

Confusion and concern surround SNAP funding

■ Local organizations step up after Trump says he is withholding emergency food aid funding

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Millions of people across the United States who rely on the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to put food on the table are facing uncertainty as President Donald Trump has said he is withholding emergency funding until the government shutdown ends. Although two federal judges ruled that freezing SNAP

payments is unlawful, Trump said he would withhold all SNAP payments until the shutdown concluded, in turn violating the court orders. However, the White House contradicted the president on Nov. 4 and announced that it would fund half of the \$8 billion it will take to fund SNAP for November. It is unclear if and when partial benefits will reach recipients, as the USDA

See **SNAP** page 23



photo by Tabor Brewster

U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) joined Project Angel Food to shine a light on food security amid the government shutdown.

Friendly face at Kip's Toyland remembered

■ Don Kipper carried on his father's legacy

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Community members are mourning Don Kipper, of Kip's Toyland at the Original Farmers Market, who died on Oct. 29 at the age of 79.

Kipper's father Irvin Kipper (1916-2016), known to generations as Mr. Kip, founded Kip's Toyland in 1945 and moved the store to the Farmers Market in 1956. Kip's Toyland is among the last remaining independent toy stores in Los Angeles. Don Kipper ran the store with his daughter Lily since approximately 2011 after Mr. Kip stepped back from daily operations. Don relished keeping the toy store open and marveled at the astonishment of young children who passed through its doors.

"When they have an opportunity to come into a store like ours, their eyes widen and I still marvel at it

and love it," Kipper said in a 2024 interview with the Beverly Press. "Their eyes become saucers, they see all the different things that they don't see in other stores. They can see a yo-yo, Silly Putty, Slinkys, marbles, pick up sticks ... you name it. Seeing a child's face

light up is something I've always loved."

Kipper battled cancer in recent years but always kept fighting, his daughter said. He remained a friendly presence at the store up until a couple months ago and was

See **Kipper** page 24



photo by Edwin Folven

Don Kipper enjoyed seeing children light up as they entered the store.

State finds evidence of racism at BHUSD

■ Parent threatens litigation against district

BY TABOR BREWSTER

In an Oct. 23 report, the California Department of Education found that the Beverly Hills Unified School District violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act by failing to adequately respond to a racism incident at Beverly Vista Middle School.

The report, obtained by the Beverly Press, states that the "California Department of Education finds that there were sufficient material findings of fact supported by substantial evidence to sustain the allegation of race-based bullying and the creation of a racially hostile environment" at the middle school.

A complaint to the school district regarding the incident was filed by Victoria Tate, a parent whose child was a middle school student at the time. She alleged that her child and three other Black students were called "YN" while being pointed at by a non-Black student in a classroom. The phrase "YN" is an abbreviation of "Young [N-word]."

The allegations were corroborated by the education department's report.

"The reference to the



photo by Tabor Brewster

The report was issued after an incident in a classroom at Beverly Vista Middle School.

'N-word' in the presence of a room of students, while finger pointing specifically at the Black students, was sufficiently severe to intimidate and create a lack of safety," the Department of Education wrote. "The district's response to this racially-charged incident ... was inadequate."

The education department wrote that while the district facilitated an apology from the student who used the phrase,

"the district did not specifically tie its response to the inappropriateness and unacceptability of targeting Black students with racially-charged references to the 'N-word' in the classroom, regardless of their prevalence or use in popular culture, entertainment or the media."

The report comes after Tate initially filed a complaint with the school district, which hired independent investigator

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Prop 50 draws out voters

■ Newsom's bold move wins in a landslide

BY RANCE COLLINS

Californians went to the polls on Nov. 4 and overwhelmingly

said 'Yes' to Proposition 50, a redistricting measure which will have national implications in the 2026 midterms. The redrawn lines of California's 52 congressional seats are expected to bring five additional seats to

See **California** page 23

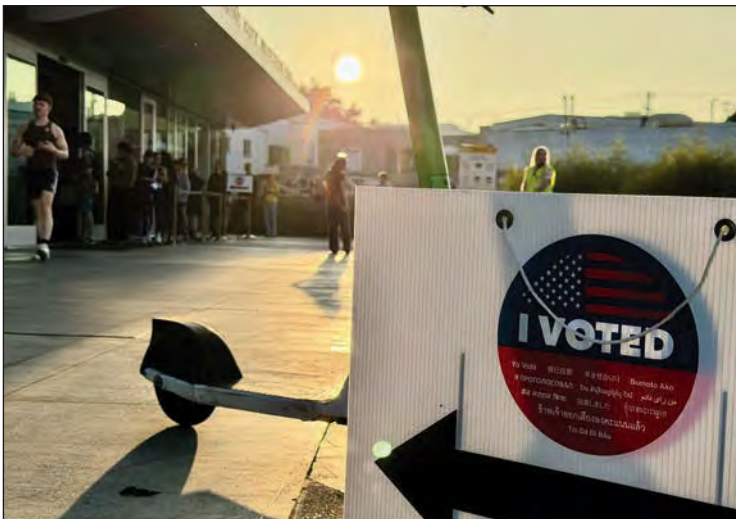


photo by Rance Collins

Voters lined up at West Hollywood Park to cast ballots on Nov. 4.



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‘Visiting Mr. Green’

West Coast Jewish Theatre is holding a reading of the play “Visiting Mr. Green” on Thursday, Nov. 6, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Greystone Mansion Theatre in Beverly Hills. Mr. Green, an elderly, retired dry cleaner, wanders into New York traffic and is almost hit by a car driven by Ross Gardiner, a 29-year-old corporate executive. The young man is sentenced to community service, helping the recent widower once a week for six months. What starts as a comedy about two men who do not want to be in the same room together becomes a gripping and moving drama as they get to know each other, come to care about each other and open old wounds they’ve been hiding for years. Admission is \$15 for Beverly Hills residents; \$20 for non-residents. 905 Loma Vista Drive. beverlyhills.org/1420/Play-Readings.

Art talk at The Broad

Join Ed Schad, curator and publications manager at The Broad, in conversation with Broad collection artist Sterling Ruby on Thursday, Nov. 6, from 7-9 p.m. Ruby is among the most versatile and acute observers of modern times. Renowned for sustained engagement with the complexities of contemporary life, Ruby’s practice excavates cultural and historical lineages through an exhaustive range of mediums. Join The Broad for an exclusive conversation and a sneak peek of a newly commissioned limited-edition print by Ruby titled “DRFTRS



(Daisy Ghost).” The program will feature welcome remarks by Simon Hunegs, editor of Phaidon. 221 S. Grand Ave. thebroad.org.

Art of Steven Terrell Cogle

7811 Gallery presents “Pop Culture Junkie: A Journey into Black Television, Cinema, and Experiences,” an exhibition by Steven Terrell Cogle running from Thursday, Nov. 6, through Tuesday, Jan. 6. The collection is a love letter to a cultural era that shaped Black identity, reinterpreted through the artist’s personal lens and layered, expressive style. Brooklyn-born Cogle transforms the gallery into living memory, where bold colors meet cracked sidewalks and a vintage television flicker beside street corner block parties. An opening reception will be held on Nov. 6 from 6-8 p.m., and an artist talk with Cogle and gallery director Deborah F. Blum will be held on Nov. 9 from 2-4 p.m. 7811 Melrose Ave. (323)272-4330, 7811gallery.com.

Art of Marilyn Minter

Regen Projects displays Marilyn Minter’s fourth solo exhibition with the gallery from Thursday, Nov. 6, through Saturday, Dec. 20. In four distinct but related groups of paintings, Minter’s hyperrealist approach simultaneously subverts and pays homage to historical conventions of portraiture and representation. An opening reception will be held on Nov. 6 from 6-8 p.m. 6750 Santa Monica Blvd. (310)276-5424, regenprojects.com.

‘Pointy Scissors’

Theatre West presents the World Premiere engagement of “Pointy Scissors” running from Friday, Nov. 7, through Sunday, Dec. 7. When a barber with low self-esteem has a mishap with a new pair of scissors, his sister and a new friend come to the rescue. The cast includes Angela Bruning, Anibal Silveyra, Richy Storrs, Monika Vidakovic, Danielle Weeks and Steve Young. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m., Sunday. Advance tickets are \$35; \$40 at the door. 3333 Cahuenga Blvd. West. theatrewest.org.



Puppet Asylum

ArtsUP! LA is hosting “Late Nite at the Puppet Asylum,” a special one-night puppetry slam presented by Nite at the Puppet Asylum and Strings and Things Puppet Theatre on Saturday, Nov. 8, at 8 p.m. at the Blue Door Theater in Culver City. Hosted by Joyce Hutter with emcee Cat’s Pajamas, the 90-minute show includes adult puppetry featuring local artists, comedians, magicians and musicians, as well as short-form puppetry videos from around the country. General admission is \$15. 9617 Venice Blvd. bluedoorculver.com.

Diane Keaton tribute

American Cinematheque is hosting a series of films by the late Diane Keaton running from Saturday, Nov. 9, through Saturday, Dec. 6. “Shoot The Moon” will be shown on Nov. 9 at 4 p.m. at the Los Feliz Theatre. Additional films in the series include “Something’s Gotta Give,” “Marvin’s Room,” “Looking For Mr. Goodbar,” “Love and Death,” “The Godfather” and “The Godfather, Part II.” The series concludes with “Reds” on Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. at the Egyptian Theatre. Los Feliz Theatre, 1822 N Vermont Ave.; Egyptian Theatre, 6712 Hollywood Blvd. americancinematheque.com.

Holocaust book

Holocaust Museum L.A. welcomes author, filmmaker and second-generation Holocaust survivor Henry Schipper discussing his new book “The Ball Dreams of the Sky” on Sunday, Nov. 9, at 5 p.m. at Barnes and Noble at The Grove. The autobiographical book of baseball poems translates to his memories and lessons in life. Schipper will be joined in conversation by L.A.-based poet Rick Lupert. 189 The Grove Drive. holocaustmuseumla.org.

National Geographic

Explore the world with National Geographic’s Gregg Treinish in “Adventure for Change” on Thursday, Nov. 13, at 7:30 p.m. at BroadStage. Whether hiking frozen peaks or kayaking remote rivers, biologist and National Geographic explorer Treinish and his team are on a mission to collect samples at some of the most difficult places to reach. Follow a series of adventures as he delivers raw data that could change scientists’ understanding of the world. Tickets start at \$60. 1310 11th St., Santa Monica. broadstage.org.

Culinary history

The Culinary Historians of Southern California presents “How Vienna Changed Global Baking,” an illustrated lecture with Rick Rodgers, author of “Kaffeehaus,” on Saturday, Nov. 8, at 10:30 a.m. at the Los Angeles Central Library. Rodgers takes the audience on a journey to the cafés of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, as told through their iconic desserts. A themed reception follows the event. 630 W. Fifth St. eventbrite.com/e/how-vienna-changed-global-baking-tickets-1712304662339.



Classical concert

Classical music fans are invited to a concert by the musicians of Salastina on Saturday, Nov. 8, at 3 p.m. at the Moroccan Room at The Village Studios. From Mozart’s “Dissonance” Quartet and Janáček’s Intimate Letters to Prokofiev’s lyrical modernism, Caroline Shaw’s crystalline sound and Gesualdo’s haunting Renaissance chromaticism, the music invites audience members to find beauty in unrest. General admission is \$45. 1616 Butler Ave. salastina.org.



photo by Edwin Folven

Workers at LACMA, which will open its expansion in April, voted to join AFSME District Council 36.

LACMA workers form union

Following a wave of successful organizing drives among cultural institutions in Los Angeles County, workers at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art announced that they are forming a union, LACMA United, through AFSCME District Council 36.

The new union would represent more than 300 workers and include curators, educators, guest relations associates and more at LACMA, the largest art museum in the western United States.

In a letter addressed to LACMA staff, its executive team and board of trustees, workers asserted that as the museum nears completion of the new David Geffen Galleries – a project estimated to cost more than \$700 million – ensuring the stability of staff should be equally crucial to the future of the museum.

“Many employees are struggling with wages that have not kept up with the rising cost of living in the sixth most expensive city in the world,” the workers state in the letter.

Workers also said that virtually all departments have absorbed expanded responsibilities and workloads due to high turnover, limited resources and vacated or frozen positions, often without additional compensation.

By forming LACMA United, workers aim to address the issues and advocate for fairer compensation, expanded benefits and increased transparency in institu-

tional protocols and resources.

“I’ve had the privilege of editing books and exhibition materials at LACMA for nearly 25 years,” said Sara Cody, a senior publications editor. “But as departments have shrunk and workloads have grown increasingly unsustainable, it’s become more and more challenging to uphold the level of excellence these projects deserve. Forming our union will ensure that we all have the resources and respect to consistently produce our best work as the museum moves forward.”

In the last few years, Los Angeles County cultural institutions such as the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures and Foundation, and most recently the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and La Brea Tar Pits voluntarily recognized their staff unions. All of them also organized with AFSCME District Council 36 and are part of AFSCME Cultural Workers United, the largest union for cultural workers in America. LACMA workers hope their museum will respect workers’ voices and follow suit.

“Museum leadership has received the letter from LACMA United,” LACMA CEO Michael Govan said in a statement. “We are reviewing it carefully and very much look forward to continuing to support our amazing staff.”

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WeHo looks at streamlining building projects

■ Concerns voiced over lack of opportunities for public input

BY RANCE COLLINS

The West Hollywood City Council unanimously passed an item on Nov. 3 that seeks to streamline infrastructure projects. In recent years, numerous high-profile city projects have come before the council, raising awareness about the number of hurdles infrastructure changes must go through before breaking ground.

“The idea of requiring a four-fifths supermajority to reverse infrastructure decisions isn’t about enhancing efficiency or governance, it’s about insulating bad, unpopular decisions.”

-West Hollywood resident
Kyle Brazeal

Though the vote itself went without dissent, several councilmembers provided input that altered Councilman John Erickson’s item, titled “Removing Infrastructure Roadblocks.”

“This is in no way, shape and form about removing community

process,” Erickson said. “This is exactly about making sure that there are guidelines to direct to standardize protocols for these projects.”

It included directives for clear timelines to be set for each phase of a project, along with community engagement standards and the removal of duplicative votes. It also included a “safe streets first” protocol, that would prioritize routine maintenance projects.

An initial provision that would have required a four-fifths majority vote to reverse approval for projects drew the most discussion from the council. Councilwoman Lauren Meister said that “you can’t just say this, and then not do that,” referring to a supermajority only being necessary for project reversals.

“I think that this is not democratic,” Meister said. “This is not the way West Hollywood works. And this is not how our community wants this to be.”

Several public commenters also took issue with this proposed provision.

“The idea of requiring a four-fifths supermajority to reverse infrastructure decisions isn’t about enhancing efficiency or governance, it’s about insulating bad, unpopular decisions,” resident Kyle Brazeal said.

This provision was removed before the final vote.

“I just want to make sure with all of this we continue to be a flexible city,” Meister said.

While the seeming back-and-forth between proposals, commis-

sions, City Council and public feedback can make a process grueling, Vice Mayor John Heilman explained why it is drawn out, emphasizing that routine projects typically are completed “very efficiently.”

“The bigger projects where there’s something new proposed or a major change, they’re not designed to be efficient,” Heilman said. “I think cities oftentimes get criticized for not being business-like and not being efficient. We’re not supposed to be efficient — entirely. Getting a lot of public input, businesses don’t have to do that. The CEO just says, ‘Do this,’ and it gets done. But we’re not a business in that respect. We’re a public agency and public input is critical.”

Byers emphasized that she felt the item was simply about efficiency.

“We’re trying to create more efficient processes that I don’t think are about removing community engagement whatsoever,” Byers said. “I think it’s really about helping create a set of expectations throughout the process of when community engagement will happen, and that it doesn’t become this ad hoc expectation that there’s another meeting that can always happen, but that this is the finite timeline.”

Some public commenters were in favor of expediting public processes. Resident Andrew Solomon used the example of Weaver’s Walk on Melrose Avenue, which has been in the planning stages for 11 years and



photo by Jon Viscott

Councilman Jon Erickson proposed the Removing Infrastructure Roadblocks item.

is just now under construction.

“Nothing should take this long in a city of 1.9 square miles,” he said.

Other items at the Nov. 3 meeting also brought public process into the conversation, among them an approved alteration to the Sunset Strip off-street signage policy and a plaque that would commemorate immigrants who have been “disappeared” by ICE, which was moved forward, as well.

“I just always want to make sure community is driving this,” Erickson said. “And right now what I know the community needs is funding for legal services, food, rent assistance and many other things.”

The approval of the return of the Sunset Strip Music Festival also brought up discussion of public process, with Erickson raising the concern that it would be sacrificing staff resources that would be of bet-

ter use for the public elsewhere. The festival, which operated between 2008-14, was a large-scale music event that brought in high-profile acts and shut down sections of Sunset Boulevard.

“Now ... asking staff to put on a music festival ... I’m going to vote for this, but I have grave, grave concerns and I don’t want them to come true,” Erickson. “And I think that for every time we say ‘process, process, process’ and then we don’t speed up things and work on our bureaucratic, frankly, bloat that slows everything down ... we all know that [staff] is not coming back to us with a contract for a producer until February.”

But Meister argued that the concert would help the Sunset Strip.

“We’ve had at least three-to-five items on how to invigorate Sunset [that] have done nothing, and this is doing something,” Meister said.

