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BEVERLY PRESS

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Serving Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Hancock Park and Miracle Mile

November 28, 2024

Beverly Hills commission to hear dealership plan

■ TBTFW once shared showroom with Wires Only

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Planning Commission on Dec. 12 will determine whether to grant a conditional use permit to an exotic car dealership at 9737 Wilshire Blvd. The dealership, TBTFW, once shared a showroom with RD Whittington –

an embattled Beverly Hills car salesman who is accused of defrauding clients and selling cars he did not own. The owner of TBTFW has denied any business relationship with Whittington.

Whittington's dealership, Wires Only, offered luxury supercars out

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photo by Tabor Brewster

The owner of the luxury car showroom at 9737 Wilshire Blvd., above, is named as a co-defendant in a lawsuit against Wires Only, a different showroom that operated illegally in Beverly Hills since at least 2022.

Coalition offers a reason to be thankful

■ Annual event ensures people in need have a holiday meal

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Hollywood Food Coalition and Television City made the Thanksgiving holiday special for approximately 300 people on Nov. 27 during the second annual community dinner.

The Hollywood Food Coalition provides meals and resources for people experiencing homelessness and food insecurity, serving meals on weekdays at its headquarters at the Salvation Army campus at 5939 Hollywood Blvd. and on weekends at a mobile operation at Orange Drive and Romaine Street. The special Thanksgiving dinner was held for the second year in a row at Television City, bringing together service providers and volunteers to help make a difference.

“What I love about this event for Thanksgiving is that we’re bridging all these worlds and bringing them together,” said Anjali Ray, executive director of the Hollywood Food Coalition.



photo courtesy of the Hollywood Food Coalition

Hundreds of people were treated to a Thanksgiving meal with all the fixings during the Hollywood Food Coalition’s event on Nov. 27 at Television City.

“In a world that’s super divisive and so polarizing right now, it’s just a wonderful thing to see people from all walks of life coming together and enjoying the space together.”

The coalition reached out to social service partners to invite people to the Thanksgiving Community Dinner. Ray said hunger remains a significant prob-

lem, with one-in-four families in Los Angeles facing food insecurity. The Hollywood Food Coalition was founded in 1987 to address hunger, and has evolved over the years. It now serves 600 meals daily at its Hollywood headquarters.

The nonprofit uses food provided by more than 600 donors

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Measure G, A approval puts board in motion

■ Supervisors approve task force, study on homelessness

BY RANCE COLLINS

After Measure G’s resounding victory on the Nov. 5 ballot, steps are already in place to put its initiatives forward, as the proposition aims to expand both the scope and transparency of Los Angeles County’s governance. On Nov. 26, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the structure for the Governance Reform Task Force, a move heralded by Supervisor Chair Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District.

“I am proud to be part of a board of all women leaders who bring thoughtful solutions to the table to ensure we get this right,” Horvath said. “This is truly the start of a process with robust public engagement at its core. Our communities will see the change this spring through transparent budget hearings, and through our soon-to-be-selected Governance Reform Task Force, our communities will have a body to engage in shaping a more transparent, accountable and representative Los Angeles County for all.”



photo courtesy of Yes on G

Supervisor Chair Lindsey Horvath, co-author of Measure G, praised the all-woman board for quick action.

The 13-member task force will include one member selected by each of the five supervisors, as well as others chosen by board office-appointed individuals and representatives from city labor unions. Other stipulations for the task force’s makeup include selecting people from municipal government, business, community-based organization and organizations with experience in the public sector ethics.

Supervisor Hilda Solis, 1st District, applauded Measure G.

“Now it is our job to ensure that the county moves swiftly to implement Measure G,” Solis said. “By quickly enacting the reforms in Measure G, we are fulfilling our promise to the voters of creating a government that is more representative of its residents, more transparent and more accountable. As the only Latina on the board of

See **Leaders** page 30



photo by Edwin Folven

The plan calls for a modernization of the historic studio at Beverly Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue.

TV City plan heads to City Council’s PLUM Committee

■ Public hearing will be held on Dec. 3 at L.A. City Hall

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles City Council’s Planning and Land Use Management Committee is

scheduled to consider the Television City project on Tuesday, Dec. 3, in the John Ferraro Council Chamber, Room 340 at City Hall, 200 N. Spring St. The meeting begins at 2 p.m. Members of the public may attend in person and can follow the meeting live via audio by

See **Project** page 31

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CALENDAR

Hollywood Improv

Hollywood Improv presents a “Historical Roast: The Queen” featuring Eddie Furth and Ryan Pigg on Friday, Nov. 29, at 7:30 p.m. Join Princess Diana, Winston Churchill, William Shakespeare, Nelson Mandela, John Lennon, Cleopatra and other famous people from history as they roast Queen Elizabeth II. The event is for guests 21 and older. General admission is \$15.95. 8162 Melrose Ave.

LACMA art tour

Join a LACMA docent for a tour of “Magdalena Suarez Frimkess: The Finest Disregard” on Saturday, Nov. 30, from noon-12:30 p.m. in the Resnick Pavilion. “The Finest Disregard” is the first museum exhibition of L.A.-based and Venezuelan-born artist Frimkess. Trained in painting, printmaking and sculpture in Venezuela, Chile and New York, the artist’s most recognized works are made in clay. Spanning more than five decades, the exhibition features ceramics, paintings and drawings, including an important selection of works made collaboratively with her husband Michael Frimkess. The tour is free with museum admission. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.



Music on the Sunset Strip

The 21st South Bay Music Awards brings the beach to the Sunset Strip on

Sunday, Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. with live performances and awards presentations at the Roxy Theatre. Celebrating two decades of achievements in independent music, the event features a tribute to the late Jack Russell, honoring his contributions to the music world. Enjoy live performance by Sean McNabb, Keith St. John, Graham Bonnet, The Roni Lee Group, Derek Day, Ronny North, Heydukeyousuck, Kia, Bill Curd, Red Moon One and Familiar Faces. General admission starts at \$55. 9009 West Sunset Blvd. southbaymusicawardsllc.com.

Leslie Odom, Jr.

Leslie Odom, Jr. brings “The Christmas Tour” to the Walt Disney Concert Hall on Sunday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m. The stylish and charismatic Odom won a Tony Award and a Grammy Award for his portrayal of Aaron Burr in “Hamilton,” and his moving performance as Sam Cooke in the 2020 film “One Night in Miami” earned an Oscar nomination. He returns to Walt Disney Concert Hall for a night of holiday hits, including selections from his release “The Christmas Album.” Tickets start at \$75. 111 S. Grand Ave. laphil.com.



‘A Christmas Carol’

A Noise Within’s production of “A Christmas Carol” returns for the 2024 holiday season from Sunday, Dec. 1, through Tuesday, Dec. 24. The stage adaptation by Geoff Elliott is uniquely faithful to the original by Charles Dickens, and every word in the play is from the novel. Elliott also alternates in the role of Ebenezer Scrooge with Frederick Stuart, opposite Riley Shanahan as Marley. Trisha Miller appears as the Ghost of Christmas Past, Anthony Adu as the Ghost of Christmas Present and David A. Rangel as the Ghost of Christmas Future. Tickets start at \$51.50. 3352 E Foothill Blvd., Pasadena. anoisewithin.org.



‘Neo-Soul Favorites’

Join the Colburn School for “Candlelight Events Presents: Neo-Soul Favorites” on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 6:45 and 8:45 p.m. The performances feature music under the gentle glow of candlelight in Zipper Hall, with songs by Prince, Lauryn Hill, Alicia Keys, Sade, Boyz II Men, D’Angelo, Frank Ocean, Erykah Badu, Solange and Childish Gambino. Tickets start at \$43. 200 S. Grand Ave. colburn-school.edu.

LA Phil celebrates Schoenberg

Classical music lovers won’t want to miss the LA Phil’s “Intimate Schoenberg” concert, part of the Schoenberg at 150 Festival, on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. The performance includes Verklärte Nacht, Op. 4, for string sextet, and String Quartet No. 1. Enjoy musicians of the LA Phil performing chamber music in a small ensemble, and come early at 6:30 p.m. and enjoy a complimentary glass of wine. Tickets start at \$20. 111 S. Grand Ave. laphil.com.



Beverly Hills Chamber

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce is holding its December “Get to Know Your Chamber” event on Wednesday, Dec. 4, from 8:15-10 a.m. Learn about the benefits and opportunities available to members. The presentation begins at 8:30 a.m. Participation is free. 9400 S. Santa Monica Blvd., Second Floor. members.beverlyhillschamber.com.

‘The Christmas Cracker’

Open-Door Playhouse’s new production of “The Christmas Cracker” opens on Wednesday, Dec. 4. The short play is presented in podcast form and is available on demand. Three friends open Christmas crackers at a holiday party. Two contain the usual paper crowns and bad jokes, but the third contains something that’s absolutely terrifying. Open-Door Playhouse is a nonprofit; donations are welcome. opendoor-playhouse.org.

Group art exhibit

The Artists Gallery is celebrating surrealism with “Echoes of the Unconscious,” a special juried exhibition from Wednesday, Dec. 4, through Friday, Jan. 3. Juried by painter Seta Injeyan, the exhibition honors present-day surrealists with a unique, curated selection of artworks. Injeyan will announce the exhibition’s Awards of Excellence at a free reception on Dec. 13 from 5-8 p.m., when guests can meet local artists and explore the collection. 5458 Wilshire Blvd. tagallery.net.



photo by Edwin Folven

Santa makes an appearance every year at the Hollywood Christmas Parade Supporting Marine Toys for Tots.

Time-honored tradition returns to Hollywood

■ 92nd Hollywood Christmas Parade steps off on Dec. 1

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Santa Claus and his reindeer will make their annual trek down Hollywood Boulevard on Dec. 1 during the 92nd Hollywood Christmas Parade Supporting Marine Toys for Tots.

Families are invited to line the boulevard and enjoy the holiday festivities in a style that only

Tinseltown can offer. Celebrity appearances are a hallmark of the parade, with actor, musician and philanthropist Jeremy Renner serving as grand marshal, and two-time Emmy Award-winner Mario Lopez, host of “Access Hollywood,” receiving the 2024 Hollywood Christmas Parade’s Humanitarian of the Year Award. Renner and Lopez will appear in the parade with celebrities Denise Richards, Lou Ferrigno, Kate Linder, James Tupper, Laura Bryna, Melinda Lindler,

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Padilla serves 'the spirit of Los Angeles'

■ Project Angel Food prepares Thanksgiving feasts for those in need

BY RANCE COLLINS

Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) stopped by Project Angel Food Nov. 27 to kick off the nonprofit's Thanksgiving drive. The organization, which provides medically tailored meals to people in need, is particularly busy each November as it works to ensure every client has a healthy, festive holiday.

"I grew up with a lot of community service. That's how my parents raised us," Padilla said.

Padilla is a Los Angeles County native, having grown up in Pacoima and graduating from San Fernando High School. For many years he served on the Los Angeles City Council and in the State Senate's 20th district. Prior to becoming a U.S. senator, he was California secretary of state.

Padilla brought his wife Angela and one of his sons, Diego, along to help put together meals at Project Angel Food's temporary Lincoln Heights kitchen. The organization is currently constructing a new expanded facility in Hollywood.

"It's an opportunity to raise our kids with this awareness. We have our challenges, but relatively speaking, we're very, very blessed to help – whether it's a neighbor, whether it's a stranger. If we can help make somebody else's life just a little bit easier, especially during the holidays, we're happy to," he said.

In recent weeks, the work of nonprofits like Project Angel Food has come under scrutiny. On Nov. 21, the United States House of Representatives narrowly voted in favor of the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act, which could give the U.S. Treasury Department sweeping power to remove tax-exempt status from any organization deemed to be supportive of terror-

ism. Democratic opponents have argued that the incoming Donald J. Trump administration could use the act to go after political enemies.

“That’s why we have two chambers – checks and balances to make sure that, while some members of the House may want to politicize every vote [and] politically attack organizations – more regional divides in the Senate will protect the good causes and the good uses of taxpayer funding,” Padilla said.

He pointed out the long history Project Angel Food had as a powerful humanitarian force in Los Angeles, noting that the very first government grant provided by FEMA to the organization was presented by the late Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) in 1993.

"If we can look at the multiple ways that Project Angel Food is helping communities -- whether it's addressing food insecurity ... whether it's providing medically strategic food that keeps people healthy, then we're reducing health care costs. Imagine that -- bringing down health care costs in America. This is an innovative and successful way to do it. I hope my colleagues in Washington will pay attention to this program and others like it," Padilla said.

He added that if his colleagues would observe the work of Project Angel Food, they might return next week to Congress with a reminder of the purpose of public service.

“Yes, we have different ideas. We have different philosophies, maybe different priorities based on your district [and] based on the state that you represent, but at the end of the day, we’re in public service to try to improve lives,” Padilla said.

He said the organization's mission was in lock step with the city that raised him.

“Project Angel Food is the spirit of Los Angeles,” he explained. “We’re not just a big, spectacular city in America. We’re from the most diverse city in America, from all aspects ... racially diverse, eco-

nomically diverse, ethnically diverse – but people come together on a daily basis, whether it's people working side by side, playing little league baseball side by side, volunteering side by side, to help our neighbors. That is the spirit of Los Angeles as I know it."

Project Angel Food will have numerous celebrities on hand Thanksgiving Day to help prepare and deliver meals, including “Weird Al” Yankovic, Jai Rodriguez, Mary McCormack, Charlie Wood, Natalie Morales, Mark McGrath and Loni Love. For information, visit angelfood.org.



photo by Rance Collins

Project Angel Food CEO Richard Ayoub, left, welcomed Sen. Alex Padilla and his family to help with Thanksgiving preparations.

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A LETTER TO

The Beverly Fairfax Community

To our Neighbors:

We'd like to bring you up to date on our efforts to protect surrounding communities from the negative impacts of the proposed Television City expansion at Beverly & Fairfax.

We support a new, larger studio, and throughout two years of meetings with the developer and Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, we pushed for meaningful changes to balance business and community interests – addressing traffic problems, cutting excess office space, tightening the construction period, and reining in the zoning. Despite valid public concerns, the City Planning Commission approved the developer's proposal to expand Television City without those changes.

On December 3 at 2PM, we get another chance to push back against this massive overdevelopment at a hearing held by the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee. The meeting will be held at City Hall, Room 340.

The proposed development will be twice the size of the Beverly Center, and 85% of the increase is office space, not studio operations.

- It will cause massive gridlock and cut-through traffic and impact response times from emergency vehicles.
- The developer plans on a 20-year construction timeline, bringing decades of disruption to surrounding communities.
- Permissive new zoning that can open the door to future reckless development.

Despite an acute housing shortage, this project includes not one unit of housing – in fact, it will likely drive up rents and displace current residents in our neighborhood's rental units.

These are just some of the reasons that more than 2,200 local residents signed petitions against the project, more than 450 residents, community organizations and local businesses submitted letters opposing the project, and 9 community organizations and local businesses submitted official appeals.

When Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky took office, she said the project needed "a big haircut." Now, after the developer gave it a tiny trim, Councilmember Yaroslavsky supports it.

Please join us on December 3, at 2PM to tell the City to "Fix TVC" at the Planning and Land Use Management Committee. The meeting will be held at City Hall, Room 340.

Please visit www.FixTVC.org to let us know if you can come to this important hearing or to send an email to the Councilmembers expressing your views on the project.

We are grateful to live in this vibrant, supportive community and wish all of our neighbors a happy Thanksgiving!

