to their individual style. The workshop is taught by Viola Floral founder Jelena Trifunovic. The cost is \$120 for members; \$130 for non-members. 1008 Elden Way, Beverly Hills. robinsongardens.org/events.



Author talk

Authors Barbara Demick and Lisa See will sign and discuss their latest books on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 6:30 p.m. at Diesel, A Bookstore. Demick will discuss “Daughters of the Bamboo Grove: From China to America, A True Story of Abduction, Adoption and Separated Twins,” and See will discuss “The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane.” The event is free and will be held in the courtyard. To reserve a seat, purchase one copy of the book. 225 26th St., Ste. 33, Santa Monica. dieselbookstore.com.

Jeff Buckley film

The Grammy Museum is holding “Reel To Reel: It’s Never Over, Jeff Buckley” on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. The event includes a film screening, performance and panel discussion moderated by Elvis Mitchell. The 2025 music documentary “It’s Never Over, Jeff Buckley” will be shown, followed by a panel discussion with director and producer Amy Berg; Bill Simmons, founder of The Ringer and creator of the Music Box series; and film subject and musician Michael Tighe. A short performance from Lili Haydn and Lady Blackbird concludes the event. Tickets are \$25. 800 W. Olympic Blvd. grammymuseum.org.

Holocaust talk

Holocaust Museum L.A. is holding “Where They Settled: Sweden,” a virtual lecture with Dr. Pontus Rudberg on Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 11 a.m. Rudberg explores what happened to thousands of Holocaust survivors who went to Sweden after liberation. The discussion illustrates how Jewish survivors faced the dual challenge of

rebuilding shattered lives and navigating a society that could be both generous and restrictive. Survivors were housed in former military camps, received medical care in Swedish hospitals and were drawn into debates over whether they should settle permanently or prepare for emigration to other countries. Participation is free; RSVP is required. holocaustmuseum-la.org.

Heidi Duckler Dance

Heidi Duckler Dance invites the public to experience the culminating performance of the annual MAP Live! Workshop Series on Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. at the Bendix Building in Downtown Los Angeles. The performance is the finale of a four-day workshop that brings together artists, dancers, designers and creative thinkers for an immersive experience that merges movement, architecture and production. Following the performances, Heidi Duckler Dance will host a conversation with lead teaching artists Alejandro Perez (movement), Jeff Morrical (architecture) and Joanna Lynn-Jacobs (voice). Admission is \$15. 1206 Maple Ave., Ste. 1100B. heididuckler.org.



‘Alien: Earth’

ArtCenter College of Design presents a special screening of “Alien: Earth, Episode 5 (“In Space, No One...””) on Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. Inspired by the iconic “Alien” film franchise and set in the year 2120, “Alien: Earth” first premiered on Hulu and FX in August. Following the screening, series creator and showrunner Noah Hawley will participate in a conversation and audience Q&A session to discuss an episode he wrote and directed, offering behind-the-scenes insights into the creative process, storytelling and striking visuals. Admission is free with RSVP. 1700 Lida St., Pasadena. artcenter.edu.

Chamber music

Join Chamber Music Palisades for the second concert of its 29th season on Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Brentwood Presbyterian Church. Enjoy the lovely sounds of flute, harp, violin and viola performed by Susan Greenberg, artistic director and co-founder of Chamber Music Palisades; Maya Magub, a British violinist based in Los Angeles; and Rob Brophy, a member of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. Tickets are \$35. 12000 San Vicente Blvd. cmpalisades.org.

Wilshire Boulevard Temple author talk

Bestselling author Rabbi Angela Buchdahl, senior rabbi of New York’s Central Synagogue and the first Asian American individual ordained as a rabbi, will join Rabbi Joel Nickerson and Cantor Lisa Peicott for a special Shabbat on Friday, Dec. 5, at 6 p.m. at Wilshire Boulevard Temple. Buchdahl and Nickerson will explore themes from her new memoir “Heart of a Stranger: An Unlikely Rabbi’s Story of Faith, Identity, and Belonging.” The book traces Buchdahl’s journey to becoming one of the most influential spiritual leaders in the world. Also ordained as a cantor, she will join Peicott in song. A limited number of pre-signed copies of the book are available for purchase. Registration is required. 3663 Wilshire Blvd. simpletix.com/e/shabbat-with-guest-speaker-rabbi-angela-bu-tickets-244010.



photo courtesy of Assemblywoman Laura Friedman’s office
U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman was joined by transportation and law enforcement officials supporting the new bill.

Friedman announces legislation to boost safety on public transit

Ahead of the busy Thanksgiving holiday weekend travel period, U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) announced the Safe and Affordable Transit Act on Nov. 24. The new bipartisan legislation aims to improve safety and restore affordability on public transportation systems.

The bipartisan Safe and Affordable Transit Act is co-led by U.S. Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-N.Y.). It supports local transit agencies by creating a new federal grant program to hire additional police officers and build key safety infrastructure upgrades. The bill will reduce crime on public transit, lower costs for local agencies and increase rider confidence, Friedman said.

“Every Angeleno and every American deserves access to safe and affordable transit – and that’s exactly what my new, bipartisan legislation is all about,” Friedman added. “The Safe and Affordable Transit Act will restore confidence and help make sure public transportation is reliable, affordable and safe for every family, every day.”

“I join Representative Laura Friedman in introducing the Safe and Affordable Transit Act of 2025. In a city of nearly 9 million people, having safe and reliable public transportation keeps our city moving, and our bipartisan bill would establish a new federal grant program dedicated to transit safety and infrastructure upgrades that promote passenger and operator safety,” Malliotakis said.

Bill Scott, chief of police and emergency management for the Metro Department of Public

Safety, said the grants will provide much-needed support.

“The Metro Department of Public Safety will need to hire more than 600 sworn officers over the next four years, so we’re really thankful for the opportunity of the Safe and Affordable Transit Act,” Scott said. “We’re revolutionizing the way safety is delivered on transit by building a multilayered public safety ecosystem on Metro, and we thank Rep. Friedman for her leadership in helping us make Metro safer for everyone.”

The Safe and Affordable Transit Act creates a competitive federal grant program to hire additional officers for public transit stations and vehicles, and fund physical upgrades that protect riders and operators including surveillance, operator shields and visibility improvements. The bill is endorsed by the Amalgamated Transit Union and the Transit Workers Union.

“As we continue to make our system safer, I applaud Rep. Friedman for her leadership with the bipartisan Safe and Affordable Transit Act, which could help us accelerate the implementation of the safety and security initiatives we’re rolling out all over LA County,” said Stephanie Wiggins, Chief Executive Officer. “As we look forward to hosting the FIFA World Cup in 2026 and the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2028, these type of investments will ensure Metro is safe, secure, and ready to make America proud,” Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins said.

For information, visit friedman.house.gov.

Explore the intricacies of calligraphy

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles and Korean-American Calligraphy Association present the 34th Annual Exhibition of the Korean-American Calligraphy Association through Friday, Dec. 5, in KCCLA’s Second Floor Art Gallery.

The exhibition, themed “Diversity,” showcases works that reflect each artist’s individuality and creative identity through distinctive calligraphic expressions and styles. The exhibition features works by guest artists Soheon Jeong, Do-Joon, Simseok Kim, Byeong-Gi and Mookjae Kwon, Myoung-Won, as well as 34 member artists, offering visitors an

opportunity to experience a wide spectrum of traditional and contemporary calligraphic art.

“Calligraphy is more than the art of writing – it embodies the depth of the Korean spirit, philosophy and aesthetics,” KCCLA Director Haedon Lee said. “It is a treasured cultural heritage that connects tradition and modernity. We hope this exhibition will serve as a meaningful space for dialogue and appreciation, bridging generations, languages and cultures while sharing the beauty and value of Korean calligraphy.”

KCCLA is located at 5505 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit kccla.org.

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Productions return as tax incentives show results

■ ‘Baywatch’ reboot among new series planned in L.A.

BY RANCE COLLINS

In June, the California legislature passed the sweeping \$750 film and television tax credit, which – in addition to more than doubling the previous incentive cap – modernized the program with the aim of enticing productions to return to the state following a recent exodus to other states and countries. Last week, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced a slew of new projects set to begin production in the state, all beneficiaries of the expanded tax program, including many in the Los Angeles area.

Among the recognizable highlights are a reboot – details yet unknown – of the highly popular 1990s series “Baywatch,” which launched Pamela Anderson, among others, into superstardom.

“California’s creative economy isn’t just part of who we are – it helps power this state forward,”

Newsom said in a statement. “From the folks on the soundstage to the people designing the sets, these are jobs that anchor communities. And when we make smart investments like our film tax credit, we’re keeping talent here at home, supporting good-paying union jobs and strengthening an industry that defines the California brand. I’m proud to see the return of ‘Baywatch’ where it belongs – on sunny California shores, creating jobs and fueling the very entertainment economy that sets this state apart.”

“For years, we’ve watched productions leave L.A. – and we’ve all felt the impact,” Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said in a statement. “So seeing ‘Baywatch’ – an iconic show that was born in L.A. – come home is more than symbolic. It means real jobs for real people.”

“I’m excited and honored to be running this iconic show. I started the job in the wake of the California wildfires that devastated the coast and nearly destroyed my house,” ‘Baywatch’ executive producer Matt Nix said in a statement. “I was

inspired by the heroism of the first responders who fought to save our community, and I wanted to be a part of bringing filming back to California and showing the beauty and possibility of this incredible place. I’m grateful for the support of my partners and Fremantle and Fox and for the support of the California Film Commission. ‘Baywatch’ was born in Los Angeles. I’m so glad we can bring it home again.”

The total economic impact of the incentives issued so far is expected to be around \$2.5 billion. The most recent round of approved projects will employ more than 5,000 cast and crew members and nearly 36,000 background performers over 1,000 shooting days. Several series are relocating to California after previously filming in other states including “The Night Agent,” “Fallout” and “Mr. and Mrs. Smith.”

“California continues to prove that when we invest in our creative workforce, the industry invests right back in us,” California Film Commission director Colleen Bell said. “These series aren’t just coming home, they’re bringing thousands of jobs, hundreds of millions in wages, and long-term economic value to our state. The momentum we’re seeing is exactly what this program was designed to deliver.”

Stay in LA co-founder Pamela Buzick Kim said that while production returning is encouraging, there is still work to be done locally to make Los Angeles fully production friendly. Both the City Council and



photo by Rance Collins

Paramount Studios will be among the lots to house productions that have been awarded tax credits.

Bass have made efforts in recent months to cut red tape, particularly with the permitting process, but Stay in LA argues that not enough has been done to make an impact.

“The incentives are doing their job, keeping production in California,” Kim said. “The state stepped up, but Los Angeles hasn’t. It’s been more than six months with no movement from City Council,

[L.A.] Public Works or the mayor on basic permitting fixes. We’re trying to rebuild an industry, not only land a few shows. And a genuine thank you to the producers and execs who’ve called Stay in LA volunteers for help keeping their projects here. We never expected to play that role, but we’re glad to be a resource – including helping ‘Baywatch’ stay put.”

Campaign stresses that L.A. remains open for business

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass joined state and regional leaders on Nov. 17 to launch “LA is Open,” a recovery campaign to boost Los Angeles’ local economy by increasing business confidence, promoting the tourism industry and supporting small businesses impacted by the January wildfires.

By showcasing L.A.’s small businesses, creative industries and cultural institutions, the campaign invites residents and visitors to rediscover L.A.’s diversity and vibrancy through the Shop LA, Dine LA and Discover LA initiatives.

“Through this bold new campaign, we are sending a clear message that Los Angeles is open for business and ready to welcome everyone back to L.A. to explore all that our vibrant city has to offer,” Bass said. “From neighborhood gems like Olvera Street, Grand Central Market, Little Ethiopia and more to our museums, beaches, parks and beyond, come visit L.A. and see why our city is second to none.”

Facilitated by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Center in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity, Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department, California

Community Foundation and regional stakeholders, “LA is Open” signals that Los Angeles is open for business, resilient and ready to welcome visitors from around the world.

A collaborative campaign between state, county and city partners, Bass was joined for the announcement by Dee Dee Myers, senior advisor and director of the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development; Kelly LoBianco, director of the L.A. County Department of Economic Opportunity; and Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation president and CEO Stephen Cheung.

“LA is Open reflects the collective determination of our region to rise stronger than ever. This campaign is not just about recovery; it’s about renewal,” Cheung said. “We are bringing together public and private partners to showcase the resilience, creativity and opportunity that make Los Angeles unlike any place in the world.”

“LA is Open” builds on Bass’ efforts to prepare the city for upcoming major events including the 2026 FIFA World Cup and 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

For information and ways to get involved, visit laedc.org/laisopen.

Bass calls for extended mortgage relief

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass has urged banks and mortgage servicers to voluntarily extend mortgage payment relief for homeowners still recovering from the January wildfires, calling for three additional years of payment relief beyond the one year that is provided under state law. While many residents currently benefit from short-term mortgage relief as they rebuild, the relief is set to expire for most families.

“Under my proposal, the years of relief are added to the back of a homeowner’s current mortgage,”

Bass said. “What’s important is during that time homeowners aren’t charged any additional fees or penalties, and this relief does not negatively impact their credit.”

The state of California recently passed Assembly Bill 238, known as the Mortgage Forebearance Act, allowing homeowners whose properties were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable by the fires to pause mortgage payments without late fees, penalties or risk of foreclosure for up to one year. For information, visit mayor.lacity.gov.



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Angela
Buchdahl

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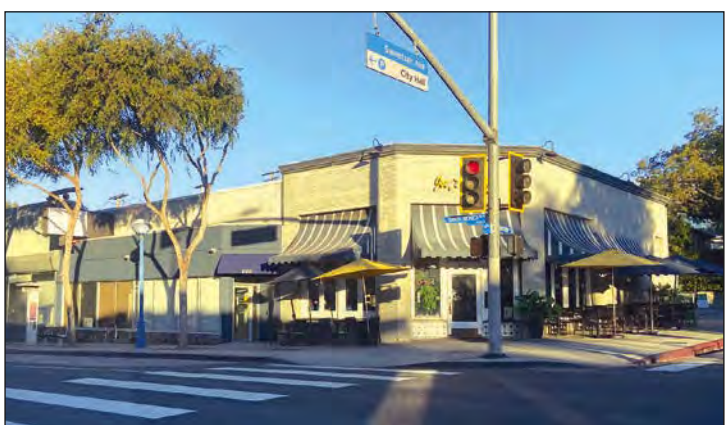


photo by Edwin Folven

Auto burglary suspect arrested after crash in West Hollywood

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station deputies arrested a 30-year-old man for attempted vehicle burglary on Nov. 20 after a brief pursuit that ended with a crash near City Hall. Authorities are still searching for two other suspects.

Deputies received a call around noon about two men looking into the windows of parked cars in a lot off Sweetzer Avenue just north of Santa Monica Boulevard. A witness confronted the men and they quickly got into a white sedan and fled, Sgt. John Magana said.

“The witness yelled at them and scared them and they drove away, but they ended up crashing,” he added.

The vehicle attempted to turn south onto Sweetzer Avenue and struck another car before driving onto the sidewalk and coming to a stop in front of an apartment building just south of West Hollywood City Hall. Two suspects – one male and the other female – ran from the vehicle, but sheriff's deputies arrived simultaneously and apprehended a male suspect. Malik Jackson, of Los Angeles, was booked for felony attempted vehicle burglary. Deputies were unable to locate the other two people who ran from the scene. Magana had no further description of the additional suspects.

Anyone with information is urged to call the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station at (310)855-8850.