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Lights on the Lily Pond

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Stage

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Glowing Gardens at Beverly Cañon Gardens

HL

Holiday Lights

M

Menorah Display

JT

Jolly Trolley

RD

Enchanted Holiday Dreams

SS

Santa with Reindeer & Sleigh

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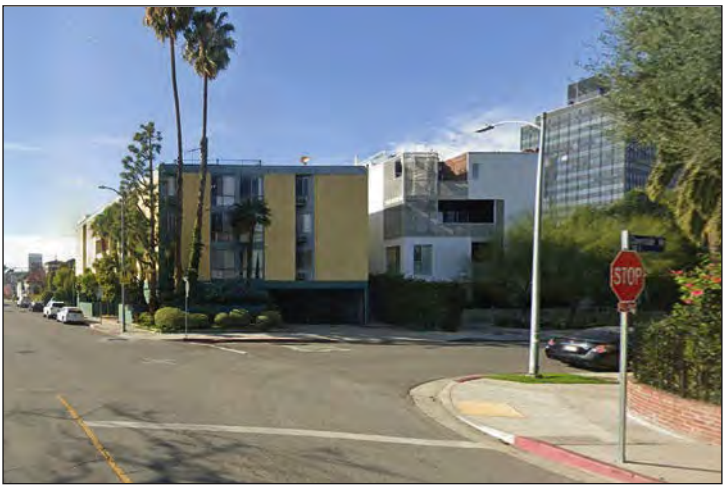


photo courtesy of Google Maps

The collision occurred around 8:30 a.m. at Eighth Street and Cloverdale Avenue.

Felony charges filed in crash that injured councilwoman’s staffer

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Two people have been charged in a hit-and-run collision on Oct. 5 at Eighth Street and Cloverdale Avenue that injured a staff member of Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, and resulted in the death of the staff member’s dog.

The crash occurred around 8:30 a.m. as the victim, Thao Tran, and her corgi, Kobe, were crossing Eight Street at the corner of Cloverdale Avenue. A Toyota Tacoma traveling west on Eighth Street failed to stop at a stop sign and struck Tran and Kobe, police said. The Toyota momentarily stopped and then fled the scene. The driver voluntarily surrendered later the same day at the LAPD’s West Traffic Division police station on Venice Boulevard, said Detective Olin Osborne. The driver was identified as Ana Larasalgueiro, 29, a resident of Koreatown.

Through information provided by witnesses and investigative techniques, detectives determined that Larasalgueiro was driving the Toyota when it struck Tran and Kobe, and switched places with a male passenger when the pickup stopped a short

distance away. The male passenger — identified as Josue Santiago — drove the vehicle away from the scene, Osborn said. Santiago and Larasalgueiro are in a long-term relationship but are not married, he added.

Both defendants are charged with felony hit and run driving resulting in injury to another person, and felony cruelty to an animal. The Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office filed the charges on Oct. 30 and the defendants are free on their own recognizance with the stipulation they wear GPS tracking devices for monitoring, pending court proceedings on Nov. 19.

Tran, who serves as Yaroslavsky’s business development deputy, was taken to a hospital after the collision with multiple fractures. Yaroslavsky’s spokesman Leo Daube said on Nov. 5 Tran has returned to work.

“Thao is recovering well from her physical injuries and is expected to make a full recovery. But this accident has undoubtedly changed her life forever,” Daube said. “She’s focused on healing and moving forward, and our office is supporting her in every way we can.”

Program offers more options for remote courtroom appearances

The Superior Court of Los Angeles County unveiled a redesigned interface on Nov. 3 for LACourtConnect, the free remote courtroom appearance technology platform.

The site now includes a redesigned welcome page and same-day check-in page for court users wishing to appear remotely. Additionally, the court will unveil new LACC integration with CourtHelp, a conversational online tool that will allow court users to directly access remote hearings from the homepage.

“The strategic plan calls on us to enhance accessibility, build trust and embrace innovation,” presiding judge Sergio C. Tapia said. “By simplifying the LACourtConnect experience and expanding access through CourtHelp, we are meeting the evolving needs of the communities we serve and ensuring that remote access to justice is clear, user-friendly and equitable.”

The program has a new simpli-

fied user interface designed in alignment with the court’s new website. LACC’s refreshed welcome page provides direct access to litigation types that utilize LACC, including civil, family law, small claims, probate, unlawful detainer, traffic, criminal, appellate, juvenile justice and mental health. It also offers quick access to resources, including a quick reference guide and video tutorials.

LACC’s redesigned same day check-in page features a new navigation pane with direct links to the most commonly used features. Court users can directly access the same day check-in page, the “my checked-in hearings” section and the courtroom preview feature alongside quick links to resources, technical specifications and support resources.

The platform offers audio and video remote appearance options, saving time on commutes to courthouses. For information, visit lacourt.ca.gov.

Man gets 146-year prison sentence for rape and murder

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A 43-year-old man who drugged and raped seven women, including two women who overdosed and died as a result in November 2021, was sentenced to 146 years to life in state prison on Oct. 29.

The defendant, David Pearce, was found guilty by a jury on Feb. 4 of two counts of first-degree murder for the deaths of Christy Giles and Hilda Marcela Cabrales-Arzola, whose bodies he left outside separate hospitals in Culver City and West Los Angeles after they overdosed on drugs he gave them, prosecutors said. Pearce was also accused of sexually assaulting five other women from 2017-21 and was convicted of three counts of forcible rape, two counts of sexual penetration by use of force, one count of sodomy by use of force and one count of rape of an unconscious woman.

Prosecutors said Pearce and his friend Brandt Osborn met Giles and Cabrales-Arzola at a warehouse party in East Los Angeles on Nov. 13, 2021. Giles and Cabrales-Arzola later accompanied Pearce and Osborn back to Pearce’s apartment in the 8600 block of Olympic Boulevard in Los Angeles, on the border with Beverly Hills. While at the apartment, Pearce provided Giles and Cabrales-Arzola gamma-hydroxybutyrate, also known as GHB, and fentanyl, authorities said. The women overdosed and lost consciousness, prosecutors said.

Eleven hours later, Pearce carried Giles out of the apartment and



photo by Edwin Folven

The Los Angeles Police Department investigated the crimes committed by David Pearce, who lived in the 8600 block of Olympic Boulevard.

carried Cabrales-Arzola out about an hour and a half after moving the first victim, authorities said. Pearce drove the women to separate hospitals, where he dropped them off and fled. Giles was dead when she was dropped off at the hospital, prosecutors said. Cabrales-Arzola was resuscitated and died 11 days later, one day prior to her 27th birthday.

“This sentence delivers long-awaited justice for Ms. Cabrales-Arzola, Ms. Giles and the courageous sexual assault victims who came forward and testified,” Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman said. “Not only were the victims sexually assaulted, but the lives of Ms. Cabrales-Arzola and Ms. Giles were stolen in one of the most devastating

ways — a fentanyl-induced sexual assault by Pearce. This case is a stark reminder of the devastation caused by fentanyl.”

Osborn, 46, was also charged with two counts of accessory to murder after the fact. The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict against Osborn in February and a mistrial was declared. A new trial for Osborn is scheduled and a pretrial hearing will take place on Nov. 18 in Department 109 at the Foltz Criminal Courthouse.

“Fentanyl poisoners who harm and exploit others will be held accountable,” Hochman added. “Every prosecution and sentence like this one moves us a step closer to deterring criminals from committing these crimes and protecting others from a similar fate.”



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World War II pilot saluted at Hollywood High School

■ Former student and WWII pilot fought with Britain

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A week before Veterans Day is celebrated on Nov. 11, a little-known hero of World War II was honored at Hollywood High School by authorities from the British Embassy and Royal Air Force.

The honoree, Eugene Tobin, attended Hollywood High School in the 1930s and trained as a commercial pilot after graduation. An American citizen, Tobin illegally immigrated to England to join the

Royal Air Force, where he piloted missions during the Battle of Britain.

The ceremony was part of the British Commonwealth Remembrance Project and a collaboration with the Royal Air Force to honor the memory of 11 Americans who fought valiantly during the Battle of Britain. Tobin died on active duty in September 1941 while flying over occupied France.

Dozens of former Hollywood High students who served in the armed forces are recognized on the War Memorial Wall in Hollywood High School's library. On Nov. 3, a plaque for Tobin was added to the memorial.

The British Commonwealth

Remembrance Project coincides with the 85th anniversary of the Battle of Britain—an air campaign fought between the Royal Air Force and the German Luftwaffe in 1940. The plaque dedication at Hollywood High School was the first in a series of upcoming ceremonies planned at high schools and hometowns of each of the 11 U.S. pilots who fought in the battle.

“It’s so important that we keep the memories alive of those who fought with us during the Battle of Britain. There are 10 other individuals like him who broke the neutrality laws of the U.S. and came and fought with us, often traveling through Canada, pretending they were Canadian and then finally joining the Royal Air Force,” said Air Commodore Nicola Thomas, air and space attaché to the U.S. for the British Embassy. “The fact that Eugene Tobin came over illegally before the U.S. had even entered



photo by Edwin Folven

Principal Sam Dovlatian accepted a plaque honoring former Hollywood High School student Eugene Tobin from Air Commodore Nicola Thomas, air and space attaché to the U.S. for the British Embassy.

WeHo open house connects residents with service providers

West Hollywood’s Human Services Division will host a Community Provider Open House and Volunteer Fair on Thursday, Nov. 13, from 10 a.m.-noon, at the Plummer Park Community Center, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.

The event will showcase social services programs available to the West Hollywood community. Service providers will share resources, highlight available programs and engage community members through interactive activities and informational opportunities.

The event also includes a volunteer fair to connect community members with opportunities to volunteer directly with participating service providers. The event is free and open to the public.

For information, call West Hollywood’s Human Services Division at (323)848-6510 or email WeHoCares@weho.org.



photo by Edwin Folven

Information about programs and resources will be available at the open house at the Plummer Park Community Center.

the war showed his bravery, his courage and his sense of purpose. We owe our victory during that time to people like him.”

Hollywood High School principal Sam Dovlatian said he was previously unaware of Tobin’s courageous service and contributions and added that he was proud to welcome British authorities to the campus. Dovlatian is promoting the school’s history and famous alumni ahead of its 125th anniversary in 2028 and said it is exciting to discover a new hero among Hollywood High’s ranks.

“What a great recognition. I’m honored that people remem-

ber, that people took time and effort to find him and his history,” Dovlatian said. “His history and his story, I feel somebody needs to [make] a movie on it. We are honored for this acknowledgement of Hollywood High School alumni contributions.”

Thomas said the public can learn more about the British Commonwealth Remembrance Project by visiting bcrcpusa.org and added that she hopes Tobin’s story is an inspiration for young people today.

“I think it’s brilliant for students here to see a hero like this and everything he achieved,” she said.



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BHUSD approves new personnel director

■ Board member raises questions over hiring process

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Unified School District approved the appointment of Dr. Issaic Gates as the district’s new executive director of personnel services at its Nov. 4 meeting.

“I am honored to serve the Beverly Hills Unified School District,” Gates said. “This is a community that deeply values excellence, possibility and connection. I look forward to supporting our extraordinary staff and ensuring that BHUSD continues to be a place where every student is known, challenged and supported.”

In his 20 years of public education experience, Gates has served as a classroom teacher, school principal and district executive. During his tenure as principal of San Marino High School, Gates led the school to become the No. 1 academically achieving high school in California for three consecutive years. Gates was also an executive director in the Inglewood Unified School District, where he developed programs to bring students on college tours, introducing them to post-secondary educational options. Most recently, Gates served as the deputy superintendent of human resources for the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, under Dr. Alex Cherniss, then-PYLUSD superintendent who is now BHUSD superintendent.

“Exceptional schools begin with exceptional people, and Dr. Gates embodies that belief,” Cherniss said. “He understands that the heart of a thriving district is the people who serve our students every day. His commitment to recruiting, supporting and uplifting educators aligns perfectly with BHUSD’s standard of educational excellence. Dr. Gates is the right leader at the right time for Beverly Hills Unified, and we are fortunate to welcome him.”

Prior to entering school administration, Gates worked as a group home counselor. Gates earned his doctorate in K-12 leadership from the University of Southern California, a master’s in education administration from California State University, Los Angeles, and a bachelor’s in early childhood education from the University of Central Florida. He also serves as an adjunct professor at USC’s Rossier School of Education.

At the school board meeting on Nov. 4, BHUSD parent Kimberly Lifschitz expressed concern over the approval of Gates as assistant superintendent. According to the Orange County Register, the PYLUSD Board of Education placed both Gates and Cherniss on administrative leave in December 2024, in addition to five other administrators. Lifschitz said that while the board voted to reinstate five of the seven administrators, Gates and Cherniss were not reinstated. Lifschitz raised red flags over several lawsuits filed by

PYLUSD employees against the Orange County district alleging breach of contract.

“Is there really not one single person in the state of California who is qualified to fill this position and does not have multiple lawsuits hanging over their head that arose from conduct directly related to their prospective duties in BHUSD?” Lifschitz said.

The appointment was approved by the board in a 4-0 vote. Board Member Dr. Amanda Stern said that while she was “happy” to have Gates as the new assistant superintendent and believed he was qualified, she abstained from voting due to the process of his appointment.

“I am abstaining because the announcement of his appointment after much time transpired was unusually obscured and difficult to find in this [meeting’s] agenda,” Stern said. “I was not the only person who found this to be true.”

Gates’ appointment was part of the board’s consent calendar under the certificated personnel report.

“Let me clarify, my choice to abstain has little to do with the individual in question and more to do with what felt like a bungled hiring process that lacked the usual transparency and due diligence that is required for such a high-level hire,” Stern said.

Board Member Russell Stuart said he was “incredibly confused” by Stern’s comments, adding that Stern was “play[ing] ignorant.”

“Mr. Gates is an incredible



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Dr. Issaic Gates previously served as deputy superintendent of human resources for the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District.

human being, we vetted him thoroughly,” Stuart said. “He’s been attacked in his own district, just like Dr. Cherniss was. And now Dr. Cherniss is our superintendent. And by the way, he’s doing an incredible job. Our district is showing incredible turnaround across the board.”

Stuart also responded to Lifschitz’s comments, calling them “garbage.”

Stuart’s comments were echoed by Board Vice President Judith Manouchehri and Board Member Sigalie Sabag.

Board President Rachelle Marcus said she supported Gates’ appoint-

ment because he will only hold the position temporarily until July 1, 2026, at which point the district can evaluate further.

“We’ve got to give him a chance. We haven’t given him that chance yet,” Marcus said. “He’s been in many situations. He seems to be very capable. I know that there’s some bad stuff that has happened in the past but I for one want to remember that this is not a three-year contract. It’s going until July 1, and at that point we will make a decision, and he will know and we will know if he’s the right person for us.”



NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 25-O-2925

The City Council of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting held on **Tuesday, October 28, 2025**, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, adopted Ordinance No. 25-O-2925 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING CHAPTER 3 (ZONING) OF TITLE 10 (PLANNING AND ZONING) OF THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, OBJECTIVE DESIGN STANDARDS, AND FINDING THE ORDINANCE EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

Summary of Ordinance No. 25-O-2925

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 City Council adopted an ordinance to amend regulations applicable to multi-family residential development in Chapter 3 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC). The draft ordinance includes, but is not limited to, the following changes:

Adoption of the Objective Design Standards (ODS) by reference;

Simplification of façade modulation requirements and reduction of minimum unit sizes and clarification of other existing regulations, with no changes to the allowable density, building height, or setback requirements; and

Amendments to the Architectural Review requirements and Development Plan Review procedure to reference the new exemption for ODS projects with up to five deviations from ODS standards through a density bonus project.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. The provisions of this Ordinance (including the ODS document and related code amendments) are within the scope of and consistent with the Addendum to the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) 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. The Ordinance also appears to qualify for the Class 5 Categorical exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15305 as a minor alternation in land use limitations because the amendments do not result in any changes to allowable density or land use, and the residential areas of the City to which the Amendments apply have an average slope of not more than 20%. Accordingly, the City Council will consider a recommendation to find the project categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to the adopted Housing Element MND and Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15305 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

Those voting for or against adoption of Ordinance No. **25-O-2925** are as follows:

- AYES: Councilmembers Wells, Friedman, Mirisch, Vice Mayor Corman, and Mayor Nazarian
- 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) 285-2400 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.

L.A. City Council looks at options with SB 79

■ Bill impacts local neighborhoods

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles City Council approved a motion on Nov. 4 calling for a report by Dec. 1 from the Department of City Planning and Department of Transportation on the potential impacts of Senate Bill 79, which was signed into law on Oct. 10.

SB 79, authored by state Sen. Scott Wiener, establishes state zoning standards around rail stations and primary bus lines, allowing multi-family buildings within a half mile of major transit stops. The City Council and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass opposed SB 79 because it will supersede local zoning codes and clear the way for larger projects in single-family neighborhoods where they otherwise would not be allowed.

The motion by Councilmembers Traci Park, 11th District; Monica Rodriguez, 7th District; and John Lee, 12th District, directs the Department of City Planning and LADOT to provide a report that

includes detailed maps of the areas where development projects would be allowed under SB 79, including all types of transit stops and whether they are or will be served by heavy rail, very high frequency commuter rail, light rail, high frequency commuter rail or qualifying bus service, as well as each transit stop’s status (existing, under construction, funded, in active planning, potential or no longer under consideration). The council, which is hoping to lessen the impacts on historic and residential communities, also asked for options for implementing SB 79, including proceeding with implementation, developing a Transit-Oriented Development Alternative Plan or delayed effectuation, as well as the timelines and deadlines for implementing a plan. SB 79 takes effect on July 1, 2026.

The council additionally directed the city administrative officer to report by Dec. 1 on options for providing the Department of City Planning and other city departments with personnel and financial sources needed to prepare for implementation of SB 79, and

asked for a report by Jan. 5 on further details of the impacts of the state law with a focus on information needed for the City Council to determine what actions to take before it takes effect.

The council voted unanimously to approve the motion without comment. The public will have a chance to review and comment on the reports when they are presented on Dec. 1.



photo by Edwin Folven

SB 79 will allow larger multi-family projects within a half mile of rail stops such as the Metro stations on Wilshire Boulevard.