Norms may be replaced by Raising Cane’s

■ Diner’s lease ends in late 2026, paving way for chicken chain

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Norms, a 1950s-era diner that has been a longtime fixture on La Cienega Boulevard, may become a Raising Cane’s fast food restaurant in 2027. The 24-hour breakfast restaurant’s lease is set to expire in late 2026, at which point Raising Cane’s – the current landlord – plans to turn it into one of its many locations serving fried chicken fin- gers. The proposed rehabilitation

will be presented to the city of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission on Dec. 5. “Norm’s has an existing lease at its La Cienega location until December 2026. After that time, Raising Cane’s plans to keep the legacy of Norm’s alive and main- tain – forever – the iconic Googie- style architecture made famous by Armét and Davis when we begin improvements to restore the prop- erty and serve craveable chicken fin- ger meals to the L.A. community,” a Raising Cane’s spokesperson said. “The building has been desig- nated as a historic-cultural monu- ment and that designation requires

preservation of the building, inside and out, including the iconic pen- nant-style sawtooth sign and diner- style seating. Our goal is to contin- ue working with the Cultural Heritage Commission to ensure that legacy of Norms is preserved for future generations in the commu- nity.” A rendering provided by Raising Cane’s shows the planned rehabili- tation, with the restaurant maintain- ing a similar exterior appearance to its current state. The most notable difference is the large orange letters on the eponymous Norms sign have been replaced to read Cane’s, with an apostrophe affixed to the E.

Norms, a Southern California diner chain, is known for its Googie architecture – a quirky mid-20th century futurist movement that was developed in Southern California. The architecture style features angular roofs, boomerang-like shapes and neon lights that harken back to the dawn of the Space Age.

The restaurant at 470-478 N. La Cienega is the oldest surviving Norms location, first opening its doors in 1957. In 2015, the location became a Los Angeles historic-cul- tural monument, a move that pre- vented it from being demolished following a campaign by the Los Angeles Conservancy to save the building.

According to its website, there are 23 Norms locations in the Los Angeles area and one in Las Vegas.

Bobby Green – a designer and business owner whose company the 1933 Group has preserved and



photo by Edwin Folven

Norms, a Southern California-based chain, is known as a quintessential example of Googie architecture.

reopened several historic L.A. eateries, including Tail O’ the Pup and the Formosa Café – said he was “confusingly shocked” when he heard about the plans for the Norms on La Cienega Boulevard.

“I knew what a struggle and fight that the Norms building was to save,” Green said. “Once some- thing like that is designated as a cultural landmark everyone kind of breathes a sigh of relief and moves onto the next battle. But in this case, it’s very interesting because you’re dealing with a legacy busi-

ness now, not a legacy building ... I don’t think anyone in the preserva- tion groups of L.A. have really encountered a situation like that.” Green said he hopes Raising Cane’s will see the value in keeping Norms in its original building. “To go into a space like that and not get diner food would just feel so weird,” Green said. Raising Cane’s will present its plan to the Cultural Heritage Commission on Dec. 5 at 10 a.m. in Room 1010 of Los Angeles City Hall, 200 N. Spring St.



rendering courtesy of Raising Cane’s

The iconic diner may become a location for a fried chicken fast food chain in 2027, with the existing lease ending in late 2026.



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LL Lights on the Lily Pond	JT Jolly Trolley	P Parking
GG Glowing Gardens at Beverly Cañon Gardens	RD Rodeo Nights, Holiday Lights	

For additional information, visit: [BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/HOLIDAYSBH](https://www.beverlyhills.org/holidaysbh)

*Due to replacing the turf, the tree and menorah will be up by December 2ND



photo courtesy of Street People of Beverly Hills
Video footage shows the suspects as they fled on Brighton Way.

Robbery crew targets victims on Rodeo Drive

■ Suspects steal handbags during brazen hold-up

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Beverly Hills Police Department investigators are searching for four male suspects who robbed two victims around 1:20 p.m. on Nov. 23 in the 400 block of North Rodeo Drive.

The victims, one male and the other female, were standing on the sidewalk when they were approached by four suspects. One suspect brandished a firearm and a physical altercation occurred involving both victims and the suspects, police said.

The robbery was captured on video and first broadcast on social media by Street People of Beverly Hills, and later widely broadcast by television news outlets. In the video, the suspects can be seen scuffling with a victim who is

lying on the ground as the female victim is close by. The assailants are then seen running away west on Brighton Way.

The robbery occurred on the sidewalk near the BVLGARI, Maison Goyard and Cartier stores. Police said the suspects stole two designer handbags containing cash and cell phones. One cell phone was recovered near the scene. The suspects also attempted to steal the male victim’s jewelry but were unsuccessful, police said.

Beverly Hills Fire Department paramedics examined both victims, who sought their own medical attention. The investigation is ongoing and the BHPD is attempting to identify the suspects, Lt. Andrew Myers said.

Anyone with information about the robbery is encouraged to call the BHPD at (310)285-2125. To remain anonymous, text BHPDALERT and the tip information to 888777, or call Crime Stoppers at (800)222-8477.

Leads sought in shooting that injured woman in Hollywood

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Police are searching for a gunman who shot and injured a woman in Hollywood in mid-October and are asking for the public’s help to identify the suspect. Investigators released photographs of the assailant, who is described as Hispanic, 20-25 years old, 5 feet 5 five inches tall and 130-160 pounds.

The shooting occurred on Oct. 15 at approximately 12:15 p.m. on Hollywood Boulevard near Western Avenue. The female victim was in the process of renting an e-scooter when the suspect approached her and the two became involved in argument, police said. The suspect pulled

out a handgun and fired several times at the woman before fleeing south on Western Avenue.

Police said the victim was struck by the gunfire and sustained “non-life-threatening” injuries. She was treated at a hospital and released.

A witness took photographs of the assailant as he was fleeing. After exhausting all leads, investigators released the images to the public on Nov. 21. Anyone who recognizes the man is urged to call Detective Greg Papik with the Los Angeles Police Department’s Hollywood Division at (213)972-2971. During weekends and off-hours, call the LAPD’s hotline at (866)LAPD247.



photo courtesy of the LAPD
A bystander captured images of the suspect as he fled.

Menendez resentencing hearing rescheduled

■ Brothers’ aunts give emotional testimony during court appearance

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A Nov. 25 status hearing in the Menendez brothers case resulted in the rescheduling of a resentencing hearing from Dec. 11 to Jan. 30. The November hearing, although mostly procedural, included emotional testimony from two relatives advocating for the release of the brothers, Erik and Lyle Menendez.

“I’m not ready to go forward,” Judge Michael V. Jesic said at the hearing, stating that he had “17 boxes” of documents to go through before he could make any decisions related to the case. Additionally, he said that he would be pushing the hearing to give the new Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman time to review the case as well as new evidence. Hochman will be sworn in as district attorney on Dec. 2.

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

Incumbent district attorney George Gascón, who was defeated by Hochman in the Nov. 5 election, recommended the brothers be resentenced after reviewing evidence that suggests the brothers were sexually abused by their father. Gascón also supported a



photo by Tabor Brewster
The brothers’ attorney Mark Geragos, right, said he hopes the next hearing will result in their release from prison.

clemency request for the Menendez brothers. According to the California Constitution, the governor has the authority to grant clemency in the form of a sentence commutation or pardon. Gov. Gavin Newsom recently announced he would not make a clemency decision until Hochman reviews the case.

The brothers were scheduled to appear virtually in the Nov. 25 hearing, but due to technical difficulties they were not visible to the courtroom. Two of their aunts – Jose Menendez’s sister Terry Baralt and Kitty Menendez’s sister Joan VanderMolen – were present in court to ask that the judge release Erik and Lyle.

The 85-year-old Baralt – who flew from New Jersey for the hearing – pointed toward the brothers’ behavior in prison, stating that they have done “a lot of good things” while incarcerated.

“I would like to be able to hug them and see them ... not in a jail,” she added.

She described her sister-in-law

Kitty Menendez as her “best friend,” and that while she misses Jose and Kitty, she believes the brothers have successfully rehabilitated and done enough time behind bars.

“We miss those that are gone tremendously. But we miss the kids too,” Baralt said. “I know they’re not kids anymore. To me they are.”

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

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

Following the hearing, the brothers’ attorney Mark Geragos applauded the aunts’ testimony and looked ahead to the next hearing.

“By Jan. 30 or 31 – we’re hoping that by the end of that or sometime sooner – we will in fact get the brothers released,” Geragos said.

D.A. files charges against B.H. carjacking suspect

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón has filed carjacking and hit-and-run charges against 22-year-old James Portul, who is accused of stealing a car and crashing into four pedestrians in Beverly Hills on Nov. 14 before running from the scene.

According to the Beverly Hills Police Department, officers received a call reporting a carjacking in the 400 block of North Bedford Drive at approximately 7:06 p.m. on Nov. 14. Portul allegedly used force to steal a black BMW X3 from a woman and then fled in the vehicle, police said. Shortly after, Portul lost control of the vehicle and crashed into four pedestrians near the intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and Camden Drive before fleeing on foot. According to the BHPD, officers quickly detained Portul in the 200 block of South Beverly Drive.

The chaotic incident took place

near the “Rodeo Nights, Holiday Lights” event, where families gathered to celebrate the holiday season. Russell Stuart, a local business owner who was recently elected to the Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education, was buying a balloon for his daughter near the event when he was suddenly struck by the vehicle. Stuart, who was hospitalized with critical injuries, was discharged on Nov. 23.

On Nov. 26, Stuart said he is still recovering at home “slowly, but in the right direction.”

“I’m very pleased to hear that Mr. Gascón’s office has chosen to press charges against this gentleman and move forward with the prosecution,” Stuart said. “I’ve been very displeased with Mr. Gascón’s performance as our D.A. for a very long time, but that was obviously as a third-party bystander. Now that I’m a victim of violent crime myself I see things in a harsher light. To know that although Mr. Gascón will be leav-

ing [office] on Dec. 2 ... I’m very pleased to hear that charges have been filed.”

He said he hopes the suspect is held accountable to the fullest extent of the law, and that the charges send a message to deter violent crime in Los Angeles County.

The D.A.’s office said Portul pleaded not guilty during his arraignment. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for Dec. 5.

Stuart added that the support he has received from the community following his injuries has been “absolutely overwhelming,” as he has received well wishes from current and former City Council members, school board members and many Beverly Hills residents whom he did not know prior to the incident.

“It’s a testament to why we live here. Beverly Hills is not a city, it’s a community,” Stuart said. “I could’ve never imagined [the support]. It’s really given me more strength to heal faster.”

Authorities warn about dangers of impaired driving

Law enforcement officials are taking a zero-tolerance approach to driving under the influence during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

The California Highway Patrol is activating its Thanksgiving Maximum Enforcement Period

through Sunday. The Beverly Hills Police Department, Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department are also stepping up patrols and DUI enforcement.

Members of the public are

warned about the dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Always designate a driver. Motorists are reminded that impaired driving can also be caused by marijuana and prescription drugs.

Metro holds Beverly Hills meeting on subway work

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is holding a meeting on D Line subway construction on Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Gallery at Beverly Hills City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive. The meeting will focus on work in sections one and two of the project from Wilshire/Western to Century City/Constellation. For information, visit metro.net.

Street restoration work is ongoing at many locations along the route. Near Wilshire/Western,

street restoration is expected to continue through January. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction between Oxford Avenue and St. Andrews Place. Left turns are prohibited from Wilshire Boulevard to Western Avenue and from eastbound Wilshire Boulevard to northbound St. Andrews Place. The temporary traffic plan supports street restoration work near the Wilshire/Western construction yard.

Street level work is also ongoing

around the Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Fairfax subway stations. Through March 2025, a K-rail work zone is located in the middle of Wilshire Boulevard between Courtyard Place and Masselin Avenue to support construction in the tunnels below Wilshire Boulevard. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction between Ridgely Drive and Curson Avenue, and left turns are prohibited along Wilshire Boulevard in the area.

Work is also occurring on Wilshire Boulevard near Fairfax Avenue. Through March, Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction at La Jolla Avenue. A K-rail enclosure is located on the west side of the Wilshire/La Jolla intersection to accommodate work in a cross passage between the tunnels.

At the Wilshire/La Cienega station, crews are working the construction staging areas and at street level along the north side of Wilshire Boulevard between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards. Crews will be restoring the streetscape in the area through early 2025. Intermittent lane closures may be in place along Wilshire Boulevard.

Farther west, crews have reopened Cañon Drive south of Wilshire Boulevard. Work is occurring within the staging yards for the Wilshire/Rodeo station and at street level in the area.

Metro is advising about deck removal work in early 2025 that will require up to 18 full weekend street closures on Wilshire Boulevard between Crescent and El Camino drives. The work may begin as early as Jan. 24, 2025. The street closures will run from 8 p.m. on Friday through 7 a.m. the following



photo by Edwin Folven

Cañon Drive has reopened south of Wilshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills. Metro is advising about additional weekend closures in the area in early 2025.

Board approves Horvath motion supporting trans community

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion on Nov. 26 to advance the Trans, Gender-Expansive and Intersex Wellness and Equity Initiative, a \$7 million investment over two years aimed at addressing systemic barriers and improving outcomes for TGI communities across Los Angeles County.

“In the face of rising attacks on TGI rights across the country, Los Angeles County is once again leading with action.”

Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District

The motion was authored by Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, and was approved during her last meeting serving as board chair.

“In the face of rising attacks on TGI rights across the country, Los

Angeles County is once again leading with action,” Horvath said. “TGI communities experience some of the greatest inequities in health, housing and economic opportunity, rooted in systemic discrimination and exclusion. This initiative is our commitment to ensuring that our TGI neighbors have the resources, services and support they need to live with dignity and thrive.”

The TGI Wellness and Equity Initiative will direct \$7 million to enhance services and build capacity of TGI-led organizations, specifically those in which at least 60% of leadership identifies as TGI. Organizations providing health, housing and human services to TGI communities across the county will be prioritized for funding and support.

The initiative was made in response to urgent calls from TGI community members and advocates who have highlighted gaps in services and inequities in access to resources.

For information, visit lacounty.gov/government/board-of-supervisors/lindsey-p-horvath.

lowing Monday. Detour routes will be implemented for eastbound and westbound traffic on Wilshire Boulevard.

At the Century City/Constellation subway station, work continues in late November. Partial traffic lane closures are in place on Constellation Boulevard for station construction and material deliveries. Eastbound and westbound vehicle access on Constellation Boulevard is being

maintained between Century Park West and Century Park East. Utility relocation work and street restoration is ongoing on Avenue of the Stars, south of Constellation Boulevard. All driveways are accessible 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.



NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 24-O-2903

The City Council of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting held on **Tuesday, November 19, 2024**, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, adopted Ordinance No. 24-O-2903 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU) REGULATIONS TO UPDATE MULTI-FAMILY STANDARDS AND ALLOW ONE ADDITIONAL DEED-RESTRICTED RENTAL ADU ON SINGLE-FAMILY PROPERTIES WITH A LOT AREA OF 13,000 SQUARE FEET OR GREATER, AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

Summary of Ordinance No. 24-O-2903

This is a summary of the above entitled ordinance of the City of Beverly Hills. This summary has been prepared and published in accordance with the requirements of Government Code Section 36933.

The ordinance is intended to support the production of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) as part of Implementation Program 10.4 of the City’s 2021 – 2029 Housing Element. The ordinance introduces the following changes to the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC) to facilitate ADU construction, expand housing options, and increase the availability of rental units within Beverly Hills:

- Greater flexibility for multi-family ADU development standards, including:
 - Increases in allowable height and floor area;
 - Reductions in rear and side setbacks for properties abutting alleys;
 - Allowance of internal-facing balconies; and
 - Establishment of a new discretionary process allowing deviations from development standards.
- Authorization of an additional ADU that is consistent with minimum state law

standards on single-family properties with a lot area of 13,000 square feet or greater, with at least one ADU deed-restricted as a rental unit.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The City Council determined that this ordinance is within the scope of and consistent with the Addendum to the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Amendments to the Adopted 2021- 2029 City of Beverly Hills Housing Element (State Clearinghouse No. 2021090102), which was adopted by the City Council on March 18, 2024 and certified by the State Department of Housing and Community Development on May 1, 2024. Furthermore, the ordinance is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to §21080.17 of the California Public Resources Code. This section specifies that the adoption of an ordinance regarding ADUs to implement the provisions of Government Code §§65852.1 or Article 2 (commencing with §66314) of Chapter 13 of Division 1 of Title 7 of the Government Code is exempt from CEQA requirements.

The Ordinance was unanimously approved and adopted on November 19, 2024, effective December 20, 2024. Those voting for or against adoption of Ordinance No. 24-O-2903 are as follows:

AYES:	Councilmembers Wells, Corman, Mirisch, Vice Mayor Nazarian, and Mayor Friedman
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

A certified copy of the entirety of the text of this ordinance is available for review during normal business hours at the Office of the City Clerk Office located at 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, Second Floor, Beverly Hills, California.