Hold placed on case involving body found in trunk

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles Police Department was granted a court order on Nov. 21 that places a security hold on information in the case of a 15-year-old girl whose remains were found in the trunk of vehicle registered to the singer D4vd in September in a Hollywood impound lot.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Craig Richman granted the security hold in the case involving Celeste Rivas Hernandez days after media outlets reported what police said are unsubstantiated claims about the investigation. TMZ, citing an anonymous source close to the investigation, reported on Nov. 18 that police consider D4vd, whose real name is David Anthony Burke, a suspect in the death of Rivas Hernandez. Multiple other media outlets also subsequently reported that police consider Burke a suspect. Det. Meghan Aguilar said the LAPD has not released any information about whether or not Burke is a suspect, adding that authorities were aware of the media reports but did not know the source of the information. In recent days, other media outlets have reported that Rivas Hernandez' body had been frozen and she had been decapitated — details that police said were untrue.

The Lake Elsinore teen had been reported missing by her family in April 2024 when she was 13 years old, approximately a year and a half before her severely decomposed body was located in the Tesla regis-



photo by Edwin Folven

Celeste Rivas Hernandez's body was found on Sept. 8 in the trunk of a car at Hollywood Tow on Mansfield Avenue.

tered to Burke. Family members told police that Rivas Hernandez ran away twice before and that she had a boyfriend named David.

The Tesla was towed on Sept. 5 to the Hollywood Tow lot at 1015 N. Mansfield Ave. after it had been parked for weeks in the same spot in the 1400 block of Bluebird Avenue in the Hollywood Hills, approximately two blocks from a home where Burke was staying. Employees at the tow lot noticed a foul odor coming from the vehicle and called police, who discovered Rivas Hernandez's remains in the trunk on Sept. 8. The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner took custody of the remains and conducted an autopsy.

but the cause of death was deferred pending further testing.

Police asked for the security hold on information in the case because detectives believe the release of details could compromise the investigation. Detectives cited concerns about the effect the release of information could have on potential witnesses and informants.

Following the judge's order, the Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner removed the Rivas Hernandez case from its website and posted, "No records or details associated with the case, including the cause and manner of death and medical examiner report, can be released or posted on the

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‘Suffs’ persists as rallying cry at Pantages

BY RANCE COLLINS

Art lives and breaths. The reason why “Gypsy” and “West Side Story” have endured, revived again and again, is because their messages are not only timeless, but are recontextualized with each passing generation. When, how and where a show is performed will shift its meaning.

In 2024, “Suffs” arrived on Broadway during a tumultuous time in American politics, as a twice-impeached former president rose again to prominence, a current president faltered and – later – a woman ascended to a party nomination. While its Broadway run still had a few months to go once Kamala Harris made it to the top of the ticket, the Tony nominations had come and gone and for whatever reason, the importance of the show’s message was seemingly, at least based on the brevity of its run, missed. A show produced (in part) by another former presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, maybe read blasé. The fight for the rights we take for granted, after all, can feel kind of – for lack of a better word – “precious” in the wrong context. In November 2024, voters showed that, Dobbs decision and all, women’s autonomy was not a make-or-break issue – at least at that time. Perhaps no one really thought a right that had been fought for could be taken away.

Cut to a year later. After 10 months of the “find out” phase, the struggle for progress feels much more tangible. Families disappearing in the night, economic uncertainty, attacks on voting rights and military in the streets all put history back into focus, but the most symbolic blow might be the demolition of the White House’s East Wing, historically ground zero for the First Lady. Its important history, which goes hand-in-hand with the women’s movement, is – for all intents and purposes – left to memory.

“Suffs” ended its New York run just before Trump took his second oath of office. Even then, in the not-so-distant future, the musical may have been before its time. Now, its touring show, which is performing at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre through Dec. 7, is exactly the rallying cry that we need – particularly here in Los Angeles, a city that has too often bore the brunt of a combative year.

The show focuses on, as indicated by the title, the women’s suffrage movement, specifically focusing on its final decade as a committed group of women work to get women’s voting rights across the finish line. The idea had long been in gestation, and a play-nice, long-game attitude, represented by the slogan “Let Mother Vote,” is the preference of the National American Woman Suffrage Association and its leader Carrie Chapman Catt. Alice Paul, however, is a young activist who wants to take a more confrontational

approach, starting with a march on Washington, D.C.

The contentious relationship between the differing viewpoints makes up much of the show’s conflict, as does the oft-forgotten, all-too-important footnote of the movement: Black women still had to wait until the Voting Rights Act, nearly 50 years later, to achieve the same feat, though many Black women – including Mary Church Terrell – fought hard alongside the largely white coalitions in the 1910s.

These uncomfortable tensions show the complexity behind the 19th Amendment, which is told in history books in brief summaries that trace a direct line from Susan B. Anthony to the ballot box, though Anthony died some 14 years before the amendment was ratified. Several times throughout the musical’s two acts, the mighty suffs are all but ready to give up on the cause, as men at every turn – including President Woodrow Wilson – stand in the way of forward movement.

The women, too, have differing political views spanning the large spectrum of ideologies, from war hawks to socialists. But together they are banded in a common goal, and when (spoiler) women finally achieve the right to vote, the celebration is as one – no matter how contentious the journey might have been. There are many ups and downs along the way – this is a cause that women literally gave their lives for, and “Suffs” does not shy away from the harsher realities.

The company plays every damn beat to the hilt. As Alice Paul, Maya Keleher is nothing short of a revelation. She reminded me of Rachel Brosnahan’s marvelous Midge Maisel, with a pluck and determination that colors every glance, every subtle movement. She’s impossible not to root for. Her steely counterpart, Carrie, is exceptional studied by Marya Grandy, who brings a stately presence – something akin to a suffrage queen – to the proceedings. On down the line, cast members knock it out of the park – Danyel Fulton as Ida B. Wells, Gwynne Wood as Lucy Burns ... to mention a few would almost feel sacrosanct, because it would imply that the company is something other than a cohesive unit of harmony. Safe to say, Broadway is sending us its best. Every male role is portrayed by an actress in drag and an all-female creative team put the musical together. The music is catchy and intricate, with recurring songs such as “Find a Way” and “Wait My Turn” particular earworms. Writer, composer and creator Shaina Taub – who also starred in the original production – more than earned her Best Book and Best Score Tonys.

As a white guy from the south, seeing the story through the lens of those affected was mind blowing. One of the little secrets about humanity is that we all, regardless of gender or background, experi-

ence the same emotions. When we allow ourselves to read, listen or watch those that are at least physically not like ourselves, we discover core similarities. It is difficult to deny humanity in this light, though millennia of insecurity has shown us how unwilling the powerful are to open their minds.

So, in 2025, what might have seemed quaint in 2024 becomes as pertinent rallying cry – a reminder that the political and social setbacks of the last year are but one stop on the train of history. After the stage goes black at the end of the second act, the performers having just encouraged the audience to “Keep



photo by Joan Marcus

Marya Grandy (center) plays the suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt to the hilt.

Marching,” the cast stomps in unison a few extra times to the song’s beat, though the music itself has stopped, almost as if to remind us all that it’s not over. The fight goes on. And on.

Nevertheless, she persisted.

For tickets and information, visit broadwayinhollywood.com/events/detail/suffs. The Hollywood Pantages Theatre is located at 6233 Hollywood Blvd.

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photo by Joan Marcus

Maya Keleher is a revelation as Alice Paul in “Suffs.”

Sylvia Miceli remembered

■ Pizza pioneer opened namesake restaurant with husband in 1949

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Hollywood is remembering Sylvia Miceli, who with her late husband Carmen created their namesake Miceli’s Italian Restaurant, a beloved Hollywood restaurant known for singing waiters and Italian American fare. Sylvia Miceli died on Nov. 20 at the age of 95.

“Yesterday, our family said goodbye to someone truly unforgettable, our beloved Sylvia Miceli,” a statement from the restaurant read. “Sylvia helped open Miceli’s in 1949, and so much of who we are today exists because of her. She brought warmth into every room, treated everyone like family, and poured her heart into this restaurant for decades. She lived 95 beautiful years as a devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, cousin and friend. We’re holding each other close today, and we’re so grateful for the love this community has shown our family. Please remember to be kind to one another,

all of our hearts are a bit broken right now.”

In 1949, Carmen and Sylvia Miceli, a first-generation American couple with Sicilian and Ukrainian roots, respectively, opened what is now Hollywood’s oldest Italian restaurant. Years before Hollywood Boulevard became famous for the Walk of Fame, the Micelis became famous for their pizzas.

According to their son Frank – who now owns and operates the business with his brother Joe – Miceli’s was the first pizzeria on the West Coast ... “allegedly.”

“Pizza was not a featured item [in most restaurants]. There were places that had pizza on the menu, but as an afterthought,” Miceli said. “So in 1949, pizza became a staple. And there were people lined up all over the place coming into the restaurant.”

After initial success, Carmen Miceli, a World War II veteran with an eclectic taste, continued to add to the restaurant’s bold image – adding a 200-year-old stained glass window here, a Tiffany lamp there and a plethora of furniture from another classic Hollywood restaurant – the Pig ‘n Whistle – after it burned down in 1956.

Today, every inch of the restaurant’s sprawling, multi-level dining room is decorated with some kind of Italian bric-a-brac. Oil paintings give way to exposed brick, and hundreds of fiasco wine bottles in straw baskets hang from the ornate wooden ceiling. Dining in Miceli’s almost feels like you’re in the Hollywood set of an idealized Italian restaurant – which makes sense, because in some ways, it is. Miceli’s has been seen in films like “The Terminator” and in series including “Dexter.” According to Miceli, the pizza chef at the restaurant’s former Beverly Hills location – once found on La Cienega’s “Restaurant Row” – taught Lucille Ball how to toss pies for a famous “I Love Lucy” bit. Name a celebrity, and there’s probably a story about them dining at Miceli’s. Painted next to the front door sits a mural of Frank Sinatra (a regular), and the pizza evidently piqued the interest of at least three presidents (hint: 35, 37 and 40).

While plenty of restaurants in Los Angeles are known for their longevity and A-list clientele, the music really sets Miceli’s apart. In between jotting down orders, sling-ing pizzas and trying not to spill martinis, the waiters join the piano player to belt out a jazz standard.

According to Miceli, the tradition started organically when the restaurant had a jukebox, and everyone – customers, waiters, even kitchen staff – would sing along.

When the restaurant opened its Universal City location around 1980, management put an ad out seeking singing servers.

“We had 250 people audition,” Miceli said.

The restaurant has never had a



photo courtesy of Miceli’s

Carmen and Sylvia Miceli opened Hollywood’s oldest Italian restaurant in 1949.

problem finding singing servers. In fact, it’s usually the servers that find the restaurant. In Los Angeles – a city where the most talented entertainers are often found behind a bar counter, in a kitchen or traversing a dining room – Miceli’s musical prerequisite for hiring is a match made in heaven.

Several of the front-of-house alumni have found success in the entertainment industry. Actors, Broadway stars, even a “Miss California” have cut their teeth at Miceli’s.

Although the Italian staple has been open for decades, much of it

has remained the same, Miceli said. Of course, the building has undergone renovations and the menu has occasionally been updated through the years, but everything about Miceli’s just feels “classic,” including the food. Seventy-six years since Miceli’s opened, Sylvia Miceli’s legacy lives on in each of the iconic dishes, the jazz standards sung by each waiter and the unmistakable atmosphere.

Miceli’s is located at 1646 N. Las Palmas Ave. in Hollywood and 3655 Cahuenga Blvd. in Universal City. For information, visit micelis.restaurant.

WeHo Chamber recognizes exemplary creative businesses

The West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce celebrated the recipients of the 41st annual West Hollywood Creative Business Awards at the 1 Hotel West Hollywood. The gala celebrated the businesses, innovators, creators and community champions who elevate West Hollywood as a leader in creativity and commerce.

The evening’s theme was “Where Innovation Takes Center Ring.” Proceeds support the chamber’s programming in advocacy, marketing, education and business promotion.

WHCC honored The h.wood Group with the prestigious Legacy Award, recognizing its significant and enduring impact on the business and cultural landscape of West Hollywood. Founded by John Terzian and Brian Toll, The h.wood Group has become a global hospitality leader with iconic venues such as Delilah, The Nice Guy, Keys and Harriet’s, while maintaining deep roots in West Hollywood.

The Creative Concept Award was presented to Alba, the Corporate Innovation Award winner was The Lot at Formosa, the John Chase Art and Design Award was given to the West Hollywood Design District-ArtWalk and the Creative Communications Award recipient was Lucky Break PR for the WeHappy Wednesdays Campaign.

The Innovative Sustainability Award was given to Athens Services, the WeHo Attraction Award winner was Dialog Café and the Creative Community Service Award was presented to Trans Can Work.

WHCC Board chair Dr. Raja Sannidhi honored Genevieve Morrill, long-serving president and CEO of the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, who is stepping down after 15 years of leadership. Sannidhi, joined by past chair David Wood and WHCC staff, presented Morrill with the Ray Reynolds Award, a distinction reserved for individuals whose contributions have significantly advanced economic development in the city of West Hollywood.

“We must not forget what – and who – we are advocating for,” Morrill said. “Business is not a dirty word. It is vital that our voices are heard and that we unite to fight for fair and just policies. Our businesses are struggling. We love our employees and are committed to providing fair and equitable opportunities, but we must be able to remain open to do so.”

Founded in 1921, the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit dedicated to fostering an environment where commerce can flourish. For information, visit wehochamber.com.



photo courtesy of the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce

Creative Business Awards honorees came together during the gala celebration at 1 Hotel West Hollywood.



PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF AN URGENCY ORDINANCE, AND INTRODUCE FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE WEST HOLLYWOOD BUILING CODES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **December 15, 2025**, the City Council will conduct a public hearing regarding the adoption of Urgency Ordinance No. 25-25U and introduce first reading of Ordinance No. 25-26. The proposed Ordinances would adopt the California Building Code (2025) California Electrical Code (2025); California Plumbing Code (2025); California Mechanical Code (2025); California Residential Code (2025); California Green Building Standards Code (2025); California Existing Building Code (2025); Incorporating the Los Angeles County amendments to said codes; add the California Historical Building Code (2025); and amend Titles 13 of the West Hollywood Municipal Code.

At the public hearing, the City Council will hear public testimony on the proposed changes.

The public hearing will commence at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, as part of the open session of the City Council meeting in the West Hollywood Public Meeting Room - Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood. Anyone wishing to speak may attend the hearing or submit written comments no later than 12:00 p.m. on the above Council meeting day via email to publiccomment@weho.org or via E-Comment by visiting www.weho.org/wehoty.

Written comments should be addressed to City Clerk, City of West Hollywood, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California, 90069.

BY ORDER OF the City of West Hollywood,
Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

DATE: November 27, 2025

WeHo transforms into winter wonderland

BY RANCE COLLINS

There is significant debate as to when significant snow last fell in the Los Angeles area – not counting the nearby mountains, of course. Some sources say the last time snow was seen in downtown was all the way back in 1962, 63 years ago. Almost certainly, West Hollywood has not seen a true accumulation of the precipitation since it officially became a city in 1984, although a rare scattering of flurries was reported in 2019.

But residents can at least pretend starting Dec. 1, when West Hollywood will bring winter weather to the people with its now-annual ice rink.

“I’m excited to get back on the ice this year, it’s a wonderful way to welcome the winter season,” Councilman John Erickson said. “This new skating tradition brings our community together and adds to what makes West Hollywood such a festive and inviting destination during the holidays. Looking forward to joining everyone on the rink.”

The rink has been constructed in West Hollywood Park, located at 647 N. San Vicente Blvd., and will be open daily through Dec. 21. On Monday-Thursday, it opens at 4 p.m., Friday at 2 p.m. and on weekends at noon. It closes at 9:30 p.m. every day. The cost is \$15 for those ages 3-14 and \$20 for age 15-and-up. The session includes skate rentals.