Thousands attend WeHo Halloween

West Hollywood celebrated its annual Halloween Carnival on Oct. 31 with thousands of community members and visitors packing Santa Monica Boulevard. Mayor Chelsea Byers dressed as Chappell Roan, Vice Mayor John

Heilman as Batman, Councilman John Erickson as Freddie Jones from “Scooby-Doo” and Councilman Danny Hang as Mr. Peanut. Sen. Adam Schiff (D) also made an appearance as Indiana Jones.



photo by Jon Viscott

Notable Quotes

“The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.”

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

Address at Gettysburg, November 19, 1863

Remember Veterans Day, November 11



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

LOCATIONS:	Citywide, West Hollywood, California
REQUEST:	The City Council will consider introducing on first reading an Ordinance to establish Building Energy Benchmarking and Performance Standards for select existing buildings.
PERMIT(S):	West Hollywood Municipal Code Amendment, and any other required permits.
APPLICANT(S):	City of West Hollywood
TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:	Monday, November 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90069
ZONES:	Citywide
ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:	Statutorily exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections §15301 (Existing Facilities), §15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction), §15308 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment).

Complete digital agenda packets will be available on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at www.weho.org

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

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

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

For further information regarding this item, contact Christine Shen, Senior Planner at (323) 848-6803; or via email at: CShen@weho.gov

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

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

Additional builder’s remedy projects approved in Beverly Hills

■ Towers will rise on South Rodeo and Wilshire

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Planning Commission on Oct. 29 approved two new builder’s remedy projects at 145 S. Rodeo Drive and 9229 Wilshire Blvd. The approvals are the latest in a series of seven other builder’s remedy projects that have been approved in October.

The 19-story building at 145 S. Rodeo Drive will rise 237 feet and

include 30 residential units. Six of the units will be reserved for low-income residents. The development, which replaces a two-story commercial office building, will also include a ground-floor restaurant and a four-level underground parking structure with 54 parking spaces. Private balconies and a rooftop terrace will make up 12,795 square feet of outdoor space. The development is helmed by developer Max Netty and Wilshire Rodeo Company, LLC.

The project on Rodeo Drive was approved in a 4-0 vote. Commissioner Terri Kaplan was

absent from the meeting.

The commission also approved a proposal for a mixed-use building at 9229 Wilshire Blvd. The project, proposed by developer Alan Nissel and Wilshire Skyline LLC, will replace a two-story office building. The 14-story, 162-foot development includes retail space, a 60-room hotel and 116 residential units, with 24 reserved for low-income residents. Open space includes a second floor courtyard and interior-facing balconies on residential levels, totaling 4,456 square feet. Three levels of underground parking will contain 140 parking spaces.

The applicant requested that the Planning Commission continue the meeting in order to consider an updated version of the project that was submitted to the city shortly before the meeting – a 26-story building with 195 residential units. However, the Planning Commission instead moved forward with the original version of the project, approving it in a 3-0 vote. Commission Chair Jeff Wolfe departed the meeting early in addition to Kaplan’s absence.

Ryan Leaderman, an attorney for the project, said the developer will likely appeal the decision to approve the original project instead of the revised version. However, Leaderman also said the developer would appeal the decision if the project was denied.

“I do think it would be beneficial for the Planning Commission to do the review of the project that was



rendering courtesy of SPF Architects
The commission approved a 14-story building at 9229 Wilshire Blvd.



rendering courtesy of Ottinger Architects
A 19-story building at 145 S. Rodeo Drive will include 30 residential units.

submitted, which I know was late, but it was submitted as a revised application,” Leaderman said.

Both projects approved by the Planning Commission on Oct. 29 exceed usual height and density allowed under city code, but make use of a state housing law known as the builder’s remedy. The builder’s remedy is a state provision that allows private developers to bypass local code regulations when a project contains affordable housing. The provision takes effect when a municipality’s housing element – a state-mandated outline of zoning for affordable housing within the city – is out of compliance.

The city of Beverly Hills’ hous-

ing element for the 2021-29 cycle was out of compliance for approximately three years between 2021-24.

The builder’s remedy leaves little authority to municipalities to deny projects with affordable housing. In August, an L.A. Superior Court judge ruled in favor of the developer of a 19-story builder’s remedy in a lawsuit that alleged the city unlawfully blocked the project from moving forward. The ruling mandated that the city process builder’s remedy applications. Following the ruling, the development in question at 125-129 S. Linden Drive doubled in size, from 19 stories to 36.

Beverly Hills High School unearths time capsule from 1939

During the ongoing construction of the Grand Lawn at Beverly Hills High School, workers uncovered what appeared to be a 1939 time capsule, carefully placed beneath a stone engraved “Knights Bench.”

The discovery began when crews noticed glass embedded beneath the soil near the flagpole. After a careful excavation, a mason jar was revealed. Inside the jar was an original 1939 edition of Beverly Highlights, the student-run BHHS newspaper, and a typed dedication letter, each documenting the meaning and significance of the Knights Bench.

“Also a new item to the Knights organization and a surprise to many was the new Knights Bench forming a semi-circle about the flagpole,” the 1939 newspaper article read. “This bench was kindly donated to the organization by Mr. W. S. McGilvray, father of Morgan McGilvray, one of the members.”

The dedication letter stated “in appreciation of the ideals of the Knights and for the furthering of their purposes in creating a standard of achievement among the student body, this bench has been given to the Knights by Mr. W. S. McGilvray in the month of June, 1939. It is being dedicated on this day, June 14, 1939, in the presence of the present Knight membership, under the supervision of the faculty sponsors, and before the assembled student body.”

Further research led to the 1939 BHHS Watchtower yearbook, which described the Knights as a highly selective student organization.

“It is the goal of every high school boy to become a Knight, because membership means that he has achieved the highest honor in the school, that he has been chosen for dependability, for outstanding sportsmanship, for service, for

scholastic attainments and for citizenship throughout his school career,” the yearbook read.

Over many decades of lawn growth, renovations and resurfacing, the stone gradually became covered, and the mason jar remained sealed and unseen until now.

“This discovery reminds us that Beverly Hills High School is more than a campus,” BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss said. “It is a story carried forward by each generation.”

The mason jar, newspaper and letter are being preserved, not restored or altered, to maintain their original character. The Knights Bench stone will also be preserved and displayed as part of the restored Grand Lawn.

“Standing there as the stone was lifted, it felt as though time folded in on itself,” said BHUSD Board Member Sigalie Sabag, who was present when the discovery was made. “The students who placed these items in 1939 wanted to speak to the future. They wanted to be remembered. And in that moment,



photo courtesy of BHUSD
Construction workers discovered a time capsule from decades ago under a stone tablet reading “Knights Bench.”

we were connected to them. Eighty-six years have passed, and there is not one living witness who can tell the story themselves. Yet the story remains. It was deeply moving to realize that what we do here. The pride we feel, the traditions we carry, the community we shape

truly lasts beyond us.”

To continue this legacy, BHHS Associated Student Body students will begin to create a new 2025 time capsule, to be placed beneath the completed Grand Lawn for future Normans to uncover.

For information, visit bhhsd.org.

L.A. LGBTQ+ Commission releases first annual report

The Los Angeles County LGBTQ+ Commission released its first annual report on Oct. 22, providing an in-depth analysis of key accomplishments, obstacles faced and ongoing long-term projects.

The report, which covers the work of the commission from June 2024 to June 2025, was submitted to the board of supervisors by executive director Sunitha Menon.

The highlighted achievements include adopting the commission’s first strategic plan, which articulates its vision, mission, core values, priority areas and priority populations; engaging with over 55 LGBTQ+ community-based organizations to establish long-term partnerships for collaboration and advocacy; providing advice and recommendations in more than 100

meetings with county departments on LGBTQ+ issues; and co-hosting a wildfire townhall in Altadena in May 2025 with the Williams Institute, which focused on helping LGBTQ+ people who were impacted by the January 2025 wildfires.

Over the past year, the LGBTQ+ Commission encountered challenges that affected operations and engagement. The rise in anti-LGBTQ+, anti-transgender, gender expansive, Intersex and anti-immigrant sentiment created significant obstacles to maintaining smooth operations. Additionally, the January wildfires impacted many members in the LGBTQ+ community, including several commissioners. As a result, commission activities were temporarily paused to

allow time for recovery and support.

In the upcoming year, the commission will prioritize helping individuals who have been impacted by the changes from the federal administration. Specifically, the commission aims to ensure access to gender-affirming care for transgender and queer people, support individuals of varied immigration statuses and provide recommendations to help keep all communities safe during interactions with law enforcement. The commission also remains committed to advancing its work through its five core areas – the county workforce, youth, health and mental health, safety and housing and homelessness.

For information, visit lgbtq.lacounty.gov.

Trousdale area practices evacuation this weekend

The city of Beverly Hills will conduct a targeted evacuation drill on Nov. 9 in the High Fire Severity Zone of Trousdale Estates, simulating a wildfire emergency scenario. The exercise is designed to give residents and public safety personnel the opportunity to practice real-time evacuation procedures, test communication systems and identify areas for improvement in emergency response.

Residents of 68 homes in Trousdale will be asked to evacuate. During the test, emergency sirens will be activated

in the Trousdale area (and city-wide).

Participating residents will gather their “go bag” emergency supplies and personal items and make their way to Will Rogers Park, located at 9650 Sunset Blvd., via designated evacuation routes. Police and fire department staff will be deployed throughout the area to direct traffic and assist residents.

The sirens will sound at 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 9, and residents will gather at Will Rogers Park from 1:30-2:30 p.m. For information, visit beverlyhills.org/evacdrrill.

Deal over Larchmont lots continues to fuel concern

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council is expected to consider an agreement between the city and a private property owner involving two parking lots on Larchmont Boulevard during a virtual meeting of the general board on Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held the day before the Los Angeles Board of Transportation Commissioners is expected to consider the agreement on Nov. 13 at 10 a.m. at Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1070, 200 N. Spring St.

The agreement is under negotiation between the Los Angeles Department of Transportation and Larchmont Properties, Ltd. Under the deal, the city will give Larchmont Properties, Ltd. the right to lease a city-owned parking lot at 209 N. Larchmont Blvd. and build on the site. In exchange, Larchmont Properties, Ltd. will transfer ownership to the city of a larger 167-space subterranean parking lot it owns across the street under the former Rite-Aid building. Larchmont Properties, Ltd. plans to redevelop the former Rite-Aid building into a new retail space.

Some community members



The future of a parking lot on Larchmont Boulevard where a bi-weekly farmers' market is held is being considered by the city.

County updates 2025 Sustainability Plan

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion on Nov. 4 authored by Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, to adopt the 2025 OurCounty Sustainability Plan, reaffirming the county's commitment to protecting the environment, advancing equity and building a resilient future.

"This year has truly tested us all – from the January wildfires to the Trump administration's rollbacks on environmental protections and funding," Horvath said. "This makes it clear that our sustainability work is not optional – it is essential. The 2025 OurCounty Plan is about looking to the future – about taking strategic, equitable and community-driven action to protect our environment, our values and the generations to come. Los Angeles County is showing what climate leadership looks like in action."

First adopted in 2019 as the county's comprehensive sustainability plan, OurCounty has guided efforts to improve community well-being, safeguard natural resources and strengthen the economy. The 2025 update builds on that foundation, maintaining 12 visionary goals and introducing 57 new actions focused on climate resilience, housing stability and environmental justice. The goal is to ensure every community thrives despite growing climate risks.

"The updated OurCounty Plan lays out a brave path for policymakers and residents alike," Los Angeles County chief sustainability officer Rita Kampalath said. "This type of innovation and ambitious goal setting is critical, especially as federal decision-makers continue to weaken environmental protections

and dismantle climate-resilience initiatives. Los Angeles County must continue to lead the way."

Since 2019, Los Angeles County has achieved or remains on track to achieve over 80% of its priority actions, marking historic progress in sustainability and resilience. Major milestones include phasing out oil and gas extraction in unincorporated Los Angeles County; transitioning hundreds of thousands of residents to 100% renewable energy through the Clean Power Alliance; investing over \$1 billion in stormwater capture and reuse projects through the Safe, Clean Water Program; and launching tenant protection initiatives including the Tenant Right to Counsel and Rental Housing Habitability Ordinances.

The board's action directs the Chief Sustainability Office to coordinate implementation, report progress annually and update the plan every five years. It also expands the county's Sustainability Council to include departments such as Economic Opportunity, Youth Development and Homeless Services and Housing.

The board also approved \$134.2 million in stormwater investment plans for the Safe, Clean Water Program. The funds will advance regional stormwater projects and expand watershed coordinator services to support engagement, technical assistance and equitable water management, particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Program has cumulatively funded 136 infrastructure projects across Los Angeles County, representing over \$1.6 billion in total investments.

oppose the agreement because it could spell the end of a bi-weekly farmers' market held on the city-owned lot at 209 N. Larchmont Blvd. Larchmont Properties, Ltd. and developer Ron Simms have indicated, however, that the farmers' market would have a new space but have not identified where it would be located.

On Oct. 28, the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council's Land Use Committee voted to recommend the full neighborhood council board oppose the agreement and seek a

postponement for at least 90 days on any decision by the Board of Transportation Commissioners.

In early October, Los Angeles City Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District, asked the Board of Transportation Commissioners to postpone consideration of the agreement until its Nov. 13 meeting. The councilman said the agreement will be beneficial by adding more parking to the city's stock, but he does not support it without a "promise" that the farmers' market would always have

a space on Larchmont Boulevard. The public is encouraged to submit input on the parking lots by emailing the commission at jasmin.sanluis@lacity.org. Also, CC: Emma Howard, director of community development and planning for Soto-Martinez, at emma.howard@lacity.org.

To join the GWNC's general board meeting on Nov. 12, visit us02web.zoom.us/j/96677001434. The join by phone, call (669)900-6833.



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the West Hollywood Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following item:

LOCATIONS:	West Hollywood, California
REQUEST:	The Planning Commission will consider a proposed zone text amendment to streamline qualifying housing projects seeking a development permit.
PERMIT(S):	Zone Text Amendment, and any other required permits.
APPLICANT(S):	City of West Hollywood
TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:	Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90069
ZONES:	Citywide
ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:	Categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section §15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Complete digital agenda packets will be available on Thursday, November 13, 2025, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at www.weho.org

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

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

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

For further information regarding this item, contact Michelle Montenegro, Associate Planner at (323) 848-6813, or via email at MMontenegro@weho.gov

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

Мы сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информации R4B ффи на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826.

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Come on, Dolly, let's grow old together

I am growing old with Garrison Keillor, John Irving, Angie Dickinson, Sting.

I am growing old with Dick Van Dyke, Mel Brooks, Meryl Streep, Jack Nicholson, Steven Spielberg, Jeff Bridges.

I am growing old with Springsteen, Dylan, Bob Seger, Joni Mitchell, Wynton Marsalis, Barbra Streisand ... all my heroes, all the greats.

Thanks, everyone. Props for hanging around – 'taint easy sometimes, life's time clock spares no one.

I myself am reaching the age where I have more doctors than friends, more meds than martinis. My kids keep asking: "Dad, is the trust up to date? Where's the title for the car? Dad? Dad? Dad?"

It's touching, really.

But, as I turn 69 this week, I remain gifted with heroes. The nights are cooling, so I layer up with them, use my heroes for warmth: Carole King, Paul Simon, Dolly Parton, James Taylor, Paul McCartney, Ringo and most of the Rolling Stones.



by
Chris
Erskine

As someone wondered recently: "Are recreational drugs actually good for you?" That'd be an emphatic no, though how else do you explain Keith Richards?

In the meantime, I am growing old with Joe Namath, Michael Jordan, Billy Jean King, Al Michaels, Jack Nicklaus, Ronnie Lott, Joe Montana, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson. Hanks and Costner too.

These days, it's so easy to get nostalgic ... kind of a crutch, a whisky neat on a rainy night. Watch yourself with the sentiment or suddenly you're this little stooge, prowling old bookstores for first editions of "Jane Eyre" and storing

old vinyl albums in the car. Me, I try to lean into new stuff, as abhorrent as it often is. I mean, have you seen what they've done to network TV? Do you even remember good movies? FYI, October finished as the worst month in three decades. As they say in politics, throw the bums out.

What I will admit is how lucky we were to grow up when we did. That goes for everybody, now or 70 years ago. I'm serious.

Are you aware of all this "KPop Demon Hunters" stuff? It involves a Korean boy band that hunts demons to protect their fans. Genius, right? Wrong. Yet my 4-year-old granddaughter believes in them the way we once believed in the Monkees and the Moody Blues.

My granddaughter also lives in the era of the tush push, mushroom coffee, self-driving taxis, endless replay reviews and Tik-Tok.

As I've said before, we live in fascinating times. Make them stop!

Now, we Boomers could make a solid claim for having grown up amid the greatest music of all time, a sort of renaissance the likes of which we'll never see again.

If right now is the golden era of greed and bad taste – and you could certainly argue that – the '60s and '70s were the golden age of popular music.

That carried over to movies too, the remarkable must-see movies of the '60s and '70s rivaled the groundbreaking music of that era. There was a swashbuckling sense of revolution, of flipping everything on its ear.