Huma Ahmed
City Clerk



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-1126 (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.

Letters to the Editor

Situation involving BHHS teacher deserves more scrutiny

Re “BHHS teacher says she was fired after criticizing Trump,” Nov. 21 issue

I was very disturbed by an article appearing in the Nov. 21 issue of the Beverly Press concerning the termination of Joanie Garratt by the Beverly Hills Unified School District.

Based on the article, it appears that Ms. Garratt was terminated by the BHUSD as a result of her Facebook post of Nov. 7, reacting to what was to all accounts (in the Beverly Press and other media) a problematic incident at Beverly High following the recent election. The Beverly Press article notes that a BHUSD representative “would not confirm or deny Garratt’s termination.”

Ms. Garratt’s apparent termination raises a number of questions which I, as a long-term Beverly Hills resident, would like to have answered by the BHUSD. I have written to the members of the Beverly Hills Board of Education about my concerns.

My questions include the following:

Was Ms. Garratt in fact terminated, or is she currently employed by BHUSD in her capacity as “a substitute teacher on a long-term assignment?”

If Ms. Garratt was terminated, what were the grounds for such termination?

Was such termination in any way connected, as she asserts, with her Facebook post?

If her termination was connected with her Facebook post: did Ms. Garratt utilize any property of BHUSD (such as a computer, iPad, cellphone, etc.) in making the post?

Was the Facebook account on which the post was made her personal Facebook account or a BHUSD Facebook account?

In her post, did Ms. Garratt purport to be speaking on behalf of the BHUSD, or was she only reporting her reaction to the events?

Does the BHUSD have a written policy setting forth limitations on what a staff member may post on his/her personal social media accounts? If so, what is the policy, and how is it disseminated to staff members?

If there is a policy, what is the practice of the BHUSD in situations where there has been an alleged violation?

Do people get warnings, or is such a violation always a ground for termination?

What kind of “due process” is followed in such situations?

I do not know Ms. Garratt, and I have no knowledge concerning her employment history, reputation, etc. with BHUSD. I would have asked the BHUSD the same questions if, for example, another faculty member in similar circumstances had been terminated after expressing satisfaction over the outcome of the recent election.

Either case raises serious potential freedom of expression issues.

Apart from the First Amendment issues, I have very practical concerns. In my almost 50 years as a Beverly Hills resident, I have seen numerous examples of city authorities (city, police department, BHUSD, et al) taking employment and other actions, getting sued for them, and ultimately losing the resulting litigation or entering into expensive settlements after expending lots of money in defense. I am concerned that if Ms. Garratt has in fact been unfairly treated and chooses to take legal action, we will see a similar playbook.

I am also concerned that if the policies of the BHUSD are not properly communicated (or are otherwise opaque) or are not consistently applied, we will have similar results in future situations. Broad policy issues are also raised over how the BHUSD reacts to this kind of circumstance, and what can be done to improve its practices to avoid the potential for claims.

If the Beverly Press and other media accounts are at all accurate, this is a significant embarrassment to the city of Beverly Hills, the

BHUSD and to those residents of Beverly Hills who love and would like to remain proud of their very special city.

Gary Jacobs
Beverly Hills

Fireworks should be dropped from holiday celebrations

Re “Beverly Hills lights up the holiday season,” Nov. 21 issue

Not to be a Grinch here but really, live fireworks to light up the holiday season?

As California continues to deal with the ever-increasing wildfire threats and air quality issues that would choke any flying reindeer, isn’t it time to retire fireworks as entertainment?

There are absolutely spectacular drone light shows available that won’t foul the air or burn your house down. The city of Beverly Hills should lead by example and set new standards for holiday celebrations.

Rodney Kemerer
Beverly Hills

Fountain Avenue issue remains unresolved

Re “Fountain Avenue’s future considered post-election,” Nov. 21 issue

I live on Poinsettia Drive, between Santa Monica and Fountain. Although I will not be impacted by the loss of scores of parking spaces due to the Fountain “re-design,” I will be impacted when Fountain is reduced to one lane of traffic in either direction to accommodate “protected” bike lanes.

Although the mayor decided to personalize this issue by denouncing [the project’s] critics, the city has never done a study to determine

how reducing lanes of traffic will impact travel times on Fountain as well as Santa Monica Boulevard, which will be required to absorb thousands of additional commuter trips. My neighbors and I will suffer the consequences of gridlock on both Fountain and Santa Monica, which will slow responses of ambulances and fire trucks during emergencies.

Fountain can be made safer with additional traffic lights without creating the sort of chaos that will occur when this plan is implemented. But the battle over Fountain is far from over. Once the residents have to experience the real world consequences of the” re-design” there will be a ballot measure to remove the bike lanes. As a resident of the eastside of West Hollywood, I have a vested interest in making Fountain safer and user friendly. The re-design ultimately does just the opposite.

Steve Martin
West Hollywood

TV City project will bring benefits to community

Re “TV City project moves toward council review,” Nov. 14 issue

I want to address the issue of those who challenge this important, neighborhood saving studio revitalization project. They’re concerned with increased traffic and noise? Then why did they move into the middle of the second-biggest city in the country? What were they thinking? The studio was there when they moved in. Did they not see it?

And where do they get the audacity to imagine that they can stop growth and development in a neighborhood that has – to a great degree – fallen into a state of urban blight, because it might create a minor inconvenience to them?

Anybody who thinks this challenge is about preserving the charm

of an older neighborhood needs to take a drive through the streets surrounding the studio. With the exception of Jewish Family Services, an Italian restaurant and Canter’s, the stretch of Fairfax Avenue between Beverly and Melrose looks like a war zone. Most of the shops are empty, boarded up and covered with graffiti. The streets and sidewalks are covered with garbage that none of these concerned neighbors or groups bothers to help clean up. Many of the buildings appear to be beyond repair. Along Beverly Boulevard, the situation isn’t much better. Empty stores in decrepit buildings are scattered among the few businesses managing to hold on.

Los Angeles was built on the back of the Hollywood dream machine. If the entertainment industry leaves Los Angeles, we are left with decent weather and nice beaches. Kind of like what you find in Ventura County. But you know what you don’t find in Ventura County? Tourists. You also don’t find an industry that can honestly boast that every product it creates supports more than 13,000 jobs. (Next time you go to a movie stick around for the credits and you’ll see this statement come up at the end.) While the griping is coming from a group that is predominantly made up of renters, those locals who own homes and commercial buildings will see that once the studio is revitalized, their own property values will soar.

Hackman Capital Partners is creating an opportunity for industry professionals to stay in Los Angeles and work in union jobs at a new facility with cutting edge technology. The people who work there will support local businesses throughout the day and after work. They’ll even spend time and money at The Grove and Farmer’s Market. If history is any indication, those who are complaining and trying to stop or limit this development will move on to complain and try to stop the next project in the area.

Catherine Clinch
Los Angeles

L.A. County launches Office of Food Equity

A partnership formed by the county of Los Angeles and Los Angeles philanthropic organizations has announced the formation of the Los Angeles County Office of Food Equity. The L.A. County Board of Supervisors unanimously supported the creation of the initiative, which aims to address the root

causes of food-system problems in the region.

The partnership also announced that Paula Daniels – who previously served as senior advisor on food policy to former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and founder of the L.A. Food Policy Council – will be leading the L.A. County

Office of Food Equity. The initiative is being incubated as a public-private partnership among the county of Los Angeles, the Annenberg Foundation, the California Community Foundation and the Weingart Foundation.

Daniels will work to expand the countywide commitment to food system goals and advance implementation of key priorities in the multi-pronged Action Plan developed by the Los Angeles County Food Equity Roundtable, a stakeholder advisory group of diverse experts from various sectors of the food system. The county’s Emergency Food Security Branch and the three foundations created the roundtable in 2021. Nearly 200 thought leaders from various sectors engaged in the initiative, all focused on fundamentally transforming the region’s disconnected food system.

This multi-sector effort began in response to the global pandemic, when tons of food from the supply chain went to waste and many farmers faced financial crisis even as vulnerable populations sought greater access to health and nutritious food.



photo courtesy of L.A. County

The new Office of Food Equity seeks to increase access to nutritious foods.

According to a USC report, one in three households – 34% – in L.A. County experienced food insecurity during the pandemic, and the number still hovers at around 30% today. Yet, the county is home to more than 1,000 farms and sits adjacent to Southern and Central California counties that are the country’s largest producers of fruits,

nuts and vegetables.

“The county has a responsibility to act as a safety net for our most vulnerable communities, who disproportionately suffer from food insecurity,” said L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District, who helped create the Food Equity Roundtable. “This new Office of Food Equity marks an important first

Notable Quotes

“A new survey found that 80% of men claim they help cook Thanksgiving dinner. Which makes sense, when they consider saying ‘that smells good’ to be helping.”

Jimmy Fallon (b. 1974 -)

Fallon is the current host of NBC’s “Tonight Show” and former cast member of Saturday Night Live from 1998-2004.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Source: Today.com

WeHo folds out AIDS Quilt for World AIDS Day

Each year, the city of West Hollywood recognizes World AIDS Day. World AIDS Day originated at the 1988 United Nations World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programs for AIDS Prevention and recognition. It takes place each year on Dec. 1.

World AIDS Day is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate people who have passed away due to HIV/AIDS. Annually, UNAIDS agencies, governments, nonprofit organizations, community groups and others around the globe join to campaign around specific themes related to AIDS. This year, communities will commemorate #WorldAIDSDay under the theme “Take the rights path: My health, my right!” and the World Health Organization is calling on leaders and citizens to champion the right to health by addressing the inequalities that hinder progress in ending AIDS.

West Hollywood will recognize World AIDS Day 2024 with events and programming.

A panel of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display in the West Hollywood’s Council Chambers/Public Meeting Room, located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. from Nov. 25-Dec. 20 courtesy of the National AIDS Memorial. Considered the largest community arts project in history,

the AIDS Memorial Quilt helps the global community remember the unique lives and stories of those we’ve lost to HIV/AIDS. The quilt was conceived in November 1985 by long-time human rights activist, author and lecturer Cleve Jones with the goal of creating a memorial for those who had died of AIDS, and to thereby help people understand the devastating impact of the disease. The first meeting of devoted friends and lovers of some of the nearly 1,000 San Franciscans who had been lost to AIDS by the mid-1980s served as the foundation of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. Today, there are roughly 50,000 panels dedicated to more than 110,000 individuals in this epic 54-ton tapestry.

The Alliance for Housing & Healing, a program of APLA Health, will lay flowers on the bronze plaques embedded in the sidewalk along the West Hollywood AIDS Memorial Walk on Santa Monica Boulevard from Crescent Heights Boulevard to N. Robertson Boulevard. West Hollywood was one of the first government entities to provide social services grants to local AIDS and HIV organizations and, throughout its history, the city has directed millions of dollars to fund HIV/AIDS direct services, education, and public awareness efforts. The West Hollywood Memorial Walk was created in 1993 to honor

people who were lost to the AIDS pandemic, with new plaques being added regularly.

West Hollywood will join STORIES: The AIDS Monument and APLA Health in a World AIDS Day event on Sunday, Dec. 1. The event will begin at 2 p.m. with a reception at the West Hollywood Park Aquatic and Recreation Center Respite Deck, located at 8750 El Tovar Place, adjacent to West Hollywood Library. RSVP is requested via eventbrite.com/e/world-aids-day-in-west-hollywood-tickets.

Following this, the Lavender Effect will host the Young City at War Exhibit Launch and Reception at 3:30 p.m. The exhibit will be featured under the Grand Staircase at West Hollywood Park. Young City at War: Stories from West Hollywood During the AIDS Epidemic will feature the dramatic and poignant story of a diverse community’s response to the early days of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This public installation honors the warriors of the past and present, as well as showcases the power of community. It celebrates the leadership, strength, and endurance of the people and city of West Hollywood. It also provides awareness, inspiration and wisdom for new generations.

Events are free to attend and open to the public. Limited parking will be available at the West Hollywood Park 5-Story structure.



photo courtesy of the city of West Hollywood

The panel of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display in West Hollywood through Dec. 20.

The 24th Annual Paul Andrew Starke Warrior Awards will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at West Hollywood’s Council Chambers/Public Meeting Room. The Warrior Awards event is free and open to the public and no RSVP is required. The Warrior Awards recognize outstanding employees and volunteers from local agencies that provide HIV/AIDS and substance abuse prevention and care services. This year’s event will feature keynote

speaker Jazzmun Crayton, associate director of APAIT, and will honor Dr. Robert Bolan of the Los Angeles LGBT Center with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

For information, contact West Hollywood’s Human Services Division at wehocares@weho.org or at (323)848-6510. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711 or 1(800)735-2929 (TTY) or 1(800)735-2922 (voice) for California Relay Service assistance.

Authorities warn about potentially contaminated raw milk

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is warning residents to avoid consuming raw milk that has been recalled by The Raw Farm due to a detection of H5 bird flu virus in a retail sample. Many retailers in Los Angeles may have sold the recalled raw milk and health officials are warning the public.

The Raw Farm, LLC issued a vol-

untary recall, at the request of the state, of cream top whole raw milk with lot code 20241109 and a “Best By” date of 11/27/2024 printed on the packaging. Customers should immediately return any remaining product to the retail point of purchase. Retailers that sold the milk in the local area include Erewhon Market, including the store at 7660 Beverly Blvd.; Eataly, 10250 Santa

Monica Blvd.; and Lazy Acres, 1841 N. Western Ave., at Los Feliz Boulevard, according to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Additional retailers may be confirmed as the investigation continues.

No illnesses associated with the lot of raw milk have been reported in L.A. County. Out of an abundance of caution, and due to the

ongoing spread of H5 bird flu in dairy cows, poultry and sporadic human cases, consumers should not consume any of the affected raw milk. The California Department of Public Health is also notifying retailers to remove the affected raw milk from shelves. L.A. County health inspectors are visiting retail establishments where the product was sold to ensure it is no longer available for purchase.

Raw milk is milk that has not been pasteurized to kill harmful bacteria.

Raw milk – and products made from it such as queso fresco – can carry harmful germs such as listeria, salmonella, Campylobacter, E. coli, viruses and parasites. The germs can present serious health risks.

Anyone who has consumed the raw milk and is experiencing flu symptoms should immediately contact a health care provider. For information, call the Public Health Infoline at (833)540-0473, or visit ph.lacounty.gov/acd/diseases/h5n1.htm.

County makes fentanyl test strips available at West Hollywood Library

To combat the ongoing opioid overdose crisis and support harm reduction strategies, Los Angeles County Library is expanding naloxone clinics, including a site at the West Hollywood Library, to offer free fentanyl test strips.

The initiative, in partnership with the California Department of Health Care Service, aims to create

safer and healthier communities by providing resources to help mitigate risks associated with opioid use.

“Fentanyl poisonings are not something we can bury our heads in the sand on. Our young people are at risk, and parents are scared. Bringing these life-saving tools like test strips and naloxone into libraries and making them as accessible as

possible to every community makes sense,” said Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District, who led the board of supervisors in establishing the naloxone clinics at county libraries. “I’m thankful to our L.A. County library staff for their willingness to be this critical resource for the communities they serve.”

Fentanyl test strips are available the West Hollywood Library every Wednesday from noon-4 p.m. Twelve other county library branches will also provide the strips including the A.C. Bilbrew Library, Claremont Helen Renwick Library, Compton Library, East Los Angeles Library, El Monte Library, Lancaster Library, Leland R. Weaver Library, Lennox Library,

“Fentanyl poisonings are not something we can bury our heads in the sand on.”

Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District

Malibu Library, Norwalk Library, San Fernando Library and Temple City Library.

“L.A. County Library is committed to supporting the health and well-being of our communities,” L.A. County Librarian and CEO Skye Patrick said. “By offering

both naloxone and fentanyl test strips, we are taking proactive steps to reduce the devastating impact of the opioid crisis in Los Angeles County.”