“I’m really excited to see the ice rink return to West Hollywood Park,” Councilman Danny Hang said. “It’s quickly becoming a holiday tradition for families, friends and neighbors to enjoy together, and it brings such a fun, festive energy to WeHo this time of year. And I’ll be honest, I can’t wait to lace up and probably fall on the ice, again. It’s all part of the fun, and I’m looking forward to celebrating the season with everyone.”

On Dec. 16 from 1-4 p.m., West Hollywood will host a Winter Wonderland event which, in addition to ice skating, will add 20 tons of artificial snow onto the park’s great lawn – double the size of last year. Special snow zones will be set

aside for children 5-and-under and those 6-and-up. Arts, crafts, hot cocoa, snacks, performances, holiday décor, a DJ and “elfie” photo opportunities will be available. Winter apparel is encouraged.

So, while L.A. is unlikely to get actual snowfall this season, West Hollywood is providing the next best thing, with no snow shovels required. For information, visit weho.org/community/recreation-services/ice-rink.

Kids of all ages are welcome at the West Hollywood ice rink Dec. 1-21.



photo by Jon Viscott

WeHo Toy, Food Drive accepting donations

The city of West Hollywood and the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station are partnering to help give back to those in need this holiday season.

The 36th annual West Hollywood Toy and Food Drive will accept monetary donations online via ActiveNet until Friday, Dec. 19, with the goal of providing as many families as possible with toys and holiday gift cards. Donations may be made online at weho.org/toydrive. Click on the “Donate Now” tab to contribute any amount. Existing West Hollywood ActiveNet users may simply log in to start the donation process; new users will be prompted to create an account.

The cost to help one family is \$100; up to 10 families can be helped with \$1,000. New unwrapped toys are also needed and gift cards in \$30 denominations to retailers such as Pavilions, Ralphs, Trader Joe’s or Target will help families throughout the holiday season. Toy collection bins are located at the West Hollywood Park Aquatic and Recreation

Center (second floor lobby), located at 8750 El Tovar Place, adjacent to West Hollywood Library; Plummer Park, located at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.; West Hollywood City Hall, located at 8300 Santa Monica Blvd.; West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station, located at 780 N. San Vicente Blvd.; and the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, located at 8272 Santa Monica Blvd.

Several city hotels will also have collection bins: 1 Hotel, located at 8490 Sunset Blvd.; Andaz West Hollywood, located at 8401 Sunset Blvd.; Le Parc at Melrose, located at 733 N. West Knoll Drive; The London West Hollywood, located at 1020 N. San Vicente Blvd.; as well as at the Chateau Marmont, located in the city of Los Angeles at 8221 Sunset Blvd.

For information, contact Natalie Mignon in West Hollywood’s Recreation Services Division at nmignon@weho.org or at (323)848-6321, or Maggie Giovannetti at mgiovannetti@weho.org or at (323)848-6534.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Thursday, December 11, 2025

TIME: 1:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

LOCATION: Meeting will be held in person at:
Commission Meeting Room 280A
Beverly Hills City Hall
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210



Members of the public may also participate via teleconference; details provided below:

PROJECT 410 Dabney Lane
ADDRESS: (Between Loma Vista Drive and Wallace Ridge)

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its REGULAR meeting on Thursday, December 11, 2025, will hold a public hearing beginning at **1:30 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider the following:

Zone Text Amendment (ZTA). A request by Philip Sarofim, the property owner of **410 Dabney Lane**, to amend the development standards pertaining to grading and construction in areas located beyond the existing level pad of a property in the Trousdale Estates Area of the City, and the construction of fully opaque fences and walls up to six feet (6’) in height within the front yard setback. This ZTA request seeks to amend the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC) to allow for the following:

- Amend BHMC §10-3-2603 to allow construction to extend beyond a level pad for the purposes of constructing stairs, garden retaining walls, and grading for walking/maintenance paths and other such features through the issuance of a Trousdale R-1 Permit;
- Amend BHMC §10-3-2604 to allow for grading on a slope that exceeds one (1) vertical foot for each five (5) horizontal feet through the issuance of a Trousdale R-1 Permit;
- Amend BHMC §10-3-2616.D to allow walls, fences and hedges which are solid and opaque up to six feet (6’) in height within the front yard setback through the issuance of a Trousdale R-1 Permit; and,
- Amend BHMC §10-3-2650 to allow for requests for the aforementioned project features through the issuance of a Trousdale R-1 Permit.

In addition, the project includes the following entitlement requests associated with the ZTA request:

- **Trousdale R-1 Permit.** A request to allow for the construction of stairs, garden retaining walls, and grading for walking/maintenance paths beyond the level pad area located at the rear of the property at 410 Dabney Lane and the construction of a fully opaque six-foot (6’) tall fence with pilasters within the required 15’ front yard setback. This request seeks to potentially legalize features previously built without permits and that are not currently in compliance with the applicable development standards for properties in the Trousdale Estates Area of the City.

The requested Trousdale R-1 Permit associated with the ZTA would not become effective unless the amended municipal code language in the ZTA request is approved by the City Council.

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15000 et seq.), and the environmental regulations of the City. Upon review, the project appears to qualify for Class 5 (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations) and a Class 3 (New Construction) Categorical Exemptions in accordance with the requirements of Sections 15303 and 15305 of the state CEQA Guidelines. Accordingly, the Planning Commission will consider a recommendation to find the project categorically exempt from further environmental review under CEQA.

How to Participate

Members of the public can participate in, watch or listen to the commission meetings through the following methods:

- **In Person:** Submit a speaker card to the Recording Secretary at the meeting.
- **Oral Comment:** Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 1 when prompted. You will be placed on a brief hold, and called upon to make a comment at the appropriate time.
- **Video Comment:** <https://beverlyhills-org.zoom.us/my/bevpublic>, enter passcode: 90210 when prompted.
- **Written Comment:** Email commentPC@beverlyhills.org
- **Audio Only:** Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 2 when prompted.
- **Watch LIVE:** BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable or www.beverlyhills.org/watchlive

It is recommended that written public comments be submitted to the Planning Commission Recording Secretary by 11:30 AM on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the Planning Commission. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item number or topic in the subject line of the email. In order to be read at the meeting, written comments will be allowed with a maximum of 350 words, which corresponds to approximately three (3) minutes of speaking time.

If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Any written comments received by end of the day on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, will be attached to the agenda report regarding this item. Any comments received after Tuesday, December 2, 2025, but prior the public hearing, will be distributed to the Commission under separate cover. According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the City’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. Please note that any comments received prior to or during the public hearing will be considered as part of the public record.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Edgar Arroyo**, Senior Planner in the Planning Division at **(310) 285-1138**, or by email at earroyo@beverlyhills.org. Copies of the project plans and associated application materials are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by contacting the project planner listed above.

Edgar Arroyo,
Senior Planner



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.

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‘What Happened to him?’ Thanksgiving.

And now we celebrate with long tables full of food. The kitchen hums and the windows steam. The TV gets a workout, starting with the Macy’s parade, then blossoming into football, that land-grab game that we worship.

Hey, Coach, put me in!
Some say that every day should be Thanksgiving, but who could eat that much on a consistent basis and not explode? In college, I ate everything within sight. These days, I prefer smaller portions and lots of grains.

Kids, don’t ever grow old.
But I make an exception for feasts like this. On Thanksgiving, all bets (and belts) are off.

There is a lot of love in our kitchens today, also a lot of pure science. Richter’s Law of Reciprocal Proportions, Dalton’s Law of Partial Pressures, Uncle Charlie’s Law of Exploding Gases.

I made that last one up, but if you know Uncle Charlie....

Point is we live large on Thanksgiving. Portion control flies out the door. A well-timed, bass-drum belch is almost a tradition. Think of it as a lion’s roar.

Please include those who might



be alone. Me, for instance. Send a Town Car if you can. I’ll be standing by the curb with a bunch of Pilgrim balloons and a willowy girlfriend who keeps asking: “Where are we going again? How did this happen? Why do you get us into these things?”

As with life, I have no answers.
But I do recommend putting your precious phones away for an hour or two. No really, you can do it. It’ll be torture at first, sure.

Putting your phone aside will let you immerse yourself in a board game, or an argument over the Dallas Cowboys. Baste the turkey. Stir the gravy. Wrestle on the rug if you like. Offer to take the trash out, then chase the dog ’round and ’round the kitchen (that’ll go over super well).



photo by Chris Erskine
Baste the bird. Stir the gravy. Wrestle on the rug if you like.

Rams give \$5 million for free LA28 tickets for residents

As the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games move closer, the LA28 Organizing Committee announced a fundraising effort to give free tickets to the 2028 Games to local residents. The Los Angeles Rams kicked off the initiative with a \$5 million donation.

The fundraising effort, which launched a little more than 1,000 days out from the 2028 Games, invites local sports teams, philanthropists and partners to fund ticket donations that will go directly to local community organizations for distribution in their communities.

“The 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games are for everyone. This program is about making sure that the people who live, work and contribute to the spirit of Los Angeles can access the Games taking place in their hometown,” LA28 Chairman and President Casey Wasserman said. “We’re incredibly thankful to Stan Kroenke and the Rams for being the first to step up for the people of their city. This is true partnership in action, and we look forward to welcoming others for this meaningful initiative.”

SoFi Stadium, which is referred to as 2028 Stadium for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, was built by Rams owner and chairman E. Stanley Kroenke. The stadium will host the Olympic Opening Ceremony and Paralympic Opening

Ceremony along with the Coliseum. SoFi will be converted into the largest Olympic Swimming venue in history. Neighboring Hollywood Park Studios, which is currently under construction, will serve as the host site of the International Broadcast Center for the Games.

“When Stan Kroenke built SoFi Stadium and Hollywood Park, it was with the goal of bringing the biggest global events in sports and entertainment to Los Angeles, with a strong belief in the positive impact they could have on communities all across the region,” Los Angeles Rams President Kevin Demoff said. “LA28 shares this vision of using sports to lift up Los Angeles as well as bridge the world. We are honored to team up with them to kick off this program which will give thousands of Angelenos who otherwise might not get to attend the Games an opportunity to experience it first-hand.”

LA28 welcomes individuals, organizations, philanthropies and leaders to participate in the effort. Along with the fundraising initiative, the Los Angeles community is invited to take advantage of early access to purchase LA28 tickets when they go on sale in 2026, which includes single tickets starting at \$28. More information on the local pre-sale will be released next year. For information, register at la28.org.

When they kick you out, toss the football in the backyard, maybe get a game going. Remember, the swing set is the end zone. The hedge is out of bounds. Game ends when someone pulls a groin.

What do I bring to Thanksgiving week? Not much. I’m a lover of history and a big fan of tradition – big surprise? Out come the corduroy pants and the goofy plaid vests. This is the only time of year I don’t mind dressing up a little. Honest. In summer, I’d just as soon go naked to a wedding – a Speedo at most. Which explains why I get invited to so many Irish weddings.

Beginning now, as winter nears, you can layer me like a cake. As I age up, I’m generally a little chilly. I jiggle when I breathe, like Aunt Sadie’s Jello-O salad, the one with little marshmallows. At night, I pull the quilt right up to my chin.

Be forewarned: At Thanksgiving dinner, I give long rambling toasts with no real point. It leaves others bewildered, yet on their toes. Who is this crazy red-faced man? Is he medicated?

Obviously. I’m on tryptophan mostly (100 milligrams). And other traditional holiday sedatives (bourbon, gravy).

After the feast, I’ll just sit there like a sea turtle. My mind and mouth totally shut down, which is a relief to everyone. Sometimes my kids stand and applaud.

“What happened to him?” other guests will wonder.

Thanksgiving.
I bask in this radiant American rite. It’s fallen out of favor for some, who see it as a symbol of something evil. I see it as a sharing of cultures, something we should embrace. I see it as honoring a helping hand in difficult times, which we all need at some time in our



photo courtesy of Chris Erskine
The harvest is in, the turkey is roasting. And across America, a fire is lit.

lives.

Did it lead to some questionable outcomes? Hey Beavis, history is riddled with questionable outcomes. This hot mess of a world is always a tug-of-war over resources and need.

So, when a day dedicated to grace and humanity comes along, we might best sit up and embrace it. Amen the pumpkin pie.

Amen the cranky brother-in-law

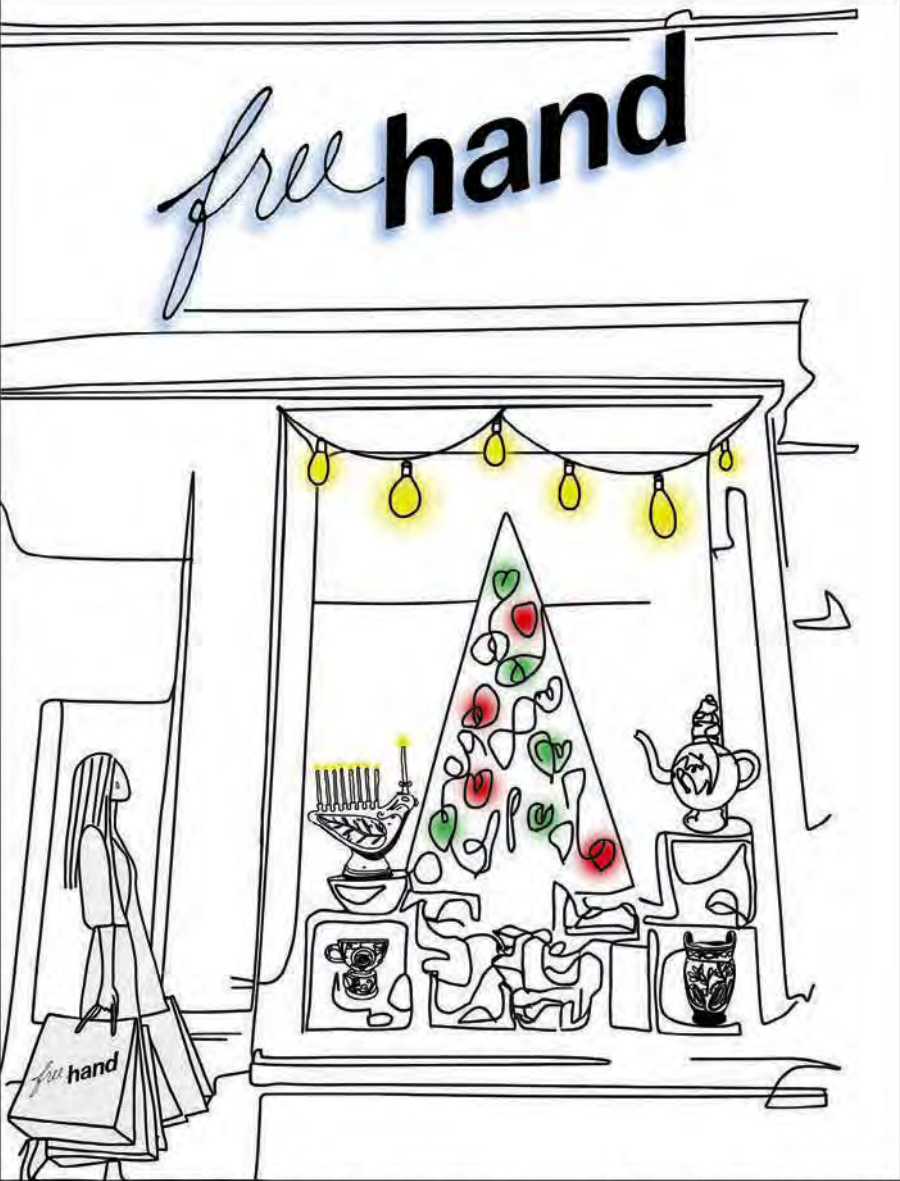
who has to be right all the time.