But there wasn't just bitterness and disenchantment – that gets old pretty fast. There was hope and heart. That's how artists dealt with

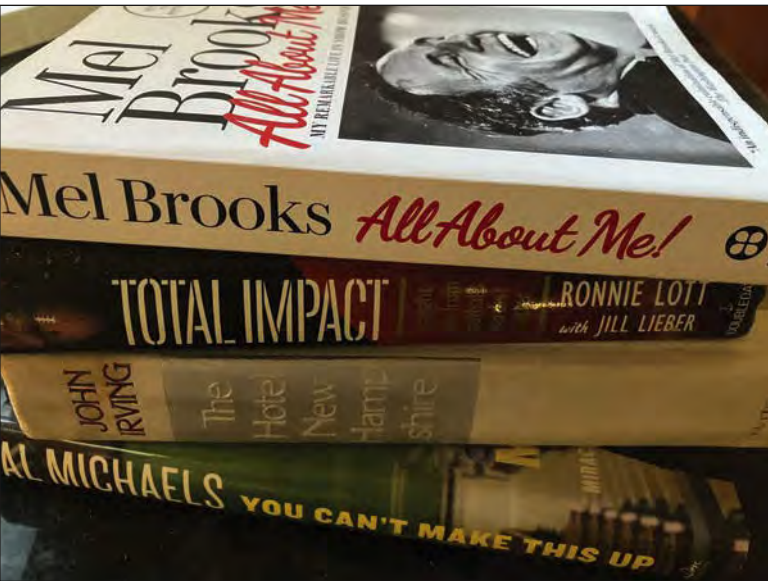


photo by Chris Erskine

My heroes are talented, tough and funny. And they seem to like books.

the frustrations of the moment. They dug deep for these little truths, the tiny heartaches. "The world is full of magic things, patiently waiting for your senses to grow sharper," said Yeats.

I'm waiting, sir. I'm waiting.... Look, this is a love note, not a trip down memory lane. You can get lost there, and a little depressed over Now vs. Then.

And I'll tell you what, I grew up back in northern Illinois, surrounded by frosted corn stubble and rusty Fords. I didn't get to grow up with The Observatory or the Hollywood Bowl. I didn't grow up with four major theme parks within a two-hour drive.

I didn't grow up with the most magnificent ocean in the world, with woody wagons, long boards strapped to the tops like skiffs.

Bonfires. Beaches. Bikinis.

Repeat. See, there will always be these touchstones. It will always be someone's good old days, Demon Hunters and otherwise.

When I visit my hometown of Chicago, I find it better than ever. They swim and kayak in the Chicago River now, which you never did before. When I was growing up, the river was a layer of flammable licorice. You could start campfires with it.

So take a little stock in the cleaner oceans, the rivers, the bald eagles that now roost in the trees on the edges of suburbs.

And take stock that you're growing old with your heroes, not just for what they were. But for what they still represent today.

Bill Murray, Steve Martin, Alan Alda, Jerry Seinfeld, Martin Short....



photo by Chris Erskine

For Halloween, my granddaughter was Rumi, from "KPop Demon Hunters."

WeHo Chamber honors trailblazers at Creative Business Awards

The West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce presents the 41st Annual Creative Business Awards on Thursday, Nov. 6, from 6-9 p.m. at 1 Hotel West Hollywood.

The chamber of commerce will celebrate the trailblazing businesses, creative powerhouses and visionary leaders who make West Hollywood a vibrant hub of culture and commerce. The event is presented by the Beverly Center and recognizes The h.wood Group as the 2025 Legacy honoree.

Expect an unforgettable evening of inspiration, entertainment and community with dazzling performances, delicious bites and toasts to the city's best and brightest.

A silent auction and cocktail reception runs from 6-8 p.m., followed by the dinner and awards ceremony from 8-10 p.m. The silent auction features unique items and experiences such as two VIP tickets to "Vandy Tea at Vandy Manor" with Dick Van Dyke and Arlene Van Dyke on Nov. 16; four MVP field level to a Los Angeles Dodgers game; a \$600 BOA Steakhouse gift card, \$600 Katana Gift Card; a two-night stay in a deluxe studio suite and Skybar table at Mondrian; and a two-night stay at La Peer Hotel.

1 Hotel West Hollywood is located at 8490 Sunset Blvd. To register, visit wehochamber.com.

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Visionary crafts movement leader plans to retire

■ ‘Craft in America’ and Freehand Gallery founder enters new chapter

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A pioneer in the local and national craft arts movement and the visionary behind the “Craft in America” series on PBS and the Craft in America Center on Third Street has announced her retirement at the end of December.

Carol Sauvion, who serves as executive director of the Craft in America arts nonprofit and also founded Freehand Gallery on West Third Street, said she plans to step down after 21 years of leadership of Craft in America and decades of involvement in the craft arts movement.

“At the end of December 2025, I will leave the executive director position to the new co-executive directors, Robyn Hollingshead and Ann Ruhr Pifer, both members of the Craft in America Board and both experienced, dedicated craft professionals,” Sauvion said. “With Ann and Robyn, my work and my passion will be woven into their vision for the future of the crafts. We have been working on this transition, set to happen on New Year’s Day 2026, for several months.”

Sauvion’s announcement came as Craft in America prepares to launch its initiative for the national semiquincentennial, “Handwork: Celebrating American Craft 2026,” which will take place Nov. 13-14 in Philadelphia.

Sauvion grew up in Philadelphia and is a craftsperson herself. In 1980, Sauvion opened Freehand Gallery at 8413 W. Third St. After 16 years of selling contemporary craft to local customers, Sauvion felt craft was still underrecognized as an art form and wanted to share it with a broader audience. She created the

“Craft in America” series and after years of planning, the first episode aired on PBS in 2007. As of 2025, the series has produced 35 episodes, showcasing the lives, histories and artmaking processes of American craft artists. The series celebrates all things handmade and the crafts movement’s significant impact.

Sauvion oversees the “Craft in America” series, Freehand Gallery and the Craft in America Center, a space at 8415 W. Third St. offering exhibitions, events and education. Since the pandemic, craft making has experienced a resurgence. Sauvion believes craft is a uniting force in a time of division and a meditative activity during periods of increased anxiety.

Hollingshead, former managing program director for the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, and Pifer, executive director of AdoptA Classroom.org, have years of experience in the crafts movement and are long-time Craft in America Board members. The new co-executive directors said they plan to continue Sauvion’s legacy.

“I think the most important thing is that Carol Sauvion has built an incredible organization that has been an inspiration and a force in the field of American craft, both with the series nationally and with the center in Los Angeles, and our intention is to carry forward Carol’s vision and really honor what she’s built,” Pifer said. “It’s just an incredible thing that she’s created, that she built all by herself. It’s just amazing. And as a national organization, I think we look forward to it having a greater national impact as we go forward.”

“My background has been in philanthropy and nonprofit work with a special focus on arts and folk art. I met both Ann and Carol 10 years ago, and that transpired into a lovely, big grant to Craft in America for several of their segments of their episodes that that aligned with the foundation that I was working for,”

Hollingshead said. “The reason Ann and I are stepping [in] is really to ensure that there is a smooth transition in keeping this wonderful asset that Carol has envisioned for the nation and locally going. We are focusing on the 250-year celebration called “Handwork 2026,” which we’re about to head into the huge launch of in Philadelphia, and it’s going to be all over the country. So that’s augmenting our national presence beyond the documentary series, and we are going to be knee deep in developing an updated strategic plan.”

For information on the “Craft in America” series and programs at the center, visit craftinamerica.org.



photo by Mark Markley
Craft in America executive director Carol Sauvion plans to start a new chapter in life after leading Craft in America for more than two decades.

Metro seeks input on Sunset Boulevard bus-only lanes

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is holding a virtual hearing on proposed Sunset Boulevard bus priority lanes on Wednesday, Nov. 12, from 6-7 p.m.

Metro is planning to create bus priority lanes for Metro Line 2 during weekday peak commute hours on a 4.3-mile stretch between Vermont Avenue in East Hollywood to Havenhurst Drive in West Hollywood. Each day, approximately 20,000 riders use bus service on the segment. Priority

lanes will make trips faster and more reliable. The priority bus lanes project is expected to benefit more than 111,000 residents and employees at nearly 60,000 jobs located within a 10-minute walk of the corridor.

Members of the public are encouraged to provide input. To join the virtual community meeting visit us06web.zoom.us/j/81594573537#success and use the meeting ID: 815 9457 3537. To participate by phone, call (213)338-8477. For information, visit metro.net/sunsetbl.



photo by Edwin Folven
Bus priority lanes such as those on Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue may be coming to Sunset Boulevard between Vermont Avenue and Havenhurst Drive.

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Subway work presses on at stations along Wilshire

Metro continues work on the D Line subway extension project ahead of the opening of the first segment of the line to Wilshire/La Cienega in the first quarter of 2026.

Crews are continuing street restoration work at multiple locations on Wilshire Boulevard and are working on the final steps at the Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Fairfax subway stations. Construction at the stations is primarily occurring withing the staging area at Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue, and at Wilshire Boulevard and Orange Grove Avenue.

At the Wilshire/La Cienega station, a K-rail work zone on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards is anticipated to remain in place throughout November. The traffic control supports ongoing civil restoration work including the construction of new curbs, sidewalks, pedestrian ramps and tree wells. Hamilton Drive and Gale Drive may be intermittently closed at Wilshire Boulevard during the south side street restoration. Temporary lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard may also be necessary in November between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards.

At the Beverly Drive station in Beverly Hills, crews are working on



photo by Edwin Folven

Crews are working on the exterior of the Wilshire/La Brea station in the Miracle Mile.

the station and at street level. K-rail enclosures will remain in place along the north and south curb lanes of Wilshire Boulevard in November to support ongoing station construction and appendage construction. Two lanes are open in each direction on Wilshire Boulevard between Beverly and Crescent drives. Left turns are restricted from westbound Wilshire Boulevard to South Cañon Drive.

At the Century City station, deck panel removal and street restoration will begin soon along Constellation Boulevard between

Century Park East and a location just west of Avenue of the Stars. Traffic control will be implemented in four phases progressing linearly from east to west. Work is ongoing on side structures along the future station within the current traffic closures and will continue following the completion of deck removal.

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.

LA28 names production team for Olympics

LA28 on Oct. 30 announced the production team and company that will bring the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games to life. Ben Winston, the Emmy-winning producer behind the show-stopping Paris-to-L.A. Olympic Handover in 2024, will serve as executive producer and creative director, with veteran Olympic and Paralympic Ceremonies producer Scott Givens as executive producer – production. FulFive, a new entity composed of Fulwell Entertainment and FiveCurrents, will produce the iconic ceremonies and be led by Givens and Ryann Lauckner as co-CEOs of the venture.

“We searched the world for partners who could blend artistic vision and flawless execution at the high-

est level,” said Peter Rice, LA28 head of ceremonies and content and executive producer. “Ben Winston and Scott Givens are two of the most accomplished producers in live entertainment today. Their combined expertise brings together the creative storytelling and production excellence needed to deliver ceremonies worthy of the Olympic and Paralympic stage that will showcase Los Angeles as the entertainment capital of the world while celebrating the athletes who inspire us all.”

Winston, a 14-time Emmy Award winner, will build on the creative foundation he established with the spectacular Paris-to-L.A. Olympic Handover Celebration, featuring Tom Cruise, Snoop Dogg, Dr. Dre, Billie Eilish, H.E.R. and the Red

Hot Chilli Peppers. His additional credits include “The Grammys,” “The Late Late Show with James Corden” and “Friends: The Reunion,” in addition to multiple specials including “Adele: One Night Only” and “Elton John: A Farewell from Dodger Stadium.”

Givens has produced more than 400 major live events and held roles with 15 Olympic Games and produced 63 global ceremonies. He is a recipient of the prestigious Olympic Order, one of the highest honors afforded by the International Olympic Committee.

“These ceremonies represent the ultimate challenge in live production – bringing together global headliners, thousands of performers, best-in-class technologies and split-second timing on the world’s biggest stage,” Givens said. “I’m thrilled to partner with the incredibly talented LA28 team alongside Ben and Peter to execute a vision that honors the athletes and creates a unifying memory for Los Angeles, California, our nation and a global broadcast audience in the billions.”

The LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games will take place in the summer of 2028, marking the third time Los Angeles has hosted the Olympic Games and the first time it has hosted the Paralympic Games.

For information, visit la28.org.



photo courtesy of LA28

The 2028 Olympic Games will mark the third time Los Angeles has hosted the Games.

Letters to the Editor

Parking may not be such an important need for projects near transit

Re “Beverly Hills will restrict parking for new affordable housing,” Oct. 20 issue

Given the urgent and immediate need for very low, low or moderate-income households, or emer-

gency shelters, a specific portion of units that must be designated for lower or moderate-income residents, and considering that private automobiles are now just about far more trouble than they are worth in light of the convenience of public transit, private automobiles may soon become obsolete.

So not encouraging private automobile ownership or providing parking for those within a half

mile from a major transit station now starts to make sense. As public transit gets increasingly better at meeting transportation needs over private automobiles, we may likely see some more upper income people giving up private automobiles in favor of public transit.

Cy Husain
Downtown Los Angeles



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the West Hollywood Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following item:

LOCATIONS:	9039 Sunset Boulevard, West Hollywood, California
REQUEST:	The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding a proposed request to permit two full motion billboards and one static billboard and public realm enhancements.
PERMIT(S):	Development Agreement, Sign Permit, and any other required permits.
APPLICANT(S):	RIOS Architects, on behalf of owner SK 26 LLC, Alon Abady representative
TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:	Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90069
ZONES:	SSP (Sunset Specific Plan)
ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:	Negative Declaration prepared for Sunset Boulevard Off-Site Signage Policy, and a 2025 Addendum to the Negative Declaration.

Complete digital agenda packets will be available on Thursday, November 13, 2025, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at www.weho.org

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

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

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For further information regarding this item, contact Jennifer Davis, Senior Planner at (323) 848-6508, or via email at: jdavis@weho.org

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

Мы сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информацииR4B ффи на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826.

RESTAURANT NEWS

Escape into fall at Hilton Santa Barbara

As the weather cools and the holidays approach, Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort is inviting travelers to savor the season by the sea, with live entertainment, limited-time savings and a cozy new fall menu.

The resort's Concerts Under the Stars series returns on Nov. 29 with ABBA Under the Stars, promising a lively night of nostalgia and music beneath the crisp coastal sky. Guests who dine or sip onsite that evening will enjoy complimentary parking with a \$30 food and beverage spend, making it the perfect last-minute coastal escape for Thanksgiving weekend.

To kick off the holiday shopping season, the resort will launch its Black Friday Sale on Nov. 10, offering up to 30% off stays of three nights or more for bookings made through Dec. 2. The limited-time

deal makes it easier than ever to plan a spontaneous winter getaway filled with ocean views, seasonal programming and the relaxed charm of Santa Barbara.

At The SET, the resort's signature restaurant, executive chef Mary O'Neill has introduced a fall menu celebrating the rich, comforting flavors of the season. Guests can cozy up with starters like corn and potato bisque (\$12) and truffled brussels sprouts (\$17), followed by entrées such as crispy chili roast salmon with jasmine rice pilaf and blistered tomatoes (\$38), foraged mushroom and sweet pea risotto (\$25) or spicy burnt chili shrimp pasta (\$32). Sweet finales include a cappuccino panna cotta with salted caramel and candied pecans (\$12) and a seasonal fruit galette with vanilla bean ice cream (\$14).

Behind the bar, "Harvest Sips" cocktails like the honey pumpkin whiskey smash (\$17), apple cider mule (\$16) and maple bourbon old fashioned (\$17) bring the warmth of the season to the coast, ideal for a sunset toast by the ocean breeze.

The London WeHo serves up three-course Thanksgiving dinner

The London West Hollywood at Beverly Hills will serve Thanksgiving meals on Thursday, Nov. 27, at its signature restaurant, Boxwood. Diners can enjoy a three-course meal crafted by executive chef Anthony Keene with menu items including a selection of starters such as autumn harvest salad or baked sweet crab gratin; mains including tandoori-spiced cauliflower steak, New England lobster risotto or traditional roasted free-range turkey featuring brioche bread stuffing with all the Thanksgiving fixings like cranberry relish, buttered Yukon mashed potatoes and buttered carrots. An iced seafood tower add-on is \$75 and serves two. Guests can top off the meal with decadent desserts such as English toffee pudding with brown butter ice cream, butternut squash cheesecake with nutmeg cream or clas-



photo courtesy of the London West Hollywood

The London West Hollywood's Thanksgiving dinner includes a three-course meal crafted by chef Anthony Keene.

sic baked apple tart with vanilla bean ice cream. Beverage options include a bourbon spice signature cocktail and an optional wine pairing (\$45). The meal is \$110 per person; \$55 for children 12 and under. Complimentary two-hour valet parking with validation is included. Reservations can be booked on Open Table.


Set against the elegant backdrop of The London West Hollywood,

guests are invited to relax and savor the warmth of the holiday with glowing ambiance, exceptional cuisine and genuine hospitality – the perfect way to toast togetherness and the joy of the season.

For information, visit thelondonwesthollywood.com/dining/boxwood-restaurant. The London West Hollywood is located at 1020 N. San Vicente Blvd.



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Reservations can be made on OpenTable.
For information, visit hilton.com/en/hotels/sbafphh-hilton-santa-barbara-beachfront-resort. Hilton Santa Barbara is located at 633 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara.

BOA unveils Thanksgiving feast

A new tradition is born – BOA Steakhouse is offering a luxe Thanksgiving feast for the first time. The dining experience will be available at the beloved modern steakhouse’s Sunset (West Hollywood) and Manhattan Beach locations. Diners can celebrate the holiday the BOA way with a curated menu of Thanksgiving favorites. The complete feast includes seasonal starters, a choice of decadent mains, traditional holiday sides elevated in true BOA fashion and a choice of dessert. All can be paired with BOA’s curated wine list and exciting cocktail menu. The feast is \$119 per person.
For information, visit boasteak.com. BOA Steakhouse is located at 9200 Sunset Blvd.