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. It is often mixed into other substances without individuals being aware, making it extremely dangerous. Even a tiny amount can be fatal. Fentanyl test strips detect the presence of fentanyl, helping prevent accidental exposure and reducing the risk of fatal overdoses.

The West Hollywood Library is located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. For information, visit lacountylibrary.org/naloxone.



photo by Jonathan Moore

The fentanyl test strips are available on Wednesdays from noon-4 p.m. at the West Hollywood Library.



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WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOU

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank YOU, our Beverly/Fairfax neighbors, for your continued support of Television City.

We are grateful to be part of this vibrant community for over 70 years, and we are dedicated to ensuring that this community landmark will remain a thriving studio by modernizing production facilities to meet the changing needs of today’s entertainment industry.

To our neighbors, local small businesses, community partners, and everyone who makes our community so special, THANK YOU.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TVC PROJECT, OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR OF THE STUDIO, PLEASE VISIT WWW.TVCSTUDIOS.COM OR SCAN THIS QR CODE:



Landmarks lit in red on World AIDS Day renew commitment to end HIV

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health will observe the 36th annual World AIDS Day on Sunday, Dec. 1. To commemorate this year’s theme “Collective Action: Sustain and Accelerate HIV Progress,” the department is illuminating landmarks throughout the county in red on World AIDS Day.

The goal is to honor those impacted by HIV/AIDS, renew a collective commitment to ending the epidemic and provide optimism for the future. The illumination of landmarks demonstrates unity and provides a visual reminder of the county’s collective action in combatting the disease.

The landmarks include the Petersen Automotive Museum, Paramount Pictures’ Studio Water Tower, Los Angeles Union Station, the Rose Bowl, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power’s John Ferraro Building, the Ritz-Carlton Los Angeles, the Long Beach Convention Center, the Queen Mary and the Aquarium of the Pacific.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health collaborates with diverse community partners to implement outreach and education, community-based HIV/STD testing, linkage to care, street-based case management and clinic-based services. Approximately 52,000 people with HIV live in Los Angeles County and an estimated 1,400 new HIV infections are reported each year. A disproportionate number of cases occur among gay men, Black,



photo courtesy of the Petersen Automotive Museum
The Petersen Automotive Museum is among the landmarks that will be illuminated in observance of World AIDS Day.

Latinx and transgender individuals.

“This year’s theme of collective action is central to the spirit of World AIDS Day, and to our goals,” said Dr. Barbara Ferrer, director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. “We are committed to working with multisector partners to end transmission of HIV and create a future where every person affected by HIV receives the support they need.”

“Public Health urges people with HIV to visit I’m Positive LA for HIV-related information and services, and persons at risk for HIV or STD infection to visit our Get Protected LA website,” said Mario J. Pérez, director of the department’s Division of HIV and STD Programs. “The sites have been updated to provide easy access to vital services, ensuring that visitors can easily access the support they need. Start

treatment, stick to it and get better.”

For information, visit getprotectedla.com, impositivela.com and publichealth.lacounty.gov.

WeHo host small businesses workshop

The city of West Hollywood is partnering with Los Angeles County to host a Small Business Certification and Procurement Workshop on Thursday, Dec. 5, at 6 p.m. at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd.

The workshop is being held with the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation and the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath.



photo courtesy of the Grand Kyiv Ballet
The Grand Kyiv Ballet’s adaptation of “The Nutcracker” features dazzling dance performances.

Grand Kyiv Ballet dances ‘The Nutcracker’ at Wilshire Ebell

Join the Grand Kyiv Ballet for an unforgettable performance of “The Nutcracker” on Saturday, Nov. 30, from 7-9 p.m. at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre.

In the enchanting tale, a young girl befriends a nutcracker that comes to life on Christmas Eve. Together, they embark on a fantastical journey to a magical kingdom filled with dancing sugar plum fairies, toy soldiers and whimsical characters. Through their adventures, she learns that love, imagination and kindness can overcome adversity and create wonder in life.

Tickets start at \$40.25. The Wilshire Ebell Theatre is located at 4401 W. Eighth St. For information and tickets, visit eventbrite.com/e/grand-kyiv-ballet-presents-nutcracker-tickets-946655330577.

During the next four years, Los Angeles County will host several major sporting events, including the FIFA World Cup in 2026, Super Bowl LXI in 2027 and the Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympics. The events will bring significant economic activity to the region.

The workshop is an opportunity to learn about registering businesses with the cities of West Hollywood

and Los Angeles and Los Angeles County to take advantage of procurement opportunities. Workshop participants can become a registered vendor for Los Angeles County. To register, call (818)302-6114 or email esanchez@iconcdc.org. Visit docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdwII3p4LmZDEKPyDDWjEbJ5JgNa7jhqeMXqPf02nB9Oc7nw/viewform.

Celebrate at The Ebell

Join us for a lineup of spirited festivities that’ll check every jolly box off your seasonal to-do list. We can’t wait to share the magic of the holiday season with you and yours.

The Annual Holiday Ball

Saturday, December 7, 2024 | 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Holiday Luncheon & Boutique

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 | 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Holiday Chorale Concert

Sunday, December 15, 2024 | 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Scan to discover the magic of the season!

www.EbellofLA.org/Holiday-Events
323-931-1277 x 131

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www.pinkshollywood.com

Cheers! From our home to yours

I'm born again every Thanksgiving, not so much in the Christian sense, yet there are glimmers of that ... of spiritual renewal, of tiny blessings, of hope in the face of hardship.

Thanksgiving reminds me that families don't gather around a table often enough, or reach out to random friends.

It reminds me, as the Native Americans and Pilgrims certainly did, that we are more alike than different, even in an era where our knee-jerk default is to holler at those who disagree.

Of course, some find heartbreak in the holidays. I get that. The holidays are memoir. If you had a rotten past, with half-hearted parenting, the ghosts of that come back around this time of year.

Breaking news: All families are a tad dysfunctional. Yes, every single one.

Fortunately, most of us had good pasts with devoted parents – semi-flawed but perhaps the greatest gift you could ever have ... devoted, semi-flawed parents.

Is there any other kind?

My prayer for you: That these holidays are full of good ghosts, not bad.

Funny how Charles Dickens was so in tune with that. Dickens, the greatest good ghost of all, reminding us that life is literature. And that wealth is where you find it.

Meanwhile, you can tell the faith that people have in you by what you're assigned to bring to Thanksgiving dinner. For me, it's antacids. "He can't screw that up," goes the thinking.

Oh, watch me.

by
Chris
Erskine



They also assigned me store-bought gravy and a funny toast.

"Here's to bread! Because without bread, there can be no toast."

Or maybe: "Here's to staying positive and testing negative," which was the big joke back in 1621. I was there.

This year we have plenty to be thankful for ... just give me a minute to think.

Oh yes, this new papoose, Thomas Patrick (aka "Puddles"). For the first time in his life, my new grandson gets to smell a kitchen in full perfume on Thanksgiving Day. Yum.

Yet, can you imagine? Babies only get to smell the turkey crisping, the buttery carrots, the sweet fog of home-made pumpkin pie. To babies, Thanksgiving has to be one big tease.

Honestly, I might try to slip him some pumpkin, on a knuckle or the tip of a spoon.

Whipped cream? That's probably out, though would just a little taste hurt? If only for the joyful expression on his tiny face.

Speaking of tiny faces, can't wait to hang with my granddaughter this long weekend. When my son Smartacus was her age, we used to dress all the toddlers like turkeys, in feathers and funny hats, then pick a



photo by Chris Erskine

The family feast is followed by recovery on the couch. We call it "unfunctioning."

winner. Waddle, waddle, waddle. Gobble, gobble, gobble.

Thanksgiving. I just like the sound of it, the candlelight, the burps.

Thanksgiving: The day Americans cave to our cravings, give in to every delicious itch.

After the feast, we will all sit miserably on the couch, sort of spread-eagled and supine, as if waiting for the paramedics. We call it "unfunctioning."

For us, Thanksgiving dinner is a medical procedure. Me, I fast for three days before, drinking only buckets of warm water to prepare my colon.

The key to Thanksgiving survival is taking small portions when you go back for seconds and thirds. Psychologically, smaller refills fool the mind into thinking you're less

gluttonous. Just a bit of dark meat here, one more scoop of stuffing, a little cranberry, mostly as lubricant.

As you finally finish, you scour the plate clean with a nice pillow of soft bread. The bread is my River Rubicon. It is where my body goes to die. Here's to bread!!!

Plumbers love the day after Thanksgiving, it's how they pay for Christmas. Poor kitchen sink, poor disposal, little turkey tendons stuck down there somewhere, invisible.

Indeed, a kitchen is never quite the same after a big Thanksgiving. Nor are we.

So, tell me, what blessings do we count exactly? Tums? Macy parades? The half-hearted pass routes of CeeDee Lamb?

I think its fellowship and steamy kitchen windows. A fine thing fellowship, perhaps the warmest

refuge we have.

I think, also, the knowledge that this grand and glorious tradition started 403 years ago and is still going strong, through civil war, economic collapse, world wars, dry stuffing and canned cranberries.

Is that so bad a tradition, a holiday based on perseverance, fellowship and pie?

Seriously. Happy Thanksgiving.

Two things: The Happy Hour Thanksgiving hike will be Saturday, at 2:30 pm, on the horse trails in La Cañada Flintridge. Drinks after in nearby Montrose. Free but space is limited. To RSVP, email Letters@ChrisErskineLA.com.

Second, we're having a giant holiday sale on t-shirts (\$8.25), gin glasses (now \$20) and ball caps (from \$7.50) chriserskine.orderpromos.com.

All Saints' Beverly Hills invites you to join us for

AN ADVENT FESTIVAL OF
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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 • 5 PM

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The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture, song, and prayer that reflects the promise of the season of Advent. Led by All Saints' Choir.

All are welcome to join us on the patio for a reception immediately following the service.



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RESTAURANT NEWS

Dine with Santa at Dorothy Chandler

Join Santa on Monday, Dec. 2 for a magical evening at The Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion celebrating the holiday season. The special event will be held alongside The Music Center's annual Christmas Tree Lighting – a perfect way to embrace the festive spirit with family and friends. Guests will enjoy a family-style dinner, a photo booth meet-and-greet with Santa, cookie decorating for the kids, a delightful dessert bar and a cozy hot cocoa station with all the toppings. Whether joining after the tree lighting or just for dinner, this fun-filled event is not to be missed. Holiday best is encouraged. For information and to book tickets (priced \$95 for meals with alcohol, \$75 for meals without and \$50 for children 13 and under), visit eventbrite.com/e/dinner-with-santa-at-the-music-center-tickets-1066192142399. The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion is located at 135 N. Grand Ave.

Abbey lights up on World AIDS Day

Teaming up with The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation, The Abbey Food & Bar presents the 15th annual tree lighting ceremony to commemorate World AIDS Day on Sunday, Dec. 1. The night will be hosted by longtime allies and iconic Angelenos, Crystal Kung Minkoff from “The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills” and Cynthia Bailey from “The Real Housewives of Atlanta.”

The evening will be filled with holiday songs by the Trans Chorus of Los Angeles, holiday cocktails made with Tito's Vodka, followed by a presentation by The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation and Christmas Tree lighting countdown led by Crystal Minkoff and Cynthia Bailey.

For the past 15 years, The Abbey has hosted the tree lighting ceremony commemorating World AIDS Day in support of The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation. The

Celebrate National Cookie Day at Milk Bar

Join McCormick, Milk Bar and Christina Tosi to celebrate National Cookie Day on Dec. 4 with free giveaways of the limited-edition Milk Bar x McCormick Candy Cane Pretzel Bark Cookie. The first 100 customers at the Los Angeles flagship location will receive a free limited-edition cookie. The giveaways begin at 10 a.m. local time, limit one cookie per person, while supplies last. The cookies will be on sale for \$3.25 at the same Milk Bar locations starting from Dec. 4-31.

The special holiday cookie collaboration celebrates the joy of holiday baking and is part of the McCormick Cookie Quest – the largest virtual holiday cookie recipe exchange taking place now on Instagram. Cookie enthusiasts across the country are also encouraged to join in the virtual holiday cookie recipe exchange by entering the Cookie Quest contest on Instagram through



photo courtesy of McCormick

Milk Bar is participating in the McCormick Cookie Quest through Dec. 8.

Dec. 8 for a chance to win \$10,000 and the title of best holiday cookie recipe. In the spirit of the holiday cookie recipe exchange, McCormick is also sharing the Milk Bar x McCormick Candy

Cane Pretzel Bark Cookie recipe for bakers nationwide to make at home at mccormick.com/cookie-quest.

Milk Bar is located at 7150
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fundraising event allows ETAF to assist those living with HIV/AIDS around the world through a variety of services, including direct care and prevention, advocacy and education, and fundraising and stewardship.

The Abbey Food & Bar is located at 692 N. Robertson Blvd. For information, visit theabbeyweho.com or call (310)289-8410.

Elf-themed bar pops up in Downtown L.A.

This December, step into The Elf Bar, a whimsical, elf-themed pop-up Christmas bar designed to spread holiday cheer. With festive décor, playful vibes, and enchanting surprises, it's a holiday experience that's sure to delight guests. The 90-minute experience is priced at \$14.50 per person and includes hundreds of festive figurines of elves of all shapes and sizes; breathtaking décor including an upside-down tree, wreath chandeliers and twinkling lights; elf cocktails and elf-themed games; and unforget-

table photo opportunities against magical Christmas backdrops.

Create an unforgettable holiday ambiance that transports all into a festive wonderland. Whether it's a family outing, a date night or a friends' night out, The Elf Bar offers a unique experience filled with holiday spirit. Space is limited, so book a spot early. For information, visit theelfbarofficial.com/events/theelfbar/1444585. The Elf Bar will be located at 100 W. Ninth St. from Dec. 3-23.

Supper Club reconvenes at A.O.C.

Due to the enormous success of the first Sunday Supper Club at A.O.C., the Los Angeles pioneering small plates restaurant since 2002, proudly announces the next Lucques Sunday Supper Club at A.O.C. on Sunday, Dec. 1.

A.O.C. continues to honor over two decades of amazing menus while spotlighting the best the farmers market offers. Suzanne Goin's seasonal menu is inspired by her award-winning cookbook, *See page 18*

Parade to the Godfrey this Sunday

The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood is kicking off the advent of Christmas festivities by hosting a tree lighting ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 1 from 3-6 p.m., featuring photos with Santa, Christmas carolers, holiday cookie decorating and an adorable dog adoption by Paw Works, directly following The Hollywood Christmas Parade.

Guests and locals alike can gather and spread holiday cheer at The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood through various joyful activities, prior to the triumphant tree lighting at 5:45 pm featuring model, TV personality, podcaster and actress Cynthia Bailey as the official hotel ambassador to light the tree. Wondrous photo opportunities with Santa will be available, as well as with the Los Angeles Fire Department from 3-4 p.m., where they'll have their onsite Spark of Love Toy Drive for those to donate unwrapped children's toys. There will also be carolers, holiday cookie decorat-



photo courtesy of The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood

Paw Works will have an adoption pop-up at The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood's tree lighting ceremony.

ing classes and a Paw Works' adoption pop-up that will be held throughout the event. Complimentary refreshments will also be available, along with a hot cocoa and hot toddy beverage cart in the lobby.

Those looking for dreamy overnight accommodations following the event or throughout the festive season can book The Godfrey

Hotel Hollywood's Holiday Package for a merry time, which includes dinner for two at ALK (About Last Knife), two beverages of wine or beer and two tickets to a show at the Pantages Theater.

For information and to RSVP, visit godfreyhotelhollywood.com/happenings. The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood is located at 1400 N. Cahuenga Blvd.

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VinylFest spins at the Original Farmers Market on Dec. 7

Mark your calendars for the inaugural VinylFest, a one-of-a-kind celebration of vinyl music, DJ culture and rock 'n' roll on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Original Farmers Market, corner of Third and Fairfax.

The event is the culmination of the market's 90th anniversary celebration and will bring together music lovers, collectors and creators for a day of discovery, creativity and holiday cheer.