Amen the cooks who pile this holiday on their finest platters, then sit exhausted as the guests race through dinner in 20 minutes.

Did I mention the pie? The second helpings? The homemade whipped cream? Or that aerosol Reddi-Wip, Heaven in a can?

Amen to all of it.
And, on this luminous American holiday, amen to you.

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Morris Kight laid to rest at Hollywood Forever

On Nov. 22, AIDS Healthcare Foundation hosted a remembrance and inurnment at Hollywood Forever Cemetery for LGBTQ+ legend Morris Kight, who passed away peacefully in his sleep on January 19, 2003, at age 83 after a prolific career that achieved many of the civil rights he sought and fought so valiantly for.

The long-time Los Angeles resident was born November 19, 1919, in Comanche County, Texas. Kight graduated from Texas Christian University. He often cited Eleanor Roosevelt as an influence on his values and his activism. He came to prominence with the Dow Action Committee, protesting chemical weapons manufacturing during the Vietnam War. In 1969, he and a handful of activists launched the Gay Liberation Front – one of the first such efforts. In 1971, he co-founded the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, the first and largest such center in the world.

“Morris not only inspired events and organizations, he inspired activists through his loving nature,”

said Michael Weinstein, who heads the U.S. largest AIDS organization and whom Kight befriended in 1973. “He genuinely loved people, and that permeated everything he did. Twenty-two years later, I fondly remember, miss and appreciate the man and what he taught me and so many others about activism, life and living.”

Rarely satisfied with all he had achieved, Kight also created some of the movement’s most visible efforts, including Los Angeles’ gay Pride march, The Morris Kight Collection and the Stonewall Democratic Club.

Though most strongly identified with the movement for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights, Kight consistently allied his energies with many other progressive causes. He described himself as a laborite, a civil rights advocate, a civil libertarian, and an advocate for all oppressed people. He often credited the Feminist Movement with greatly inspiring him.

Kight’s tireless activism and political savvy made him a rare bridge between the gay grassroots and elected officials at local, state,

and federal levels. Though he never ran for office himself, his political insight was frequently sought by those in power and those who aspire to public service.

“Frankly, I’m sure we are going to get our freedom,” Kight told The Advocate in 1970. “I see it everywhere: In the marketplace, in the stores, in the homes, in dealing with families, in the kind of attention we get from radio, television and the newspapers ... Still, I realize we’re not home yet. We have a long way to go. There are 1,750 arrests in L.A. each month. I weep for each of them. Everyone who’s denied a job, I weep for. Everyone who is driven from their homes by a misunderstanding family, I have to offer my love to.”

In 2003, Kight spent his final days at Carl Bean House in Los Angeles, a guest of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, one of the many agencies he nurtured and supported. His papers are housed and maintained at the non-profit as the Morris Kight Collection. And at the time of his death, a magnolia tree with a plaque honoring Kight was



photo courtesy of AIDS Health Foundation

The ashes of legendary LGBTQ+ leader Morris Kight were inurned at Hollywood Forever Cemetery on Nov. 21.

Most subway work stops in Beverly Hills for the holidays

Crews will temporarily suspend street-level work on Metro’s D Line subway extension project in Beverly Hills during the holidays. No construction will occur in the public right of way in Beverly Hills from Thursday, Nov. 27, through Thursday, Jan. 1.

Limited work will continue on the underground Beverly Drive station and in staging yards behind temporary walls along Wilshire Boulevard. No work will take place on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 27), the Friday after Thanksgiving (Nov.

28), the first night of Hanukkah (Dec. 14), Christmas Eve (Dec. 24), Christmas Day (Dec. 25), New Year’s Eve (Dec. 31) and New Year’s Day (Jan. 1). Street-level subway work resumes in Beverly Hills on Jan. 2.

Metro will hold an in-person meeting with updates on progress at the Beverly Hills subway stations on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Room 280A. The meeting will cover key developments for the new Wilshire/La Cienega and

Wilshire/Rodeo stations including construction timelines and project milestones. To RSVP, visit eventbrite.com/e/d-line-section-1-2-project-meeting-beverly-hills-stations-tickets-1329202663949.

Work continues at other locations along the Metro D Line subway project alignment during the holidays. Construction is nearly complete on the first segment of the line between Wilshire/Western and Wilshire/La Cienega, which is anticipated to open during the first quarter of 2026. The second segment includes the Beverly Drive and Century City stations and is expected to open in 2027. The third segment with the Westwood/UCLA and Westwood/VA Hospital station is anticipated to open by the end of 2027.

Lane closures may be in place on Wilshire Boulevard around the stations in the Miracle Mile. Crews are

completing street restoration work and repairing sidewalks and curbs.

At Wilshire/La Cienega, a K-rail work zone remains in place through at least the end of November on the south side of Wilshire between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards. Crews are constructing a reinforced concrete bus pad on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard just east of La Cienega Boulevard. Two lanes of traffic remain open in the area on Wilshire Boulevard.

At the Beverly Drive Station, K-rail enclosures will remain in place along the north and south curb lanes on Wilshire Boulevard to support ongoing station construction and construction of structures adjacent to the station. Two lanes on Wilshire Boulevard will remain open in each direction between Beverly and Crescent drives. Pedestrian access will be maintained along Wilshire Boulevard.

Work is also ongoing on the future Century City subway station near Constellation Boulevard and Century Park East, and on the Westwood/UCLA and Westwood/VA Hospital stations. Deck removal at the Westwood/UCLA Station has been postponed until Friday, Dec. 12, at 11 p.m., through Monday, Dec. 15, at 6 a.m. Westbound Wilshire Boulevard will be fully closed between Veteran Avenue and Westwood Boulevard, and eastbound Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes. Decking removal is anticipated to require an additional 10 weekends of work in the area.

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 or visit metro.net.



photo by Edwin Folven

Work will occur in the staging areas at the Beverly Drive station, but no work will occur in the public right of way throughout the holidays.

Notable Quotes

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.”

William Arthur Ward (1921 - 1994)

William Arthur Ward was an American motivational writer. He wrote over 4,000 epigrams, or positive sayings, which were published in Reader's Digest and on the front page of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

source: BrainyQuote

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RESTAURANT NEWS

'The Nutcracker' comes to life at the Four Seasons

Pasadena Civic Ballet and Storyland Productions invite audiences to step into a world of wonder at the Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills for the Nutcracker Holiday Brunch, an unforgettable immersive experience and photo opportunities, on Sunday, Dec. 7, with seatings at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m.

Guests will begin their journey in Culina, indulging in the Four Seasons' sumptuous holiday brunch, featuring elegant tea sandwiches, artisanal pastries and chef Riccardo's show-stopping Nutcracker Wonderland dessert display.

From there guests will be transported to the Grand Ballroom, where they will join Clara and a cast of 25 performers from Pasadena Civic Ballet and guest artists from Hollywood Ballet for a

dazzling live performance. The breathtaking, abridged 45-minute "Nutcracker" brings to life nostalgic childhood favorites – from the Snow Queen and Sugar Plum Fairy to the waltzing flowers and mischievous mice – blending timeless ballet artistry with theatrical storytelling in an immersive setting.

The performance culminates in a Winter Wonderland Waltz, where guests are invited on stage with the "Nutcracker" cast to learn the waltz amidst a swirl of falling snow – a grand finale that captures the true spirit and joy of the season. The enchantment continues in The Snow Queen's Frosted Court, a shimmering winter wonderland featuring three immersive realms inside the Four Seasons' stunning Weatherly Pavilion, transformed for the season with flowing white chiffon draping and sparkling crystal chandeliers.

For information and tickets, visit opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=1699&restref=1699&experienceId=575961

The Four Seasons Hotel Los

The Peninsula sparks holiday joy

This holiday season, The Peninsula Beverly Hills invites guests to celebrate "A Flight to Infinity" – a dazzling tribute to artistry, heritage and the hotel's timeless elegance inspired by its newly refreshed rooms. The property will come alive with decor honoring its original design, captivating performances by ballerinas from Westside Ballet, live jazz and soul in The Living Room on weekends, and festive dining across its signature outlets. At The Belvedere, guests can indulge in a three-course Thanksgiving feast on Nov. 28 or enjoy Thanksgiving to-go for celebrations at home. December brings a festive afternoon tea experience in The Living Room or afternoon tea to-go, perfect for savoring seasonal delights anywhere. The festivities culminate with lavish multicourse menus on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, featuring refined dishes like short rib pot roast, truffle risotto and duck leg confit



photo courtesy of The Peninsula Beverly Hills


The luxury hotel in Beverly Hills will feature festive décor throughout the season.


– all designed to make the season truly unforgettable at one of Beverly Hills' most iconic destinations.

For information, visit peninsula.com/beverlyhills. The Peninsula Beverly Hills is located at 9882 S. Santa Monica Blvd.



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Angeles at Beverly Hills is located at 300 S. Doheny Drive.

Enjoy a winter wonderland at The London WeHo

This holiday season, London West Hollywood at Beverly Hills' beloved afternoon tea will be served with a hint of holiday enchantment. Each weekend, the Nutcracker Afternoon Tea will offer guests a selection of teas from the Rare Tea Company, including jasmine silver tip, English chamomile flowers and lavender earl grey, champagne by the glass, tea sandwiches, scones, and of course – a variety of exquisite sweets such as an “Icebox Cake” celebration cake (priced at \$65 and serves up to 4 guests) with Valrhona chocolate, chestnut and ladyfingers, brown butter financier cake, chocolate, peppermint meringue tart, eggnog custard, brûlée, cranberry compote and gingerbread molasses cruller. The menu will feature limited-edition sweets like the “Nutcracker” with nutty black tea infused with

toasty hazelnut and velvety Madagascar vanilla bean; “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy” with whirls of creamy vanilla, ripe strawberry and a hint of plum; and freshly baked gingerbread cookies for warmth and comfort with a delicate snap. The afternoon tea costs \$84 per person and \$42 for children 12 and under. The hotel’s afternoon tea service takes place on Saturdays and Sundays from noon-3:30 p.m. Reservations are required and can be made on OpenTable.

For information, visit thelondonwesthollywood.com. The London West Hollywood is located at 1020 N. San Vicente Blvd.

The Beverly Hills Hotel creates a December to remember

The iconic Beverly Hills Hotel transforms into a holiday haven with a season-long celebration of glamour, tradition and timeless Hollywood charm beneath the

See page 16

Explore the holidays Spanish-style at Telefèric Barcelona

As the holidays approach, Telefèric Barcelona, the family-owned Spanish restaurant group with locations throughout SoCal, will offer several holiday opportunities for guests. From Black Friday promotions and holiday gifting to limited-edition Christmas specials and a celebratory New Year’s Eve menu, the restaurant group has prepared an impressive slate of seasonal experiences designed to make entertaining, gifting and dining easier than ever.

The restaurant will offer Black Friday deals. Available online for pick-up and in-store through November 30, guests can enjoy 20% off gift cards, 20% off all paella kits and gift baskets and 20% off all El Merkat gourmet retail items and to-go offerings.

El Merkat, Telefèric Barcelona’s on-site market, features a curated selection of holiday gifts and entertaining essentials. Its signature paella kits –



photo courtesy of Telefèric Barcelona

Telefèric Barcelona will offer Black Friday deals, tapas catering and special Christmas dishes for the holidays.

complete with authentic rice, house-made seasoning, Spanish olive oil and a traditional paella pan – make recreating Spain’s most iconic dish at home both festive and effortless.

From Dec. 4-26, Telefèric Barcelona will serve limited-edition Christmas dishes inspired by traditional Spanish holiday flavors, including fiesta paella with beef tomahawk and lobster, Spanish ramen with cocido broth and chorizo, canelones in black truffle béchamel and a festive turrón canolo filled with Catalan cream.

On Dec. 31, all six U.S. loca-

tions will offer a special New Year’s Eve prix fixe menu, featuring dishes such as truffle octopus, a luxurious “super oyster” with caviar and the return of the toro paella, plus additional seasonal creations from the culinary team. Guests preferring a more flexible experience may also enjoy Telefèric’s full à la carte menu, making it an ideal destination for both celebratory dinners and relaxed end-of-year gatherings.

For information, visit telefericbarcelona.com. Telefèric Barcelona is located at 11930 San Vicente Blvd.



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Escape to Tiki Kai in Hermosa Beach

BY TABOR BREWSTER

There’s always a good excuse to visit your local tiki bar. Say it’s summer – is there a better place to cool down than a dark, breezy bar with ice-cold drinks that burst with fresh citrus juices and fruity liqueurs? Almost Christmas? I don’t know about you, nothing says Yuletide like spiced rum. Or maybe there’s simply a Hawaiian shirt that’s been collecting dust in the back of your closet for too long. Time to bust it out and try L.A.’s newest tropical watering hole, Tiki Kai.

The bar opened in late fall just steps away from the Hermosa Beach Pier – a point of convergence for surfers and tourists that feels like the Southern California you might see on a postcard. Tiki bars are rooted in escapism, a fantastical oasis that lovingly blends Polynesian décor with Caribbean rum and vaguely pan-Asian cuisine. But in Hermosa Beach, tiki feels right at home. With towering palm trees and million-dollar sunsets, a Mai Tai, a Navy Grog or a Blue Hawaiian goes down easy.

In lieu of a bouncer, a 14-foot tiki mask with glowing red eyes guards the bar. To enter, one must surrender to its power and step through its gaping mouth. Don’t worry – if this is too frightening, there’s also outdoor seating for the faint of heart. Inside, the tiki atmosphere is ampli-

fied by suspended skulls, rattan lanterns, multicolored hanging glass fishing floats, and of course, more tiki masks and totems at every corner. A long bar with at least a dozen seats entertains guests who are there for the main attraction – rum. Yes, there’s beer and wine. But ordering a pinot noir under a bamboo canopy while “Wipe Out” by the Surfaris splashes from the speakers just doesn’t feel right.

Meanwhile, friends old and new sit at tables and wraparound booths and marvel as servers arrive with ornate tiki mugs topped with elaborate garnishes. If you’re new to tiki drinks, expect to see forests of orchids, mint sprigs and pineapple fronds atop your beverage. Some drinks might even be aflame – like my first drink of the night, the Jet Pilot.

A blend of rums, cinnamon, grapefruit, lime, bitters and falernum – a sweet, syrupy, Caribbean concoction of ginger, baking spices and subtle almond – the Jet Pilot flies smooth without a hint of turbulence. While many tiki bars are famous for their strong – sometimes downright dangerous – drinks, Tiki Kai errs on the side of caution. Though the rum’s presence is certainly felt, it’s the aromatic spice notes that take center stage in the Jet Pilot.

There’s no better metric for the success of a tiki bar than its Mai

Tai. The most famous of all tiki drinks, a great Mai Tai can easily take any bar to the next level. However, the Mai Tai’s fame can also be its downfall. So often bastardized is the Mai Tai that one sub-par sip can quickly sink the ship. A perfect Mai Tai is simple – rum, lime, orange liqueur and a hint of almond. No pineapple juice. And please, no grenadine.

Thankfully, Tiki Kai’s “O.G. ’44 Mai Tai” passes the test. With a “secret rum blend” and all the necessary ingredients, it delivers on each note without doing too much. The orgeat syrup brings forward a nutty vanilla flavor that’s just sweet enough without being cloying, and the funky Caribbean rum packs a lingering flavor that keeps one coming back for a second sip. I’d go as far to say it’s one of the best Mai Tais you’ll find anywhere in Los Angeles.