Inaugural SoCal Pizza Week announced

The inaugural, region-wide SoCal Pizza Week will take place Feb. 8-15, 2026, organizers announced on Nov. 3. SoCal Pizza Week will be a medium to bring everyone to the table, from all walks of life, to showcase Southern California’s diverse pizza scene.
Organized and supported by Southern California Food & Beverage, a California registered nonprofit, SoCal Pizza Week will be an eight day event devoted to celebrating the diverse pizza restaurants in Southern California, from Los Angeles to Orange County to San Diego and everywhere in between. The event also seeks to highlight all styles of the beloved fare, including but not limited to, New York, Chicago, Detroit, Neopolitan and Roma styles, with vegetarian and vegan offerings as well.
“SoCal Pizza Week is more than an eight-day event featuring dozens of pizzerias and restaurants,” said
See page 18

Lucia offers hurricane relief to Jamaica

Since debuting in the heart of Los Angeles’ vibrant Fairfax District, Lucia has become an Afro-Caribbean dining sensation. As the only restaurant in the city to offer modern Caribbean cuisine in a luxurious setting, Lucia – meaning “light” – illuminates Angelenos with the bold flavors, rich heritage, and diversity of the Caribbean islands.
The Caribbean is where founder Sam Jordan and the team pull their inspiration from, so on Sunday, Nov. 9, Lucia will match 100% of all proceeds from sales and donate the total to American Friends of Jamaica and World Central Kitchen to support Hurricane Melissa relief efforts across the Caribbean.
The kitchen is now open until midnight every Wednesday-Sunday to satisfy those late-night coconut fried chicken and Trini mac pie cravings.
New, seasonal dishes have been added to Lucia’s menu to



photo courtesy of Lucia
Lucia will match 100% of proceeds from all sales on Nov. 9 to Hurricane Melissa relief.

reflect those cozy fall ingredients found at Southern California’s farmers markets. Highlights include shareable plates, like a smoked beef short rib with black pepper-pimento glaze, served with grilled scallion roti and house-made pikliz, a 36-ounce dry-aged tomahawk steak with jerk spiced jus ad toum and Guyanese lobster “chow mein” featuring a whole grilled lobster with peppers, onions and shallot sauce. Lighter, raw bar items have also been added, like a bright Blue Fin Tuna
Tartare with dukkah, dates, preserved lemon and cassava chips or a silky scallop crudo with coconut leche, avocado, shallot and serrano peppers. The lychee margarita continues to be a guest favorite, but don’t miss out on the oxtail old fashioned – it’s perfect for this chillier weather, with oxtail-washed bourbon, sweet potato, sugar cane and creole and angostura bitters.
For information, visit luciala.com. Lucia is located at 351 N. Fairfax Ave.



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Academy takes a horrifying turn in 2026

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures has announced The Horror Show, a bold and immersive exhibition that bridges the gap between cinema and experience, honoring horror’s enormous cultural impact and enduring popularity. On view from Sept. 20, 2026, through July 25, 2027, The Horror Show is an exploration and celebration of horror cinema, highlighting select tropes and themes, and centered around the question: Why do horror films matter so deeply to so many?

“The Horror Show recognizes horror as one of the most emotionally resonant and innovative types of filmmaking, and celebrates its radical creativity and artists,” said Amy Homma, Academy Museum director and president. “I am excited for visitors to explore and experience filmmaking that has influenced generations.”

“Throughout film history, horror has thrilled and moved audiences, acting as a powerful outlet for expression and a tool for social commentary,” Senior Exhibitions

Curator Jessica Niebel said. “Through these stories, people have found catharsis and community among fellow horror fans around the world. I can’t wait for everyone – from horror enthusiasts to the horror-curious – to see The Horror Show.”

Blurring the line between museum presentation and eerie spectacle, The Horror Show takes visitors on a journey through cinema, starting with an introduction gallery sound installation, into “The Hallway” – modeled after the common horror trope – that leads to six distinctly themed galleries: Gothic, Psychological, Science, Slasher, Religion and Ghosts. Each gallery is distinctly designed to invite visitors into iconic settings where they will encounter their favorite creatures, monsters, and objects.

The exhibition also explores representations of identity, sexuality, and ability in horror films including: “Alien” (1979), “A Nightmare on Elm Street” (1984), “Black Swan” (2010), “Dracula” (1931), “Frankenstein” (1931), “Get Out”

(2017), “Halloween” (1978), “Ju-on” (1998), “Midsommar” (2019), “Misery” (1990), “Poltergeist” (1982), “Ringu” (1998), “The Blair Witch Project” (1999), “The Exorcist” (1973), “The Shining” (1980), “The Silence of the Lambs” (1991) and “The Texas Chainsaw Massacre” (1974) – while also offering a behind-the-scenes look at the storytelling and production processes of these films. The Horror Show exhibition will be accompanied by a catalog and public programming, including film screenings, gallery talks and educational tours to be announced at a later date. While the exhibition is designed for horror fans of all ages, parental guidance is suggested for younger visitors.

The Horror Show is organized by Senior Exhibitions Curator Jessica Niebel with Assistant Curator Nicholas Barlow and Curatorial Assistant Alexandra James Salichs. For information, visit academy-museum.org. The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd.

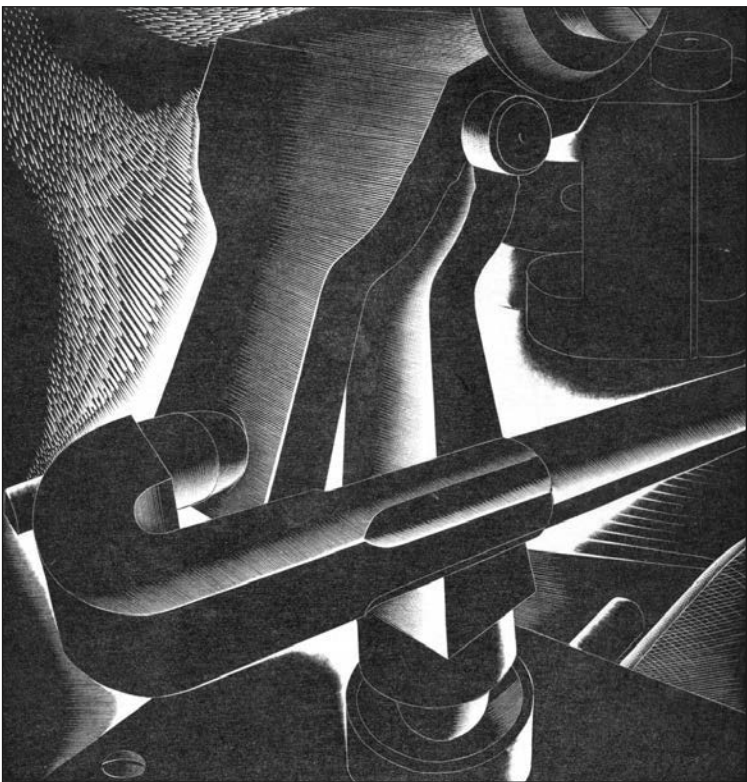


photo © Museum Associates/LACMA
Paul Landacre’s “The Press” (1934) illustrates the type of works the new exhibition will feature at LACMA’s Resnick Pavilion.

Celebrate the holidays in a whole new light at Descanso Gardens

Descanso Gardens’ winter tradition “Enchanted Forest of Light” illuminates the season with an interactive, nighttime experience from Nov. 16 through Jan. 4. Visitors can wander through a one-mile pathway of large-scale, colorfully lit installations designed to delight all ages, inviting guests to explore the gardens in a whole new light.

Returning favorites include stained-glass cottages by Tom Fruin, dazzling geometric sculptures of HYBYCOZO and the ever-popular Flower Power experience along the Promenade. The Ancient

Forest glows with softly illuminated trees and fog, while the Descanso Railroad is illuminated with custom holiday lighting. Seasonal snacks and drinks are available for purchase.

New this year are Music and Mixology Nights on Dec. 10-11, featuring live performances by Yachty by Nature, a six-piece band bringing smooth 1970s and early-1980s yacht rock hits to the Main Lawn. Guests can sip seasonal craft cocktails while enjoying performances at 6 p.m. and 7:45 p.m., included with regular “Enchanted” admission.

“‘Enchanted’ continues to evolve while staying true to what people love most – the beauty of light and nature coming together,” Descanso Gardens CEO Juliann Rooke said. “Our new music and mixology nights add a fun twist that lets guests linger a little longer and see the gardens in a whole new way.”

Hours are 5:30-10 p.m. from Nov. 16-Jan. 4. (closed Nov. 17, Nov. 27, Dec. 24-25). Timed entry is offered every 30 minutes from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Be among the first to experience the magic at the “Enchanted” Preview Party on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 7-10 p.m. Guests can enjoy early access to the experience, gourmet food, drinks and live entertainment. Tickets to the opening are \$275 per person. Proceeds support Descanso Gardens’ ongoing programs and maintenance.

Regular tickets are \$20-\$38 for members; \$27-\$45 for non-members. Children (2–12) are \$10–\$23 for members; \$17–\$30 for non-members. Children under 2 enter free.

Descanso Gardens is located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge. All tickets must be purchased in advance by visiting descansogardens.org.

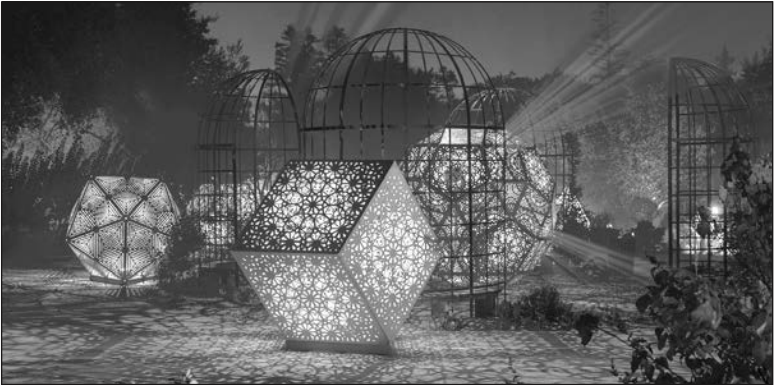


photo © Kathryn Rapier
“Celestial Shadows” by HYBYCOZO lights up the Rose Garden during “Enchanted Forest of Light.”

Presenters announced for American Cinematheque Awards

The American Cinematheque has announced that Ben Affleck, Mahershala Ali, Ryan Coogler, Bradley Cooper, Daniel Kaluuya, Delroy Lindo, Phylicia Rashad, Octavia Spencer, Tessa Thompson and Irwin Winkler will take the stage as presenters at the 39th American Cinematheque Awards to celebrate Michael B. Jordan as he receives the American Cinematheque Award.

Donna Langley will present the Motion Picture Association’s Charles H. Rivkin with The Power of Cinema Award, presented by Hill Valley. The show will also feature a special musical performance by Miles Caton, Ludwig Göransson and Raphael Saadiq, presenting “I Lied to You” from the critically acclaimed film “Sinners.” Jordan’s special honor comes on the heels of

his career-defining performance as twin brothers Smoke and Stack in Ryan Coogler’s critical and box office phenomenon “Sinners” earlier this year. The awards ceremony will take place on Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills. The event is an annual fundraiser for the American Cinematheque, a nonprofit that holds year-round programming at the Aero Theatre in Santa Monica, Los Feliz Theatre in Los Feliz and Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood.

The Power of Cinema Award honors an individual or organization whose actions through storytelling have advanced the significance and social relevance of film in modern culture. Previous award honorees include Charles Roven, Kevin Goetz and Screen Engine, Jason Blum and Blumhouse, Adam

Aron and AMC Theatres, Sue Kroll and Jeffrey Katzenberg.

For information, visit americancinematheque.com.



photo by Adrienne Raquel
Actor Daniel Kaluuya is among the presenters at the upcoming awards ceremony.

LACMA explores history and impact of block printing

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art presents “Deep Cuts: Block Printing Across Cultures” running from Nov. 9 through Sept. 13, 2026, in the Resnick Pavilion.

Drawing primarily from LACMA’s permanent collection, the exhibition explores the repeated revival, reinvention and refinement of block printing – the world’s oldest and most versatile method of making multiple images. Where traditional surveys have dissected the history of printing by geography, chronology and typology, “Deep Cuts” reveals more expansive, interconnected stories.

Organized thematically, “Deep Cuts” invites visitors to consider the medium not only as a means of creative expression but also as a vehicle for mass production that enabled images and ideas to circulate widely. The works in the exhibition span centuries and cultures, dating to the 8th century and originating in Asia, Europe and North America.

The selection includes more than 200 objects, ranging from textile designs to printed books, scrolls, devotional images, wallpa-

per, costumes and monumental contemporary prints, demonstrating the remarkable diversity and longevity of the medium. “Deep Cuts” features several recently acquired works including pieces by Carmen Argote, Christiane Baumgartner and Analia Saban. Also on view for the first time at LACMA are woodblock prints by mother-and-daughter-in-law artists Yoshida Fujio and Yoshida Chizuko; an impression of the Brücke Manifesto (one of only five in existence, and one of only two in the U.S.); and prints by Black American artists including Margaret Burroughs, Samella Lewis, Alison Saar and Hale Woodruff. “Deep Cuts” is curated by Erin Maynes, associate curator of prints and drawings at LACMA.

“‘Deep Cuts’ not only showcases the individual strengths of many areas in our collection, but also the power of the stories they can tell together,” LACMA CEO Michael Govan and Wallis Annenberg Director said. LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit lacma.org.

From page 17

Leysla Rubino, organizer of the event and executive director of SoCal Food & Beverage. “It’s an opportunity to showcase the many pizza styles that Southern California has to offer.”

“We’re super excited to participate in this unique event as it’s the perfect chance to share our pizzeria with more pizza lovers,” added Julio Martinez, owner of Terra Mia Pizzeria. “It’s awesome to see the Southern California community come together to support pizzerias like ours during an especially challenging time for all restaurants.”

An exciting addition to the event will be a Golden Slice Awards to be awarded to lucky participating restaurants that receive the most votes for the favorite pizza voted on by diners.

Pizzerias, pizza-centric restaurants, food trucks, caterers and pop-ups are invited to participate.

Pizzerias and restaurants interested in participating in SoCal Pizza Week can visit socalfoodandbeverage.org to register online. The reg-

istration deadline is Jan. 12, 2026.

Savor Thanksgiving by the sea at Hotel Casa del Mar

This Thanksgiving, gather with friends and family at Hotel Casa del Mar for a festive feast overlooking the Pacific.

Savor appetizers such as Baja bluefin crudo, spiced pumpkin soup and truffled corn and sunchoke succotash. For the main course, delight in butternut squash risotto, halibut almondine or a perfectly roasted New York Strip, among other seasonal selections. And to finish, indulge in an array of decadent desserts – the perfect sweet ending to a memorable seaside celebration. The Thanksgiving Day menu offering at Hotel Casa del Mar is \$125/person.

For information, visit hotelcasadelmar.com. Hotel Casa del Mar is located at 1910 Ocean Way, Santa Monica.

Daughters of the American Revolution offers scholarships to history students

Undergraduate and graduate students studying American history can apply for a \$25,000 scholarship from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution until Jan. 31. The DAR America 250! Scholarship will provide a one-time \$25,000 award to 10 students in 2026 and is offered to mark the 250th anniversary of

the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

"We are so thrilled to expand the America 250! Scholarship in its final year of being awarded in order to be able to offer 10 \$25,000 scholarships to students," said Ginie Sebastian Storage, DAR president general.

The DAR gives more than 30

scholarships annually awarding close to a total of \$250,000 a year to students across the country, but the organization has never provided a singular scholarship of this size. The significant amount of the America 250! Scholarship, and that it will be awarded to 10 separate students, is a testament of the importance of American history education that DAR places emphasis on and in honor of special celebrations taking place throughout 2026 in honor of the 250th anniversary of the nation.

Students currently majoring in American history in an accredited university or college undergraduate or graduate program in 2026 are eligible to apply. Recipients must be United States citizens, prove a minimum 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale or equivalent, and prepare a one-page online essay either on the founding of our nation or on the applicant's personal volunteer achievements for community and country.

Students are urged to apply in advance of the Jan. 31 deadline, as the scholarship application requires transcripts and letters of recommendation that must be submitted by others. Applicants will find that the scholarship portal will offer other DAR scholarships they may qualify for as well. Questions can be sent to america250scholarship@nsdar.org.

Applications may be submitted
at dar.academicworks.com.



photo courtesy of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

The women's service organization was founded in 1890 to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism across the United States.

Toy drive spreads cheer for families

California Credit Union, in partnership with the Los Angeles Boys & Girls Club, is spreading holiday cheer through its 2025 Holiday Toy Drive, inviting community members to help brighten the season for local children and families.

Through Dec. 6, California Credit Union encourages donations of a new, unwrapped toy at its branches throughout Los Angeles County. Toys and gifts for all ages from toddlers to teens up to age 17 are welcomed. All donations will be distributed to club children and families during the Los Angeles Boys & Girls Club annual holiday celebration on Dec. 16.

This year, the Los Angeles Boys &

Girls Club plans to distribute holiday gifts to the families it serves in communities across northeast Los Angeles. The organization's mission is to inspire and enable all youth, especially from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive and responsible members of the community. The Los Angeles Boys & Girls Club offers classes for teens including gang prevention, relationship navigation, social interaction, wellness, the arts and physical fitness. For information about the Los Angeles Boys & Girls Club, visit labgc.org.

For details about California Credit Union's Holiday Toy Drive, visit ccu.com/toydrive.

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www.mtishows.com



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Ezra Albert and Xander Matcuk were recognized as National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists.

BHUSD celebrates National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists

The Beverly Hills Unified School District recognized Ezra Albert and Xander Matcuk, two outstanding Beverly Hills High School seniors, for being named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists in the class of 2026.

This prestigious recognition places Albert and Matcuk among the top high school scholars nationwide, representing less than 1% of all graduating seniors across the country. Both students were honored at September's BHUSD Board of Education meeting, where they received official certificates of recognition from district leaders and the principal.