Attendees will enjoy unique attractions including an exclusive pre-release from the Jerry Garcia Family and Round Records titled "Bare Bones: Volume 1," which is available for purchase from Amoeba Music, along with other Amoeba treasures and discounted gift certificates. Hang out with representatives of the legendary radio station KCRW and enjoy a vinyl listening station, pickup exclusive merchandise and gifts, and have gifts

wrapped in exchange for a donation to the L.A. radio institution.

KCRW Live DJ vinyl sets will energize the crowd, including sets by KCRW's Jeremy Sole, "When the Needle Hits the Groove" DJ Geoff Hanson and other popular DJs curated by L.A.'s dublab. All DJs will perform on cutting-edge equipment provided by AlphaTheta (also known as Pioneer DJ), which will showcase its latest turntable and mixing gear at the event.

The event's nonprofit partner, Jail Guitar Doors, will showcase its mobile recording studio, offering an opportunity for VinylFest guests to record their own song. Jail Guitar Doors will sell a limited vinyl album by founder Wayne Kramer, released posthumously.

Follow @farmersmersmarketla and event sponsors for updates, sneak peeks and behind-the-scenes content, and tag posts using #VinylFest2024. The event will be

held on the plaza at the Original Farmers Market, 6333 W. Third St. For information, visit farmersmarketla.com/events/vinylfest.



The inaugural VinylFest features vendors, music and merchandise on the Farmers Market Plaza.

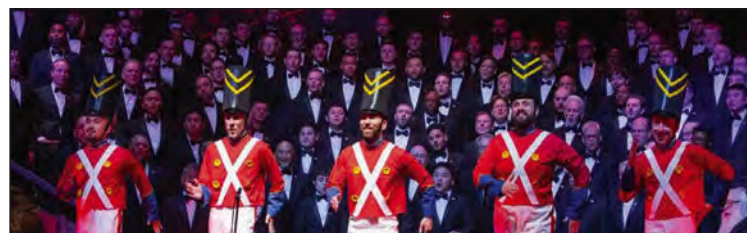
GMCLA brings 'Pure Imagination'

The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles lights up its 20-2025 mainstage with "Sugarplum Fairies" in just three weeks. The nearly 200-member chorus begins its 46th season of performances on Dec. 14-15 at the historic Saban Theatre in Beverly Hills with a program of song and dance conducted by music director and conductor Ernest H. Harrison.

“GMCLA’s Holiday show always makes the Top Twenty LA Holiday Events List, and this year’s candy-coated edition will be no exception,” executive director and

producer Lou Spisto said. “The Sugar Plum Fairy will come to life in a very special show filled with sweet holiday treats and pure fantasy. Our fairy has summoned the chorus to put on a show filled with candy coated hits and joyful confections that will bring us together, and we won’t stop until we’ve taken everyone to a world of ‘Pure Imagination’ with a tribute to the iconic music of the Wonka Films.”

Tickets are now on sale at gmcla.org/SugarPlumFairies. The Saban Theatre is located at 8440 Wilshire Blvd.



GMCLA presents its annual holiday concert on Dec. 14-15.

Maison sets the table for perfect holiday gathering



Maison by Monsieur Marcel offers an eclectic selection of housewares.

From page 17

Sunday Suppers at Lucques. In keeping with the tradition, Caroline Styne will select wines from her list to offer as a supplemental pairing. Pricing is \$85 per guest; menu only, exclusive of beverages, taxes and gratuity.

The restaurant plans to continue the program throughout 2025 on a regular basis. Dinner reservations are from 5-8:30 p.m. and may be secured via OpenTable Experience at opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=7348&restref=7348&experienceId=378176. A.O.C. is located at 8700 W. Third, St.

Head to a rooftop 'winter wonderland' courtesy of Videre

Videre rooftop bar and restaurant is transforming their space into a winter wonderland for the season. Guests can enjoy decorated ski chalet-themed cabanas, make-your-own dishes like cheese fondue and s'mores, ready for melting at the table, seasonal cocktails such as mezcal-spiked hot chocolate with coconut vanilla whipped cream and a Biscoff-topped Irish cream espresso martini, Christmas movies playing around the venue and live holiday music playing on select nights. This experience will be available from Dec. 1-Feb. 8 from 5 p.m. onward. Reservations can be made at resv.com/cities/los-angeles.

les-ca/venues/videre by selecting Cabana seating. For information, visit viderela.com. Videre is located inside the Kimpton Hotel Wilshire at 6317 Wilshire Blvd.

Snow crabs fall into Luke's

Luke's Lobster is launching a new limited-time menu item: snow crab rolls. This special roll features sustainably sourced snow crab from the pristine waters of Richibucto, New Brunswick, Canada, and will be available at the Santa Monica location while supplies last. Guests can enjoy this seasonal treat in-shack, via delivery, or by ordering ahead online.

Unlike Jonah crab, snow crab brings a unique texture and flavor profile to the table. The meat is chunkier, with large, juicy leg pieces that boast a subtle briny saltiness, finishing on a naturally sweet note. Its slightly pink hue and rich taste might even prompt some guests to remark that it “looks like imitation crab” but it’s the real deal, ethically sourced and expertly prepared. With the implementation of sustainability measures like a reduced catch quota, a limit to the number of traps allowed, a minimum mesh size and a minimum legal size for crab caught by harvesters, the Canadian snow crab fishery is sustainable and thriving.

For information, visit lukeslobster.com. Luke's Lobster is located at 200 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica.

and Bistro. Together, they create the ultimate destination for all gourmet grocery and in-home entertaining needs. With this expansion, Monsieur Marcel Gourmet Market is not only returning to its roots as a destination for gourmet food products but also embracing the opportunity to introduce an even broader selection of culinary offerings.

At Maison by Monsieur Marcel, find a thoughtfully curated collection of cookware, glassware, knife sets, plates and linens. The store also offers custom table-setting designs, perfect for inspiring your next event or holiday gathering.

"This newest venture feels like

we are completing the circle," co-owner Katy Strouk said. "Homeware, which once only had a corner in Monsieur Marcel Market, now has a more extensive and permanent place to shine."

Discover Maison by Monsieur Marcel this holiday season to find everything needed to host the perfect party, from beautifully designed tableware to European Christmas decor. It's a one-stop destination for entertaining with class and style.

For information, visit
mrmarcel.com. Maison by
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For more information visit www.rotary.org or www.wilshirerotary.org.



L.A. Jazz Society opens mentorship program applications

The Los Angeles Jazz Society announced that applications for the Bill Green Mentorship Program are now available for 2025. Students within the public school system – mostly high school age, up to 18 – are encouraged to apply for the eight-week program that includes music lessons from professional musicians.

Named in the memory of the great multi-woodwind instrumentalist and jazz educator, Bill Green, the mentorship program was initiated in 1988 to supplement the education of promising young jazz students and to encourage their development as future professional jazz artists. 2025 will also celebrate what would have been Bill Green’s 100th birthday. Each year, approximately 25 students are chosen from those applying. Lessons are scheduled with individual mentors in their chosen instrument field, including Ira Nepus, Scott Whitfield, Richard Simon and Stuart Elster. Students and mentors subsequently combine to rehearse in a jazz band format and perform in a jazz concert at Catalina Jazz Club.

The application deadline is Jan. 17 and auditions are scheduled for Jan. 25. Questions regarding applications can be directed to info@lajazz.org or to the program director iranepus@aol.com.

The Bill Green Mentorship Program boasts an impressive roster of almost 500 graduates to date, many of whom have gone on to future study, and many of whom are successful performing musicians.

The Los Angeles Jazz Society was founded in 1983, initially to honor Los Angeles Jazz artists for their contributions to jazz. Its purpose was and is to promote, preserve and perpetuate the American art form, jazz. Recognizing that the future of jazz rests in the hands of young musicians and jazz lovers, the L.A. Jazz Society quickly developed and expanded its jazz education programs which now benefit thousands of young people in LAUSD schools each year. Programs include Jazz in Schools – free jazz education concerts in elementary schools for 25,000 students; the Bill Green Mentorship Program – free training in advanced musical techniques from professional musicians for young aspiring jazz musicians; and the



photo courtesy of L.A. Jazz Society

The program offers mentorship for young jazz artists in Los Angeles.

Jeff Clayton Memorial New Note Award – offering commissions to young jazz composers to be premiered with the Angel City Jazz Festival each fall. Memberships, donations, grants and the annual fundraiser “Jazz Tribute Concert and Awards” continue to raise funds to provide the ongoing programs.

L.A. Children’s Chorus celebrates the season with winter concert

Grammy Award-winning Los Angeles Children’s Chorus rings in the holidays with its annual winter concert “Celebrating Joy,” with back-to-back performances on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Pasadena, and Sunday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. at Pasadena Presbyterian Church.

The program varies for the two concerts, which include carols, seasonal songs and winter-themed works. Among the highlights are “Imagine” by John Lennon; selections from Britten’s “Ceremony of Carols”; Ruth Boshkoff’s “I Will Bring You Brooches”; Felix



photo by Ricardo Mendoza

The Los Angeles Children’s Chorus will perform a variety of carols and seasonal songs.

Mendelssohn’s “There Shall A Star From Jacob Come Forth”; Johannes Brahms’ “Ave Maria”; and Henry Purcell’s celebratory “Sound the Trumpet.” Also featured are Welsh, Nigerian and French folk songs, and works by J.S. Bach, Eric William Barnum, Marc-Antoine Charpentier, Petr Eben, Rafael Isaza, Kirke Mechem, Robert Schumann, Randall Thompson and Lyn Williams.

Approximately 400 choristers from six LACC ensembles will perform. Concert Choir, led by LACC artistic director Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, appears in both concerts. Malvar-Ruiz also conducts the Chorale (LACC’s SATB ensemble) and Chamber Singers. Eric Lifland leads the Apprentice Choir on Dec. 7. LACC associate artistic director Fred Meads leads the Intermediate Choir, and Dr. Steven Kronauer conducts the Young Men’s Ensemble, on Dec. 8.

Tickets start at \$29; children 17 and under are half-price. First United Methodist Church is located at 500 E. Colorado Blvd., and Pasadena Presbyterian Church is located at 585 E. Colorado Blvd. For tickets and information, call (626) 793-4231, or visit latchildrenschorus.org.

Beverly Hills students go behind-the-scenes at Television City

Television City hosted seventh grade musical theater and dance students on Nov. 21 from instructor Fred Pinto’s class at Beverly Vista Middle School in Beverly Hills.

The student performers received an inside look at the historic studio, touring sound stages, exploring fully built out sets and learning from industry professionals.

“There is no better way to discover the behind-the-scenes magic and careers in the entertainment industry than by visiting a working studio,” said Adeena Bleich, vice president of community relations for Television City.

Television City, which opened in 1952, is the first purpose-built television production facility in the world. It is owned and operated by an affiliate of Hackman Capital Partners. Many iconic television shows were filmed at Television City including “All in the Family,” “The Merv Griffin Show” and “Sonny and Cher,” and more recently “Dancing with The Stars,” “American Idol” and “Real Time with Bill Maher.”

For information, visit tvcstudio.com



photo courtesy of Television City

Students from Beverly Vista Middle School toured Television City on Nov. 21.



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K-LITERATURE



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‘Wicked’ defies the moment

BY RANCE COLLINS

When the movie “Wicked” was in production, its cast and crew could not have known the environment in which it would land in theaters. Certainly, in 2003’s fresh wave of “United We Stand” patriotism, composer Stephen Schwartz couldn’t have heard how his new stage show might play two decades later. Nor in the economic boom of the mid-1990s, when the Gregory Maguire book was released, could the author have imagined how his Wicked Witch tale would resonate 30 years into the future.

And yet, here we are, with a box office juggernaut born from a story of a woman of color defying a man

who crafts a dangerous lie to oppress an entire subset of a population. Chilling, isn’t it? And being that “Wicked” is anything but subtle, it would seem almost impossible to miss the analogy. However, I’d bet a good half of the population will. The obvious, after all, is so often missed by the masses.

We all know “The Wizard of Oz.” Even those that miraculously missed the movie have seen it referenced, ad nauseum. “There’s no place like home.” “Follow the yellow brick road.” “I’ll get you my pretty, and your little dog, too.”

Based on the 1900 novel by L. Frank Baum “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz,” the iconic 1939 film is so enshrined in pop culture that,

though Baum wrote many sequels to his book, additional Oz screen adaptations have struggled to find their footing. 1978’s “The Wiz” is inferior to its Broadway predecessor. 1985’s “Return to Oz” is barely remembered. 2013’s “Oz the Great and Powerful” was maligned by critics. But the book and subsequent musical “Wicked” did the seemingly impossible. It honored the original story and the celebrated Technicolor classic, all while creating something entirely unique in and of itself. Certainly, to understand “Wicked,” cursory knowledge of “The Wizard of Oz” is a necessity. But if you don’t know that one, I’ll direct you to Wikipedia.

“Wicked” is the backstory of Elphaba (Cynthia Erivo), destined to be the Wicked Witch of the West, and Galinda (Ariana Grande), later to become Glinda the Good Witch of the North. In their youth, they are simply roommates at Shiz, the sorcery university of record in Oz. Though they initially loathe one another, the two eventually form an unlikely friendship. Elphaba, born with green skin and different from all her fellow students, is concerned about Oz’s animal residents – once treated as equals to humans, but now increasingly muzzled and caged. She thinks taking her worries to the Wizard (Jeff Goldblum) could help fix the animals’ marginalization, but when Elphaba makes



Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo shine as Galinda and Elphaba in “Wicked.”



Cynthia Erivo’s vocal chops are on full display with the film’s lush score.

Ruby slippers among Heritage auction items

If Judy Garland’s ruby slippers from “The Wizard of Oz” were the sole item in Heritage’s Dec. 7 auction filled with treasures from cinema’s rich and vast history, it would already rank among the most important auctions ever held.

When Heritage announced in March that it would offer one of the four pairs of surviving ruby slippers from the 1939 masterpiece, they garnered worldwide attention because of their backstory and beauty. This was the pair famously stolen from the Judy Garland Museum in Grand Rapids, Minn., in 2005 and recovered by the FBI in 2018 following an investigation worthy of its own big screen telling.

The slippers began their celebrated worldwide tour in Japan in October, with stops in Dallas, New York and

London still to come before they find their way to a new home in December. The ruby slippers are joined in this event by the hat worn by Margaret Hamilton’s Wicked Witch of the West in “The Wizard of Oz,” screen-matched to the “Arrival in Munchkinland” sequence during which Dorothy first meets the cackling, green-skinned terror.

The slippers and hat are joined by the screen door from Dorothy’s Kansas home, the gloves Bert Lahr wore as the Cowardly Lion and producer Mervyn LeRoy’s copy of “The Wizard of Oz” script from the MGM art department, among other historic treasures from the beloved classic. Here, too, is a piece of Hollywood history incorporating the ruby slippers: artist Bill Mack’s painting of the pair on a panel of the original 1923 Hollywoodland sign

that was removed in the late-1970s for a long-awaited restoration.

To browse the entire blockbuster Dec. 7 Hollywood/Entertainment Signature Auction, visit entertainment.ha.com/c/auction-home.zx?saleNo=7388. While the auction will be held in Dallas, phone, mail, fax and internet bidding will be available.



Items from “The Wizard of Oz,” including the iconic ruby slippers worn by Judy Garland, will be auctioned on Dec. 7.

her way to Oz, she discovers all that’s emerald does not glitter.

That’s the baseline, but there’s a lot more going on. “Wicked” clocks in at two hours and 40 minutes, after all, which is almost as long as the stage show – and this is just part one! The second half of the story is expected to hit theaters next November. Fans of the stage show are likely to rejoice at the expanded beats, with increased time devoted to Elphaba’s childhood and the show’s entertaining side characters. There’s even a few new Ozians and additional verses added to the popular showtunes, including a cameo-laden “One Short Day.” For those unfamiliar, the pace is such that the length is not overly felt – yes, the movie is longwinded, but its energy and opulence never bore.

The character work by Erivo and Grande is awards-worthy, with Grande easily entering the Oscar race as the Supporting Actress frontrunner. Jonathan Bailey plays the love interest Fiyero and proves in his first frame that he should be leading every possible romantic comedy in perpetuity. He’s as if Hugh Grant and Cary Grant had a love child, except even more charming and he can dance, so somehow he’s also a mold of Hugh Jackman and Gene Kelly.