Ordering food at a tiki bar can sometimes be a gamble. At Tiki Kai, however, it’s a safe bet. With an extensive food menu of appetizers, shareable plates, entrees and dessert, Tiki Kai is decidedly a bar and restaurant. For the most “authentic” tiki experience – à la Trader Vic’s – I sampled the “make your own pupu platter,” with Crab Rangoon, fire-cracker shrimp, crispy rice, sticky ribs and Hamachi crudo. Some plates shine more than others – I’d probably skip the ribs next time –



photo by Jakob Layman

Each drink is served in a unique tiki mug with a special garnish.

but overall, everything satisfies, especially after a few drinks. The Crab Rangoon – an American Chinese tiki classic – delivers a flavorful crunch that’s pleasantly light on the cream cheese filling. The refreshing Hamachi crudo topped with bright ponzu rivals any of L.A.’s many great sushi restaurants. The standout, however, is the crispy rice. The jasmine rice cakes are fried to perfection while maintaining their signature stickiness, and lay

the foundation for a bed of plump spicy yellowfin tuna drizzled with unagi sauce.

Overall, Tiki Kai is a worthy haunt for any seasoned tiki fan or simply those looking for a fun night out with friends. If you find yourself wandering the shores of the South Bay, stop into Tiki Kai for a memorable escape.

Tiki Kai is located at 73 Pier Ave., Hermosa Beach. For information, visit tikikai.com.

Petersen Museum honored for digital media

The Petersen Automotive Museum recently received the Digital Media of the Year Award at the 2025 International Historic

Motoring Awards ceremony at The Peninsula London Hotel. Executive director Terry L. Karges accepted the award on behalf of the museum,



photo courtesy of the Petersen Automotive Museum

Petersen Automotive Museum Executive Director Terry L. Karges accepted the award on behalf of the museum.

which was recognized for the best use of digital media in the collector car world over the past year.

“This is universally considered to be the most prestigious recognition for the world’s collector car community and we are deeply honored to be recognized for our storytelling through digital media,” Karges said. “It’s a wonderful testament to the hard work of our dedicated team and the museum’s ongoing commitment to engaging and educating our guests in new and innovative ways.”

Los Angeles’ preeminent automotive museum was lauded for its unique approach to social and digital media, which reaches more than 1.5 million followers across multiple channels. The museum’s digital team produces content for Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, X and YouTube, as well as its in-house “CarStories Podcast,” which highlights events and exhibits at the museum and provides educational content along with in-depth explorations of some of the most significant cars and individuals in auto-

motive history. The museum’s website and email marketing campaigns also offer in-depth information and updates for visitors and car lovers.

With annual attendance projected to exceed 450,000 visitors this year, a new record for the institution, and more than 4,000 members from around the world, the museum resonates with diverse audiences and has become an integral part of the automotive community.

Since 2011, the International Historic Motoring Awards have rec-

ognized exceptional individuals, events and places that best exemplify the passion and culture of classic car collecting. The car community nominates contenders for each of the HMA’s 15 categories, which are then voted on by a panel of distinguished experts including Peter Wallman, Donald Osborne and Sandra Button.

For information, visit historicmotoringawards.com and petersen.org.

The Petersen Automotive Museum is located at 6060 Wilshire Blvd.

Miracle Mile Chamber celebrates the holidays at Du-Par’s

Celebrate the festive season with the Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce at its annual Holiday Breakfast on Thursday, Dec. 11, from 8-9:45 a.m. at Du-Par’s Restaurant and Bakery at the Original Farmers Market.

Join chamber members for a joyful holiday celebration with a delicious breakfast hosted by Frances Tario, owner of Du-Par’s.

The event benefits the SOVA West food pantry at 8846 W. Pico Blvd. The chamber will donate 10% of ticket sales to SOVA.

Tickets to the chamber breakfast are \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members. Du-Par’s at the Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 Third St. RSVP requested by Dec. 10 by emailing info@miraclemilechamber.org.



photo courtesy of the Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce

Du-par’s Restaurant and owner Frances Tario, right, hosts the Greater Miracle Mile Chamber’s Holiday Breakfast each year. She is joined by realtor and chamber co-president Portia Park.

From page 15

palm-lined glow of Sunset Boulevard. The iconic hotel shimmers with festive décor and twinkling lights, creating an enchanting backdrop for memorable gatherings. At the beloved Polo Lounge, guests can indulge in a lavish Thanksgiving brunch on Nov. 28, followed by elegant Christmas Eve and Christmas Day dining that captures the essence of the season. Beginning Nov. 29, festive afternoon tea returns each Friday and Saturday with seasonal pastries, scones and sweets, while December brings the delightful “12 Days of Soufflés” (Dec. 12–23) and a charming cookie decorating class for children (Dec.17–18). With luxurious holiday stays, rejuvenating spa experiences and

sparkling New Year’s Eve celebrations, The Beverly Hills Hotel invites guests to embrace the spirit of the holidays with effortless sophistication and enduring allure.

For information, visit dorchester-collection.com/los-angeles/the-beverly-hills-hotel. The Beverly Hills Hotel is located at 9641 Sunset Blvd.

Waldorf Astoria brings Christmas cheer to Beverly Hills

The holiday season sparkles brighter than ever as Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills unveils a glamorous art deco winter escape

in teal, silver and gold pantones. The iconic Nutcracker Afternoon Tea, presented in partnership with the Los Angeles Ballet, sets a festive tone alongside hot toddies at The Rooftop Beverly Hills and the annual gingerbread contest. Elegant décor, including a custom-designed menorah, fills every corner with holiday magic. New Year’s Eve culminates in an intimate lobby lounge soirée featuring live jazz, champagne and caviar, while La Prairie Spa offers exclusive seasonal rejuvenation with two limited-time treatments including holiday glow-up in December and lifted and fabulous in January for a radiant start to the new year.

For information, visit waldorfastoriabeverlyhills.com. Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills is located at 9850 Wilshire Blvd.

BY TIM POSADA

A tale of two Wickededs

BY KAREN VILLALPANDO

‘Wicked: For Good’ can’t quite ‘defy gravity’



photo courtesy of Universal Pictures
Glinda (Ariana Grande) and Elphaba (Cynthia Erivo) are a splendid duo in “Wicked: For Good.”

Do all Broadway shows have a second-act problem? Maybe not, but “Wicked” features a 180 in tone and, let’s be honest, a downgrade in song quality. How can anyone compete with “What Is This Feeling,” “Popular” and “Defying Gravity,” especially the 2024 film’s epic rendition? Sure, “No One Mourns the Wicked” is a banger, but the rest can’t compare. Call that a hot take, if you must, but “For Good” has less to work with. More troublesome, the twist that sets up the second half of the story leaves little room for joy and humor in Oz.

We endure mostly despair, hopelessness and a somber tone amplified by film mechanics. Elphaba (Cynthia Erivo) causes trouble for the Emerald City, upending the Yellow Brick Road’s expansion and trying to mobilize all the animals the Wizard (Jeff Goldblum) scapegoats. Meanwhile, her selfish sister Nessarose (Marissa Bode) now selfishly rules Munchkinland with only her selfish self in mind. Across Oz, Fieryo (Jonathan Bailey) hunts the Wicked Witch, as the duped masses call her, while Glinda (Ariana Grande) tries to inspire folks, distract them from anything that might cause unrest. Some lighter moments shine through the gloom, thanks to Glinda, but it’s otherwise a rather melancholy endeavor.

Anyone who knows “Wicked” could predict this outcome. The first act enjoys all the best tunes, the best character development, the best twists and turns. The second act must resolve the story, tie everything together both as an independent narrative and one reliant on audience’s knowledge of another narrative entirely.

Unlike the show, we get more Cowardly Lion (voiced by Colman Domingo) and even a flash of Glinda as a child, so hopeful to one day wield magic. Often, “For Good” feels obliged to overtly invoke elements of the 1939 film or provide more depth.

After all that, it struggles to justify its 140-minute runtime. More than that, “For Good” spends its time unwisely. We need less of the lion and child Glinda and more time between characters’ fates. The story briskly moves from outcome to outcome, connecting the dots because they must be connected, no concern for organic flow.

More frustrating, it’s drunk on its own nostalgia. It’s only been a year, so flashbacks to moments in the first film imply the present story only works if we continue to recall what has already transpired, both in specific scenes and those better songs too. Consider all the time, all the staging, director Jon M. Chu (“Crazy Rich Asians,” “In the Heights”) put into “Defying Gravity.” The original song doesn’t even reach four minutes, but it’s a riveting, sensational 14-minute sequence that



photo courtesy of Playbill

ends the first film. No such highs grace the sequel. At least “For Good” ain’t slow or dull. It must focus on the wrong things or move on to the next one too quickly, but it’s never a slog. Erivo and Grande are a splendid duo on-screen, while the rest of the cast hit the marks just fine, especially Michelle Yeoh as Madame Morrible, who is far more menacing on screen than on stage. Speaking of menacing, we need a spinoff film about a rage-filled Boq (Ethan Slater), the Munchkin who pines for Glinda while Nessarose pines for him. He’s mad, and rightfully so, and the film captures that much better than the show that softens it. “Wicked: For Good” will probably do very well at the box office, coasting on spectators’ need for closure. But its attempts to fill the stage show’s second act fall short, while unnecessary additions bog the whole thing down rather than creating a more complete film.

For the ‘Good’ of the country, see ‘Wicked’



photo courtesy of Universal Pictures
Jeffrey Goldblum brings a spellbinding charm to his role as The Wizard as Elphaba (Cynthia Erivo) resists in “Wicked: For Good.”

“Wicked: Part One,” the box office smash starring Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande, revealed a world of possibilities for two young women looking for purpose, magic, popularity and belonging. “Wicked: For Good,” the second act of the blockbuster film, stands on its promise of possibilities and reveals reality. Through their journey through Oz, Elphaba and Glinda travel different paths down the Yellow Brick Toad – with Glinda ascending to Oz opulence and Elphaba carving a

home alone in the woods with few creature comforts. The green and pink duo weave a story of good versus evil, interchanging their roles and creating an undulating tapestry of friendship, struggle, heartbreak and love. Glinda pursues her dream of marrying Fieryo, played by “Sexiest Man Alive” Jonathan Bailey, and nearly achieves her princess stature. However, Elphaba discovers the Wizard’s (Jeff Goldblum) evil intentions and disrupts the lavish See **Wicked** page 18

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Wicked: For Good

From page 17

nuptials, escaping with Fiyero to her lair.

In “Wicked: For Good,” the set design, as in Part One, is grand and gorgeous, inviting viewers to luxuriate in the scenery and the bountiful florals. Rich hues saturate the screen with Glinda’s bright pink chambers and the elaborate wizardly workshop. Costumes are again beautifully appointed, with the swish of a skirt, sparkle of a shoe and detailed coiffures. Glinda reprised a few gowns from the original, with the hot pink tulle nightgown hanging in her closet as a reminder of the sleepover scene from the first film. The wardrobe for Madame Morrible, played by Michelle Yeoh, becomes increasing dark, as does her character. Elphaba has only one slight costume change, from her black Wicked Witch of the West frock into an oversized, grey cable knit sweater for a sizzling scene with Fiyero.

As Dorothy might say, “some parts were not very nice, but most of it was beautiful.”

Ultimately “Wicked: For Good” chronicles two strong women who identify terrible wrongs in Oz and a weak “leader” in the Wizard who must be stopped from caging animals and silencing their voices. Goldblum’s cadence and delivery exude charm, however, making the Wizard believable and understandable how one can fall under his spell. The metaphors for society today are palpable. Someone has to be the villain for others to shine – the misunderstood Elphaba who’s “no good deed goes unpunished” plays the Wicked so Glinda can carry the torch For Good. The two form a tight bond, one that is unlikely to be broken because they learned so much from each other – because “I knew you” and they are changed – For Good.

“Wicked: Part One” carried the rainbows, “what’s possible” mantle whereas “Wicked: For Good” bears the responsibility of telling the real story – with less funny moments, a more serious tone and maybe less “popular” music. It explores relationships and some ugly truths. As Dorothy might say, “some parts were not very nice, but most of it was beautiful.”

And speaking of Dorothy, the references to the “Wizard of Oz” abound, with Madame Morrible conjuring up a tornado that sweeps through Munchkinland, and a cameo of some iconic striped socks. The house has blue gingham curtains and a young girl walks down the yellow brick road wearing the Wicked Witch of the East’s sparkly shoes. Even the costumes worn by Ozians resemble those in the merry old land.

With a few unresolved plot lines and fate of the characters, the door has been left open for “Wicked” sequels, perhaps with happier endings that will placate the naysayers to this film.

This holiday season, we all deserve a little hope and some goodness in our lives. I see a hopeful rainbow rising over Oz – one that changes the hearts of good listeners – For Good.



photo courtesy of Disney

“Zootopia 2” will screen at El Capitan through Dec. 14.

‘Zootopia 2’ hops into El Capitan

Tickets are on sale for Disney’s newest animated feature “Zootopia 2” at the El Capitan Theatre. Guests can put their paws together for Nick and Judy on stage before the movie, plus take photographs at the “Zootopia 2” themed mural wall.

Special early bird screenings are available on Friday, Nov. 28, through Sunday, Nov. 30, at 7:15 a.m. Specialty concession items will be available for purchase for ticketed guests, while supplies last. Daily showtimes for Disney’s “Zootopia 2” through Dec. 14 are 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:55 p.m. Tickets are \$24 for adults and \$21 for children and seniors.

A family four pack is available for \$72 and includes four tickets. A Hare Pair ticket pack is available for \$80 and includes two tickets, two 85-ounce popcorn buckets, two 24-ounce fountain drinks, one Nick

Wilde and Judy Hopps Funko Pop per ticket and one Nick Wilde and Judy Hopps Headband per ticket.

A One in a Gazellion ticket is \$85 and includes one reserved seat, an LE 200 Pin and a “Zootopia 2” vinyl. A Mane Event ticket is \$50 and includes one reserved seat, one “Zootopia 2” blanket, one 85-ounce bag of popcorn and one 24-ounce fountain drink. This ticket is exclusive to the early bird screenings.

A sensory inclusive screening is available on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 14, at 4 p.m. An open caption screening is available on Saturday, Dec. 13, at 4 p.m. A Spanish-dubbed screening is available on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 4 p.m.

For information, visit elcapitantheatre.com. El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd.

L.A. Ballet spins into new season

Los Angeles Ballet continues its residency at The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts with a triple bill production, “20 Years of Los Angeles Ballet,” featuring George Balanchine’s “Rubies,” Hans van Manen’s “Frank Bridge Variations” and a new work by artistic director Melissa Barak, her third since taking the helm in 2022.

The 20th season kicks off in December with the holiday classic “The Nutcracker” at Royce Hall and the Dolby Theatre and concludes in spring 2026 and will mark LAB’s debut at The Music Center with a production of the ultra-classic, timeless ballet, Giselle at The Ahmanson Theatre.

The Wallis is located at 9390 Santa Monica Blvd. Royce Hall is located at 10745 Dickson Court. The Dolby Theatre is located at 1810 Highland Ave. For information, visit losangelesballet.org.

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CineNext: Stories from KAFA

Dec 10, 7PM

A special showcase of award-winning films by emerging filmmakers from the Korean Academy of Film Arts.

- Venue: KCCLA Ari Hall (3F)
- Tickets: Website RSVP (Walk-In)

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photo courtesy of Kidspace Children's Museum

Children can slip and slide on a sock skating rink at the fun holiday celebration.

Kidspace celebrates festive season with ‘Winter Frolic’

Merrymaking is in full swing at the fifth annual Kidspace Winter Frolic running through Jan. 11 at Kidspace Children’s Museum.