Albert and Matcuk's academic journeys reflect the excellence fostered throughout Beverly Hills schools. Each began as young students at Horace Mann Elementary, continued through Beverly Vista Middle School, and exemplify the

district's commitment to academic achievement and college readiness at Beverly Hills High School.

"We are incredibly proud of Ezra and Xander for earning this national distinction," said Dr. Dustin Seemann, assistant superintendent of education services. "Their hard work, intellectual curiosity and perseverance represent the very best of BHUSD students."

The National Merit Scholarship Program honors students who demonstrate exceptional academic promise through outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT exam. Semi-finalists now move forward in the competition for National Merit Finalist standing and the opportunity to earn scholarships sponsored by colleges, corporations and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

For information, visit bhUSD.org.

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‘Bugonia’ covers a lot with ease

Who needs horror to explore the horrors of humanity? “Bugonia” could easily have been such a film. But in the hands of a critically beloved director, we experience a wildly enjoyable mystery drama with a lot to say about the state of, well, everything.

Teddy (Jesse Plemons) isn’t OK. He spews conspiracies, fancies himself liberated from left and right ideologies and remains laser focused on one objective: capture an alien. Specifically, he believes big pharma CEO Michelle Fuller (Emma Stone) is a little green woman who can take him to her leader.

Now, Ms. Fuller might be an out-of-touch rich person, based on her recent decision to permit employees more regular hours with too many exceptions to count as useful (like a job with unlimited vacation days that dissuades employees from actually using that many). But is she really from a galaxy far, far away? Teddy thinks so. Perhaps not for his co-conspirator, Don (Aidan Delbis), who helps with the kidnapping and watches over her during a series of exchanges that lead us closer to the truth about Teddy’s motivations and Michelle’s unsavory business practices.

For director Yorgos Lanthimos



Jesse Plemons is a standout as Teddy in Yorgos Lanthimos’ “Bugonia.”

Rosewood Magnet School teacher among finalists for teacher of the year

California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced five exceptional educators as the 2026 California Teachers of the Year. The honorees are April Raguindin, a first-grade teacher at Dr. Douglas K. Fletcher Elementary School in Bakersfield; Rene Romero, an 11th- and 12th-grade international baccalaureate language and literature teacher at South Hills High School in Covina; Chrizia Dela Rosa, a ninth-grade mathematics teacher at East Side Union High School in Santa Clara County; Heather Povinelli, a second-grade teacher at Bradoaks Elementary Science Academy in Monrovia; and Corina Martinez, a kindergarten teacher at Pioneer Elementary School in the Escondido.

The runners-up are Monika Heidi Duque, a first-grade multiple subject teacher at the LAUSD’s Rosewood STEM Magnet, Urban Planning and Urban Design in West Hollywood; Dallana Gomez, a high school culinary arts teacher at Calipatria High School in Imperial County; Gregory Hinchliff, a Spanish, English, social studies, Native American Studies and speech and debate teacher at Bonsall High School in San Diego County; and Maddie Hutchinson, a high school English teacher at Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach.

Thurmond praised the outstanding educators and highlighted their passion, creativity and commitment to inspiring students.

“These extraordinary educators represent the very best of our public schools and remind us that great teaching can change lives and strengthen entire school communities,” Thurmond said.

Presented by the California Department of Education and supported by the California Teachers of the Year Foundation, the California Teachers of the Year Program began in 1972 to honor outstanding teachers and encourage new teachers to enter the profession. County offices of education nominate applicants and CDE selection committees review applications, evaluate teachers’ rapport with students, classroom environments, presentation skills and teaching techniques, and interview the teachers. The state superintendent of public instruction selects the California Teachers of the Year.

For information, visit cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/ct.



Monika Heidi Duque, a first-grade teacher at Rosewood STEM Magnet, Urban Planning and Urban Design, was a finalist in the 2026 California Teachers of the Year program.

ON SCREEN WITH TIM POSADA

(“The Favourite,” “Poor Things”), “Bugonia” is his most accessible film yet. Sure, it’s zany, much like the Greek auteur’s other films, but populated by characters with more human characteristics. Somehow debating if something is an alien or not feels more relatable than the many dead pan lines in most of his other works, like 2015’s “The Lobster.”

Don’t expect stylistic dialogue between people that feels more suited for the stage. Stone and Plemons enjoy more human interactions, which contrasts their characters’ dueling perspectives: conspiracy theory vs. corporate America. Plemons shines as a respectful madman.

Meanwhile, Stone’s Michelle channels an HR rep, employing all the inauthentic, robotic talking points that might make anyone go mad. While the film features a few other performances, it’s all on Plemons and Stone. Their on-screen chemistry as foes is quite remarkable.

Entirely on brand, however, Lanthimos continues to depict stories with increasingly more violence. He never shies away from unsettling domestic abuse, which



Michelle Fuller (Emma Stone) is a polar opposite to Don (Aidan Delbis) and Teddy (Jesse Plemons) in “Bugonia.”

also occurs a couple of times here, but he also embraces more visceral gore. So be warned.

This may not be a horror film – though there’s an argument for that label, similar to his “The Killing of a Sacred Deer” – but some characters might still end up covered in blood. But unlike traditional horror, don’t expect chase sequences or other standard thrills.

Special props belong to screenwriter Will Tracy, who co-wrote 2022’s “The Menu.” Here, he expertly adapts the original 2003 South Korean film “Save the Green Planet!” When Teddy and Michelle debate each other – each immovable in their positions and tactics – you can hear Tracy’s “eat the rich” sensibility on display, along with some more abstract notes as well.

Put this one in the same category as “10 Cloverfield Lane” or “Safety

Not Guaranteed.” You don’t know what kind of film you’re in for until it’s over. So watch closely and try to figure it all out, though you probably won’t.

Certainly, critics will bemoan “Bugonia” for its lack of focus on any one thing. It addresses big pharma, capitalism, online conspiracies, abuse and mental illness without providing a clear position. This isn’t any both-sideism nonsense. It just places all such things in a broader context.

And sometimes the bigger picture is just sad. Plenty of films out there try to find a glimmer of hope to hold on to. That isn’t always necessary. Sometimes we need a harsh reminder that things suck. “Bugonia” effectively does that, albeit in a fun, witty and compelling way that feels so satisfying to the end.

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Big Bear Alpine Zoo transforms into winter wonderland

This holiday season, Big Bear Alpine Zoo transforms into Alpine Zoo Wild Lights, a captivating, illuminated winter wonderland. The walk-through spectacle, which boasts more than 1.8 million colorful LED and solar-power lights, debuts on Nov. 6, at 5 p.m. Guests are in for a treat, and all proceeds from Alpine Zoo Wild Lights ticket sales go directly toward funding Big Bear Alpine Zoo’s ongoing wildlife rehabilitation program and Care for Big Bear’s conservation program.

“Our guests are going to be absolutely thrilled with the holiday eye candy we have on display at Big Bear Alpine Zoo,” Visit Big Bear CEO Travis Scott said. “They will even be more thrilled to know that 100% of their ticket purchase helps support the zoo’s rehabilitation work and our Care for Big Bear stewardship mission.”

Alpine Zoo Wild Lights is an after-dark experience for all ages. The nearly 2 million LED and solar-powered lights create a full spectrum of holiday magic. Visitors journey through four themed light zones, each telling a story that honors the mountain’s wildlife and natural beauty. Highlights include a 100-foot pine tree covered in shimmering-colored lights, a 20-foot archway beaming with Christmas cheer, a two-story golden teddy bear, a larger-than-life 20-foot walk-through ornament, colossal gift boxes, a group of glowing snowmen and Santa’s sleigh, which is an interactive 11-foot illuminated centerpiece. The highlighted fea-



The holiday light display in Big Bear Lake will begin on Nov. 6.

tures provide ample photo opportunities. Guests can also enjoy pastries, hot cocoa, cider and seasonal treats from the Moonridge Coffee Company Zoo Café as they explore the festive landscape. The experience concludes in the Care for Big Bear – Dark Sky Grove, a tranquil solar-powered installation that celebrates Big Bear’s ongoing efforts to reduce light pollution and preserve pristine night skies.

The casual walk-around, go-at-your-own-pace experience also gives guests an opportunity to get up close to Big Bear Alpine Zoo’s nocturnal animals. As dusk sets, certain animals’ nocturnal instincts take over, which provides an engaging exhibition in itself. Some of the animals that come alive after dark include mountain lions, foxes, raccoons, skunks, ring-tail cats, owls, coyotes, wolves and bears.

“We’re very optimistic that our Alpine Zoo Wild Lights holiday spectacle will become an annual tradition for many years to come,” Scott said.

Alpine Zoo Wild Lights holiday spectacle runs through Jan. 4, 2026. Hours are Wednesday to Sunday from 5-9 p.m. Expanded holiday hours include Mondays and Tuesdays for Thanksgiving week (Nov. 24-30) and the holiday season (Dec. 22-Jan. 4), closed on Christmas Day. Admission is \$20. The experience is free for children under 5 and members of Big Bear Alpine Zoo. For information and tickets, visit bigbearzoo.org.

Big Bear Alpine Zoo is located at 42801 Moonridge Road in Big Bear Lake.



Zara Man’s launch at South Coast Plaza marks the next step in the brand’s global expansion.

South Coast Plaza welcomes Zara Man

Zara Man made its U.S. debut with the opening of its first men’s-only boutique at South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa.

The new space introduces Zara’s latest men’s collections through a design-forward concept that offers a personalized and seamless shopping experience. The latest boutique follows Zara Man openings in Madrid and Zurich, with additional boutique sset to open in Rome and Osaka.

The launch at South Coast Plaza marks the next step in the brand’s global expansion, while reflecting Zara’s ongoing commitment to innovating store formats that respond to customers’ evolving preferences and lifestyles.

Visitors are greeted by the limited Archive collection, available only in select Zara stores worldwide. The boutique also includes an exclusive Origins room – Zara Man’s most contemporary line focused on essential, timeless wardrobe staples, alongside dedicated areas for denim and tailoring. The store integrates Zara’s digital and physical platforms, offering a fully connected omnichannel experience.

Zara Man is located on Level 2 in the Bloomingdale’s Wing at South Coast Plaza, 3333 Bristol St., Costa Mesa. For information, visit zara.com/us/en/stores-locator/zara-costa-mesa-south-coast-plaza-s3265.



THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 6,
2025

5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

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Join Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian and Chief of Police Mark Stainbrook for an engaging discussion about public safety, the City's focus on driving Beverly Hills forward with technology, and how your input shapes the future of our City.

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- The Metro station at La Cienega
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BHUSD grapples with new development in ongoing racism allegations

From page 1

Kimberly Ludwin who found that the district “swiftly addressed” the incident because the student who used the phrase was removed from the classroom, disciplined and offered an apology.

Tate filed an appeal of the district’s initial conclusion to the Department of Education, which resulted in the Oct. 23 report.

The report from the Department of Education mandates that the Beverly Hills school district conduct a one-hour training session on race-based bullying and harassment with all Beverly Vista Middle School administrators, counseling staff and the district’s coordinator of complaints. The district must provide the state evidence that it has completed the training by Dec. 31.

The California Department of Education did not respond to a

request for additional comment by press time.

The district responded to the report in a statement.

“The Beverly Hills Unified School District is committed to ensuring that every student is safe, respected and supported. We have zero tolerance for bullying, discrimination or hate of any kind,” the statement read. “We encourage students, families and community members to follow our ‘Where Do I Start’ communication and reporting process, which ensures that concerns are directed to the appropriate staff members and responded to in a timely and thorough manner. This resource can be found at: bhUSD.org/wheredoistart. BHUSD remains focused on maintaining a positive, welcoming learning environment for every student, every day.”

In the past several months, Tate and other parents and community members have spoken out at Board of Education meetings urging the district to do more to address allegations of racism. Parents asked that the district adopt a resolution celebrating marginalized groups by recognizing cultural heritage months. On Oct. 28, the school board narrowly approved a resolution that promotes several federally-recognized heritage months for various cultures, ethnicities and identities within the district. Board Vice President Judith Manouchehri and Board Member Sigalie Sabag voted against the resolution.

Tate said she has since removed her child from the school district due to alleged racism that she said has gone unaddressed. Tate said she is currently working on filing litigation against the school



photo by Tabor Brewster

The report follows at least two lawsuits against the school district alleging anti-Black racism.

district. The lawsuit would be the latest in a series of similar legal actions over alleged anti-Black discrimination in the district.

In April, former fashion design teacher Bella Ivory and former basketball coach Jarvis Turner sued the district, alleging anti-Black racism and discrimination. A case management conference

is scheduled for Dec. 11.

The school district’s current assistant superintendent for student services, Laura Collins-Williams, is also suing BHUSD for alleged transgressions including anti-Black racism and discrimination based on race, age and gender, retaliation and a hostile work environment. A trial is scheduled for May 26, 2026.

Kipper left behind Farmers Market staple that will live on

From page 1

very proud of Kip’s Toyland.

“The opportunity to continue my grandfather’s legacy of Kip’s Toyland fell into our laps because my grandfather couldn’t do it anymore, and it is such a testament to my dad. He was such a fighter in every aspect of his life,” Lily Kipper said. “My dad never lost sight of the power of faith and perseverance. He was incredibly steady. Everyone called him MacGyver because he was able to fix and repair anything. He always found a way to keep us afloat no matter what happened.”

Kip’s Toyland has been a fixture at the Farmers Market for decades and a destination for generations of families.

“Don Kipper has left such an indelible mark on the Original Farmers Market. Thousands of kids’ lives have been enriched after a visit to Kip’s Toyland thanks to the Kipper family’s nurturing of good old-fashioned childhood and play,” said Ilysha Buss, director of marketing for the A.F. Gilmore Co., owner of the Farmers Market. “Working side-by-side with his dad, the

late Irvin, and daughter Lily, he was always at the ready with a smile, a ‘dad joke’ and the perfect toy suggestion. His unwavering dedication to the business, his employees and the market will always be remembered and appreciated. Our heartfelt condolences go to [the Kipper family] and to all of those that loved and cherished their time with Don. He will be missed.”

Lily Kipper said she will continue Kip’s Toyland’s legacy and plans to introduce new generations to the store.

“We have the most dedicated staff. We have been blessed with such a wonderful team,” she said. “Kip’s Toyland’s soldiers will keep marching on.”

Funeral services for Kipper were held on Nov. 3 at Hillside Memorial Park and Mortuary. He is survived by his wife Vicki, daughter Lily and son Andrew. Lily Kipper asked anyone wishing to pay tribute to her father to purchase a toy and donate it to charity. Kip’s Toyland is located in Stall 720 at the Original Farmers Market, 6333 W. Third St. For information, visit kipstoyland.com.

Friedman calls attention to threats to health coverage

U.S. Reps. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) and Debbie Wasserman Shultz (D-Fla.), both breast cancer survivors, hosted a virtual town hall on Oct. 29 on their efforts to protect affordable health care.

The event was held in conjunction with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Friedman and Wasserman Shultz were joined by a breast cancer survivor whose treatment was made possible by ACA tax credits.

The lawmakers answered questions from concerned constituents about House Republicans’ refusal to renew the ACA tax credit. Friedman and Wasserman Shultz also outlined ongoing efforts to protect affordable health care.

“As a breast cancer survivor, I know the fear that runs through a person’s mind when they get a lifechanging diagnosis. I was

lucky to be covered, but thanks to House Republicans refusing to negotiate, millions of Americans will lose ACA tax credits and have nowhere to turn when they get the worst news of their lives,” Friedman said. “Americans deserve access to affordable health care, not crushing medical debt. I’m fighting for that peace of mind every day.”

“As a wife, mom and breast cancer survivor who serves in Congress, I’m driven to help other women catch this deadly disease early on and thrive after they defeat it,” Wasserman Schultz said. “I’m truly honored to stand with my friend and sister survivor, Congresswoman Laura Friedman, to urge women during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and every month, to get screened. Sadly, this threat only grows amid an escalating Republican health

care crisis and shutdown, and their unprecedented assaults on cancer research and access to care. That’s why we’re fighting to ensure all women don’t have to choose between their health and financial stability.”

Nearly 5.5 million Californians rely on the ACA for coverage. Nearly 2 million residents are enrolled in Los Angeles County and nearly 90% of Covered California enrollees receive tax credits.

Without action, many Californians could see premiums rise by over \$100 per month, Friedman said.

In Friedman’s district, more than 47,000 constituents face premium increases up to 300% and 28,000 will lose access to health coverage because of Republican cuts to Medicaid, she added.

For information, visit friedman.house.gov.

Start the holidays off right with the Hollywood Christmas Parade

Tickets for grandstand seating are available for the 93rd annual Hollywood Christmas Parade Supporting Marine Toys for Tots, which will take place on Sunday, Nov. 30, beginning at 6 p.m.

The parade follows a 3.2-mile route starting at Orange Street and Hollywood Boulevard. Bleacher seats open at 4 p.m. with pre-parade entertainment beginning at 5:30 p.m. Audiences can see stars on a red carpet and enjoy live performances and a visit from Santa

Claus.

The Hollywood Christmas Parade will be taped for a national primetime telecast on The CW Network during the holiday season.

The live parade is presented by Associated Television International in association the city of Los Angeles. Erik Estrada and Laura McKenzie host the parade, along with co-host Elizabeth Stanton. For information and tickets, visit thehollywoodchristmasparade.org.



photo courtesy of the Hollywood Christmas Parade

The annual parade in Hollywood culminates with a visit from Santa Claus.



photo by Edwin Folven

Don Kipper welcomed generations of families to Kip’s Toyland after he succeeded his father in running the business.