In many ways, “Wicked” is a testament to old-fashioned filmmaking. While CGI is utilized to fill in some frames and animate the talking animals, practical effects and humongous sets were deployed for this \$150 million production, and it is a constant feast for the eyes (and ears). It looks expensive, and while not quite as saturated as the Oz of Judy Garland, the pops of pink and, especially, green are doled out to effectively punctuate some of the

most impactful numbers. In fact, as “Wicked” progresses, the color grading seems to get more saturated, more contrasted, darker. Whereas the skies are a near-cloudless light blue at the start, a stark crimson provides the backdrop of the Earth-shattering “Defying Gravity” closer – leaving the audience with a sense of foreboding wonder. The film literally loses its innocence as its progresses.

Elphaba’s disillusionment is the realization that the world is not what it seemed. While it is the hope that the strength can be summoned to “look toward the Western sky” and grab a broomstick, the appropriate rally song to accompany America’s current plight seems less assured.

The message of “Wicked” has been around for decades, but while some seemed to have gotten it after the first read, the first listen to the cast album or the first time seeing the show, others will – again – walk away from the film without the parallels so much as registering. I implore any viewer to imagine the world through another’s skin, and to take this openness with them through the movie.

The uncertainty of the future – perhaps the only certainty of life – requires a relentless optimism, even in the face of doom. When Erivo conjures up her full force, casting her expansive cape as an imposing shadow across Oz, the willpower absent for so many warriors – weary from a decade of sign-making and marching – is conjured anew.

“Wicked” may not have been made with the knowledge it would be released in the current global environment, but it certainly meets the moment.

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MICHAEL PAIK

12:00-1:45pm

LAURA BENITEZ

2:30-4:15pm

New exhibits take shape at Marciano Art Foundation

Marciano Art Foundation has announced advance details of new exhibitions and programming opening in late 2024 and continuing through early next year.

A prominent highlight will be Doug Aitken’s ambitious “Lightscape” installation, opening Dec. 17. “Lightscape” builds upon Aitken’s practice of creating larger-than-life, multisensory artworks that address interconnectedness through depictions of Southern California and the American West. Presented in partnership with the LA Philharmonic and LA Master Chorale, the seven-channel installation will prominently feature a soundscape of original vocal pieces by iconic minimalists such as Philip Glass, Meredith Monk and Steve Reich, alongside ambient soundscapes composed for the film by Doug Aitken and Beck.

Weekly programming tied to “Lightscape” will feature special

performances from members of the LA Philharmonic, LA Master Chorale, and other artists each Saturday afternoon at the foundation through the run of the installation.

More information on the full lineup of programming will be announced in the coming weeks, with ticketing details available soon.

MAF will also inaugurate a new gathering space with an installation by artists Kristen Wentrcek and Andrew Zebulon entitled “Quaternion,” also on Dec. 17. This first project in the Marciano Library is presented in collaboration with Los Angeles art and design gallery Marta, and will draw on the materials, textures, and palette of Millard Sheets’ Scottish Rite Masonic Temple.

Situated on the foundation’s ground-floor, “Quaternion” will present sculptural furniture works

as a tight nodal ensemble that responds to the building’s ornamental details like mosaic, stained glass, and carpeting. Wentrcek and Zebulon’s gestures for seating and tables merge global allusions with the historic and contemporary idiosyncrasies of MAF’s architecture as seen through its angles, orientations, and philosophies of space. The exhibition will offer visitors an opportunity to engage with these works directly and contemplate the design philosophies that have shaped the building and its uses for over half a century.

Moving forward, Marciano Library will be used as a gathering space for all kinds of public programs to be announced in the new year.

“Transmissions: Selections from the Marciano Art Collection” will continue to be on view across the Third Floor starting Feb. 22. Curated by Douglas Fogle and Hanneke Skerath, the exhibition



photo by Doug Aitken

“Lightscape” will be on view starting Dec. 17.

brings together over fifty international artists from the MAF collection who push the boundaries of a wide range of media in order to question what art can be, challenging the structures of both art and society at large.

Marciano Art Foundation is dedicated to fostering a spirit of collaborative creative freedom by making the unique spaces of our historic

building available to artists, arts organizations and other creative groups to realize innovative projects and public programs on an ongoing basis.

With over 1,500 works in the Marciano Art Collection, the Foundation continues to support living artists through acquisitions, operating a lending program to museums and institutions worldwide and ensuring free access to the collection through exhibitions.

For information, visit marcianoartfoundation.org. Marciano Art Foundation is located at 4357 Wilshire Blvd.

Slide into festive fun in Culver City

Downtown Culver City is welcoming its residents and neighbors to the 2024 Holiday Tree Lighting Sled-tacular on Thursday, Dec. 5. The Sled-tacular – this year with 50 tons of fresh snow, almost twice as much as last year, starts at 5 p.m. followed by the tree lighting ceremony at 6 p.m., a show featuring 250 local students and a countdown led by the mayor, City Council, the board of the Downtown Business Association and other special guests.

This beloved annual tradition, entering its third decade, has been enjoyed by thousands of attendees and participants. The holiday season will once again be magically ushered in with a winter wonderland. Expect lots of family fun, laughter and memories with sledding, snow play, and carnival games. Santa will be making his first appearance of the season in Culver City and will be there to meet all the children in front of the

historic Culver Studios mansion.

“We’re thrilled to welcome our friends and neighbors to this joyous community celebration Downtown and throughout the holiday season,” said Darrel Menthe, executive director of the Culver City Downtown Business Association. “This year’s event is bigger and better than ever with more snow, more treats, more community partners, and improved access to downtown. Come join us as we light up the season together.”

Free sweet treats and warm drinks will be offered on Town Plaza courtesy of Downtown Culver City businesses throughout the evening. Dozens of downtown restaurants will also be ready to welcome families before or after all the fun.

The Tree Lighting Ceremony will also be live streamed at 6 p.m. with the recording available online at downtownculvercity.com.

It all takes place at Town Plaza,



photo by Anthony Velbis

Sledding is part of the activities on Dec. 5’s Culver City holiday kick-off.

9400 Culver Blvd., Culver City. Snow play is on adjacent Main Street. Free pre-registration for snow sledding waivers available on social media and at anc.apm.activecommunities.com/culvercity/activity/search/detail/53551?onlineSiteId=0&from_original_cui=true.

For parking and transportation details, visit downtownculvercity.com/getting-here.

KCCLA hosts book talk with author Juhea Kim at Vroman’s in Pasadena

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles will host a book talk with author Juhea Kim on her latest novel “City of Night Birds” on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. at Vroman’s Bookstore in Pasadena.

Kim, who won the 2024 Tolstoy Literary Prize for her debut novel “Beasts of a Little Land,” will greet readers and discuss her work. The author’s accomplishments mark another milestone for Korean literature following Han Kang’s recognition as the first Korean and Asian woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2024.

Kim will read from “City of Night Birds,” and the event includes a discussion, Q&A session and book signing. Attendees can directly engage the author. Katya Apekina will moderate the event.

“Following Han Kang’s Nobel Prize win, the global prominence of Korean literature has reached new heights,” KCCLA director Sangwon Jung said. “We hope this event leaves a lasting impression on local readers and contributes to the sustainable growth of Korean literature worldwide.”

Kim is a finalist for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. She earned a bachelor’s degree in art and archaeology from Princeton University.

Her writing has been published in Granta, Times Literary Supplement, The Independent, Zyzzyva and Guernica. Born in South Korea and raised in Portland, Oregon, Kim now lives in London.

Vroman’s Bookstore is located at 695 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena. For information, visit kccla.org and vromansbookstore.com.

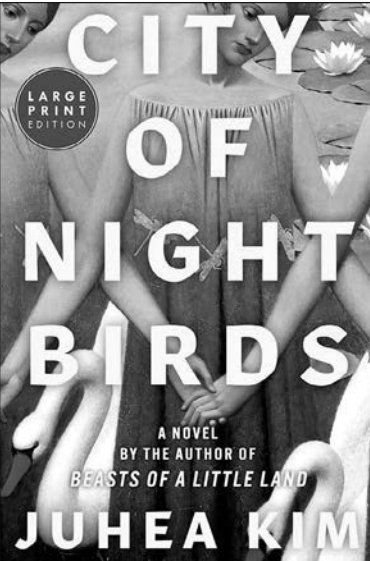


photo courtesy of KCCLA

KCCLA hosts book talk with author Juhea Kim at Vroman’s in Pasadena

‘Don’t Miss’ Diane Warren at the Academy Museum

Diane Warren will appear in a conversation with screenwriter and actress Nia Vardalos at the Academy Museum on Dec. 6. The program, titled “An Evening with Diane Warren featuring Armageddon,” will also include a screening of “Armageddon” (1998), for which she wrote the original song “I Don’t Want to Miss a Thing” by Aerosmith. Warren is one of modern music’s most celebrated songwriters. She has penned nine No. 1, 33 top 10 hits on the Billboard Hot 100, and is tied for having written the most No. 1 songs as a sole writer in Billboard history. She is an Honorary Oscar recipient and has received 15 Academy Award nominations. She is a Grammy winner, with 15 total nominations, an Emmy winner and a two-time Golden Globe winner whose songs have been featured in more than 150 films, including chart-topping hits “Nothing’s Gonna Stop Us Now” (Mannequin, 1987) “Because You Loved Me” (Up Close and Personal, 1996) “How Do I Live” (Con Air, 1997) “I Don’t Want To Miss A Thing” (Armageddon, 1998) and “Til It Happens To You” (The Hunting

Ground, 2015).

For information, visit academy-museum.org/en/programs/detail/an-evening-with-diane-warren-featuring-armageddon-01929155-1800-ab46-b9ba-d2e7df47a013. The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd.



photo courtesy of the Academy Museum

Composer Diane Warren has written nine No. 1 Billboard Hot 100 hits.

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Police Blotter

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Nov. 17 and Nov. 23. 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. 17

At 2:11 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported near Wilshire and Cañon.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 9700 block of Wilshire at 2:11 a.m.

At 4:16 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 9500 block of Wilshire.

A vandalism incident was reported near Rodeo and Brighton at 5:39 a.m.

At 9:35 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Olympic.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of S. Palm at 12:55 p.m.

At 3:03 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. Cañon.

Nov. 18

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of N. La Cienega at 6:27 a.m.

At 12:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 700 block of N. Rodeo at 3 p.m.

At 5:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. Maple.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 200 block of S. Beverly at 7:50 p.m.

At 9:05 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9400 block of Dayton.

Nov. 19

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 6:25 a.m.

At 12:20 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of Hillcrest.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9800 block of Santa Monica at 5:07 p.m.

At 9:41 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 500 block of S. Roxbury.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 300 block of S. Clark at 10:37 p.m.

At midnight, an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 700 block of Oakhurst.

Nov. 20

At 6:57 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 400 block of N. Rodeo.

Nov. 21

An unknown suspect assaulted a

victim in the 200 block of S. Spaulding at 2:45 p.m.

At 6:18 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 400 block of S. Rexford.

Nov. 22

At 9:46 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. La Peer at 3 p.m.

At 7:40 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9400 block of Dayton.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of S. Maple at 10 p.m.

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of N. Clark.

Nov. 23

At 2:50 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of S. McCarty.

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Olympic and Roxbury at 3:18 a.m.

At 1:05 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 400 block of N. Rodeo.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. Beverly. At 6:47 p.m.

At 7:15 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 300 block of S. Rexford.

An unknown suspect burglarized a mail room in the 100 block of N. Almont at midnight.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

Nov. 17

At 12:13 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson at 1 a.m.

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 2:20 a.m.

At 3 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1100 block of N. Poinsettia at 9:10 a.m.

At 1:18 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near Keith and Robertson.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 200 block of N. Laurel at 7 p.m.

At 10:10 p.m., an unknown sus-

pect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7400 block of Santa Monica at 10:55 p.m.

Nov. 18

At 12:04 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8300 block of De Longpre.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7700 block of Romaine at 9:35 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of N. Spaulding.

Nov. 19

At 1:16 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of West Knoll.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of N. Flores at 1:45 a.m.

At 6 a.m., an outdoor arson fire was reported in the 1000 block of N. La Jolla.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7900 block of Santa Monica at 8:35 a.m.

At 10:30 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1100 block of N. Detroit.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 900 block of N. Genesee at 3 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 900 block of N. Hancock.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8600 block of Santa Monica at 6 p.m.

At midnight, an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

Nov. 20

At 1:13 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7800 block of Santa Monica.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1400 block of Crescent Heights at 7:40 a.m.

Nov. 21

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 900 block of N. Orange Grove at 5:30 a.m.

At 6:17 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1000 block of N. Fuller.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7700 block of Santa Monica at 7:14 p.m.

At 9:40 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 9200 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8200 block of Sunset at 10 p.m.

Nov. 23

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

At 3:30 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 500 block of N. Kings.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8300 block of Romaine at 8:45 p.m.

At 9:35 p.m., an unknown suspect

assaulted a victim in the 7700 block of Romaine.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of N. Spaulding at 10 p.m.

Los Angeles Police Department

Nov. 17

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 1600 block of N. Cherokee.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim near Hollywood and Wilcox at 2 a.m.

At 8 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Genesee.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 6600 block of Hollywood at 10 a.m.

At 4:45 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Sycamore and Hollywood.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Detroit and Third at 5 p.m.

At 5:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 5500 block of Melrose.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire at 6:06 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Sixth and June.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1800 block of Cherokee at 9:45 p.m.

Nov. 18

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. La Brea at 1:39 p.m.

At 2:35 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6300 block of Third.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5800 block of Santa Monica at 4:57 p.m.

At 6:34 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6600 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. Vista at 9:20 p.m.

Nov. 19

An unknown suspect committed vehicle burglary in the 5600 block of Sunset at 9 a.m.

At 12:33 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7300 block of Melrose.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of S. Fairfax at 5 p.m.

At 6:09 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5700 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6300 block of Third at 7 p.m.

At 7:10 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 800 block of N. Sycamore.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 5000 block of Rosewood at 8 p.m.

At 8:19 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect stole a vehi-

cle parked in the 400 block of S. Burnside at 9 p.m.

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1500 block of S. Roxbury.

Nov. 20

At 9:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6300 block of Yucca.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5700 block of Hollywood at 12:12 p.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 800 block of S. Shenandoah.

A vehicle burglary occurred in the 4800 block of Twelfth at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:55 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire at 7:04 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 5400 block of San Vicente.

Nov. 21

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1600 block of N. Fuller at 5:03 a.m.

At 7:06 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near Sunset and Fairfax.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY HOSPITAL CLOSURE

Effective January 1, 2025

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

The three nearest facilities offering comparable services are as follows:

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

8700 Beverly Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90048

Kaiser Permanente

West Los Angeles Medical Center

6041 Cadillac Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 90034

Southern California Hospital at Culver City

3828 Delmas Terrace

Culver City, CA 90232

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

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

Facility:

DOCS Surgical Hospital, LLC

6000 San Vicente Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90036

Tel. (323) 930-1040

Owner:

DOCS Surgical Hospital, LLC

8436 W. Third St. Suite 900

Los Angeles, CA 90048

Tel. (310) 746-5918

Attn: Khawar Siddique, Co-CEO

This notice is provided in compliance with California law.

The Ebell celebrates 130 years of history at Holiday Ball

The Ebell of Los Angeles, a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring women and building community through arts, culture and education, is hosting the annual Holiday Ball on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m. Enjoy a magical evening of cocktails, dinner and dancing to celebrate 130 years of Ebell history.

Ebell members will also honor recent milestones and look forward to an exciting 2025. The evening begins with an hour of festive cocktails and passed hors d'oeuvres, followed by an exquisite three-course dinner. Dance the night away to live music, creating unforgettable memories. Come together to celebrate community, toast to the season and embrace the joy of the holidays. Tickets to the Holiday Ball are \$135.

The Ebell of Los Angeles is also hosting additional holiday events including speakers, concerts and festive celebrations. On Dec. 2, join Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries for a conversation about his new book "The ABCs of Democracy," with political commentator Brian Tyler Cohen. Tickets are \$35 for discus-

sion only; \$57 with a signed book.