“Winter Frolic captures the warmth and joy of the season by giving families a special place to connect and play together,” Kidspace CEO Lisa Clements said. “It’s a time to pause the holiday hustle to let the kids take the lead and make joyful memories as a family.”

Experience the fantasy fun of a winter wonderland. Wishes come true as frolickers twirl, glide and penguin-slide across a large no-ice sock skating rink. Take a trike ride through a giant gingerbread house, discover a hidden gnome village and dress

up the snowman family for a holiday road trip.

Families can enjoy a flurry of hands-on wintertime activities and special events. Share festive joy with the Pasadena Tournament of Roses 2026 Rose Court on the sock skating rink on Dec. 5 during First Free Friday. Sleigh the day at the ultimate Frosty Fete Winter Dance Party on Dec. 13.

Winter Frolic is included with \$15.50 general admission, and sock skating tickets are \$5.50 per person. Kidspace Children’s Museum is located at 480 N. Arroyo Blvd., Pasadena.

To reserve tickets for the Winter Frolic and the Sock Skating Rink, visit kidspacemuseum.org.

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College Television Award nominations announced

The Television Academy Foundation has announced the nominees for the 45th College Television Awards, which recognizes and rewards excellence in student-produced programs from colleges and universities nationwide. The foundation also revealed the recipients of the \$10,000 Loreen Arbus Focus on Disability Award.

Open to undergraduate and graduate students, the annual College Television Awards are regarded as one of the most distinguished and high-profile steppingstones for careers in television and media.

Twenty-four student-produced programs have been nominated, selected from 186 entries representing 44 colleges nationwide. Emulating the Emmy Awards selection process, College Television Awards entries are judged by Television Academy members.

Criteria for the awards reflect industry standards of excellence, imagination and innovation.

“The College Television Awards celebrate the extraordinary creativity and talent emerging from campuses across the country,” said Tina Perry, chair of the Television Academy Foundation. “With nominees selected by Television Academy members, these honors not only recognize excellence in student-produced content but also offer aspiring professionals invaluable exposure and connections within the Hollywood creative community and a meaningful step toward building lasting careers in entertainment.”

New for the 2026 awards program is the Chance Perdomo Legacy Scholarship, a \$10,000 award to the winning college team in the Comedy Series category.

Sony Pictures Television and Amazon MGM Studios created the scholarship as a tribute to the late Gen V actor Chance Perdomo who died in a motorcycle accident in 2024. In addition, a category solely for graduate students has been added to the competition with this year’s establishment of a Scripted Series award.

Trophies and more than \$45,000 in cash prizes will be presented to the winning teams by television stars at the red carpet awards ceremony on March 28, 2026, in North Hollywood for Animation Series; Comedy Series; Commercial, PSA or Promo; Drama Series; News; Nonfiction Series; Scripted Series; Sports; and the Loreen Arbus Focus on Disability Award.

For information, visit television-academy.com/foundation/programs/cta.



photo courtesy of the Television Academy Foundation

“Thanksgiving” from Brigham Young University is nominated for Comedy Series at the College Television Awards.

Pasadena Playhouse continues educational offerings



photo courtesy of Pasadena Playhouse

Classes at the Pasadena Playhouse include playwriting and physical comedy.

Danny Feldman, producing artistic director of Pasadena Playhouse, the official State Theater of California and recipient of the 2023 Regional Theatre Tony Award, announced the continued expansion in 2026 of educational offerings for all ages from the theater’s education department with 16 new community classes and two summer camps.

“Education is as core to us as the shows on stage,” Feldman said. “When we were making the bold choice of purchasing back this building, it wasn’t just about restoring an old theater.”

Youth classes offered will include

“Playwriting” (ages 9-13) from Jan. 14-March 4; “Little Players” (ages 5-7) from Jan. 13-March 20; “Physical Comedy” (ages 8-11) from Feb. 2-March 9; “Playhouse Players: Disney’s ‘The Jungle Book’ Kids” (ages 7-12) from Feb. 10-May 22; “Puppetry” (ages 8-11) from April 13-May 18; and “Story Theater” (ages 5-7) from April 16-May 14.

Teen classes offered will include “Teen Acting Intensive” (ages 14-18) from Feb. 2-March 9 and “Playhouse Players: ‘Once Upon A Mattress’ Youth Edition” (ages 11-16) from Feb. 11-May 16.

Adult classes include “Your Story Matters: A Storytelling

Workshop” on Jan. 10, 11 and 18; “Playhouse Singers: A Musical Theater Community Choir” (Winter Session-Advanced), Jan. 12-March 2, (Winter Session-Beginner), Jan. 21-March 2.

Playhouse Player’s summer camps will feature the magic of Roald Dahl’s “Matilda The Musical Junior” for ages 7-12 during four two-week sessions from June 15-Aug. 7 and “Musical Theater Bootcamp” for ages 14-18 from July 20-31.

Enrollment is open for all classes. For information, visit pasadenaplayhouse.org.

Pasadena Playhouse is located at 39 S. El Molino Ave.



spotlight

WITH SHARONA

We’re heading to one of Beverly Hills’ hidden gems:

SOUTH SANTA MONICA BLVD.

Join Mayor Sharona Nazarian, in partnership with the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce, for her initiative as she spotlights local businesses!

Everyone is welcome, and the event is **free**—but spots fill up fast, so reservations are required.

Head to **BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/SPOTLIGHT** to reserve your place and receive updates on the featured businesses.

Wednesday, December 11, 2025

3:30 PM to 5:30 PM

To register and learn more, visit

beverlyhills/spotlight.

Questions? Email

info@beverlyhillschamber.com

Best Damn Breakfast Burrito



Casa Dei Fiori



FACECO



Da Carla Ristorante



Photo Credit: @takpro

POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Nov. 16 and Nov. 22. 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

Nov. 16

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Beverly and Dayton at 9:47 a.m.

At 3:01 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of N. Beverly at 7 p.m.

Nov. 17

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 100 block of N. La Peer at 1:26 a.m.

Nov. 19

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near Wilshire and Swall at 9:30 a.m.

At noon, a vandalism incident was reported in the 8400 block of Gregory.

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 500 block of N. Cañon at 5 p.m.

Nov. 20

At 5:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 9000 block of Burton.

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 200 block of N. Lasky at 3:29 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 8700 block of Charleville.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of Beverly Green at 6 p.m.

At 10:47 p.m. an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8300 block of Wilshire.

Nov. 21

At 12:35 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

Nov. 22

At 3:33 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Gregory and Hamilton.

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near La Peer and Olympic at 6:57 a.m.

At 10:18 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8300 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1500 block of Carla Ridge at 11:20 a.m.

At 12:07 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9500 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of Wetherly at 11:45 p.m.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

Nov. 16

At 11:10 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8600 block of Melrose.

A burglary was reported in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 1:30 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near Santa Monica and La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of N. Fairfax at 6 p.m.

At 11:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8400 block of Santa Monica at midnight.

Nov. 17

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and Palm.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 7700 block of Romaine at 2:15 a.m.

At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

Nov. 18

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 4 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1200 block of N. Sweetzer at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a vehicle burglary in the 9000 block of Melrose.

Nov. 19

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8500 block of Melrose at 6:25 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a vehicle burglary in the 500 block of N. Almont.

Nov. 20

At 10:47 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 800 block of N. Doheny.

Nov. 21

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of Sunset at 3:57 a.m.

At 8:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7800 block of Willoughby.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8500 block of Melrose at 6:55 p.m.

A domestic violence incident was reported in the 1000 block of Hammond at 8:15 p.m.

LASD looks back on 175 years of service

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, led by Sheriff Robert Luna, hosted its 175th Anniversary Celebration on Nov. 17 at the historic Biscailuz Center Training Academy.

The celebration brought together Luna, true crime guest speakers Michael A. Fratantoni and historian Joan Renner, chiefs of police from across Los Angeles County, department retirees and executives and representatives of partner law enforcement agencies. Attendees were welcomed with an exclusive historical experience including displays and artifacts exhibited from the Hall of Justice Museum spanning from 1925 to the present day. Guests also explored a collection of archival photographs documenting the department’s inception in 1850 through modern times.

“Celebrating 175 years of service is more than a look back at how far we have come, it is a tribute to the generations of men and women who dedicated their lives to protecting Los Angeles County,” Luna said. “Their courage, sacrifice and unwavering commitment laid the foundation for the department we are today. As we honor our past, we stand inspired to continue evolving, strengthening trust and building a safer future for the communities we serve.”

A highlight of the event was a showcase of more than 20 historic



photo courtesy of the LASD

L.A. County Sheriff Robert Luna welcomed attendees to the sheriff’s department’s 175th Anniversary Celebration on Nov. 17.

law enforcement vehicles, offering a rare glimpse into the department’s transportation legacy. Among the most recognizable vehicles were the 1949 Ford sedan known as the “Grey Ghost,” a newly restored 1958 Chevy Delray in classic black and white and a 1976 Chevy Nova patrol car.

The exhibit also featured the 1875 Mud Wagon, the oldest mode of transportation in LASD’s history, alongside the department’s oldest motorized vehicle – a 1917 Ford Model T.

Attendees also viewed a collec-

tion of vintage equipment such as antique sheriff’s badges, early uniforms and an assortment of historic handcuffs. The exhibit also showcased the iconic Biscailuz rodeo saddle and authentic “Wild West Day” artifacts, including the original badge of the 18th Sheriff, Martin Aguirre, his historic stagecoach shotgun and personal effects belonging to early sheriffs and deputies. True crime presentations throughout the day offered deeper insight into notable cases in the department’s history.

For information, visit lasd.org.

BHPD urges drivers to buckle up during holidays

As families and friends prepare to hit the road during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, the Beverly Hills Police Department reminds drivers and passengers to “Buckle Up. Every Trip. Every Time.”

Whether taking a long drive or a shorter trip around town to celebrate, wearing a seat belt is the single most effective way to protect yourself in a crash. Thanksgiving

is one of the busiest travel times of the year. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 309 people were killed in traffic crashes across the nation during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend in 2023, and 44% were not wearing seat belts.

“The Thanksgiving holiday is the start of a special time of year for so many people,” Beverly Hills Police Chief Mark Stainbrook

said. “No matter how long or short your drive, it’s important that drivers and passengers wear a seat belt. We want everyone to have a safe and happy Thanksgiving. Please make sure everyone in your vehicle is buckled before you ever turn on the car, including children being in the correct car seats.”

California law requires all children under 2 years old to ride in a rear-facing car seat, unless the child is 40 or more pounds or is 40 or more inches tall. All children under the age of 8 are still required to be secured in a car seat or booster seat in the back seat. Children 8 and older, or those at least 4 feet 9 inches tall, may be secured by a booster seat, but must be secured by a safety belt.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to keep children in the proper rear or forward-facing seat as long as possible and use the “Five-Step Test” (nhtsa.gov/vehicle-safety/car-seats-and-booster-seats) to determine if their child can safely use a seat belt without a booster seat. For information, visit beverlyhills.org/548/Police-Department.



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

Police urge drivers to use seatbelts and car seats for children to maximize safety.

Court orders security hold in sensitive investigation

From page 4

website until further notice.”

The department also posted a statement from Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Odey Ukpo about the security hold.

“The department’s mission is to have full transparency with the community by providing information about our cases to empower people to make changes that save lives,” Ukpo said. “Since becoming the department head, I’ve worked on eradicating the practice of placing security holds on medical

examiner cases simply by law enforcement request. The practice of security holds is virtually unheard of in other counties and has not been proven to improve outcomes in the legal system. We are dedicated to serving our community with full transparency; however, the law precludes us from doing so while the court order remains in this case.”

Burke, who is from Houston, cancelled upcoming tours after Rivas Hernandez’s body was found

and moved out of the house in the Hollywood Hills. It is unclear where he is currently and police have not released any information about him. No arrests have been made.

A funeral for Rivas Hernandez was held on Oct. 6 in Rowland Heights. Anyone with information is urged to call investigators with the LAPD’s Robbery-Homicide Division at (213)486-6890. During weekends and off-hours, call the LAPD’s hotline at (877)LAPD247.

BHUSD shares educational vision at Rotary Club

Beverly Hills Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss delivered a presentation on Nov. 17 to the Beverly Hills Rotary Club, offering a vision for the future of education in Beverly Hills.

Board of Education President Rachelle Marcus and Vice President Judy Manouchehri also attended the event.

Cherniss invited the audience to consider how rapidly the world is changing and what it means to prepare students for the challenges and opportunities ahead. He emphasized that BHUSD is committed to building classrooms that promote creativity, curiosity, adaptability and real-world learning.

“We are not simply educating students for today. We are preparing

them for a world that is evolving quickly,” Cherniss said. “At BHUSD, our mission is to equip every student to lead, innovate and thrive in careers that do not yet exist. This requires curriculum that sparks curiosity, technology that is used thoughtfully and the kind of critical thinking that AI cannot replace.”

Throughout his remarks, Cherniss highlighted several strengths that distinguish BHUSD. They include small class sizes that allow students to feel seen and supported, state-of-the-art learning facilities and a wide range of program offerings. BHUSD currently serves 2,900 students across four schools and offers more than 100 elective courses along with over 40 college and career pathway oppor-

tunities.

Cherniss also reflected on the partnership between the school district and the broader Beverly Hills community. Families have long been drawn to Beverly Hills for the three pillars, which are world-class police, fire and schools. Together, the pillars create an environment where students can grow, discover interests and realize potential, Cherniss said.

The presentation concluded with a conversation about the future of artificial intelligence and its role in student learning. Cherniss encouraged the community to think deeply about how AI can support education while also affirming the importance of human connection, empathy and creativity.

For information, visit bhUSD.org.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

BHUSD Board of Education President Rachelle Marcus, left, Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss and Board Vice President Judy Manouchehri visited the Beverly Hills Rotary Club on Nov. 17.

County launches resource hub for young adults ages 16-25

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health launched the Office of Transition Age Youth on Nov. 24 to promote the mental health and wellbeing of young people ages 16 and 25 who are transitioning to adulthood. The program specifically focuses on connecting and

engaging with youth, including those experiencing homelessness, by linking them to mental health resources, housing and essential services.

The Office of Transition Age Youth launched with a screening of the short film “Cope Safely” at LACDMH headquarters. The film amplifies the

voices of three young adults and explores the realities of coping with mental health and substance use. The film was created in partnership with the UCLA Center of Excellence and Kids in the Spotlight, an organization that helps foster youth heal and grow from trauma through the power of storytelling and filmmaking.

“Transition aged youth is a priority population for the Department of Mental Health. Therefore, we are excited to announce the establishment of the Office of TAY, bringing

together our TAY services under one team to support this important population,” LACDMH Director Dr. Lisa H. Wong said. “Ensuring that today’s youth are supported and prepared to handle life’s biggest challenges, the Office of TAY will serve as a central hub for coordination, policy development and youth engagement with programs and initiatives that are informed by lived experience and guided by the principles of prevention, inclusion and empowerment.”

The office’s core services are provided through field-based teams. However, additional vital services are offered including youth drop-in centers, substance use disorder support, workforce and job development and the Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program. To reach the Office of Transition Age Youth, call (213)738-6194 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., email asktay@dmh.lacounty.gov or call the LACDMH 24-hour Help Line at (800)854-7771.

Colburn artist to perform with historic violin

Colburn Artist Ray Ushikubo has received the loan of the 1741 Bartolomeo Giuseppe Guarneri “del Gesù” violin, the “Playfair,” from Colin Maki Inc., dealer and consultant in fine and rare string instruments and bows.