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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 Oct. 26 and Nov. 1. 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

Oct. 26

A vandalism incident was reported near Sunset and Alpine at 4:47 a.m.

At 11:38 p.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 800 block of N. Rexford.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of S. Camden at midnight.

Oct. 28

At 10:30 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 9600 block of Brighton.

Oct. 29

At 11:44 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of N. Crescent.

Oct. 30

At 5:59 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9700 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 6:20 p.m.

At 7 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 400 block of Shirley.

Oct. 31

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 11:35 a.m.

At 1:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 200 block of N. Robertson at 5 p.m.

At 6 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 500 block of N. Doheny.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 9:15 p.m.

At 10:24 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Elevado and Trenton.

Nov. 1

At 1:55 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Camden and Brighton.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Rodeo at 4:35 p.m.

At 6:43 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of N. Rodeo.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

Oct. 26

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect

robbed a victim in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

An unknown committed a petty theft near San Vicente and Santa Monica at 2:08 a.m.

At 8 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 700 block of Westbourne.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 1:45 a.m.

At 12:47 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of Almont.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 9 p.m.

At 11:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

Oct. 27

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of San Vicente at 2 a.m.

At 2:46 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1200 block of N. Vista.

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

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of Sierra Bonita.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1100 block of N. La Brea at 8:28 p.m.

At 8:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8800 block of Ashcroft.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 10:45 p.m.

Oct. 28

At 1:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7500 block of Hampton.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 7:21 p.m.

At 7:51 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

Oct. 29

At 11:40 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

Oct. 30

At 2:05 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8700 block of Santa Monica.

Oct. 31

At 11:50 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Dorrington and Robertson.

Nov. 1

At 9:50 p.m., a domestic violence incident was reported in the 9000 block of Sunset.

Campaign launches to lower overdose deaths

Los Angeles County has launched Rewriting LA County’s Story, a bilingual anti-stigma campaign to increase awareness about and access to overdose prevention services. The program also aims to combat stigma for people who use drugs and sustain the progress made in reducing overdose deaths.

Neighborhood events, billboards, radio spots, social ads and a community engagement bus will highlight how L.A. County is addressing the overdose crisis with new approaches. The campaign features the contributions of community partners who save lives by building trust and connecting individuals to health care, substance use treatment, lifesaving supplies and jobs. A new website – bylaforla.org – includes images and videos of resilient individuals who rewrote their stories.

Overdose deaths dropped by 22% in L.A. County in 2024 – the largest single-year drop on record. However, there is still more work. More than 2,400 people died last year, and disparities exist for Black and Latino residents. Overdose remains the largest preventable cause of death in L.A. County, resulting more deaths

than gun violence and car crashes combined. Drug overdoses are the leading cause of death for adults under age 50.

“Through compassion and connection, we can reach individuals living with substance use disorders through harm reduction programs, drop-in centers, outreach teams and campaigns.”

*-Dr. Barbara Ferrer
director
L.A. County Department
of Public Health*

“We invite the public to learn more about the comprehensive services available across Los Angeles County – and to join us in rewriting L.A. County’s story,” said Dr. Christina Ghaly, director of the Department of Health Services. “With this work, we want to prevent people from landing in our emergency rooms after

overdoses. We are connecting individuals with the support they need to achieve healthy, stable and fulfilling lives and we are treating them with the dignity and respect they deserve.”

“About 95% of people with a substance use disorder do not seek treatment, not because they don’t want help, but because our systems have not always made it safe or welcoming to do so,” said Dr. Barbara Ferrer, director of the Department of Public Health. “We can and must do better. Through compassion and connection, we can reach individuals living with substance use disorders through harm reduction programs, drop-in centers, outreach teams and campaigns like this one. It is a reminder that every person’s story matters. It challenges us to see people not by their lowest moments, but by their capacity to heal, recover, and contribute.”

In preparation for the public awareness campaign, L.A. County’s research partners conducted a survey of more than 1,600 residents. The results showed overwhelming support for harm reduction and overdose prevention services For information, visit bylaforla.org.

Authorities warn about increase in financial crimes

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department has issued a warning about fraud and cyber-crimes, telecom fraud and financial scams. The department’s Fraud and Cyber Crimes Bureau is raising awareness after seeing an increasing trend in the specialized scams.

The perpetrators are often operating in foreign countries and jurisdictions. Local agencies may not be able to apprehend the perpetrators, so members of the public are warned to take steps to protect themselves.

Common examples of financial

crime include identity theft, money laundering, investment fraud, credit card theft, insurance fraud, embezzlement and bribery. Recovering lost funds can be difficult. For those defrauded by a licensed professional, such as an attorney or real estate agent, the respective professional association may have its own reporting procedure and may provide a path for restitution. In other cases, consult with a certified public accountant to see if the financial loss can be claimed on income taxes.

Victims should contact their

financial institutions immediately and request a “stop” on payments, when possible, or close the compromised bank account and open a new account. Victims are encouraged to always file a police report.

Also, contact the three major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian and Transunion) to monitor credit activity and freeze credit if necessary. The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department highly recommends that everyone utilize the free service and stay vigilant. To report cases to the FBI Cybercrime Complaint Center, visit ic3.gov.

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Experience the colorful traditions of Rio at The Broad

The Rio World presents “A Poem and a Protest,” an immersive evening of fashion, music, performance and art on Tuesday, Nov. 11, from 7-10 p.m. at The Broad.

Honoring creative spirit and cultural expression while celebrating the Latinx community of

Los Angeles, the event debuts the Rio World’s spring-summer 2026 collection. Vibrant, hand-crafted designs express optimism and imagination, while structured, utilitarian pieces embody strength and purpose. Together, they form an elegant apparel for the modern nonconformist.

Guests are invited to experience fashion as living art, discover a new favorite work in The Broad’s galleries and revel in a night celebrating identity, artistry and community.

Tickets are free for the special event, which will be held outside on the East West Bank Plaza at The Broad, 221 S. Grand Ave. A cash bar and DJ sets will be held from 7-10 p.m. The runway show is at 8 p.m. For information, visit the-broad.org.



The Broad is hosting an immersive event on Nov. 11 blending fashion, music, performance and art.



NOTICE INVITING SEALED BIDS FOR HAMMOND & ALTA LOMA BOLLARDS REPLACEMENT PROJECT, CIP 2507 IN THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of West Hollywood as AGENCY, invites sealed bids to be received only by submitting electronically at:

<https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/public-works/bids>
or
<http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=22761>

for the above stated project and will only receive such bids no later than the hour of 5:00 P.M. on DECEMBER 18, 2025, at which time or thereafter said bids will be electronically opened and available online. Bids received after this time will be considered to be non-responsive.

No pre-bid meeting is scheduled. The work to be done consists of furnishing all materials, equipment, tools, labor, and incidentals as required by the Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents for the above state project. The general items of work include, at two locations in the City, the removal of the entire existing retractable bollard array system, the entire footing, all components and conductors, and the construction of new retractable bollard array systems and footings, new electrical cabinets, new power pedestal, new stop/go traffic signals/signage, and all appurtenant work and other items not mentioned that are required by the plans and specifications.

Bids must be submitted electronically for the exact item(s) requested in the bid specifications. Copies of the plans, specifications, and contract documents are available for free from the City of West Hollywood website:

<https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/public-works/bids>
or
<http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=22761>

Each bid submitted electronically is required to be accompanied by the Proposal Documents; Proposal, Bidder’s Information, Proposal Bid Schedule (enter online), List of Subcontractors (enter online), Registration with the Calif. Dept. of Industrial Relations Form, References, Designator of Sureties, Bid Bond, Bidder’s Violation of Law/Safety Questionnaire, Non-Collusion

Declaration, Certificate of Non-Discrimination by Contractors, Statement Acknowledging Penal & Civil Penalties Concerning Contractors’ Licensing Laws, Addendum Acknowledgement, and all additional documentation required by the Instructions to Bidders. Bids must be submitted on the Agency’s bid forms.

The bid must be accompanied by certified or cashier’s check, or bidder’s bond, made payable to the AGENCY for an amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. Any proposal not accompanied by such a guarantee will not be considered.

Any contract entered into pursuant to this notice will incorporate the provisions of the State Labor Code. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1773.2 of the Labor Code of the State of California, the minimum prevailing rate of per diem wages for each craft, classification, or type of workman needed to execute the contract shall be those determined by the Director of Industrial Relations of the State of California, which are on file at the City Hall, City of West Hollywood, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California 90069, and are available to any interested party on request.

Attention is directed to the provisions of Section 1777.5 (Chapter 1411, Statutes of 1968) and 1777.5 of the Labor Code concerning the employment of apprentices by the Contractor or any such subcontractor under him. Affirmative action to ensure against discrimination in employment practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, religion, sexual orientation, or handicap will also be required.

The AGENCY will deduct five (5) percent retention from all progress payments as specified in Subsection 7-3.2 of the standard specifications. The Contractor may substitute an escrow holder surety of equal value to the retention. The Contractor shall be beneficial owner of the surety and shall receive any interest thereon.

The AGENCY hereby affirmatively ensures that minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this notice and will not be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, or religion in any consideration leading to the award of contract.

In entering into a public works contract, or a subcontract, to supply goods, services, or materials pursuant to a public works contract, the Contractor, or subcontractor, offers and agrees to assign to the awarding body all rights, title, and interest in, and to, all causes of action it may have under Section 4 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. Section 15) or under the Cartwright Act (Chapter 2

[commencing with Section 16700] of Part 2 of Division 7 of the Business and Professions Code), arising from purchases of goods, services, or materials pursuant to the public works contract or the subcontract. This assignment shall be made and become effective at the time the awarding body tenders final payment to the Contractor, without further acknowledgement by the parties.

The successful bidder shall be licensed in accordance with the provisions of the Business and Professions Code and shall possess a valid **California State Contractor’s License Class A** at the time of bid submittal.

THE SUCCESSFULL BIDDER WHO ENTERS INTO CONTRACT WITH THE CITY FOR A VALUE GREATER THAN \$750,000, SHALL BE BOUND BY ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT LOCATED IN THE APPENDIX.

The City of West Hollywood reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or bids or to waive any irregularities or informalities in any bids or in the bidding should it deem this necessary for the public good, and also the bid of any Bidder who has been delinquent or unfaithful in any former contract with the City of West Hollywood and to take all bids under advisement for a period of ninety (90) days. No bidder may withdraw its bid for a period of ninety (90) days after the date of the opening thereof. The award of the contract, if made, will be to the lowest responsible Bidder as determined solely by the City of West Hollywood.

The California Air Resources Board (“CARB”) implemented amendments to the In- Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulations (“Regulation”) which are effective on January 1, 2024 and apply broadly to all self-propelled off road diesel vehicles 25 horsepower or greater and other forms of equipment used in California. A copy of the Regulation is available at:

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/ba/rcu/regact/2022/off-roadddiesel/appa- 1.pdf>

Bidders are required to comply with all CARB and Regulation requirements, including, without limitation, all applicable sections of the Regulation, as codified in Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations section 2449 et seq. throughout the term of the Project. Bidders must provide, with their Bid, copies of Bidder’s and all listed subcontractors the most recent, valid Certificate of Reported Compliance (“CRC”) issued by CARB. Failure to provide valid CRCs as required herein may render the Bid non-responsive.

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

Theatre Commons L.A. connects audiences with live shows

Theater leaders, artists and supporters have come together to launch Theatre Commons L.A., a new community-powered nonprofit created in service of the entire L.A. theater ecosystem. The first step is now available – a public listings website, theatrecommonsla.org, making it simple for audiences to discover what’s currently playing across theaters in the greater Los Angeles area, as well as what’s upcoming.

“TCLA is about building a stronger theater ecosystem for all of us,” the TCLA Steering Committee said. “This shared hub connects L.A. audiences to L.A. stages and is

just the beginning of our efforts to help Los Angeles theater thrive.”

The TCLA Steering Committee is comprised of Snehal Desai, Brindell and Milton Gottlieb artistic director, Center Theatre Group; Danny Feldman, producing artistic director, Pasadena Playhouse; Donna Simone Johnson, co-artistic director, Watts Village Theatre Company; Mayank Keshaviah, independent writer and theater critic; Jessica Kubzansky, artistic director, Boston Court Pasadena; Stefanie Lau, producing artistic leader, Artists at Play; Armando Molina, artistic director, Company of Angels; Cricket Myers, indepen-

dent sound designer; Celia Mandela Rivera, actor, director, creator of BLKLST, literary manager, IAMA Theatre Company; and DeLanna Studi, artistic director, Native Voices.

The new service organization’s initial work, including the new listings website, was undertaken by a volunteer steering committee and funded by the Nonprofit Sustainability Initiative. In September, the Perenchio Foundation made a major investment in TCLA’s work, sustaining the organization’s next phase of growth, including the hiring of an executive director.

The first effort of the new organization is theatrecommonsla.org, a centralized, public-facing website with show listings and easy discovery tools for L.A. theatergoers. The new site brings the full spectrum of Los Angeles theater together, including shows on some of the largest and smallest stages. Listings can easily be filtered by date, neighborhood and genre – eliminating the need to visit dozens of individual theater websites. The goal is to create a unified hub where an audience member can find all shows playing in Los Angeles and be directed to get tickets.

With a mission of serving and advancing a vibrant and inclusive theater community, the new organization will focus on community collaboration to strengthen connections, share resources and champion equitable opportunity across the field. TCLA will also serve as a collective voice in advocating for resources and issues pertaining to the L.A. theater community.

For information, visit theatrecommonsla.org.



photo courtesy of Theatre Commons L.A.

The organization provides a resource that helps theater goers find shows across Los Angeles.



photo courtesy of Caruso

The festive “Christmas at The Grove: 24th Annual Tree Lighting Celebration” will be held on Nov. 17 at 7 p.m.

Holiday spirit returns to The Grove

Caruso announced the return of its beloved holiday celebrations across Southern California, marking the most wonderful time of the year at its iconic shopping, dining and entertainment destinations. From the tree lighting spectacles at The Grove and The Promenade at Westlake, to magical snowfall at The Americana at Brand and festive visits with Santa and the return of Palisades Village’s holiday celebrations.

Caruso’s holiday programming officially kicked off with the arrival of The Grove’s iconic 100-foot white fir Christmas tree on Oct. 28, traveling from The Original Farmers Market down First Street before being hoisted into position in The Park. The “Christmas at The Grove: 24th Annual Tree Lighting Celebration” returns on Nov. 17 at 7 p.m., hosted by Lance Bass and featuring a lineup of musical performances by Nick Carter, Dasha, Natalie Jane, Loud Luxury, Kevin Woo and Straight No Chaser. In partnership with FOX 11, Chase

Freedom and Rivian, the show will feature unforgettable entertainment, a dazzling drone show, the arrival of Santa Claus and the lighting of The Grove’s Christmas tree, culminating in a fireworks finale beneath a blanket of snow.

Santa is heading back to Southern California this holiday season, bringing holiday joy and whimsical meet-and-greet photo moments throughout November and December, in partnership with Disney+ and Hulu. Guests can visit Santa’s Workshop at The Grove beginning on Nov. 18. Reservations open on Nov. 6, with Santa meet-and-greets running through Dec. 24. Advance bookings are recommended.

Nightly snowfalls will once again transform The Grove beginning Nov. 18 at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Snow will fall every night at The Grove through Dec. 31. Bundle up, pack a camera and enjoy the seasonal spirit.

The Grove is located at 189 The Grove Drive. For information, visit thegrovela.com.



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L.A. Sephardic Film Festival celebrates stories, culture and heritage on Nov. 9

The Los Angeles Sephardic Film Festival Gala will take place on Sunday, Nov. 9, at Paramount Studios in Hollywood. The evening will celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Sephardic Educational Center and the 16th year of its film festival, which highlights Sephardic stories, culture and heritage from around the world.

The festivities begin at 5 p.m. with a red carpet reception followed by a gourmet dinner, silent and live auctions, and a special program honoring Jason Rimokh, David Rimokh and the Rimokh family for their leadership and community impact. The opening night feature

film “Once Upon My Mother (Ma Mère, Dieu et Sylvie Vartan)” will be presented in French with English subtitles. The evening continues with a dessert reception and live Moroccan band, creating a vibrant celebration of Sephardic music, film and culture.

Special guests from Israel include Major Liad Diamond, head of the IDF Public Diplomacy Office, and Yaniv and Lorit Ya’akov, honoring the memory of Yaniv’s brother Yair z”l, who was taken hostage and murdered on Oct. 7. The evening is chaired by Rachel Emquies Sheff and co-chaired by Eilat Benaron and Sandra Heffesse.

“This is always a fun evening that everyone loves to attend and we are often sold out. We encourage everyone to come and support a great cause and bring your teens, young adults, young professionals – we have special pricing for them all,” Rachel Sheff said.

Neil Sheff, Rachel’s husband and SEC president, has been involved with the center since its inception 45 years ago and followed in the footsteps of his mentor and founder, Dr. Jose Nessim, a renowned Beverly Hills physician.

“It’s a family that keeps growing and hundreds of us, Rachel and I included, met and married because

of the SEC. Our children have all gone to the SEC programs in Israel, and have met all their friends through the SEC around the country and often times throughout the world,” Neil Sheff said. “And remember, the SEC campus is in the heart of the Old City of Jerusalem where we have a beautiful space, 51 hotel style rooms which host groups, conferences, bar mitzvas and weddings, and we are literally steps from the Kotel.”

The Los Angeles Sephardic Film Festival Gala will be held at Paramount Studios, 5555 Melrose Ave. The festival continues with screenings at the Laemmle Royal Theater in Santa Monica, 11523 Santa Monica Blvd.

For gala tickets, sponsorships and program information, call (323) 272-4574, or email filmfest@sec-jerusalem.org.



photo courtesy of the Sephardic Educational Center

“Once Upon My Mother (Ma Mère, Dieu et Sylvie Vartan)” is the opening night feature film.



photo courtesy of the Fowler Museum
The exhibition includes a late 19th-century piece from Cameroon.