On Dec. 4, enjoy the vibrant sounds of Sweet Baby J'ai and the Women in Jazz All-Stars in a live performance in The Ebell's Lounge. Tickets are \$25; \$20 for Ebell members. The Ebell Holiday Boutique and Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The curated selection includes more than 30 local artisans offering one-of-a-kind gifts, from exquisite, museum-quality jewelry to unique home decor pieces. Admission to the boutique is free and 20% of proceeds go to Ebell of Los Angeles programs. Tickets to the luncheon, which starts at noon, are \$85 for the sit-down lunch and \$35 for a premium boxed lunch.

The "L.A. Voices: Ebell Holiday Chorale Concert titled "The Light in Your Window" will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 2 p.m. Admission to the Holiday Concert is free. Tickets to the Holiday Concert and Tea are \$50

The Ebell of Los Angeles is located at 743 S. Lucerne Blvd. For information, visit ebellofla.org



photo by Edwin Folven

Enjoy holiday events at The Ebell's historic campus, including the Holiday Ball on Dec. 7.

Celebrate 'Merry Melrose' throughout December at Melrose Trading Post

December is a special time of the year with "Merry Melrose," a month-long holiday shopping experience presented at the Melrose Trading Post by the Greenway Arts Alliance.

"Merry Melrose" brings people together to spread peace, wonderment and cheer to the community at the end of this year. Each Sunday, the Melrose Trading Post will offer holiday surprises, discounts and giveaways, along with 275 of L.A.'s top creative artisans and vintage dealers, delicious food and beverage options, and live music.

Regular admission is \$6, but the Melrose Trading Post is offering free admission on the first two Sundays of December to people who donate to the Mágico Toy Drive. Run by Fairfax High School alumna Virginia Bulacio, the Mágico Toy Drive collects new, unwrapped toys for children.

Additional holiday festivities include free professional photos with Santa Claus from noon-3 p.m. on Dec. 1, 8 and 15. Dress your pet and enjoy the Festive Dog Parade with Roadogs Pet Rescue on Dec. 8, at noon. Throughout the month, the Melrose Trading Post will feature artist-made photo opportunities,

including a Flower Wall and Mega Mirror Wall for group selfies. Pop-Up performances by the cast of "Little Women Ballet" and the Typewriter Poets from the L.A. Poet Society will be held, as well as a Fairfax Student Group Gift Wrapping Fundraiser on Dec. 8 and 15, and the Loved Again Pet Rescue pop-up adoption event on Dec. 29.

The Melrose Trading Post is a

program of Greenway Arts Alliance, a community-based non-profit whose mission is to connect communities through art, culture and local commerce. The Melrose Trading Post is held every Sunday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the corner of Melrose and Fairfax avenues on the campus of Fairfax High School, 7850 Melrose Ave. For information, visit melrosetrading-post.org.



photo courtesy of Melrose Trading Post

The "Merry Melrose" at the Melrose Trading Post includes the Mágico Toy Drive with Fairfax High School alumna Virginia Bulacio, Free admission is available to those who donate.

WeHo Chamber honors local businesses

West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce hosted its 2024 40th Annual West Hollywood Creative Business Awards: There's No Place Like WeHo on Nov. 20 at the 1 Hotel West Hollywood in West Hollywood. The ceremony celebrated 21 nominated businesses that have shown innovation and creativity in their business models; nominees were selected by their peers in the community, and the winners were chosen by the WHCC Membership, who were announced from the stage at the event.

The night began with a reception and silent auction sponsored by Beverly Center and closed with an after-party co-sponsored by Capitol Drugs and The h.wood Group.

The There's No Place like WeHo gala was produced by Chris Isaacson Presents with rich, velvety bejeweled accents including lush red flower centerpieces paying homage to the ruby theme resonate with a 40th anniversary celebration.

Co-hosted by comedians Justine Marno and Marco Delvecchio pumped up the audience with a

hilarious routine as masters of ceremonies; and Winner of NBC's "The Voice," singer and songwriter Alisan Porter delivered beautiful renditions of "Blue Bayou" and "Over the Rainbow," in addition to one of her original songs.

Among the honorees were Capitol Drugs, Kimpton La Peer Hotel, GYM Bar WeHo, Or Bar, Visit West Hollywood, JILA, WeHo Green Business program and Anthony Vulin, owner of The Collective Realty.

For information, visit wehochamber.com.

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Expressing gratitude for freedom on Thanksgiving

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THANKSGIVING

PILGRIMS LANDING AT PLYMOUTH ROCK, DEC. 21, 1620

A public service announcement in the Nov. 21, 1974, issue of the Park Labrea News highlighted the Thanksgiving holiday and its origins in the United States. The accompanying text read, "In the Mayflower Compact, we see the early flowering democracy in America. As we observe Thanksgiving Day – yet another legacy from our Pilgrim forefathers – we can indeed be thankful for our proud heritage, for our American way of life, for freedom and its blessings. Let us then be humbly grateful, and let us reaffirm our faith in freedom, with our determination to preserve and cherish it, forevermore." Whether celebrating with family, friends or volunteering to serve the less fortunate, the staff of the Beverly Press and Park Larea News wish you a happy Thanksgiving. Please enjoy Chris Erskine's Thanksgiving column on page 14.

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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

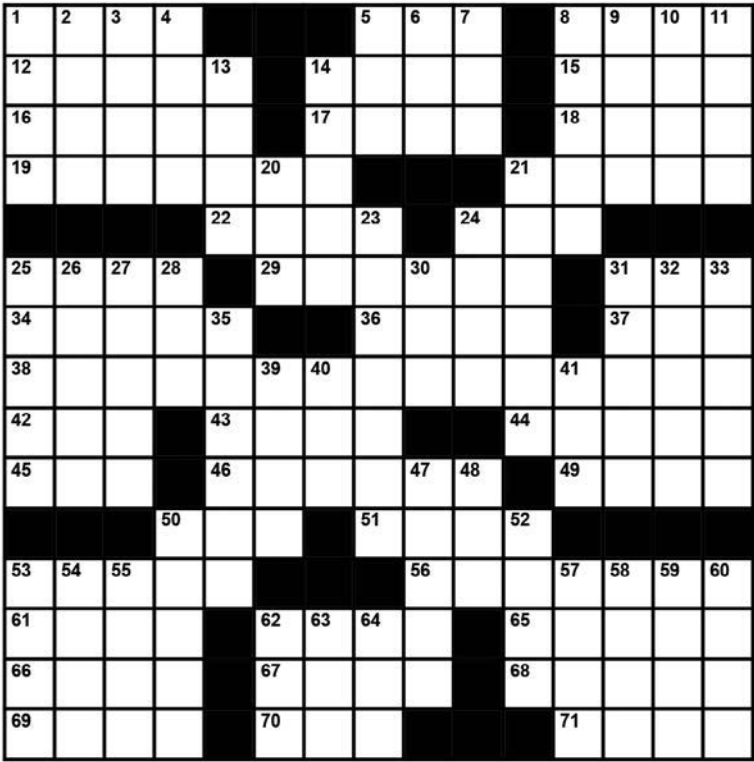
Across

- Whale herds
- Place for med. researchers
- Kind of engr.
- S.A. plain
- Tuxedo part
- Rights org.
- "You don't have to tell me"
- "___ Made to Love Her" (Stevie Wonder song)
- Dig like a pig
- They walked "Like an Egyptian"
- Radios use them
- Atmospheric pollutant
- Item in a gladiator's arsenal
- "Hamlet" has five
- Colored like a rainbow
- Cable alternative
- Jeweler's magnifying glass
- Rolling rock
- Arrival time, abbr.
- Tasty treats
- The Giants' Manning
- "Mon ___!"
- Speech outline
- Key to get away on your computer
- Soul singer, Franklin
- Pro's opposite
- Cause of a buzz
- "Funny!"
- Yawn-inducing
- Cowboy's scarf
- Resort town near Santa Barbara
- Calf-length skirt

- Currency exchange figures, often
- Retreat
- Braveheart for example
- Rural water sources
- Airport of Paris
- Gravity force letter
- Daffy Duck or Donald Duck

Down

- Smooth-talking
- ___-Seltzer
- "Buddenbrooks" novelist
- Smooch, in Surrey
- Contemporary
- "Love ___ Many-Splendored Thing"
- City map abbr.
- French revolutionist
- Subj. with graphs
- Dullard
- Makeshift shelters
- Hooters
- Car's glare shield
- Brit. record label
- Wish harm upon
- NASA great Robert
- Gulf of Finland feeder
- "The Zoo Story" playwright
- Barbecue fuel
- Frock
- Relaxation destiny
- Returnable envelope, for short
- Mars or Mercury
- Conduct



- Rope
- Ultimate object
- Delicate
- Middle grade
- Coffee container
- Something to kick
- Exclamation of mockery
- Cinderella's Godmother
- De novo
- Tie with a clasp
- Open just a bit
- Pin down
- Barbara Streisand and Barry Gibb

- "Alice's Restaurant" singer ___ Guthrie
- ___ contendere (court plea)
- PGA part
- Chinese food additive
- Rocks at a bar
- Roadside grazer

answers on page 31



Melrose Action is a community organization dedicated to building community awareness, engagement, and solution-oriented initiatives regarding public safety and quality of life issues in the Melrose neighborhood of Los Angeles.

A way to get involved is to stay informed.

Get our newsletter, upcoming meeting notifications, cool neighborhood events, happenings on Melrose, and critical crime alerts by subscribing now. It’s totally free.

Melrose Action, a registered 501 (C) (3) organization was formed for neighbors by neighbors. Our only agenda is safe streets for all.

Join us for our exclusive monthly crime control meeting webinar live on Zoom the first Wednesday of each month. Sign up is required on our website for details. Next meeting is Wednesday December 4th at 7pm. Meetings are 1 hour only.



Melrose Action’s ALPR (Automated License Plate Recognition) is keeping us safer.

The camera network has been incredibly successful. Our ground breaking, grass roots “safety for all” anti-crime plan have made our business district and surrounding neighborhood safer today.



LAPD Wilshire Division partnership
Contact LAPD’s area Senior Lead Officer

The Melrose/Beverly/Fairfax/La Brea/La Cienega Corridor Senior Lead Officer III De’Antraye Dantzler is your community police officer from L.A.P.D.’s Wilshire Division. Contact him for non-emergency issues that relate to crime and safety concerns in our community.

Contact Us. Help Us. Join Us.

Phone or Text: (323) 599-7365 • Email: contact-us@melroseaction.com

No awards for ‘Gladiator II,’ but it ain’t dull

Do we need a “Gladiator” sequel? Absolutely not. The 2000 Oscar darling was a closed circuit without any hint of ambiguity by the final fade to black. Then again, any story that finds hope in the Roman Empire’s liberation from monarchy should perhaps compare historical fiction to history.

“Gladiator II” often feels like it plagiarized its predecessor’s block-ing. Following a dramatic opening battle, our hero Hanno (Paul

Mescal) loses everything. We even enjoy a glimpse of the afterlife (no spoilers of what it is), quite similar to those wheat fields in the first “Gladiator.”

Then Hanno finds a second life in the gladiator pits. Macrinus (Denzel Washington) notices the rage in him. Soon it’s off to the Colosseum to celebrate another victory for Rome and the Emperor brothers, Geta (Joseph Quinn) and Caracalla (Fred Hechinger).

ON SCREEN

WITH
TIM POSADA

Meanwhile, new faces like General Acacius (Pedro Pascal) and familiar ones like Lucilla (Connie Nielson) hope to continue the good work that began when a tyrant previously tried to snuff out any opposition to his reign. Slowly, events in the arena and backrooms converge in a historical epic tied together by one hell of a coincidence.

Just because a film need not exist. Just because it mirrors the original a bit too much. And just because that first hour is a bit of a slog, doesn’t mean enjoyment is beyond scope. Any Ridley Scott film, imperfect as many contemporary contributions may be, can still deliver solid performances, grand set pieces, thrilling action and a solid story.

But several story problems will likely remove this one from critical consideration in the coming months. Beyond production quality, it’s all too familiar, the kind of repetition sequels rightly are condemned for. And in this story, what are the chances that another gladiator with a unique past would emerge as an important figure in transforming Rome into a democracy?

This might be a hot take, but “Star Wars: The Last Jedi” had a wonderful response to Hollywood’s love of coincidence: Perhaps we don’t need it. Without spoiling anything, “Gladiator II” should have



photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Paul Mescal shows strength and courage as Hanno in “Gladiator II.”



photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Denzel Washington brings his usual charm to the role of Macrinus in “Gladiator II.”

Three Stooges return to the big screen

The Alex Film Society presents “The Three Stooges 26th Annual Big Screen Event” on Saturday, Nov. 30, at 2 and 8 p.m. in the Alex Theatre in Glendale.

The annual event is held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving and features big screen fun with the Stooges. The festival includes “Slippery Silks” (1936), “Grips, Grunts and Groans” (1937), “Flat Foot Stooges” (1938), “Goofs and Saddles” (1937), “How High Is Up?” (1940) and “Hot Scots” (1948).

All shorts are presented on pristine 35 mm black and white prints, courtesy of Sony Pictures. The event also includes a raffle. Tickets purchases support the Alex Film Society, a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to the preservation and presentation of classic movies on the big screen.

The Alex Theatre is located at 216 N. Brand Blvd. For information, visit alexfilmsociety.org.



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The Three Stooges’ “Slippery Silks” (1936) is among the classic shorts being shown by the Alex Film Society.

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Celebrate the holiday season at South Coast Plaza

It's been a glittering year at South Coast Plaza with more than 40 exclusive new boutique openings. The holidays are the perfect time to take a stroll past festive boutique windows, enjoy live music on weekends, celebrate with family and friends and explore the new stores. South Coast Plaza has many festive ideas for celebrating the 12 Days of Christmas.

On the First Day of Christmas, celebrate the season at Knife Pleat, which earned a Michelin star for the

fourth consecutive year. Visit Knife Pleat on the Penthouse level for the ultimate prix fixe fine dining, as well as a festive holiday tea service every Saturday in December.

On the Second Day of Christmas, meet the biggest celebrity of the holiday season: Santa Claus. Take photos with Santa at South Coast Plaza's two Santa Villages in Carousel Court and at the Crate & Barrel/Macy's Home Store Wing, across the Bridge of Gardens.

On the Third Day of Christmas,

hop on a festive reindeer in Carousel Court for a magical ride around the Christmas wonderland of Santa's workshop. The horses on the carousel go on holiday for the Christmas season, with reindeer taking their place.

On the Fourth Day of Christmas, plan a photo op in front of the stunning Christmas trees. South Coast Plaza has a majestic 90-foot tree by the Westin South Coast Plaza, a beautiful traditional tree in Jewel Court and the international Santa Tree in Crate & Barrel/Macy's Home Store Wing.

On the Fifth Day of Christmas, explore a transformative new shopping collection on the first level of the Saks Wing, featuring newly debuted boutiques Jacques Marie Mage, Maison Margiela, Lanvin, Jil Sander and Marni. In January, South Coast Plaza will welcome Delvaux and Khaite.

On the Sixth Day of Christmas, enter the glittering world of the new flagship jewelry boutiques from BVLGARI and Cartier, which debuted earlier this year.

On the Seventh Day of Christmas, take a break from holiday shopping and indulge in a drink or decadent dessert from Yu Cake and Armani Caffè. South Coast Plaza is welcoming The Vox Kitchen and Ramen Nagi in 2025.

On the Eighth Day of Christmas, shop new West Coast exclusive Courrèges, which opened this year after first debuting in South Coast Plaza in 1975.

On the Ninth Day of Christmas, shop at the largest collection of luxury timepieces and jewelry bou-



photo courtesy of South Coast Plaza

South Coast Plaza, which held a festive celebration and tree lighting ceremony on Nov. 21, welcomes shoppers throughout the holiday season.

Christmas at The Grove ushers in the holiday season

The Grove welcomed thousands of visitors on Nov. 25 for the 23rd Annual Christmas at The Grove Tree Lighting Celebration Presented by FOX 11.