The instrument is an outstanding example of the work of Guarneri’s craftsmanship, and was one of fewer than 250 ever crafted, made in Cremona, Italy. The rich and complex tonal qualities of the instruments crafted by Guarneri “del Gesù” have established him as one of history’s greatest violin makers, revered alongside Stradivari.

Thanks to the loan from Colin Maki Inc., audiences will have the opportunity to experience the “Playfair’s” extraordinary voice brought to life by Ushikubo, a

remarkable dual instrumentalist, celebrated for his rare artistry as both a pianist and violinist. This violin will serve as a vital companion to Ushikubo as he embarks on what promises to be a remarkable career.

On Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m. in Colburn School’s Zipper Hall, Ushikubo will debut the 1741 Guarneri “Playfair” violin in a performance of Tomaso Antonio Vitali’s “Chaconne in G minor,” Nathan Milstein’s “Paganiniana,” Ernest Chausson’s “Poème” and Maurice Ravels’ “Tzigane.” Tickets are free. The event will also be livestreamed at colburnschool.edu/livestream.

On Sunday, Dec. 14, at 2 p.m., Colin Maki Inc. will host Ushikubo’s East Coast debut on the

“Playfair” violin in a free event at its New York-based location. The event is invitation-only.

“It’s an extraordinary honor to receive Guarneri’s ‘Playfair’ violin,” Ushikubo said. “To be entrusted with an instrument of such history and beauty is deeply humbling. I’m profoundly grateful to Colin Maki, Inc. for this generous loan, and to the Colburn community for nurturing an environment where young artists can explore, grow and share music at the highest level. I look forward to discovering how this remarkable violin will shape my sound and artistic journey.”

Ushikubo joins a storied lineage of violinists who have performed with Guarneri “del Gesù” instruments, including Jascha Heifetz,

Niccolò Paganini, Itzhak Perlman and Pinchas Zukerman.

The Colburn School is located at 200 S. Grand Ave.



photo courtesy of the Colburn School

The Bartolomeo Giuseppe Guarneri “del Gesù” violin was created in 1741.

Horace Mann Elementary celebrates community with Husky Hoedown

On Nov. 22, the Horace Mann Elementary School community came together to celebrate one of its most beloved traditions – the ninth annual Husky Hoedown. The festive event brought students, families and staff together for a joyful day of connection, fun and school spirit.

Held on the Horace Mann campus, the hoedown featured a wide array of activities, including games,

face painting, a petting zoo, inflatable play zones and a bake sale. A highlight of the day was the always-anticipated chili cook-off, where community members showcased their creativity and flavor in a friendly, family-centered competition.

The event also featured generous support from local partners, including members of the Beverly Hills Fire Department and the Beverly Hills

Firefighters’ Association, who prepared and served food to attendees.

The event was made possible by the Horace Mann PTA, whose plan-

ning and volunteerism transformed the campus into a celebration of community and school pride.

For information, visit bhUSD.org.

BHHS PTSA honors staff

On Thursday, Nov. 20, the Beverly Hills High School Parent Teacher Student Association hosted its annual Thanksgiving luncheon to honor BHHS and BHUSD faculty. The event brought the school community together in recognition of the dedicated individuals who support students each day.

Staff enjoyed lunch served by PTSA volunteers, accompanied by live music from BHHS orchestra students. The gathering provided a thoughtful opportunity to pause before the holiday break and acknowledge individuals who contribute significantly to student success.

“Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on what we are grateful for,” Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss said. “At BHUSD, we are thankful for our exceptional staff who work each day to uplift, guide and support our students. Their dedication is the foundation of everything we

do.”

The annual event is a valued tradition supported by the PTSA and made possible by parent volunteers. For information, visit bhUSD.org.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Beverly Hills High School staff enjoyed a luncheon hosted by the Parent Teacher Student Association on Nov. 20.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Students and their families came together for the event on Nov. 22.

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:

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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.

Dickens classic returns for holiday season

Independent Shakespeare Co., producer of the Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival, presents the 20th anniversary holiday production of “A Christmas Carol with Charles Dickens” from Friday, Dec. 5, through Monday, Dec. 22, at the Independent Shakespeare Co. Studio at Atwater Crossing.

With a tradition that began in 2005, enjoy a performance filled with the author’s infamous acting pyrotechnics, holiday music, wry humor and redemption. “A Christmas Carol with Charles

Dickens” features David Melville and Daisy Tichenor.

From 1857 until the end of his life, Dickens performed his most popular story to acclaim throughout Britain and the United States. The studio transforms into a cozy Victorian drawing room as Dickens performs the beloved story of Ebenezer Scrooge and the curious events that unfold around him on a cold London night. He’s joined by a young American actress who’s determined to teach Dickens a few lessons of her own. Melville (who most recently

was seen as Doctor Faustus at the Griffith Park Free Shakespeare Festival) gives a virtuoso performance as nearly all the characters in the story. He is joined by Tichenor (Audrey in “As You Like It”), who provides dramatic interjections, sound effects and live music.

“Revisiting this production as we celebrate its 20th anniversary is especially exciting. I’ve worked on this for so many years, yet it feels impossibly new. It’s really ‘A Christmas Carol’ like no other,” artistic director Melissa Chalsma said. “The audience experiences Dickens’ own words, unfiltered by adaptors. This year I’m reminded of the extraordinary depth of the text, how it shapes and adapts to the times. I’m struck by the forceful call for empathy embedded in the text, and also the urging to recognize the importance of actively seeking joy.”

The production is recommended for audience members 8 and older. Tickets start at \$30.50. The Atwater Crossing is located at 3191 Casitas Ave., Ste. 130 in Atwater Village. For tickets and information, visit indieshakes.org.



photo courtesy of Independent Shakespeare Co.

David Melville, as Charles Dickens, is joined by Daisy Tichenor in “A Christmas Carol with Charles Dickens.”



photo courtesy of Wallis Annenberg PetSpace

The event will include holiday-themed shopping and activities for pet owners.

PetSpace hosts Pawliday PetMarket

On Saturday, Dec. 6, visit the Pawliday PetMarket at Wallis Annenberg PetSpace, where local vendors will offer purr-fect presents for everyone on holiday shopping lists.

Whether you are searching for the ideal pet accessory, a delicious treat or gifts for someone special, you will discover plenty of wonderful options the whole family will love. Vendors include Brutus Bone Broth, Cleo & Hooman (eco-friendly pet care essentials), Gogoma (culturally-inspired dog treats), SquiggLin by Connie (pet-inspired poker cards and keychains), Srimoyee Handmade (animal and nature artwork) and Two Tails Pet Company (ID tags and pet accessories).

Admission is free and reservations are recommended. For information, visit annenbergpetspace.org.

Wallis Annenberg PetSpace is located at 12005 Bluff Creek Drive, Playa Vista.

VINTAGE
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Thanksgiving dinner for two bucks and change

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

A complete 7-course FAMILY THANKSGIVING DINNER at Van de Kamp's for \$2.10

Assorted Nuts
Chilled Tomato Juice or Apple Juice
Chicken Headless Dressing
Mixed Green Salad, French Oil Dressing
Van de Kamp's Dressing, Golden Oyster, Cucumber Sauce
Fresh Orange Shards

OR

SOUTHERN BAKED SUGAR-CURED HAM
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Garden Fresh Peas • Spiced Apples • Savoury Potato Pancakes
Cheddar of
Hot Mustard Pie with Biscuits, Apples, Pineapple
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Coffees, Tea or Milk
Thanksgiving Character Menu

SERVED FROM 12 NOON TO 9 P.M.

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WILSHIRE (near 10th St.) on Wilshire Blvd., 3400 Wilshire

FLYCHURCH DRIVE just south of Chiswick, San Fernando at Pacific

PASADENA near City College, 1000 E. Colorado at Bonito

VALLEY PLAZA, North Hollywood, 4801 Laurel Canyon

A seven-course Thanksgiving dinner was only \$2.10 at Van de Kamp’s in this advertisement in the Nov. 8, 1956, issue of the Park Labrea News. Van de Kamp’s Holland Dutch Bakery, a chain of coffee shops and bakeries that operated from the early 1950s until 1990, was known for signature buildings topped by a windmill. A Van de Kamp’s coffee shop opened in 1952 in the Miracle Mile at 5665 Wilshire Blvd., where a Staples Connect store is now located at Wilshire Boulevard and Masselin Avenue. The coffee shop closed in the late 1970s and the building was demolished in 1982 to make way for a retail space. The last remaining former Van de Kamp’s building, still topped by a windmill, houses a Denny’s restaurant in the city of Arcadia at Huntington Drive and Santa Anita Avenue.

City of West Hollywood
California 1984

The City of West Hollywood and the Human Services Commission Present

25th Annual Paul Andrew Starke Warrior Awards

Celebrating the Warriors in our community who advance health, dignity, and equity for people living with or at risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS.

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Reception — 5:30 PM | Awards Ceremony — 6:00 PM

West Hollywood City Council Chambers
625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood

For more information, please call (323) 848-6510 or email: humanservices@weho.org.

Learn ‘How to Be a Guerrilla Girl’ at The Getty

Coinciding with the Guerrilla Girls’ 40th anniversary, “How to Be a Guerrilla Girl,” on view at the Getty through April 12, 2026, offers a rare, behind-the-scenes look into the inner workings of the iconic feminist art collective. Drawing from the Getty Research Institute’s remarkable Guerrilla Girls archive, the exhibition highlights the strategies – anonymity, data gathering, protest actions, culture jamming and grassroots distribution – that have defined the group’s groundbreaking practice since the mid-1980s.

The Guerrilla Girls have created a newly-commissioned work for the exhibition that explores the Getty’s own collection of European painting and sculpture. Using comic strip style speech bubbles, they reimagine the voices of

women represented in these artworks through a twenty-first century lens. The commission exposes deeply rooted biases in the representation of women in Guerilla Girls characteristic witty style.

“The Getty Research Institute is delighted to present this exhibition marking four decades of Guerrilla Girl art and activism,” said Andrew Perchuk, interim director of the Getty Research Institute. “The group’s archive allows us to understand the crucial role they have played in the art world and the strategic thinking and collective labor behind their most famous interventions, while introducing us to lesser-known aspects of the groups’ practice.”

The exhibition offers a sustained look into the archive, which documents the first two decades of

Guerrilla Girls activity, and was acquired in 2008. The archive was amassed as the collective worked on projects, with members of the group depositing working drafts of posters, fan mail, photo shoots, internal correspondence, video and audio cassettes, and data tallies at a shared space. In the exhibition, the Guerrilla Girls’ best-known posters will be seen alongside the revealing material shedding light on the Guerrilla Girls’ practice as it developed within the social and cultural context of the late 20th-Century culture wars. Through this periodization, the show will contextualize their understandings of gender and intersectional feminism, their media practices of culture jamming and their critical approach to art history.

“The Guerrilla Girls give us a



photo courtesy of Guerrilla Girls

The Guerrilla Girls are an anonymous feminist art collective formed in 1985.

blueprint for art and activism that is incredibly effective,” said two of the exhibition’s curators Zanna Gilbert and Kristin Juarez. “Our goal is to show visitors the toolkit for artistic activism developed by

the Guerrilla Girls, and that it can still be applied today, whatever the issues they care about may be.”

For information, visit getty.edu.

The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive.

Bowl teases 2026 summer schedule

The LA Phil has revealed the first details of the 2026 Hollywood Bowl summer lineup. The season will celebrate Gustavo Dudamel’s 17 historic years as music and artistic director of the LA Phil and will see the first musicians to perform on the newly dedicated John Williams Stage at the Hollywood Bowl.

The Beach Boys lead the ever-popular July Fourth Fireworks Spectacular in three performances, July 2, 3 and 4. With dozens of their chart-toppers becoming anthems of American youth including “Surfin’ USA,” “I Get Around,” and “Fun, Fun, Fun,” The Beach Boys will light up the night with the Los

Angeles Philharmonic and the Bowl’s legendary fireworks.

Grammy Legend Award recipients Smokey Robinson and Gladys Knight combine forces for “Just the Two of Us” on July 24-25, an evening of music highlighting iconic songs from throughout their careers including “I Second That Emotion” and “Midnight Train to Georgia.”

The LA Phil launches a special series devoted to Composer in Focus Joe Hisaishi. Keeping with the longstanding tradition of presenting films and film music at the Bowl, the series also reflects the partnership the orchestra has built through performances of his contemporary works. The 2026 season at the Bowl and The Ford will highlight his works.

The sensational ABBA tribute band performs some of ABBA’s biggest hits of all time including “Dancing Queen,” and “Mamma Mia,” on Friday, Sept. 25.

Dates for other popular annual events at the Hollywood Bowl have also been scheduled, including opening night on Saturday, June 20, Smooth Summer Jazz on Sunday, Aug. 30, and movie night on Sunday, Sept. 6.

The full Hollywood Bowl 2026 season will be announced in February 2026. For information, visit hollywoodbowl.com. The Hollywood Bowl is located at 2301 Highland Ave.



photo courtesy of LA Phil

Fourth of July at the Bowl will be celebrated with the Beach Boys and fireworks.

VinylFest spins at the Farmers Market

The Original Farmers Market, corner of Third and Fairfax, invites music lovers, collectors, families and vinyl enthusiasts to immerse themselves in a weekend dedicated to record culture at the second annual VinylFest 2025 on Saturday, Dec. 6, and Sunday, Dec. 7. The large-scale VinylFest celebration runs from noon-7 p.m. each day and features a large collection of dealers selling vinyl records, along with a stage featuring popular DJs playing everything from funk to indie and soul.

The free all-ages celebration transforms the Farmers Market into a vibrant hub of LP shopping, turntable culture and musical discovery, featuring rare and vintage

vinyl records, new releases, collectible pressings and specialty finds from some of Los Angeles’ top record vendors. Throughout the day, visitors explore music-themed activities, browse exclusive VinylFest merchandise and experience retro-inspired displays and photo moments celebrating L.A.’s enduring love of vinyl.

Whether you’re a seasoned collector hunting for rare gems, a casual listener looking to start a collection or a music lover seeking good vibes and live sounds, VinylFest has something for everyone.

The Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 W. Third St. For information, visit farmersmarket-la.com/events/vinylfest25.



photo courtesy of the Original Farmers Market

The second annual VinylFest features DJs and record dealers offering rare albums.



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Christmas parade will shut down streets in Hollywood over Thanksgiving weekend

From page 1

ending at Sunset Boulevard and Orange Drive. Grandstand seating is available at the start of the parade; tickets start at \$35 and can be purchased by visiting ticketmaster.com. The parade is free to attend at all other areas along the 3.2-mile route. Arriving early is encouraged because the event annually attracts thousands of spectators.

A portion of the approximately 5,000 performers in the Hollywood Christmas Parade, including Santa, came together on Nov. 24 at the Ovation Hollywood shopping complex to offer a glimpse of the entertainment. The preview included performances by the PAVA World Korean Traditional Band, Chinese Lion Dancers, Gevorkian Dance Academy and Gay Men’s Chorus of Los Angeles, which will perform during the parade. Los Angeles City Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, 7th District, introduced the performers and said the Hollywood Christmas parade is an important tradition in the city.

“It’s such a wonderful treat to be surrounded by so many beautiful people in the most beautiful example of the diversity of Los Angeles, celebrating this very special tradition,” Rodriguez said. “It gives our families something to look forward to every year, [something] to celebrate and put a smile on our faces. But most importantly, it’s the diversity that we will be celebrating here in Los

Angeles.”

Erik Estrada and Laura McKenzie return to host the parade, along with Elizabeth Stanton and Montel Williams. The parade will be taped to air as a national telecast on The CW Network on Dec. 12.