Fowler exhibition traces provenance of African artifacts

The Fowler Museum at UCLA presents “Belongings: Changing Hands and Shifting Meanings in African Arts,” a permanent collection exhibition that examines how historical African objects have accrued a range of meanings as they passed through different hands, contexts and interpretations. On view in the Fowler in Focus gallery, the installation brings together works from across the African continent and traces their journeys from the hands of their original makers and owners to European markets and, ultimately, into the Fowler’s collection.

Organized by co-curators Erica P. Jones, senior curator of African arts and manager of curatorial affairs,

and Carlee S. Forbes, associate curator of African and Oceanic art at the Baltimore Museum of Art, “Belongings” reconsiders how museums present and interpret historical African objects. Rather than focusing solely on original use or aesthetic qualities, the exhibition foregrounds the layered trajectories of each work – acknowledging how colonialism, collecting practices and museum systems have shaped what we know – and don’t know – about their pasts.

“Every object in this gallery has lived many lives,” Jones said. “By tracing their paths through makers, owners, collectors and institutions, we reveal how meanings are never fixed; they’re constantly being reshaped by

movement, exchange and context.”

Divided into four sections – African makers and owners; European tokens of empire; the market for African arts in Europe; and arrival at the Fowler Museum – the show challenges the notion of a singular, authoritative museum narrative. Visitors are invited to explore multiple perspectives through gallery handouts and digital resources, which underscore the idea that every museum object contains multitudes.

“This exhibition asks visitors to see beyond the confines of a single museum label,” Forbes said. “By including many voices in the gallery, we hope audiences will see how different disciplines approach

objects. Asking many questions speaks to histories and knowledge far beyond the arts and serves as starting points for conversations in disciplines typically thought to be far afield from the museum space.”

The presentation also highlights the Fowler Museum’s foundational 1965 gift from the Wellcome Trust, which transformed the museum’s trajectory and established a base for ongoing provenance and restitution research.

“Belongings: Changing Hands and Shifting Meanings in African Arts” is made possible by support from the Mellon Foundation and reflects years of collaborative research conducted between 2019-25.

The Fowler Museum is located at 308 Charles E. Young Drive.

For information, visit fowler.ucla.edu.

VINTAGE
PARKLABREA NEWS

Veterans Day marks a time to recognize those who served

U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Cushing Phillips, right, received a certificate of recognition from chief warrant officer Allen Walker of the Navy Seabee Veterans of America in this photograph in the Nov. 12, 1959, issue of the Park Labrea News. Phillips (1894-1968), who was retired from the Navy and lived at Park La Brea at the time, served as president of the Los Angeles Board of Public Works. He was honored in conjunction with Veterans Day for his role in training 200,000 members of the Seabees – the Navy’s construction battalions – during World War II.

This year, a Veterans Day community gathering will be held on Monday, Nov. 10, from 10-10:30 a.m. at Beverly Gardens Park between Cañon and Crescent drives in Beverly Hills. Veterans Day ceremonies will also be held on Tuesday, Nov. 11, in West Hollywood at the Sal Guarriello Veterans’ Memorial, corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Holloway Drive, and at Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills, 6300 Forest Lawn Drive. Both ceremonies on Nov. 11 begin at 11 a.m. For information, visit beverlyhills.org, weho.org and forest-lawn.com/veterans-day-program.

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

OPEN HOUSE TO LEARN ABOUT SERVICES AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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Thursday, November 13

10 AM - 12 PM

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✓ Explore volunteer opportunities

✓ Enjoy interactive activities

✓ Connect with neighbors

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Holocaust Museum honors courageous supporters

Holocaust Museum L.A. honored philanthropist, entrepreneur and supermodel Cindy Crawford and Holocaust survivor Ella Mandel with the Award of Courage at the museum’s annual gala on Oct. 28 at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

Crawford and Mandel collaborated earlier this year when they posed for “Borrowed Spotlight,” a public awareness campaign exemplifying the strength of intergenerational advocacy. Crawford uses her platform to raise awareness about anti-semitism, and Mandel shares her powerful testimony and messages of hope with students and museum visitors.

“I want to be a voice for light, love and acceptance – for seeing the humanity in one another,” Crawford said. “This museum, and survivors like Ella, remind us where hatred leads when we stop seeing each other as part of the same human story.”

Mandel lost her mother, father and two sisters in the Holocaust. “‘Never again’ is not just my promise – it must be yours, too,” she said. “Together, we can make sure that the world remembers, and that the future is safer than the past.”

Jonah Platt, podcaster, writer, producer and star of the Broadway classic, “Wicked,” received the first Roz and Abner Goldstine Advocacy Award for his groundbreaking podcast “Being Jewish with Jonah Platt.”

“The work that the Holocaust Museum L.A. does is telling our story, which is so vital in a world that

has a very short memory,” Platt said.

Marissa Lepor, granddaughter of Holocaust survivors and president of the 3G@HMLA board, received the Jona Goldrich Visionary Award. Lepor is a managing director at The Sage Group, an investment bank specializing in consumer brands.

“If we aren’t the stewards of survivors’ stories, who will be?” Lepor said. “If the second, third and fourth generations don’t persistently tell them, who will? The truth is, the burden doesn’t rest solely on descendants – it’s on all of us.”

The gala raised \$1.3 million to support the museum’s education programs. Currently under construction, the museum’s expanded campus opens in June 2026 in Pan Pacific Park. For information, visit holocaustmuseumla.org/gala.



photo by Al Seib/Holocaust L.A.
Holocaust survivor Ella Mandel and philanthropist, entrepreneur and supermodel Cindy Crawford received the museum’s Award of Courage.

LA Phil presents West Coast premiere of ‘El Canto de las Manos’



photo courtesy of Maria Valverde
The music documentary “El Canto de las Manos” will be shown at Walt Disney Concert Hall on Nov. 10.

The Los Angeles Philharmonic presents a West coast premiere screening of the documentary film “El Canto de las Manos,” the directorial debut by actress and filmmaker Maria Valverde, at Walt Disney Concert Hall on Nov. 10 at 8 p.m.

“El Canto de las Manos” is a documentary about the power of music to serve as a place of unity and expression. It centers on the 2022 production of Beethoven’s opera “Fidelio,” conducted by Gustavo Dudamel – the LA Phil’s music and artistic director, and husband of Valverde – and featuring the Coro de Manos Blancas - an ensemble comprising deaf and hard of hearing performers, as well as performers with visual and cog-

nitive impairments from Venezuela – and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. The innovative, semi-staged production, created for deaf and hearing audiences by Dudamel and Valverde through the Dudamel Foundation, features Venezuelan Sign Language by deaf actors and singing by hearing vocalists.

“El Canto de las Manos” is a production of Quinchoncho and Forty Entertainment, made in association with The deNovo Initiative and The Breathe Project, with the support of the Hilti Foundation, the Riegler & Deutsch Foundation and Porticus and the Community Arts Network.

“Music is not only the inspiration and driving force in the lives

of these brilliant deaf artists, but also their refuge and salvation,” Valverde said. “This is a story of justice – of how art transcends the visible and transforms its protagonists into guides who illuminate a new way of experiencing music, one that comes from a deeper level of awareness – a declaration of freedom and dignity.”

Following the screening, director Ava DuVernay (of Oscar and Golden Globe-nominated “Selma,” the Oscar-nominated documentary “13th”) will moderate a discussion with Dudamel, Valverde and Deaf West Theater artistic director DJ KURS.

The Walt Disney Concert Hall is located at 111 S. Grand Ave.

MAP OF EVACUATION ROUTES

Evacuation routes from Trousdale to the drill shelter site at Will Rogers Park.

Evacuation Zones

Fire Evacuation Route

Firehouse

Shelters

Animal Shelter

JUST IN CASE BH Emergency First Aid Locations

Will Rogers Memorial Park: Shelter Location

This map is for information and planning purposes only. The conditions at the time of a wildfire or other emergency cannot be predicted. The City of Beverly Hills makes no representation or guarantee that actual conditions at the time of emergency will not interfere with one or more of these proposed evacuation routes. Please remain alert and please follow all instructions of public safety personnel.

Map produced by: City of Beverly Hills - IT - GIS
455 N. Rexford Dr. Beverly Hills, CA 90210
April 2025

BEVERLY HILLS EVACUATION DRILL

The Beverly Hills Fire Department will be conducting an evacuation drill in the Trousdale area of the City. The purpose is to better prepare both the community and first responders for wildfires requiring large scale evacuations. Participation is highly encouraged, but voluntary.

EVACUATION DRILL:
68 residences in the northwest corner of Trousdale. Residents will be notified if they are included in the evacuation order zone.

Participation is voluntary, but encouraged. Residents outside the evacuation zone are also encouraged to participate.

DATE:
Sunday, November 9TH

LOCATION:
Trousdale Estates

TIME:
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

EVACUATION MEETING PLACE:
Will Rogers Memorial Park

For more information, call askBH 310-285-1000 or visit BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/EVACDRILL

KNOW THE SOUND

KNOW THE ROUTE

KNOW THE PLAN

The zoo glows again for the holiday season

L.A. Zoo Lights: Animals Aglow, Los Angeles’ wildest holiday tradition, is returning for 2025 and tickets are now on sale at lazoolights.org. Running from Nov. 13-Jan. 11, guests will immerse themselves in a dazzling world of lantern sculptures and lights, with exciting new elements that will delight and entertain the entire family.

In 2025, L.A. Zoo Lights: Animals Aglow brings guests through a holiday themed wonderland; the weird and wonderful world of plants and pollinators featuring larger than life birds, butterflies, insects and flowers; glowing

lanterns depicting wildlife of Southeast Asia; and an African landscape that includes representation of the continent’s iconic regions and wildlife, all illuminated by spectacular sculptural lights.

In addition to the all-new lanterns and light displays, the zoo is returning some of last year’s fan favorites including the interactive displays, a giant walk-in kaleidoscope, seasonal treats and cocktails, and photo-ops through the park including Santa Claus himself. Guests can ride the conservation carousel and enjoy warming treats like churros, smores and hot cocoa. Those 21 and older

can enjoy beer, wine and spiked hot cocoa available every night and credit card bars Friday-Sunday.

L.A. Zoo Lights: Animals Aglow will also host two special community nights: Sensory-Inclusive Zoo Lights on Dec. 9, which will be a serene evening with sensory accommodations for all guests, which includes smaller crowds, quieter music, sensory bags available on a first-come first-served basis and reentry options; and Jan. 8, which will celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community with added festivities, including an all-ages DJ dance party and a full cocktail bar for adults 21-and-over. L.A. Zoo Lights: Animals Aglow the event is closed most Mondays and Tuesdays, plus Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 27), Christmas Eve (Dec. 24), Christmas Day (Dec. 25) and New Year’s Eve (Dec. 31). General admission tickets start at \$19 for children ages 2-12 and \$29 for adults ages 13+. L.A. Zoo members receive a \$5 discount off ticket prices. For the event’s full schedule, information, and ticket pricing, visit lazoolights.org. The zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive.



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Zoo

Animals Aglow will run from Nov. 13-Jan. 11.

Korean movies showcased at Asian World Film Festival

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles announced that acclaimed Korean filmmaker Park Chan-wook’s “No Other Choice” (2025) has been selected as the opening night film of the 11th Asian World Film Festival, taking place from Nov. 11-20 at the Culver Theater.

Founded in 2015, the Asian World Film Festival showcases outstanding films from across Asia and serves as a key platform for Oscar consideration, highlighting the diversity and artistry of Asian cinema. The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles has collaborated annually with AWFF to present Korean

Oscar entries and notable features, fostering meaningful connections between the Korean and U.S. film industries.

The festival begins on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 7:30 p.m. with Korea’s Oscar submission “No Other Choice” starring Lee Byung-hun, Son Ye-jin, Park Hee-soon, Lee Sung-min and Yeom Hye-ran.

During the festival, KCCLA presents “Focus on Korea,” a special program featuring four new Korean films reflecting a wide range of genres and perspectives. In addition to the opening night film, the lineup includes “Family Secret” (2025),

directed by Lee Sang-hoon and starring Kim Hye-eun, Kim Beop-rae and Kim Bo-yoon, on Nov. 13 at 2 p.m.; “Sisterhood” (2024), directed by Yoon Eun-kyung and starring Kim Joo-ryoung, Han Jihyun and Choi Myung-bin, on Nov. 13 at 5 p.m.; and “The Prayer” (2025), directed by Shin Joon and starring Kim Byung-chul, Song Jihyo and Kim Hee-aura, on Nov. 15 at 9 p.m.



photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Diane Keaton died on Oct. 11 at 79 years old.

Cinespia honors Diane Keaton with ‘The First Wives Club’ screening

Cinespia announced a special tribute to the incomparable Diane Keaton with a screening of “The First Wives Club” on Saturday, Nov. 15, at The Palace Theatre.

Join Cinespia for a dazzling celebration of friendship, freedom and the fine art of getting even in one of Diane Keaton’s most beloved roles, full of comic timing, verve and vulnerability. Grab your besties (and your best white outfit) for a night of laughter, ‘90s perfection and cinematic sister-

hood at one of L.A.’s most iconic movie palaces. Pose for a free photo in the BFF portrait studio. Full bars and DJ sets will have audience members belting “You Don’t Own Me” before you know it. Bring a white rose for a tribute hall to Keaton’s many unforgettable roles – from “Annie Hall” to the favorite first wife.

For information and tickets, visit cinespia.org. The Palace Theatre is located at 630 S. Broadway, downtown.

abled filmmakers, showcasing the full spectrum of Korean cinema,” KCCLA director Hae Don Lee said. “We hope local audiences in Los Angeles will experience the originality, depth and inclusivity of contemporary Korean film.”

The Culver Theater is located at 9500 Culver Blvd. For information and tickets, visit asianworldfilm-fest.org.



photo courtesy of KCCLA

“No Other Choice” opens the festival on Nov. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Culver Theater.

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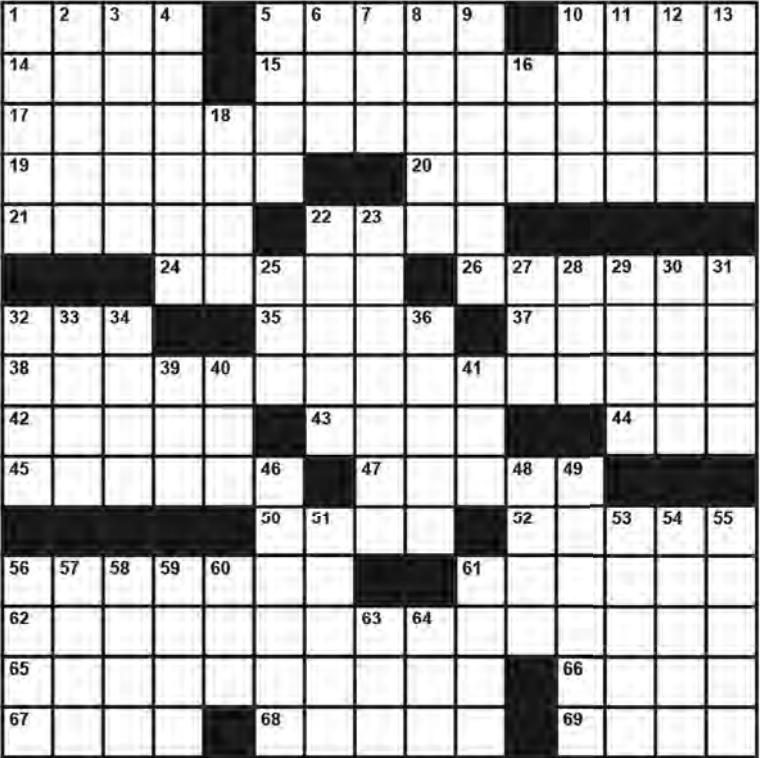
Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

1. Insurer for military personnel
5. Soviet Union labor camp
10. City in Italy
14. Crowds of people
15. Type of lens
17. Makes a poor purchase
19. Ancient Palestinian
20. Resting places
21. Jamaican religion
22. In that case
24. Fab Four drummer
26. Aboriginal
32. Gardner of film
35. Thirteen popes
37. Dug up
38. Getting older
42. Hot rod propellant
43. Book after Joel
44. Relaxation center promoting good health
45. Ice cream shop freebies
47. White elephant's destination?
50. Stretch of history
52. Analyze in detail
56. Power failures
61. ____ and World Report
62. Gambled, in a way
65. "Poor damned souls"
66. S-curve
67. Tree fluids
68. Communication's "R"

Down

1. Crayola color
2. The March King
3. Inmeasurable cavity
4. Real estate, securities, cash
5. Goggle
6. Prefix with directional
7. Time delay
8. Not quite right
9. Infatuated with
10. Datebook abbr.
11. Monopoly piece
12. Little guy
13. Italian treats
16. Snake in the grass
18. Sci. class, abbr.
22. Fairy bluebird genus
23. Kind of diver
25. The "greatest" boxer
27. Friend of Nancy
28. Idiosyncrasy
29. Contents of some cartridges
30. Number two
31. Simpsons' character
32. Wilson and Harding, e.g.
33. Telephone-on-the-web technology
34. Apropos of
36. Highlanders, e.g.
39. Expert
40. Howard of "Happy Days"



41. The 33rd U.S. President
46. Sowing machine
48. ____ facto
49. Defeatist's word
51. Bone, prefix
53. Despot's duration
54. Delightful
55. Twisty turns
56. Numbered work
57. Forelimb bone
58. Waterproof cover
59. Yes votes
60. Educational certificate
61. Beehive, e.g.
63. "Interesting!"
64. Shoe box marking

answers on page 24

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

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