The shopping, dining and entertainment destination was transformed into a winter wonderland, offering an evening of performances by acclaimed artists, sing-alongs and festive activities to kick off the holiday season.

The evening began with a star-studded red-carpet ceremony at AMC The Grove 14 featuring appearances by Thuy Tran and Josie Canseco, followed by a warm welcome by host Lance Bass and holiday melodies led by music director Rickey Minor. The show included performances by Ryan Tedder, Maren Morris, Rachel Platten, Robin Thicke, Jesse McCartney, Abi Carter and Sheléa, who sang renditions of beloved holiday classics. The event also included a piano performance of "Kiss the Sky" from DreamWorks

Animation's "The Wild Robot" by Oscar-winning composer Kris Bowers and Grammy-winning artist Maren Morris.

Additional highlights included performances by Asher Entertainment's Toy Soldier Drummers and Dancers and Cirque du Soleil's KOOZA. The holiday spectacular culminated with snowfall and Santa Claus lighting The Grove's 100-foot-tall white fir Christmas tree. Adorned with 15,000 twinkling lights and 10,000 ornaments, the tree lit up the night sky as guests enjoyed a drone show and fireworks finale.

The event also celebrated the spirit of giving and included a partnership with Para Los Niños supporting educational programs. During the holiday season, Caruso will match donations up to \$100,000 through contributions committed through its website.

The Grove is located at 100 The Grove Drive. For information, visit thegrovela.com.



photo by Rodin Eckenroth/Getty Images

Sheléa sang beloved holiday classics during the annual celebration at The Grove.

All Saints' Beverly Hills welcomes community to Advent Festival

Step into the spirit of the season with the Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, Dec. 1, at 5 p.m. at All Saints' Beverly Hills. The enchanting evening features choral music, timeless carols and scripture readings to mark the beginning of Advent.

Under the direction of Canon Dr. Craig Phillips, the festival weaves together beloved traditions and beautiful performances, including works by Thomas Foster, Elizabeth Poston, Franz Biebl and All Saints' Craig Phillips. Highlights include "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree," "Ave

Maria" and "The Cherry Tree Carol."

Originating over a century ago at King's College in Cambridge, the service of Lessons and Carols has become a cherished tradition worldwide, and All Saints' continues to bring this moving celebration to Beverly Hills. All are invited to retreat from the hustle and bustle of the season and embrace the beauty, hope and peace of Advent.

All Saints' Beverly Hills is located at 504 N. Camden Drive. For information, visit allsaintsbh.org.



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November Updates

Station construction continues underground 24/7. The contractor has shifted the work zone to the north side of Wilshire Bl. Civil restoration work will take place on Wilshire Bl from San Vicente Bl to La Cienega Bl and on La Cienega Bl to just north of Wilshire Bl. This traffic control will remain place through early 2025.

Join us for the next Beverly Hills station construction update meeting.

WHEN

Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 6pm

WHERE

Municipal Gallery at Beverly Hills City Hall
455 N Rexford Dr, Beverly Hills, CA 90210



213.922.6934
purplelineext@metro.net
metro.net/dline

Dealership plan reviewed in Beverly Hills

From page 1

of a showroom at 9030 Wilshire Blvd., boasting rare vehicles with six- to seven-figure price tags. Whittington and his business were the subject of the Discovery Plus reality series “Million Dollar Wheels,” which documented his vehicle sales to celebrities including Kim Kardashian and Tom Holland. However, the dealership came under scrutiny when it was revealed Whittington had been operating without a business license, without paying business taxes, without a DMV license and without necessary permits from the city of Beverly Hills. The dealership’s conditional use permit was ultimately denied by the Planning Commission in June. Three different auto lessors have accused Whittington of theft, alleging he illegally sold cars that he was leasing from them. Following Whittington’s arrest for a fraudulent check and at least a dozen lawsuits from former clients, Wires Only was evicted by its landlord for failing to pay rent. The cars that once glimmered through the windows of the showroom on the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Wetherly Drive have since been removed – their whereabouts unknown.

However, a new dealership,

TBTFW – an acronym seemingly borrowed from the television series “Billions” that stands for “too big to f– with” – is aiming to fill the luxury car void left by the demise of Wires Only. TBTFW is owned and operated by Zach Ersoff, under the LLC Spur Ridge Holdings. After a Beverly Press investigation revealed an apparent connection between TBTFW and Wires Only, it was disclosed that the two dealerships once shared a rental space.

“While allegations regarding RD [Whittington] do not come as a surprise to those who have dealt with him, Spur Ridge is a completely independent entity and has no association or affiliation with Wires Only or RD Whittington,” Ersoff’s attorney Matthew Wolf said.

According to Wolf, the two shared the rental space during an unspecified time frame “as a cost-saving mechanism.”

“Spur Ridge and RD [Whittington] had no partnership or operational relations of any kind,” Wolf said.

Wolf corroborated the allegations that Whittington sold vehicles that he did not own.

“Over time, Spur Ridge became aware of RD’s business practices, such as instances in which RD misappropriated vehicles consigned to

him by other vehicles brokers,” Wolf said. “Those business practices quickly induced Spur Ridge to seek its own space. The move was hastily made, and Spur Ridge is still seeking recognition of a conditional use permit for the 9737 Wilshire Blvd space. Pending its CUP, Spur Ridge continues to store vehicles in its new space for exhibition purposes but cannot sell cars out of the new space.”

Although Wolf denied any business relationship between Ersoff and Whittington, a lawsuit filed by former Lakers point guard Spencer Dinwiddie in June named Whittington, Ersoff, Wires Only and Spur Ridge as co-defendants. Dinwiddie alleged that Wires Only reneged on a promise to help sell his Ford Mustang after he purchased a \$1.05 million Ferrari from the dealership.

According to the lawsuit, the Mustang was purchased by Dinwiddie from Wires Only, and Dinwiddie wired the purchase price of \$699,000 to Spur Ridge for the car.

Current TBTFW general manager Chadwick Hopkins is also named as a co-defendant, and the lawsuit states that he was the general manager of Wires Only at the time of the alleged deal gone awry.

In the hearing on Dec. 12, the dealership will be represented by real estate lawyer Murray D. Fischer. The project is designed by Michael Poirier of Roman James Design Build.

Leaders outline next steps

From page 1

supervisors, I have long championed these reforms because I know how important it is to ensure that all of our county’s diverse voices are reflected in government.”

In addition to approving the task force, the board of supervisors also accelerated homelessness accountability and results in the city at its Nov. 26 meeting. The motion followed voters approval of Measure A, which provides a half-cent sales tax increase specifically marked for combatting homelessness. The supervisors approved a study to potentially establish a specific county department focused on solutions to the homeless crisis. Just last week, an audit of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority found weaknesses in the fiscal operations of the organization.

“Make no mistake – this is not an effort to point accountability away from our board of supervisors,” Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District, said. “I believe a county department focused on homelessness will help us create more unity of effort and will also help end a blame game. Ultimately, our board is responsible and accountable for addressing the homelessness crisis. We are the entity that must make thoughtful, informed decisions and direct resources accordingly. The forthcoming analysis will

further fuel our work and efforts to be introspective.”

The county declared an emergency on homelessness just two years ago, and the board argued that centralizing funding and program oversight with this new department will create more measurable results. While she voted in favor of the motion, Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District, warned against potential pitfalls.

“I am open to the idea of creating a new county department if it will actually mean bringing people inside faster and more effectively addressing this humanitarian crisis,” Hahn said. “What I am not interested in is replacing one bureaucracy with another or rolling back the progress we have made linking arms with the city of Los Angeles. I will continue to dig into the practical realities of what this proposal would mean for homeless service providers and the tens of thousands of people who depend on them and I look forward to seeing the report back.”

The board will make an official decision on the potential department following a review of the report.

Additional implementations of Measure G, meanwhile, will continue in the years to come. The expansion of the board of supervisors from five to nine members will happen following the next census in 2030.

Dinner makes Thanksgiving special for people in need

From page 1

including grocery stores, bakeries and restaurants to provide meals. The coalition also provides food that’s donated to other organizations that offer meal services and food pantries through what’s known as a community exchange. Ray said it is a unique approach that emphasizes the importance of partnerships in addressing societal issues like hunger and homelessness, as well as food waste. More than 7.5 million pounds of food have been “rescued” by the coalition since 2020.

“One thing that is super unique is that we use all recovered food, so it’s food that would otherwise get wasted, to make these meals,” she added. “We pride ourselves on having a dignified, welcoming, respectful environment where we know everyone by name and bring them in and really break bread with them, get to know them. And we’ve been making meals seven days a week all year round, no days off, and it’s been an amazing thing.”

Ray said an important component of the Hollywood Food Coalition’s mission is wellness and providing essential services to people in need. The UCLA Mobile Clinic visits the coalition’s permanent site in Hollywood weekly to provide health care services. Case managers also help connect people with resources available through service providers.

Ray said the Thanksgiving Community Dinner gives the coalition an opportunity to branch out and partner with more organizations, including Television City, which is owned by Hackman Capital Partners. The food was donated by Sysco and the tradi-

tional turkey dinner with all the trimmings was prepared by Sodexo. Clothing and supplies donated by Los Angeles Football Club and Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills were distributed at the event.

“We are so honored to partner with the Hollywood Food Coalition,” said Adeena Bleich, vice president of community relations for Television City. “Unfortunately, the situation for the food insecure and unhoused in our city continues to be a pressing issue that needs to be addressed. We understand that every stakeholder needs to be a part of the solution and helping our neighbors.”

The dinner was also made possible through support from Waymo, Entertainment Partners, CoStar Group, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, ThxPhil Business Management, Kaiser Permanente, Superior Grocers, Kilroy, Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, and Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District. Yaroslavsky and Horvath joined West Hollywood Mayor John Erickson and West Hollywood City Councilman John Heilman to show support at the Thanksgiving Community Dinner.

“This is what community is all about, neighbors coming together to share a meal and some kindness during the holiday season,” Yaroslavsky said. “Watching the Hollywood Food Coalition team and volunteers in action is inspiring. It’s a reminder of how meaningful it can be to show up for one another, not just on Thanksgiving, but every day.”


CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

Roadway Rehabilitation Project

The City’s contractor, PaveWest, Inc., will begin construction for the roadway rehabilitation project on Coldwater Cañon Drive (Canyon Drive) between Beverly and Monte Cielo Drives and a portion of Monte Cielo Drive.

The project scope includes the reconstruction of damaged pavement sections, replacement of damaged curbs and gutters, sidewalks, driveway approaches, as well as the installation of new curb ramps and localized drainage pipe. The project also includes pavement grinding, asphalt overlay, and pavement striping. Lane reductions will be in place.

Project Location



WHEN

From December 9, 2024 through November 2025 (weather permitting)





Work hours are 9:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Monday to Friday (excluding holidays)

WHERE

Coldwater Cañon Drive (Canyon Drive) - from Beverly Drive to Monte Cielo Drive

Monte Cielo Drive - from Coldwater Cañon Drive (Canyon Drive) to La Fontaine Court



YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

For questions please contact askBH - Customer relations at askBH@beverlyhills.org or 310.285.1000.

Parade remains a cherished holiday tradition

From page 2

Clay Aiken, John Schneider, and Los Angeles Lakers legends A.C. Green and Michael Cooper. Also included is the cast of the hit musical, “Wicked,” which will be at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre from Dec. 4 through Feb. 2; and actors Marty York, Chauncey Leopardi and Shane Obedzinski, of “The Sandlot” (1993).

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez,

7th District, joined Santa Claus and dozens of parade performers on Nov. 25 at Ovation Hollywood to invite the public to the Hollywood holiday tradition. Rodriguez will appear in the parade with Councilman Paul Krekorian, 2nd District; Councilwoman Heather Hutt, 10th District; and Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna.

“This is a time when communi-

ties come together and celebrate this rich time-honored tradition,” Rodriguez said. “When other cities have giant balloons that they walk down the streets ... we’ve got a diversity of people that show the very best of Los Angeles at the 92nd annual Hollywood Christmas Parade. We want to invite the public to be part of that, because the strength of our city is our diversity, and having that on display for the rest of the world to see in this tradition each and every year is something that we should continue to uplift. I’m proud that for the first time, I will be in this parade as well.”

The diversity of Los Angeles will be on display during the parade, which includes 16 live performers, 12 award-winning bands, 13 four-story-tall character balloons, five colorful floats, dozens of movie cars and fire trucks, and the United States Marine Corps Marching Band and Color Guard. A coalition of Southern California Chinese organizations will feature dragon and lion dancers, martial artists, a drum team and fan dance team. Other live performers include the Gay Men’s Chorus of Los Angeles, Gevorkian Dance Academy, Origin Hip Hop Performing Arts Academy and Divas and Drummers of Compton. The parade culminates with an appearance by Santa Claus and his reindeer, riding down the boulevard to kick-off the holiday season.

The parade begins at 6 p.m. on



photo by Edwin Folven

The 92nd Hollywood Christmas Parade Supporting Marine Toys for Tots will feature performances representing the diversity of Los Angeles.

Project to be heard by L.A. council’s PLUM Committee

From page 1

calling (213)621-CITY or visiting clerk.lacity.org/calendar.

The project is proposed by Hackman Capital Partners, owner of the historic studio property at Beverly Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue. The owner is planning to modernize and expand the studio to better accommodate the needs of production companies. The plan calls for 1,724,000 square feet of sound stage, production support, production office, general office and retail uses, and the retention of 264,377 square feet of existing space. The studio’s historic frontage facing Beverly Boulevard will be preserved.

The Television City project is supported by the Mid-City West Neighborhood Council, Park La Brea Residents Association, Fairfax Business Association, Melrose Business Improvement District, West Third Street Business Association, L.A. Conservancy,

Holocaust Museum L.A. and Los Angeles Parks Foundation.

Opponents believe the size and scope of the project is too large and it will have negative impacts on the surrounding community, such as bringing more traffic congestion to surrounding streets. Opponents include Caruso and The Grove, the A.F. Gilmore Company and Original Farmers Market, the Broadcast Center Apartments, the Beverly Fairfax Community Alliance, Save Beverly Fairfax, Miracle Mile Residential Association, Beverly Wilshire Homes Association and Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development.

The Los Angeles City Planning Commission has approved the project. If approved by the PLUM Committee, it will go before the full City Council for approval. For information about the project, visit planning.lacity.gov/development-services/eir/tvc-2050-project-0.

BHPD canine nominated for award

Nami, the support K-9 of the Beverly Hills Police Department, has been nominated for the prestigious First Responder Paws Therapy Dog Award. The annual recognition, hosted by FHE Health, honors therapy dogs who provide exceptional support to first responders and their communities. Public voting is open through Dec. 4.

Since joining BHPD in 2022, Nami has been a source of comfort and joy for both the department and the Beverly Hills community. Her name, an acronym for the National Alliance on Mental Illness, reflects her mission of bringing calm to stressful situations and connecting with those in need.

Nami’s role in the BHPD includes critical incident support, community engagement, literacy promotion and youth empowerment. Nami provides a comforting presence in times of crisis and completes 16 hours of support training each month. Recently, she offered



photo courtesy of BHPD

The BHPD’s support K-9 Nami is being recognized as a source of comfort and joy for the community.

invaluable support to first responders after a particularly challenging incident, helping them process their experiences. Whether at Coffee with a Cop or National Night Out, Nami strengthens bonds between BHPD and the community. Nami inspires children to read through Beverly Hills Public Library events like “Nami Storytime” and the upcoming “Winter Tails with Nami,” happening on Dec. 13. Nami has empowered young participants at the Beverly Hills Fire Department Girls Empowerment Camp and even served as a guest judge at the City of Acton’s Fourth of July Parade.

To vote, visit therehab.com/first-responder-paws-award.

Answers From Page 26

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RENT REGISTRY WORKSHOP



MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | City Hall Municipal Gallery
455 N Rexford Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Please join us for our Rent Registry workshop. This event for property owners or managers will demonstrate the basic functions of the rent registry system, how to input and update information, and a brief review of the regulations.

If you are unable to attend in person, please join us via Zoom! The link will be available on the Rent Stabilization website:

 www.beverlyhills.org/rentstabilization

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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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