Streets will be closed in Hollywood starting as early as 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 29. Hollywood Boulevard between Orange Drive and Highland Avenue will be closed all weekend and re-open on Dec. 1 at 6 a.m. Hollywood Boulevard between La Brea Avenue and Orange Drive will close on Sunday, Nov. 30, at 6 a.m.

Most of the additional closures, including Sycamore Avenue and Orange Drive from Franklin Avenue to Santa Monica Boulevard, and Sunset Boulevard between La Brea and Highland avenues, start at 1 p.m. on Nov. 30. The northbound and southbound off-ramps on the Hollywood (101) Freeway to Cahuenga Boulevard, and the southbound ramp from the 101 Freeway to Vine Street, will close at 3 p.m. The freeway ramps and all streets are expected to reopen by 10 p.m.

For a complete schedule and information, visit thehollywoodchristmasparade.org.



photo by Edwin Folven

The Hollywood Christmas Parade has been a Los Angeles tradition for nearly a century.

Celebrate the holidays at The Ebell of Los Angeles

The Ebell of Los Angeles, a nonprofit dedicated to inspiring women and building community through arts, culture and education, rings in the 2025 holiday season with a festive array of performances and gatherings.

The annual Holiday Luncheon and Artisan Boutique brings together a curated gift-shopping experience, while the Holiday Chorale Concert and Tea welcomes guests for an afternoon of music and tradition. The internationally acclaimed Grand Kyiv Ballet also returns to the Wilshire Ebell Theatre with a dazzling performance of “The Nutcracker,” offering audiences a chance to experience the timeless holiday classic in one of L.A.’s most his-

toric venues.

The Ebell Holiday Luncheon and Artisan Boutique will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The Ebell’s annual holiday celebration transforms the historic campus into a festive marketplace filled with handcrafted gifts, jewelry, art, home goods, gourmet treats and artisanal creations from more than 30 Southern California makers. Admission to the boutique is free. A 12:30 p.m. seated luncheon with wine is \$85, and a \$35 premium boxed lunch is available in the garden.

The L.A. Voices: Chorale Concert and Tea will be held on Sunday, Dec. 14, with the concert at 3 p.m. and tea at 4 p.m. The concert is free. Tea is \$70; \$50 for

members of The Ebell of L.A.

The Grand Kyiv Ballet presents “The Nutcracker” on Tuesday, Dec. 30, at 7 p.m. The Wilshire Ebell Theatre welcomes the internationally acclaimed Ukrainian dance company with its dazzling production of the holiday favorite beloved by generations. With exquisite choreography, stunning costumes and Tchaikovsky’s soaring score, the magical staging brings Clara, the Nutcracker Prince and the Land of Sweets to life in a performance that will enchant audiences of all ages. Tickets start at \$44. The Wilshire Ebell Theatre is located at 4401 W. Eighth St. For tickets, visit ebellofla.org/events/nutcracker.

The Ebell of Los Angeles is located at 743 S. Lucerne Blvd. For a full list of events, visit ebellofla.org/events.



photo courtesy of The Ebell of L.A.

Enjoy the magic of “The Nutcracker” with the Grand Kyiv Ballet at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre.

Burton Way project may head to council for appeal

From page 1

Commission for the project were not substantial cause for a denial.

“We are hopeful that the City Council will follow the law, and follow HCD’s clear direction that was communicated in not one, but two letters to the city on this question, and approve the project,” Rand said.

The 200-unit project was created by Crescent Heights, Inc., a development group responsible for several high-rise projects in Los Angeles including the 40-story building at 10000 Santa Monica Blvd. in Century City. The Burton Way project was initially proposed at 223 feet tall and 20 stories. However, changes in March and July by the developer increased the size of the project to 309 feet tall and 26 stories.

The development exceeds usual city height and density restrictions due to the builder’s remedy, a state provision that allows private developers to bypass local code regulations when a project contains at least 13% affordable housing. The provision takes effect when a municipality’s housing element – a state-mandated outline of zoning for affordable housing within the city – is out of compliance.

The city of Beverly Hills’ housing element for the 2021-29 cycle was out of compliance for approximately three years between 2021-24. The preliminary application for the development at 8844 Burton Way was submitted to the city in December 2023.

Although the updated project still included affordable housing

units, the number of affordable units was reduced from 40 lower income units to 14 extremely low-income units and eight moderate income units. The changes were made following updates in California’s housing laws which reduce the minimum number of affordable housing units necessary to qualify for builder’s remedy status.

The project has been opposed by neighbors due to its size and height. Nearby resident Janet Fox said the City Council should uphold the Planning Commission’s decision, and the community will not relent in its effort to prevent the project from being built.

“We are reviewing and processing the appeal consistent with our standard appeal procedure,” Beverly Hills Director of Community Development Michael Forbes said. “A City Council hearing date has not yet been scheduled.”

Rand said if the City Council upholds the commission’s denial of the project at 8844 Burton Way, the developer plans to file litigation.

Rand previously represented the developer for a similar builder’s remedy project at 125-129 S. Linden Drive, which became the subject of a lawsuit that alleged the city unlawfully denied the project. In August, a judge ruled in favor of the developer, forcing the city to process the development application. Following the judge’s ruling, the developer doubled the project’s size from 19 to 36 stories.



photo by Tabor Brewster

The potential development site at 8844 Burton Way is currently an empty lot.



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Thanksgiving meals help bring joy to those struggling with health issues in L.A.

From page 1

rely on other food assistance programs – were impacted by the recent pause in SNAP benefits by the Trump administration amid the government shutdown. The organization mobilized its volunteers to deliver \$100 grocery cards to every client affected by the pause in benefits.

“I have received so many tearful phone calls from people saying ‘thank you, you have no idea how much this means to me,’” Ayoub said. “I was delivering meals a week ago today. I delivered meals to a 32-year-old man who has HIV. He said, ‘I want to thank you for that grocery gift card you gave me.’ He said, ‘I only get \$23 a month from SNAP. That’s not enough.’”

Additionally, despite a federal funding cut of approximately \$500,000 to Project Angel Food,

the group is currently expanding its headquarters on Vine Street in Hollywood to meet the needs of the community. The new 30,000 square-foot campus will vastly increase the amount of meals Project Angel Food is able to deliver. The \$51.5 million renovation was funded in part by contributions from the city of West Hollywood, L.A. County and a \$10 million donation from the Chuck Lorre Family Foundation.

“Our Christmas holiday gift to Los Angeles will be opening our brand new kitchen that is going to be able to serve three times as many people,” Ayoub said. “We’re having a ribbon cutting on Dec. 16 and we will be cooking meals by Christmas. This has been a dream that we have had for years and it is incredible.”

Ayoub encouraged those inter-

ested in volunteering to sign up for the days after holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas. The organization usually experiences a lull in volunteers in the days and weeks following the holidays, Ayoub said.

“I like to say that every day is Thanksgiving at Project Angel Food,” Ayoub said. “Every day we’re making meals for people who need it and who are sick and hungry and oftentimes alone. A lot of volunteers say ‘Oh my god, it’s Thanksgiving, I want to volunteer.’ But we need people on the Friday after Thanksgiving, and the Monday after Thanksgiving, because we are feeding people 365 days a year.”

Ayoub said people who are busy during the holidays can volunteer easily without committing to extended periods of time.



photo by Tabor Brewster

The new Project Angel Food facility opening Dec. 16 features a mural titled “Nourishing the Community” by artist Robert Vargas.

“When you get into the new year, why not volunteer?” Ayoub said. “The great thing about Project Angel Food is you don’t have to commit to volunteer every week or every month. You can come in, do an orientation, volunteer and then call us with a day’s notice and say ‘Do you

need someone tomorrow?’ Or you can go on our website where we have a scheduling calendar and you can just schedule yourself.”

For information and to volunteer or donate to Project Angel Food, visit angelfood.org.

Cinerama Dome may soon reopen for business

From page 1

club, and they compared it to the timeline of that reopening, and that was under nine months,” Steinberg said. “So, they said that they could do it in record time.”

The Forman family representative did not respond to a request for comment. The family operates the Decurion Corporation, which previously operated the Pacific Theatres and Arclight Cinemas, both of which were dissolved in 2021. Unlike other former locations, the Cinerama Dome and Arclight Hollywood were not sold or leased to other exhibitors. For instance, Pacific once operated The Grove’s 14-screen location, which is now leased to AMC Theatres.

“[The representative] said at the meeting that if they get it approved, then the family is eager to reopen Cinerama Dome as soon as possible,” Steinberg said, adding that the 15-screen Arclight would also be reopened.

While peering through the windows may indicate a relic of the past, Steinberg added that the building has been maintained.

“They have a certificate of occupancy, so that means that the building is safe and, technically, if they wanted to, they could reopen it within, like, a day or two,” he said, adding that the representative indicated air conditioning had been updated at the site in recent months.

named a Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument in 1998.

The Arclight multiplex was opened behind the dome in 2002 as a state-of-the-art theater. The upscale experience was among the first to use assigned seating, strictly enforced its cell phone and talking bans and had dedicated ushers assigned to each theater, one of which would introduce the movie at the conclusion of the trailers. While additional Arclight locations opened over the years, the Hollywood site became a preferred destination for film and television professionals, and its legend has persisted among residents.

Steinberg started a petition earlier this year, which amassed over 30,000 signatures, to reopen the theater. A rally was held outside the Cinerama Dome in April with more than 50 people calling for the cinema to return.

The Los Angeles City Council will ultimately make the final decision on the venue’s liquor license, following the yet unscheduled public hearing.

“Bringing back this L.A. favorite would be incredible for Hollywood,” Soto-Martinez said. “It would mean one less vacant storefront, but it would also mean more business for the district, more appreciation for the cultural institutions that make Hollywood great and the triumphant return of a legendary landmark.”

“Arclight was my favorite movie theater because they took moviegoing seriously with respect and care for audience members,” Steinberg said. “Only three trailers, no advertisements, fantastic selection of movies and proper presentation for the sound and picture. It was the cinephile capital. The Cinerama Dome needs to reopen not only because of its historic legacy but it’s also the best movie theater ever built.”

The timeline remains uncertain, but – for the first time in years – there are signs of life at the Arclight.

One Beverly Hills begins vertical construction

Cain International began vertical construction of its 17.5-acre One Beverly Hills development on Nov. 24. The first concrete pours follow foundational work, and mark the beginning of the buildings taking shape.

The phase follows extensive progress since the project broke ground in 2024, including demolition, drilling geothermal wells, utility installation and infrastructure and site preparation. Phased delivery will begin in 2027 with the Aman Residences and commercial space.



rendering courtesy of Kerry Hill Architects

Upward construction of the buildings at the site began on Nov. 24.

Planned by Foster and Partners, One Beverly Hills will unite hospitality, wellness, retail and dining across 17.5 acres. At its center, the development will introduce lifestyle and hospitality brand Aman to the West Coast for the first time, with two Aman-branded residential towers, a hotel and global Aman Club designed by Kerry Hill Architects. As part of the master plan, The Beverly Hilton will undergo a comprehensive redesign to elevate its guest experience.

The development’s 10 acres of botanical gardens and open space, designed by RIOS, will provide the setting for experiential, retail, wellness and dining concepts. Casa Tua Cucina, Los Mochis, and Dolce and Gabbana headline the first wave of partners, joining a curated mix of up to 45 distinctive concepts that will further elevate Beverly Hills’ celebrated culture of shopping and dining.

“Reaching vertical construction is a powerful moment for everyone involved in One Beverly Hills. It reflects years of collab-

oration, planning and belief in what this site can become,” Cain International CEO Jonathan Goldstein said. “We look forward to delivering a destination that we believe will not only redefine luxury living but also create lasting economic and cultural value for the city of Beverly Hills and the wider region.”

After years of careful planning and preparation, reaching vertical construction at One Beverly Hills is a thrilling milestone,” Cain International Managing Director and Head of Development Larry Green said. “Seeing the buildings begin to rise on this transformational site brings our vision to life and sets us firmly on track to deliver the residential towers to owners in 2027.”

The project expects to bring

more than 2,700 direct construction jobs to the region. Turner Construction Company is leading all on-site construction for One Beverly Hills and will also oversee the contracting process for construction-related work. In addition, Turner will provide outreach, education and support to help diverse businesses and local job seekers understand upcoming opportunities and prepare to participate in the project. All of this work will be done in coordination with Cain and its partners.

The two Aman residential towers will be delivered by Layton Construction and Suffolk Construction, respectively, while PCL is leading construction of the Aman Hotel.

For information, visit cainintl.com.

World AIDS Day marked at WeHo monument

Join PLA Health, One Institute and STORIES: The AIDS Monument on Monday, Dec. 1, for World AIDS Day, to remember those lost, honor survivors, resist stigma and celebrate the stories that continue to guide the future.

The evening will feature the APLA Health Writers Group – founded in 1989 for people with HIV and their allies – and will be curated by former West Hollywood Poet Laureate Brian Sonia-Wallace.

The AIDS Monument was recently dedicated in West

Hollywood and features pillars (called “traces”) which tell the story of the AIDS crisis, which began in 1981.

After the program, a reception will follow at One Gallery featuring refreshments, beverages and a chance to see the new Herb Ritts exhibition. The event will start at 5:30 p.m. and will run until 6:30 p.m., when the reception will begin and continue until 8:30 p.m.

For information, visit apla-health.org. STORIES: The AIDS Monument is located at 647 N. San Vicente Blvd.

Answers From Page 27

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ABANDONMENT OF
FICTITIOUS
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STATEMENT
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The following person(s) are no longer doing
business as OFICINA INTERGRUPAL
LITERATURA, 13550 ROSCOE BLVD
SUITE 202, PANORAMA CITY , CA,
91402. OSCAR FEDERICO MORENO
MERAZ, 13061 VANOWEN ST APT
12A, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA
91605. THE BUSINESS IS
CONDUCTED BY AN INDIVIDUAL.
REGISTRANT: OSCAR FEDERICO
MORENO MERAZ, OWNER. This
statement was filed with the County Clerk of
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11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11/2025

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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

1. Wild animal
5. Falls back
9. Botch
14. George Sand's “___ et lui”
15. Pro ___ (in proportion)
16. Sell online
17. Person who throws trash out of cars
19. Young haddock
20. Beatles song
22. “Star Trek” rank: abbr.
23. Well-ventilated
24. After
28. Grps.
29. Indy segment
32. Stradivarius's teacher
33. Quote from Homer
34. Mineral in sheets
35. Beatles song
39. Little scurriers
40. Keyword improvements for a web-
site (abbr.)
41. Make beam
42. Tags
43. Comparison connector
44. Hanging strand
45. Cooking fat
46. Baseball gear
47. Beatles song
55. Played again
56. Some appetizers
57. Suri's mom
58. Strong cleaners

59. Earth sci.
60. Underhandedly
61. Survive
62. Top point

Down

1. Lux. neighbor
2. Chickpea stew
3. Choir member
4. No longer working, abbr.
5. Quick mission
6. ___ breath (flower)
7. Heat measures, for short
8. Cacti
9. Gentlemen, abbr.
10. On edge
11. Madras dress
12. Singer Celine
13. Word on a shoppe sign
18. Blissful
21. Busy time for fireflies
24. Persian faith
25. Improve
26. Deer
27. Suffix with social
28. Theater in ancient Greece
29. Actress Kudrow and others
30. Severe
31. Discussion group
34. Sitcom diner
36. Milo of “Barbarella”
37. Spaghetti's partner
38. Intensify

43. “Hollywoodland” star, Robin
44. Lao-tzu follower
45. Edible gastropod
46. Memory parts
47. Bugs
48. Prosperity
49. Chichi
50. Celtic singer
51. Delhi musical piece
52. Very short time, for short
53. Little matter
54. Moses was spotted on it

answers on page 26

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

Gary A. Dordick

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